



Abilene City Commission Meeting Minutes
Abilene Public Library – 209 NW Fourth Street
April 14, 2025, 4:00 pm.
Abilene, Kansas

1. Call to Order

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

Staff Present: City Manager Marsh, City Clerk Mohr, Finance Director Johnson, City Attorney Martin, Fire Chief Strunk, Assistant Police Chief Wilkins Community Development Director Zook, Public Works Director Anderson, Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Roller-Weeks, Public Works Administrative Assistant Hiatt, Street Maintenance Workers Sims and Reifsnnyder, and Administrative Assistant Olson.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda

4. Approval of the Agenda for the April 14, 2025, City Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Kollhoff, seconded by Commissioner Witt, to approve the agenda, moving item 7a to item 8b under discussion. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Rein NO. The motion carried 2-1.

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 March 24, 2025, Regular Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Mayor Rein, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Kollhoff YES, Witt YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 3-0.

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.

John Kollhoff spoke against City Manager Marsh and thanked citizens for reaching out to him.

Tony Frieze asked the commission to consider extending the sale and discharge of fireworks through July 5.

John Kready, 618 S. Buckeye, also wants sales and discharge extended through July 5 and is OK with selling from June 30 to July 5.

- b. Arbor Day Proclamation**

7. Business Items

- a. Consider approval of a funding option for the Industrial Park Infrastructure, CCLIP 2026 Project, and the Recreation Improvements in the amount of \$9,150,000.00.**

This item was moved to item 7b under items for discussion.

- b. Consider approval of a bid for the purchase of a truck for the Water Treatment Plant.**

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Mayor Rein to approve the bid from Holm Automotive in the amount of \$45,187.00 for the purchase of a 2025 Chevrolet Silverado Double Cab Four-Wheel Drive for the Water Treatment Plant. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Kollhoff NO, Rein YES. The motion carried 2-1.

- c. Consider approval of the Amended and Restated City Manager Employment Agreement.**

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Mayor Rein to approve the Amended and Restated City Manager Employment Agreement. Roll call vote: Kollhoff HELL NO, Witt YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 2-1.

8. Items for Discussion

- a. First Quarter Treasurer's Report**
- b. Consider approval of a funding option for the Industrial Park Infrastructure, CCLIP 2026 Project, and the Recreation Improvements in the amount of \$9,150,000.00.**

Motion by Mayor Rein, seconded by Commissioner Witt to approve Funding Option No. 1, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Program for the funding for the Industrial Park Infrastructure, CCLIP 2026 Project and the Recreation Improvements in the amount of \$9,150,000.00.

Roll call vote: Witt YES, Rein YES, Kollhoff Abstains. The motion carried 3-0.

Commissioner Kollhoff left the commission meeting at 4:57 pm.

9. Reports

a. City Manager's Report

The City Manager's Report was moved to the end of the study session.

10. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

a. Consider a motion to adjourn the April 14, 2025, City Commission Meeting.

Motion by Mayor Rein, seconded by Commissioner Witt to adjourn the April 14, 2025, City Commission Meeting at 5:01 pm. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 2-0.

The scheduled Land Bank meeting was not held due to lack of a quorum.

City Commission Study Session

1. Call to Order – City Commission Study Session

The City Commission Study Session was called to order at 5:01 pm.

2. April 14, 2025, City Commission Study Session Agenda

- a. Community Forest Management Report**
- b. Boards and Commissions Code Update Ordinance**
- c. 2025 City Streets Maintenance Projects**
- d. City Manager's Report**

- Police Officers Chuck Huen and Grant Pratt recently attended the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association Leadership Institute in Salina. This seminar is designed to enhance leadership competencies in law enforcement personnel. Both offices will continue to participate in FBI LEEDA offerings.
- Two firefighters have finished the firefighter academy since our meeting.
- Parks and Recreation Easter egg hunt is this Saturday, April 19, at 1:00 pm in Eisenhower Park.
- The Recycling Center will be closed on Friday and Saturday, April 18 & 19 for Easter.
- The Spruceway waterline project is complete.
- Leann's last day with the city will be April 25. I am grateful for everything she has done for the city and wish her the best in her new endeavor.

Mayor Rein thanked Leann for her service to the City of Abilene and recognized the police officers and firefighters for completing their training.

Commissioner Witt reminded citizens that meeting agendas are available online, and they can sign up to receive them at abilenecityhall.com. Our meetings are always recorded and archived on YouTube. He also clarified with City Attorney Martin regarding the procedure of executive sessions and action taken during regular meetings.

City Attorney Martin confirmed that a consensus can be reached during an executive session, although binding action cannot be taken.

It is general practice to discuss items during the executive session, as long as it is only on the subject matter stated and come to a consensus for approval at a future meeting.

Commissioner Witt commented that if citizens have issues or concerns, they should please contact the commissioners. We cannot work on things unless we hear about them. The health of this commission is not good, and we know that we cannot do anything about it. It is completely up to that one commissioner to decide how they are going to handle themselves.

Jamie Stroda agreed that the city streets need work badly. Commissioners need to be present at meetings. It is not OK for John to have a tantrum and walk out; that is very disrespectful for those in attendance. The city

will have to spend some money to make improvements because the city is deteriorating. We need to make Abilene a better community.

Mayor Rein stated Commissioners Miller and Meysenburg had very good reasons not to be here today.

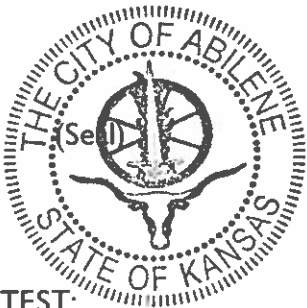
Commissioner Witt reiterated that if you have a concern the best way to reach out to commissioners is by email.

Mayor Rein thanked everyone for being at the meeting and thanked the citizens of Abilene for electing them and allowing them to serve. This unhealthy environment has taken its toll on him, other commissioners and city staff. He appreciates everyone. All of this conflict over time does take its toll. We come here on the second and fourth Mondays of every month at 4:00 pm, and we find ourselves in fight-or-flight mode immediately. That is not a healthy way to make decisions in life, but especially in a public governing body like this. That is absolutely the worst way to make decisions. Public discourse is fantastic. Civil public discourse is so much more meaningful. It accomplishes more long term. He understands it is not the sexy thing to do, and it doesn't get a rise out of people in that moment, but in the long term, what we are doing as a society right now is unsustainable. Love thy neighbor without caveat. We may have disagreements but show respect. We are all in here doing the best we can, the best we know how. Love thy neighbor, be better.

3. Adjournment

- a. Consider a motion to adjourn the April 14, 2025, City Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Mayor Rein, to adjourn the April 14, 2025, City Commission Meeting at 6:00 pm. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 2-0.



ATTEST:

Shayla L. Mohr, CMC
City Clerk

Brandon Rein, Mayor