



Abilene City Commission Meeting Minutes
Abilene Public Library – 209 NW Fourth Street
November 23, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.
Abilene, Kansas

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call – City Commission Present: Mayor Ostermann, Commissioners Rein, Marshall, Shafer and Witt.

Staff Present: City Manager Foltz, Deputy City Clerk Mohr, City Attorney Martin, Finance Director Rothchild, Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Roller-Weeks and City Inspector Steerman.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Agenda

4. Agenda Approval for the November 23, 2020 City Commission Meeting

5. Meeting minutes: November 9, 2020 Regular Meeting

5a. Accept resignation of Rick Johnson and Barbara Johnson from the Sister City Committee

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Mayor Ostermann to approve the Consent Agenda with the addition of item 5a – accept the resignation of Rick Johnson and Barbara Johnson from the Sister City Committee. Roll call vote: Rein YES, Marshall YES, Shafer YES, Witt YES, Ostermann YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Public Comments and Communications

6. Persons who wish to address the City Commission may do so when called upon by the Mayor.

There were no public comments or communications.

Old and New Business

7. Consider Resolution 112320-3, A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PLAN FOR THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS.

City Manager Foltz presented information regarding the resolution to update the employee benefits plan for the 2021 Health Insurance renewal.

Motion by Commissioner Rein, seconded by Commissioner Marshall to approve Resolution No. 112320-3, **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PLAN FOR THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS.** Roll call vote: Marshall YES, Shafer YES, Witt YES, Ostermann YES, Rein YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

8. Consider Resolution 112320-1, A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN ADJUSTMENT TO THE PAY PLAN OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS, TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION FOR CITY EMPLOYEES AS COMPARED WITH THE COMPARABLE LABOR MARKET.

City Manager Foltz presented information regarding the 1.75% adjustment to the pay plan to ensure appropriate compensation for city employees as compared with the comparable labor market. This is based on a pay plan study done a few years ago by the Austin Peters Group.

Motion by Commissioner Shafer, seconded by Commissioner Rein to approve Resolution No. 112320-1 **A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR AN ADJUSTMENT TO THE PAY PLAN OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS, TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE COMPENSATION FOR CITY EMPLOYEES AS COMPARED WITH THE COMPARABLE LABOR MARKET.** Roll call vote: Shafer YES, Witt YES, Ostermann YES, Rein YES, Marshall YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

9. Consider Resolution No. 112320-2, A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 1015 N. MULBERRY ST., ABILENE, KANSAS ARE UNSAFE AND DANGEROUS AND DIRECTING THE STRUCTURES TO BE REPAIRED OR REMOVED AND THE PREMISES MADE SAFE AND SECURE.

Mayor Ostermann opened the public hearing regarding the property located at 1015 N. Mulberry at 4:08 p.m.

City Inspector Steerman presented information regarding the structures condition and the need for them to be repaired or removed to be made safe and secure.

City Inspector Steerman presented letters to the Commission from property owners around 1015 N. Mulberry. All letters expressed the bad condition of the property and the need for something to be done with them. Letters were received from the following:

Brian and Tamra - 1012 N. Mulberry
Merle and Barbie Bischoff – 1004 N. Mulberry
Ralph and Michelle Ward – 1008 N. Mulberry
Hayley Martin – 1003 N. Mulberry.

Mayor Ostermann closed the public hearing at 4:18 p.m.

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Witt to approve Resolution No. 112320-2 **A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE STRUCTURES LOCATED AT 1015 N. MULBERRY ST., ABILENE, KANSAS ARE UNSAFE AND DANGEROUS AND DIRECTING THE STRUCTURES TO BE REPAIRED OR REMOVED AND THE PREMISES MADE SAFE AND SECURE.** Roll call vote: Witt YES, Shafer YES, Marshall YES, Rein YES, Ostermann YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

10. Public hearing for the issuance of IRB's for the Narayan project.

Mayor Ostermann opened the public hearing at 4:20 p.m.

Sarah Steele, Gilmore and Bell, presented information regarding the Industrial Revenue Bonds for the Narayan project. The IRB's will be in an amount not to exceed \$8 million.

Mayor Ostermann closed the public hearing at 4:22 p.m.

11. Consider Ordinance 20-3395, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS TO ISSUE ITS TAXABLE INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2020 (NARAYAN, INC.) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING A HOTEL FACILITY; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OTHER DOCUMENTS AND ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

Sarah Steele, Gilmore and Bell, presented information regarding the ordinance to authorize the issuance of the Industrial Revenue Bonds, Series 2020 for the Narayan project. This is the final action needed to issue the bonds.

Anjan Ghosh Hajra, Narayan, Inc., spoke regarding the project and thanked the commission and the community.

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Witt to adopt Ordinance No. 20-3395, **AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS TO ISSUE ITS TAXABLE INDUSTRIAL REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2020 (NARAYAN, INC.) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPPING A HOTEL FACILITY; AND AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OTHER DOCUMENTS AND ACTION IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.** Roll call vote: Ostermann YES, Rein YES, Shafer YES, Witt YES, Ostermann YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

12. Consider Ordinance 20-3394, an ordinance amending chapter 7, sections 7-505, 7-901 and 7-902 of the city code of the city of Abilene pertaining to sewer and water rates within the city of Abilene, Kansas; and repealing existing sections 7-505, 7-901 and 7-902.

Finance Director Rothchild presented information regarding Ordinance 20-3394 which would increase the water and sewer rates for the City. These increases are needed to get to where we need to be to continue to provide quality water and sewer service to the citizens and to establish a reserve balance for any emergencies that could occur with the water and sewer systems.

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Marshall to adopt Ordinance No. 20-3394, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 7, SECTIONS 7-505, 7901 AND 7-902 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF ABILENE PERTAINING TO SEWER AND WATER RATES WITHIN THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS; AND REPEALING EXISTING SECTIONS 7-505, 7-901 AND 7-902.** Roll call vote: Rein YES, Marshall YES, Shafer YES, Witt YES, Ostermann YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

13. Consider renewal of our City Engineer contract with Olsson & Associates.

City Manager Foltz presented information regarding the renewal of the City Engineer contract with Olsson & Associates.

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Rein to approve the renewal of our City Engineer Contract with Olsson & Associates. Roll call vote: Marshall YES, Shafer YES, Witt YES, Ostermann YES, Rein YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

14. Discussion on the process for the City Manager search with possible action.

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Witt to authorize Finance Director Rothchild to request a proposal from The Austin Peters Group for assistance in the search for a new City Manager to be compared the proposal receive from the Kansas League of Municipalities. Roll call vote: Shafer YES, Witt YES, Ostermann YES, Rein Yes, Marshall YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

15. Discussion on moving to virtual meetings with possible action.

Commissioners agreed they would like to continue in person meetings as long as it is safe to do so. Better discussion occurs in the in-person meetings.

There was no action taken on this item.

Reports

16. City Manager reports

City Manager Foltz presented information received from the Kansas Department of Commerce regarding the Main Street Affiliate program.

City operations will be closed Thursday and Friday for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Police and Fire services will be working. Thank you to them for their service.

There are several board openings to be appointed at the January 11, 2021 meeting. There are 3 openings on the Planning Commission, 3 openings on the Airport Board, 2 openings on the Sister City Committee and 1 opening on the Convention and Visitors Bureau Board. The Library Board has 2 openings, but they are not appointed until April.

Julie Roller, Convention and Visitors Bureau Director is working hard on the Give Thanks Campaign and the Shop Small All-Season Long Campaign.

The Public Works Department have put out the Christmas tress on Buckeye and 3rd Street for Christmas Tree Lane.

There will be a Christmas Cruise for Food organized by Rod Riffel and an outdoor decorating contest.

December 5th is the lighting of the Mayor's Christmas Tree at Little Ike Park. Santa will be present from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. to wave at children from the fire truck.

We will have a retirement reception for Bob Sims on December 4th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Fire Department.

We currently have 2 employees quarantined due to COVID-19 and one employee waiting on test results.

Happy Thanksgiving and stay safe.

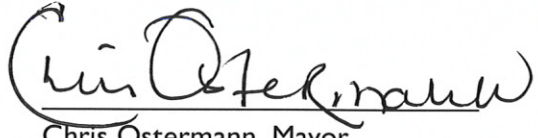
Commission Witt announced he has resigned from K-State and will be starting his own business. He has spoke to City Attorney Martin regarding how to handle possible conflicts on interest if the occur.

Adjournment

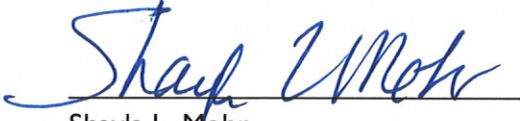
17. Consideration of a motion to adjourn the November 23, 2020 City Commission meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Rein, seconded by Commissioner Marshall to adjourn at 4:53 p.m. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Shafer YES, Marshall YES, Rein YES, Ostermann YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

(Seal)


Chris Ostermann, Mayor

ATTEST:


Shayla L. Mohr
Deputy City Clerk