Abilene City Commission Meeting Minutes
Abilene Public Library – 209 NW Fourth Street
June 24, 2024, @ 4:00 pm.
Abilene, Kansas

1. **Call to Order**

2. **Roll Call** – City Commission Present: Mayor Rein Commissioners, Kollhoff, Witt, Miller and Meysenburg.

Staff Present: City Manager Marsh, City Clerk Mohr, Finance Director Johnson, City Attorney Martin, Parks and Recreation Director Timbrook, Fire Chief Strunk, Public Works Director Anderson, Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Roller-Weeks, Streets and Utilities Superintendent Hawk, Administrative Manager-Public Works Hiatt, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Leusman, Water Treatment Plant Operator Blacketer, Police Sergeant Haaga, and Administrative Assistant Olson.

3. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Agenda

4. Approval of the Agenda for the June 24, 2024, City Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Witt, to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Miller YES, Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Meysenburg YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 5-0.

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 June 10, 2024, Regular Meeting

    b. Consider closing of all City non-essential services on July 5

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Meysenburg YES, Miller YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 5-0.

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.

There were no public comments or communications.

7. Business Items

    a. Consider approval of Resolution No. 062424-1, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE INDEPENDENT AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS FOR YEAR-ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, AS PREPARED BY VARNEY AND ASSOCIATES, CPAS, LLC.

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Kollhoff to approve Resolution No. 062424-1, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE INDEPENDENT AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS FOR YEAR-ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023, AS PREPARED BY VARNEY AND ASSOCIATES, CPAS, LLC. Roll call vote: Kolhoff YES, Meysenburg YES, Miller YES, Witt YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 5-0.

    b. Consider approval of Work Order No. 7 for the Construction and Closeout Phase for the Tree Mitigation Airport Project with Olsson Engineering in the amount of $90,500.00.

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve Work Order No. 7 for the Construction and Closeout phase for the Tree Mitigation Airport Project with Olsson Engineering in the amount of $90,500.00. Roll call vote: Meysenburg YES, Miller YES, Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 5-0.

    c. Consider approval of Ordinance No. 24-3451, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 5-410 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS, CONCERNING HEAVY TRUCK ROUTES.

Kelly Wilson, 2228 Fair Rd. spoke against closing 14th Street to truck traffic.

Russ Johnson, spoke against closing 14th Street to truck traffic.

Evan Wilson, Doug Bradley Trucking, spoke against closing 14th Street to truck traffic and urged the commission to not slow business in the city.

Raymond Miller spoke against closing 14th Street to truck traffic; taxes have already been spent to upgrade it.

Fred Bailey spoke against closing 14th Street to truck traffic.

Cindy Montgomery, 611 NW 7th Street, urged the commission not to pass this ordinance. Truck traffic on 7th Street is already very busy.

Motion by Commissioner Kollhoff to table this ordinance for further study.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

Motion by Mayor Rein, seconded by Commissioner Miller to reject Ordinance No. 24-3451. Roll call vote: Miller YES, Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Meysenburg YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 5-0.

d. Discussion to keep 14th Street closed from Vine to Washington

Jacque Berkley Webb, 1409 N. Van Buren, requested to open 14th Street from Vine to Washington because citizens have to drive longer distances to get into Abilene and asked if there was something wrong with the bridge on 14th Street.

Janelle Dockendorf, Dickinson County Administrator, commented that the bridge is not structurally flawed. 14th Street will remain closed for the safety of staff and construction workers, and Dickinson County is fine with keeping it closed.

Raymond Miller commented that keeping 14th Street closed may be an inconvenience, but we need to keep the workers safe.

Motion by Commissioner Kollhoff to open 14th Street immediately.

The motion died due to lack of a second.

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Mayor Rein to keep 14th Street closed for the project's duration per the contract agreement. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Kollhoff NO, Meysenburg YES, Miller YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 4-1.

8. Items for Discussion

a. Consider approval of Ordinance No. 24-3450, AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING THE POSSESSION AND DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS WITHIN THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS ON JULY 5 AND 6, 2024.

Motion by Mayor Rein, seconded by Commissioner Miller to approve Ordinance No. 24-3450, AN ORDINANCE PERMITTING THE POSSESSION AND DISCHARGE OF FIREWORKS WITHIN THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS ON JULY 5 AND 6, 2024. Discharge of fireworks can occur from 8 am to 10 pm July 1-3 and from 8 am to midnight on July 4-6. Roll call vote: Kollhoff YES, Meysenburg YES, Miller YES, Witt YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 5-0.

b. Consider approval of a request from St. Andrews Catholic Church for funding for a playground for their school.

Father Peter O'Donnell of St. Andrews Church spoke about the project and expressed gratitude for anything the city can contribute.

Mayor Rein suggested guiding St. Andrews to apply for funds from the drug and alcohol fund. This would not set good precedent if the commission approved this request.

9. Reports

a. City Manager's Report

- Construction updates:
  - 14th St: Underground drainage structures and pre-cast boxes are set; the first pavement pour is expected around 9-10 of July
  - CCLIP: Striping is complete, and punch list items have been addressed.
  - 2025 CCLIP – Buckeye from UPRR north to NW 5th St.: Working with the City Engineer to develop designs for the Governing Body to consider and schedule a meeting with affected businesses.
  - GBH East Sewer Extension: we need to extend the sewer main on Glen Eagle Dr. to the north. Engineering plans are being finalized, and we will go out for bid as soon as possible.

- At your seat, you will find a note from our Water Treatment Plant Superintendent on the current state of our water wells and production. Unless the water table changes (all but two of our wells are below the 25-year average), we will issue a water watch to the community on July 5, 2024. You can access the water conservation plan on the city website to learn more.

- Ron will be out of the office this Friday, June 28.

10. Executive Session

a. Executive Session: Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to recess into executive session for five minutes to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel

pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), for the City Manager's quarterly review to include the City Manager and City Attorney. The regular meeting will resume in this room at 5:14 pm.

The regular meeting resumed at 5:14 pm. There was no action taken in the executive session.

11. Recess of Regular Meeting

a. Consider a motion to recess the June 24, 2024, City Commission Meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Miller to recess the June 24, 2024, City Commission Meeting at 5:15 pm. Roll call vote: Miller YES, Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Meysenburg YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 5-0. The City Commission Study Session will begin at 5:20 pm.

12. Call to Order – City Commission Study Session

The City Commission Study Session was called to order at 5:20 pm.

13. June 24, 2024, City Commission Study Session Agenda

a. Discussion regarding adjustments to the 2024 Pay Plan based on findings from the Market Survey Update completed by the Austin Peters Group.

b. Discussion regarding Resolution of Intent to exceed the Revenue Neutral Rate.

14. Adjournment

a. Consider a motion to adjourn the June 24, 2024, City Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to adjourn the June 24, 2024, City Commission Meeting at 5:45 pm. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Meysenburg YES, Miller YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 5-0.

(Seal)

Brandon Rein, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shayla L. Mohr, CMC
City Clerk

To all,

This one is going to be long, sorry. We are not in an emergency, **but** the water level in all well fields is at concerningly low levels. Although we have gotten precipitation of 18" +/- for the start of 2024. This has fallen short of ending the drought. We have the following wells offline in 2023 1,3,14 for low water table and are still offline. As of writing this, well 20 is also offline for the same reason. We can meet demand at this time with a reserve in production capacity. By running the remaining wells harder will speed up the lowering of the water table and remove reserve capacity. We are able, in an emergency, run for a short period of time by running wells 3,14,20 at a substantial reduction in pumping compacity. This should only be done in an emergency. Likewise, we can make changes to the water chemistry to help relieve pressure off S.S wells, but again this should only be done when needed. Many things must be considered when making the hard choices to put the city in a water watch, at this point I don't think we need to **but** if the current wet weather pattern changes, we will need to do a water watch, as quickly as possible. I would project the end of the first week of July. Things change rather quickly for good and bad so, please be prepared. I have very few options currently for meeting production long term. If we have a normal July, hot dry weather, we will be in a warning by late July or early August. Currently, I do not see us entering a Water Emergency as long as the Watch and Warnings are effective. WTP staff also must work in the framework of water wrights. This adds an extra level of complexity but nothing we cannot handle at this time.

Time for me to brag about what WTP staff has accomplished. If we had not added new wells and VFD's and done above required maintenance and record keeping, we would have been in a Water Watch in 2022 and a Water Warning in 2023 and most likely in an Emergency in 2024. Let us all pray the rain keeps up and temperatures stay mild.

Thank you,

Jay Leusman

ABILENE
KANSAS

Date: 6/24/24

CITY COMMISSION
MEETING ATTENDANCE SHEET
PLEASE *PRINT* YOUR NAME & ADDRESS

1.	Janelle Dickpinchoff DKCO	109 E 1st Abilene, KS
2.	Andrea Traylor	Abilene KS 67410
3.	Chris Whitham	Abilene
4.	Kelly Wilson	Abilene KS
5.	Fr. Peter O'Donnell	Abilene
6.	Jaqueline Webb	Abilene
7.	John Webb	Abilene, KS
8.	Marcus Rothchild	Abilene, KS
9.	Jessica Goodale	DKEDC
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