



Abilene City Commission Meeting Minutes
Abilene Public Library – 209 NW Fourth Street
May 28, 2024, @ 4:00 pm.
Abilene, Kansas

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call – City Commission Present: Mayor Rein Commissioners, Kollhoff, Witt, Miller (via ZOOM).
Absent: Commissioner Meysenburg.

Staff Present: City Manager Marsh, Finance Director Johnson, City Attorney Martin, Administrative Assistant Olson, Fire Chief Strunk, Community Development Director Zook, Public Works Director Anderson, Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Roller-Weeks, City Engineer Bachamp, and Administrative Manager-Public Works Hiatt.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda

4. Approval of the Agenda for the May 28, 2024, City Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Miller YES, Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 4-0.

Consent Agenda

5. Consent Agenda - Consent Agenda items are considered routine business items. The consent agenda can be acted upon by one motion unless a majority of the City Commission votes to remove an item for discussion and separate action.

- a. Meeting Minutes for May 13, 2024, Regular Meeting
- b. Meeting Minutes for May 22, 2024, Special Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Kollhoff NO, Miller YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 3-1.

6. Public Comments and Communications

- a. Public Forum: Persons who wish to address the City Commission regarding items outside the agenda may do so when called upon by the Mayor. Speakers will be allowed a three-minute time limit.

Jaque Berkley-Webb, 1409 N Van Buren, inquired about when the bridge and roadway on 14th Street between Vine and Washington will be open.

James Webb, 1409 N Van Buren, inquired about why truck traffic cannot be rerouted away from 14th Street between Vine and Washington and local vehicle traffic can only be allowed access during the 14th Street reconstruction project.

7. Business Items

- a. Consider approval of a bid from Hopp's Sound & Electric in the amount of \$39,609.00 to upgrade the Audio-Visual Systems in the Carnegie Room and the Community Center.

Motion by Commissioner Kollhoff, seconded by Commissioner Witt, to approve a bid from Hopp's Sound & Electric in the amount of \$39,609.00 to upgrade the Audio-Visual Systems in the Carnegie Room and the Community Center. Roll call vote: Kollhoff YES, Miller YES, Witt YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 4-0.

- b. Consider approval of the ERP credit card processor and the credit card transaction fees.

Motion by Commissioner Kollhoff, seconded by Commissioner Witt, to approve Tyler Payments as the payment processor and have all utility fees absorbed by the city; all other fees would be passed on to the end user. Roll call vote: Miller YES, Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 4-0.

8. Items for Discussion

- a. Consider approval of a bid from Boyd Excavating in the amount of \$319,138.97 for tree removal for the Abilene Municipal Airport Threshold Displacement Project.

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve the bid from Boyd Excavating in the amount of \$319,138.97 for tree removal for the Abilene Municipal Airport Threshold Displacement Project. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Miller YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 4-0.

b. KDOT Cost Share Discussion 14th/Van Buren Intersection

Mark Bachamp, Olsson Engineering, spoke about all four design concepts for the 14th and Van Buren intersection. At the last meeting we had it was directed to send the existing concept with sidewalks to KDOT for approval. We did do that and got approval late last week on that concept with the same amount of cost share as the other projects.

The first option, V1, that was submitted to KDOT as the application was the four-way intersection, the four-way stop. That intersection will have full turn lanes in that intersection and will handle any kind of traffic that is brought to it. We will do a traffic study upfront for all of the concepts, take traffic counts as to where they are, the number of trucks and the number of vehicles running through the intersection now. Then, we will be looking at the ground to the west to be developed in the future commercially or industrially. We will look at the ground to the north for Golden Belt Heights and then do a traffic study to project those traffic counts so we will know what direction the traffic is flowing. We would then size accordingly the left turn lanes for future growth and KDOT also finds it acceptable to run a certain percentage of traffic growth per year. This will be done initially, and that is how all the intersections will be laid out.

The concept in front of you now is a traditional four-way stop with left turn lanes. It is upgradable to a traffic signal as a warrant analysis shows that a traffic signal is needed. What that means is traffic volume, left turn lanes are being cued, and the overall operation of the intersection is working properly. That will get a warrant and you will be able to get more funding from KDOT essentially to assist with putting a traffic signal there in the future.

There are probably four or five different concepts we can pull off of this one. We can pull that intersection further to the south. If need be, we can pull different ways just as long as you have a 90-degree intersection in there. One thing to understand about all the concepts is that whatever you do to protect somebody from the East, you are going to affect somebody from the West. Whatever you do to protect somebody from the North, you are going to affect somebody from the South. It is a give and take as to right-of-way. This is one of the least impacts to right-of-way, mainly on the southwest corner would be the addition of a right-of-way that would be needed. This concept is a safe, modern intersection. It is a T-intersection.

The next concept, V-2, is a standard roundabout put at the intersection and would handle all the amount of traffic you would ever need through this intersection. The southwest corner of this is a free flowing right turn. Anybody making that movement from the south to the east is a free-flowing movement; you are not going through the roundabout in that type of situation. That is generally an accepted method with roundabouts when you have that kind of movement. Everything will be designed for the traffic volume as the traffic study shows. One thing that everybody talks about is roundabouts have essentially slow speeds, less than 20 mph and if there are any crashes, they are side crashes, not head-on. That's what makes roundabouts safer because they are lower speed and control everybody's speed through the intersection. With this concept, there are multiple ways to draw this concept.

The next concept is V-3, which everyone has seen as well. We were asked what if we maximized the right-of-way to the southeast? That is what you have to do if you maximize the right-of-way with the roundabout, you have to build everything at a ninety-degree angle with a roundabout so that shoves everything with it. He feels this is the least favorable option because it impacts more people than the others do.

When we consider a project's costs, how will we construct it? A lot of this concept is going to keep traffic flowing while things are being built. Concept V-2: We can keep traffic flowing on the existing road going east and west and making that turn while the intersection is handling just local traffic while that is being built. The through intersection, a lot of it can be built, too, while keeping traffic unencumbered.

The latest concept that was approved is just redoing what is there and removing the free-flowing ramps. That is not a good design, KDOT does not like those. When you do see these designs, they are a T-intersection, not on a curve. You are looking over your shoulder to merge, which is not safe. These intersections are being taken away and taken out of service. This intersection has no room for expansion and if you look at 14th coming into the curve, that left turn lane going east is 206 feet. When you look at stacking distance, a WB67 semi-trailer has a trailer of 53 feet. It is about 74 feet long, and you are going to have two trucks and maybe a couple of cars stacked up there, any more than is going to back up into the Van Buren intersection. The likelihood of two trucks and two cars stacked up, ready to turn left, will probably be more than what will happen when this thing is open. What is going to happen then is they are going to back up into the intersection of Van Buren coming south and that will essentially stack up people in that intersection. There is no way to solve this with this concept. Replacing the existing intersection does not solve the future needs of this intersection when it is fully developed to the west and to the north as traffic continues to grow.

Jessica Goodale, Dickinson County Economic Development Director, spoke in favor of the construction improvements at the 14th and Van Buren intersection for future business and residential development. The project is in direct correlation with the City of Abilene Comprehensive Plan approved by the Governing Body.

Jacque Webb, 1409 N. Van Buren, discussed parking issues in the Golden Belt Heights Development and offered suggestions for the locations of the bike and walking paths. She suggested using Abilene Land Bank property for this development instead of taking property from private citizens.

Martin Schneider, 723 2600 Ave. spoke in favor of economic development for the City of Abilene and Dickinson County. Taxes will increase, and services are going to cost more in the future. He spoke in favor of increasing the tax base. Several businesses go through this intersection. There is a lot of traffic and a lot of potential for future traffic. We have missed some opportunities in the past, he hopes we can look forward to economic development in Abilene and Dickinson County.

James Hall, Director of Facilities for Great Plains Manufacturing, spoke about the safety concerns of this intersection. Traffic has increased at both Great Plains locations, and the intersection has always been a concern. He asked about the possible expansion of 8th Street to Fair Road.

Brent Wise, President of Great Plains Trucking, spoke about trying to keep their trucks off Buckeye, away from schools and out of downtown. He is also in favor of expanding 8th Street to Fair Road. He spoke about roundabouts being a challenge for truck traffic.

Russ Johnson, Manager of ADM, spoke about truck routes in Abilene being critical for business. He spoke in favor of expanding 8th Street. He does not have issues with the 14th and Van Buren intersection, but if improvements are made, they should be done correctly upfront. For safety issues, he would prefer a roundabout, or if it is a four-way stop, put stop lights up immediately.

Belinda Caldwell, 660 2400 Ave., has lived there for four years, and she has no idea what truck traffic they are talking about. She believes the safety issue is more important than anything.

Fred Bailey, 1611 NW 14th St., spoke regarding a roundabout of the intersection. He offered to sell his property to the city for the building of a roundabout. If you do something, do it completely.

Linda Rist, 2450 Flag Road asked that the city considers expanding 8th Street and is concerned about the traffic increase at this intersection.

Motion by Commissioner Kollhoff, seconded by Commissioner Witt to approve the latest concept provided of improving the intersection with no roundabout and additional sidewalks added. Roll call vote: Kollhoff YES, Miller YES, Witt YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 4-0.

c. Mammoth Sports Construction Letter of Intent

Commissioner Witt discussed providing a Letter of Intent to use Mammoth Sports Construction to construct the recreation facilities if the sales tax passes, as they requested.

City Attorney Martin spoke regarding specific areas of the letter of intent.

9. Reports

a. City Manager's Report

- Construction updates:
 - 14th St: Underground drainage structures are being installed. Cedar St. intersection should be opening soon, waiting on the concrete curing.

- CCLIP: Leveling surface is underway. Once that is done the final cap will be laid. Should be close to finished by the end of the week.
- Congratulations to Megan Jenkins, Utility Clerk for completing the 12-week on-line Environmental Finance Center Network's 2024 Water Leadership Program
- Kansas Tourism's Sunflower Summer Program started on Saturday, offering free admission to over 200 attractions across the state for Kansas students and their guardians. Locally, the Abilene Smoky Valley Railroad, Dickinson County Heritage Center, and Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum are participating. Last weekend, 105 people used the Sunflower app to ride with the Abilene & Smoky Valley Railroad for free. This valuable program allows more families to experience Abilene's attractions and provides additional revenue. Learn more at www.SunflowerSummer.org or contact Julie at the Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau.
- On Thursday, the Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau, in partnership with the Abilene Public Library will open the "See Kansas" Art Exhibit. The exhibit, produced by Parks and Green Spaces Art Projects, features the work of nine artists from across the state and celebrates iconic and historic Kansas landscapes. The exhibit will also feature a new piece, "See Abilene," highlighting many aspects that contributed to Abilene being named a Best Historic Small Town. A special sneak peek and artist meet and greet will be held on Thursday at 4:00 pm. The exhibit will run through August 7. Prints of the "See Abilene" piece will be for sale at the Abilene Visitors Center.
- The Symphony at Sunset Annual D-Day Concert is this Saturday, June 1 at the Eisenhower grounds. The event starts at 1 pm with the Salina Symphony patriotic performance starting at 8:30 pm.

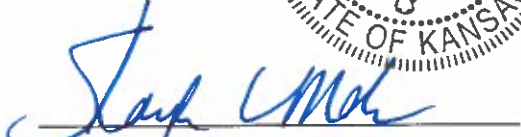
10. Adjournment of Meeting

- a. Consider a motion to adjourn the May 28, 2024, City Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Kollhoff, to adjourn the May 28, 2024, City Commission Meeting at 5:41 pm. Roll call vote: Miller YES, Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 4-0.



ATTEST:


 Shayla L. Mohr, CMC
 City Clerk


 Brandon Rein, Mayor



City Commission Meeting – May 28, 2024

Sign-In Sheet **PLEASE PRINT**

Name	Address
Brett Weis Great Plains Trucking	Salina
Lance Hamman	Abilene
Paul Boyd	Abilene
James Hall Great Plains	Salina
Janelle Dackendorf	DKCO
Sue Seenev	DKCO
Ray 2 Bolinas Calumet	660 2400 Ave
Andrea Taylor	7011 W 2nd
Marcus Rothchild	204 Samuels Dr
Jim & Jacquelyn Webb	1409 N Van Buren St
Linda Kent	2450 Hwy 14
Ross Tappin	Abilene
BOB MORANDO	415 N Vine
Angie Evers	Abilene
Jess G.	DIKETC
Cassy Wilson	Ranhide
Sherry Cole	790 1900 Ave Abilene
Bret Bailey	1411 Hwy 14