



Abilene City Commission Meeting Minutes
Abilene Public Library – 209 NW Fourth Street
April 26, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.
Abilene, Kansas

1. Call to Order

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

Staff Present: Interim City Manager/Finance Director Rothchild, City Attorney Martin, City Clerk Soukup, Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Roller-Weeks, Parks and Recreation Director Timbrook, and Zoning Administrator Zook.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Agenda

- 4. Agenda Approval for the April 26, 2021 City Commission Meeting**
- 5. Meeting Minutes: April 12, 2021 Regular Meeting**
- 6. Meeting Minutes: April 19, 2021 Special Meeting**
- 7. Appoint Anita Madden to the Library Board for the term of 05/01/2021 through 4/30/2025**
- 8. Appoint Elly Cauthon to the Library Board for a 2nd term of 05/01/2021 through 04/30/2025**

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Witt to approve the consent agenda subject to the addition of a new item 11a, involving “Discussion of potential action in relation to approval of a City Manager Employment Agreement to hire a new City Manager for the City of Abilene.” Roll call vote: Marshall YES, Ostermann YES, Shafer YES, Witt YES, Rein YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Public Comments and Communications

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

There were no public comments or communications.

10. Arbor Day Proclamation

Mayor Rein read the proclamation for April 30, 2021 as Arbor Day in the City of Abilene, Kansas.

Old and New Business

11. Executive Session: Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Ostermann to recess into executive session for 8 minutes to discuss the terms of employment for an individual candidate for the position of City Manager, based upon the need to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1). The meeting will resume in this room at 4:13 p.m. Roll call vote: Ostermann YES, Shafer YES, Witt YES, Rein YES, Marshall YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

11a. Consider Approval of a City Manager Employment Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Witt to approve a City Manager Employment Agreement with Ron Marsh for City Manager of the City of Abilene. Roll call vote: Shafer YES, Witt YES, Rein YES, Marshall YES, Ostermann YES.

Mayor Rein read a background on new City Manager Ron Marsh.

Marsh's career includes extensive management experience at the City and County level for the past 21 years. He has served for three and a half years as City Administrator for Clearwater, Kansas. Prior to his appointment in Clearwater, he served 17 years in Sedgwick County in public works management. His accomplishments include visioning and strategic planning, business expansion and recruitment, housing development, financial management, and multiple quality of life initiatives.

Marsh volunteered extensively in his community through the Recreation Commission, two terms as a School Board Member, an appointment to City Commission, and numerous community groups.

Prior to entering government service, Marsh worked in the private sector. Marsh moved to Kansas in 1986 where he was stationed at Fort Riley and served as a Tank Platoon Leader and an Executive Officer at Headquarters for the Big Red One.

Marsh is a West Point graduate from the US Military Academy with a bachelor's degree in engineering management. He has additional graduate coursework in public administration from Wichita State University. He is a member of the International City/County Management Association.

Marsh will assume the City Manager position on June 1, 2021.

12. Downtown Bench Proposal

Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Roller presented information regarding the purchase of new benches and trash cans for the downtown area. The total purchase price for the benches and trash cans is \$66,140.40 and will be paid for using unallocated grant funds.

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Ostermann to approve the purchase of 36 benches and 16 trash cans for the downtown area from Fry & Associates, Inc. in the total amount of \$66,140.40. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Rein YES, Marshall YES, Ostermann YES, Shafer YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

13. Consider Ordinance number 21-3398, AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A CHILDCARE FACILITY TO PROVIDE CARE FOR THIRTEEN (13) OR MORE CHILDREN WITHIN THE R-3 RESIDENTIAL ZONED DISTRICT AT A LOCATION GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 121 NE 5TH ST., IN THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS.

Interim City Manager Rothchild presented information regarding the Conditional Use permit to allow a childcare facility to care for thirteen or more children in the R-3, Residential District.

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Marshall to adopt Ordinance No. 21-3398, **AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT TO ALLOW A CHILDCARE FACILITY TO PROVIDE CARE FOR THIRTEEN (13) OR MORE CHILDREN WITHIN THE R-3 RESIDENTIAL ZONED DISTRICT AT A LOCATION GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS 121 NE 5TH ST., IN THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS.** Roll call vote: Marshall YES, Ostermann YES, Shafer YES, Witt YES, Rein YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

14. Executive Session: Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Witt to recess into executive session for 10 minutes to discuss the subject of the potential acquisition of specific real estate, the identification of which would be contrary to the public interest, based upon the need for the preliminary discussion of the acquisition of real property pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(6) to include City Attorney Martin and Interim City Manager Rothchild. The open public meeting will resume in this room at 4:34 p.m. Roll call vote: Ostermann YES, Shafer YES, Witt YES, Rein YES, Marshall YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

Reports

15. City Manager reports

The Eisenhower Marathon is this Saturday, May 1st. City staff across multiple departments have been assisting with preparations and many will be helping the day of the race as well. The Public Works Department will be out early setting up barricades and signs. Police will be directing traffic and working various locations. The Fire Department will be on-site as well. Julie has been doing many promotional and communication efforts leading up to the event. I am very proud of the efforts of all departments as they go above and beyond their normal schedules to help ensure a safe and successful event for all participants.

There will be an informational meeting regarding the Iron Horse Trail on Wednesday, May 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Abilene High School Auditorium. This project is lead by the Dickinson County Community Philanthropy Innovator's Network Committee in partnership with the Abilene Smoky Valley Railroad. This would be a nearly 20-mile trail from Abilene to Enterprise to Woodbine using the railroads right-of-way. The Iron Horse

Trail will also serve as a gateway to the Flint Hills Trail State Park that begins in Herington and continues to Osawatomie.

The Abilene Tree Board will meet Tuesday, April 27th at 5:30 p.m. in the commission room at the library.

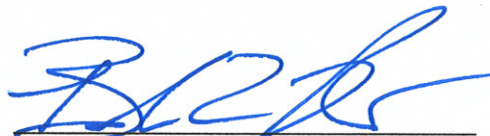
The Airport Board will meet Wednesday, April 28th at 5:00 p.m.

Adjournment

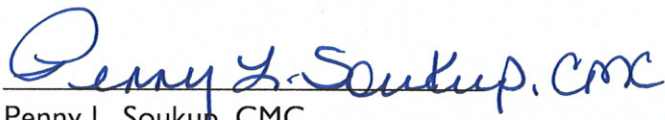
16. Consideration of a motion to adjourn the April 26, 2021 City Commission meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Witt to adjourn at 4:36 p.m. Roll call vote: Shafer YES, Witt YES, Rein YES, Marshall YES, Ostermann YES. Motion carried unanimously 5-0.

(Seal)


Brandon Rein, Mayor

ATTEST:


Penny L. Soukup, CMC
City Clerk