



Abilene City Commission Meeting Minutes
Abilene Public Library – 209 NW Fourth Street
May 24, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.
Abilene, Kansas

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call – City Commission Present: Mayor Rein, Commissioners Marshall, 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 Public Works Director Schrader.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Agenda

4. Agenda Approval for the May 24, 2021 City Commission Meeting

5. Meeting minutes: May 10, 2021 Regular Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Witt to approve the Consent Agenda as printed. Roll call vote: Marshall YES, Witt YES, Rein YES. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

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 a motion to approve a real estate donation agreement with Ralph Viola for property located at 609 S. Washington Street.

Interim City Manager Rothchild presented information regarding the real estate donation agreement with Ralph Viola for property located near the Municipal Airport. Mr. Viola wants this property to be owned by the airport.

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Witt to approve a real estate donation agreement with Ralph Viola for property located at 609 S. Van Buren Street. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Rein YES, Marshall YES. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

8. Consider individual request for discharge of fireworks after a memorial service.

Interim City Manager Rothchild presented information regarding a request from Joann Hettenbach for permission to discharge fireworks after a memorial service for Paul Hettenbach.

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Witt to approve a request for permission to discharge fireworks after a memorial service for Paul Hettenbach on property owned by the Hettenbach's and not to last longer than 30 minutes. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Rein YES, Marshall YES. Motion carried 3-0.

Reports

9. City Manager reports

There have been concerns in the past brought up by staff and the airport board about the location of our water wells and the airport being used by agricultural sprayers. Staff has been in contact with the seasonal ag spraying operations recently as the spray season was in full swing and I have placed a temporary cease order on seasonal sprays until we can review further. One of the operators had the required containment for loading the planes, but the semi-trailer that holds the chemicals, water, pumps, etc. had a backflow issue that leaked onto the concrete and into the grass. With the quick reaction of Lon and his crew, the Public Works Department was able to contain the spill after removing some soil in that location. After this event, staff met to discuss creating additional standard operating procedures for our seasonal ag sprayers in the future. I am also reaching out to the Kansas Water Office, Kansas Municipal Utilities and KDHE to ask questions about safety protocols or concerns of operating agricultural spraying operations within this proximity of one of our highest producing water wells. Until we have those answers back, the seasonal ag sprayers will continue to cease operation.

Parks and Recreation Department filled the pool last week but were losing a considerable amount of water. McKee's came out and found three broken pipes under the pool. They had to cut into the base of the pool to fix the pipes. They have filled the hole back in and are waiting for the concrete to cure. Will paint and then hopefully will refill the pool on Wednesday or Thursday and plan to be open on Monday for Memorial Day.

Lon and our water department have been working through the water model report with Mark Bachamp and Olsson Engineering and they are now wrapping up that study which should be available shortly.

Northeast detention pond is complete, and grass is coming up nicely and it seems to be draining properly so far during the last week with some heavy rains.

Ron came to town today and we put him to work right away. He attended a meeting at the Dickinson County Economic Development office with me, Lon, and Mark Bachamp to discuss future planning and options for the industrial park area. Mark had mentioned that there could be some possible funding coming down for industrial park development. We wanted to start discussions now to make sure the City has a plan in place to help us qualify for the funds when/if they become available.

Adjournment

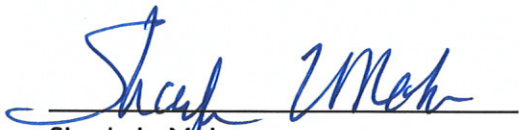
10. Consideration of a motion to adjourn the May 24, 2021 City Commission meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Witt to adjourn at 4:18 p.m. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Rein YES, Marshall YES. Motion carried unanimously 3-0.

(Seal)


Brandon Rein, Mayor

ATTEST:


Shayla L. Mohr
Interim City Clerk