



Abilene City Commission Meeting Minutes
Abilene Public Library – 209 NW Fourth Street
September 8, 2025, 4:00 pm.
Abilene, Kansas

1. Call to Order

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

Staff Present: Interim City Manager Quinday, City Clerk Mohr, Finance Director Briand, City Attorney Martin, Parks and Recreation Director Timbrook, Fire Chief Strunk, Police Chief Wilkins, Community Development Director Zook, Public Works Director Anderson, Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Roller-Weeks, Administrative Manager-Community Development Olson, Street Maintenance Worker Sims, Firefighter Minson, Firefighter Keller, Police Officer Huen, Water Treatment Plant Lead Operator Blacketer, Community Service Officer Ragsdale, Police Officer A. Wilson, Police Clerk Carranza, Police Detective Landers, and Police Officer Barnhart.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda

4. Approval of the Agenda for the September 8, 2025, City Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Kollhoff, to approve the agenda, moving item 2a from the study session agenda to 10a on the regular meeting agenda and adding a discussion regarding sewer rates to the water utility revenue requirements discussion on the study session agenda. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Meysenburg YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Miller joined the meeting via Zoom.

5. Oaths of Office

- a. Police Chief, Jason Wilkins and Finance Director Kelsey Briand
- b. Badge Pinning Ceremony for Police Chief Jason Wilkins

6. Employee Suggestion Award Program

- a. Highlight City's Suggestion Award Program – City Clerk/HR Director Mohr
- b. Recognition of Kellie Olson, Administrative Manager, Community Development

Consent Agenda

7. 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 August 25, 2025, Regular Meeting
- b. Appropriation Ordinance A-090825
- c. AP Payment Register – 090825
- d. Appointment of Megan Powell to the Library Board – fill an unexpired term, expiring April 2026

Motion by Commissioner Kollhoff, seconded by Commissioner Witt, to approve the consent agenda, asking for clarification on the quarterly match for OCKK. Roll call vote: Kollhoff YES, Meysenburg YES, Miller YES, Witt YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 5-0.

8. Public Comments and Communications

- a. Library Card Sign-Up Month Proclamation 2025
- b. 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.

Wendy Moulton, Library Director, thanked the Fire Department for alerting them of water going into the basement of the library during the rainstorm on Labor Day.

9. Business Items

- a. Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the Revenue Neutral Rate and proposed tax rate, as required by 2021 Kansas Senate Bill 13.

Mayor Rein opened the public hearing at 4:18 pm.

Interim City Manager Quinday explained and gave a history of the Revenue Neutral Rate. The proposed mill levy for 2026 is 47.537, an increase of 1.889 mills from this year. He also explained the minimal effect of the proposed mill levy increase on property owners. For a home valued at \$50,000, the property tax would increase by \$0.91 per month or \$10.86 per year. For a \$130,000 home, the property tax would increase by \$2.52 per month or \$30.19 a year, and for a home valued at \$200,000, the property tax would increase by \$3.66 per month or \$43.45 per year. For commercial properties, a property valued at \$75,720, the property tax would increase by \$2.98 per month or \$35.73 per year. A commercial property valued at \$173,990, the property tax would increase by \$6.84 per month or \$82.10 per year. A commercial property valued at \$313,400 would increase by \$12.33 per month or \$148.01 per year.

Jacque Webb, 1409 N. Van Buren, asked the Commission to do anything to maintain budget neutrality.

Mayor Rein closed the public hearing at 4:23 pm.

- b. Consider approval of Resolution No. 090825-1, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS, APPROVING THE LEVY OF A PROPERTY TAX RATE EXCEEDING THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE.**

Interim City Manager Quinday explained that the 2026 Budget reduces personnel by not filling two positions, cutting all expenditures that are not core, and there are no investments in capital improvement or equipment for the rest of this year or in 2026. The request to increase by 1.889 mills was to get the city back on a path to build the reserves back up. If you don't go with the proposed increase, the carryover of reserves would be zero. The 2026 budget includes no cost-of-living or merit increases for employees, no equipment purchases in 2026 and no capital improvement purchases in 2026 other than those that the city is already obligated for. With these cuts, it is only projected to have a \$290,000 cash carryover for the general fund. This is a step to begin to get the city back on a path, so they are financially stable again.

Jacque Webb, 1409 N. Van Buren, doesn't understand how the commission can vote the sales tax in against public opinion.

Mayor Rein explained that the public approved the sales tax in February of this year by public vote.

Interim City Manager Quinday explained that the approved sales tax increase completely pays for the sports complex and will not affect property taxes.

Jacque Webb, 1409 N. Van Buren, asked if the sports complex plan would interfere with the parking of the rodeo contestants.

Commissioner Witt stated that the sports complex committee has been working with the rodeo committee.

Commissioner Kollhoff stated that he prepared a budget that eliminates two positions and a third that is currently operating as a hybrid. Those positions are the Deputy Chief of Police position and the tenth patrol officer position, both currently vacant. The maintenance manager has been covering in Public Works so that that position can be eliminated. Eliminating those three positions reduces the proposed budget by \$280,000 out of the budget. He also recommended the City Commissioners' pay be reduced to \$1.00 per month for a savings of \$12,595. A total savings of \$292,595.

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Meysenburg, to approve Resolution 090825-1, A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS, APPROVING THE LEVY OF A PROPERTY TAX RATE EXCEEDING THE REVENUE NEUTRAL RATE. Roll call vote: Meysenburg YES, Miller NO, Witt YES, Kollhoff NO, Rein YES. The motion carried 3-2.

- c. Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of funds and the amount of Ad Valorem Tax for the proposed 2026 Budget.

City Manager Quinday explained that the 2026 Budget was prepared during a time of ongoing financial restraint within the city and is designed to meet the operational requirements and to lay the foundation for long-term fiscal recovery.

In July 2025, department directors and staff implemented immediate cost-control measures to stabilize finances, including a hiring freeze, reduced operating expenditures, and deferral of equipment purchases. These reductions were not the result of excess funding in the budget, but rather a necessary pullback to the bare minimum required to sustain core services. As a result, important activities such as preventative maintenance, staff training, technology upgrades, and other investments that support professional development, retention, and organizational growth have been deferred—leaving the city less flexible and more vulnerable in the future.

The 2026 budget positions the city on a path toward financial recovery. While full stability will take time and continued discipline, the department directors and city staff should be recognized and commended for their exceptional efforts to reduce costs, maintain services, and continue to serve the Abilene community with integrity, which has been central to navigating today's challenges and will remain vital to building a stronger, more stable future.

Three positions would need to be eliminated to achieve the \$280,000 decrease in the budget discussed, or zeroing out the \$290,000 carry-over in the General Fund budgeted for 2026. No analysis has been delivered showing how these staffing cuts would affect service delivery, overtime costs, burnout and even turnover.

Mayor Rein opened the public hearing at 4:35 pm.

Commissioner Kollhoff stated that we have no data to justify our current department staffing levels. One way to get that data is to try eliminating those positions and see what happens. He doesn't feel eliminating them would pose a huge risk to the safety of our citizens. He is also asking his fellow commissioners to help by eliminating their salaries.

Interim City Manager Quinday stated that the evidence is the level of service that the public receives now, based on the staffing levels they have. Eliminating positions and seeing what happens, responding accordingly, then if the commission decides that is not the service levels they want, we need to bring those people back, you will have to raise taxes again, but not the 1.899 mills, taxes would likely need to be raised even more. Department Directors and staff have done a lot of work to cut costs this year, so the city has more cash carryover.

Jacque Webb, 1409 N. Van Buren, expressed concerns about going over budget.

Mayor Rein stated there is a required 15% minimum carryover.

Interim City Manager Quinday explained that the budget is based on projected property valuations. The final valuations do not come out until November, so those valuations can change. There are also delinquencies of people who do not pay their property taxes, so that money is not received.

Jacque Webb, 1409 N. Van Buren expressed concerns about citizens being able to afford property tax increases. She urged the city to do all they can to no increase taxes.

Mayor Rein stated that the city has remained revenue-neutral in for the last two budgets. If your property taxes have gone up, it is from different entities, not the city. It is important to make not which entities are imposing the property tax increase.

Police Chief Wilkins spoke regarding Commissioner Kollhoff's proposed 20% decrease in police staff, which was the staffing levels in the 1990s. Abilene has a criminal element that most citizens do not see, which will change if staffing levels are lowered. Police officers are asked to be cops, marriage counselors, social workers and everything in between. We cannot provide the same level of service with staffing levels the same as they were in the 1990s.

Commissioner Kollhoff explained that he mentioned these positions because they are currently open.

Interim City Manager Quinday stated that staying revenue-neutral this year may look good on paper, but you are going back to 1990 staffing levels, and crime has changed. When you are preparing the 2027 budget and want to stay revenue-neutral, where are you going to cut? We have cut everything we can as far as equipment and capital improvements?

Fire Chief Strunk stated that everyone seems to forget what they are paying for when they do not need our services. A good example is the snowstorm in January; they were sure thankful we were working them. When the time comes and they need us, they are going to be glad they pay for our services.

Mayor Rein closed the public hearing at 4:58 pm.

- d. Consider approval of Ordinance No. 25-3464, AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AND APPROPRIATING THE 2026 ANNUAL BUDGET OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS.

Commissioner Meysenburg stated that she works with abused children, and they need the police department to protect them. She is not in favor of cutting police officers.

Jacque Webb, 1409 N. Van Buren, asked all commissioners to bring ideas to cut the budget.

Martin Schneider, 72 2600 Ave., does not support cutting more staff. Cutting staff, like police and fire, and then collecting the data is too high a risk; the welfare of his children and family is important to him.

Motion by Commissioner Kollhoff, seconded by Commissioner Witt, to table this item until the September 22nd regular meeting, so citizens can reach out to commissioners and advise them what city services they want to see cut or reduced for the city budget to remain revenue-neutral. Roll call vote: Miller YES, Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Meysenburg NO, Rein YES. The motion carried 4-1.

Commissioner Kollhoff briefly left the meeting.

- e. Consider approval of Ordinance No. 25-3462, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, SECTION 5-401 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS, BY ADOPTING AND INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THE STANDARD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE FOR KANSAS CITIES, 52ND EDITION (2025); AND REPEALING EXISTING SECTION 5-401.

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Meysenburg, to approve Ordinance No. 25-3462, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, SECTION 5-401 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS, BY ADOPTING AND INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THE STANDARD TRAFFIC ORDINANCE FOR KANSAS CITIES, 52ND EDITION (2025); AND REPEALING EXISTING SECTION 5-401. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Meysenburg YES, Miller YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 4-0.

- f. Consider approval of Ordinance No. 25-3463, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, SECTION 5-101 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS, BY ADOPTING AND INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THE UNIFORM PUBLIC OFFENSE CODE FOR KANSAS CITIES, 41ST EDITION (2025), WITH CERTAIN OMISSIONS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO; AND REPEALING EXISTING SECTION 5-101.

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Meysenburg to approve Ordinance No. 25-3463, AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 5, SECTION 5-101 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS, BY ADOPTING AND INCORPORATING BY REFERENCE THE UNIFORM PUBLIC OFFENSE CODE FOR KANSAS CITIES, 41ST EDITION (2025), WITH CERTAIN OMISSIONS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO; AND REPEALING EXISTING SECTION 5-101. Roll call vote: Meysenburg YES, Miller YES, Witt YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Kollhoff rejoined the meeting via Zoom at 5:39 pm.

- g. Consider approval of Moderate Income Housing Notice of Application

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Meysenburg, to approve the Moderate Income Housing Notice of Application for Golden Belt Heights West Multi-family, LLC for the Golden Ridge Apartments Phase II project. Roll call vote: Miller YES, Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Meysenburg YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 5-0.

- h. Consider approval of Connecting Links Maintenance Agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) for 10.838 lane miles (Buckeye Ave.) in the City of Abilene, Kansas.

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Meysenburg, to approve the Connecting Links Maintenance Agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) for 10.838 lane miles (Buckeye Ave.) in the City of Abilene, Kansas. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Meysenburg YES, Miller YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 5-0.

- i. Consider approval of a loan application to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) for long-term, low-interest financing to finance SCADA upgrades at the Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Meysenburg, to approve a loan application to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) for long-term, low-interest financing to finance SCADA upgrades at the Water Treatment Plant and Wastewater Treatment Plant. Roll call vote: Kollhoff YES, Meysenburg YES, Miller YES, Witt YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 5-0.

10. Items for Discussion

- a. Mid-America Sports Construction Letter of Engagement

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Meysenburg, to authorize the City Manager to sign a Letter of Engagement with Mid-America Sports Construction for the Sports Complex project for an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Roll call vote: Meysenburg YES, Miller YES, Witt YES, Kollhoff ABSTAIN, Rein YES. The motion carried 5-0.

11. Reports

- a. none

12. Recess of Regular Meeting

- a. Consider a motion to recess the September 8, 2025, City Commission Meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Mayor Rein, to recess the September 8, 2025, City Commission Meeting at 5:57 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 6:02 pm.

City Commission Study Session

1. Call to Order – City Commission Study Session

The City Commission Study Session was called to order at 6:02 pm.

2. July 28, 2025, City Commission Study Session Agenda

- a. Mid-America Sports Construction Agreement – Parks and Recreation Director Timbrook
- b. Amendments to the Development Agreement and Lot Purchase Agreement for GBH West Multifamily, LLC
- c. Resolution authorizing preparation of an application to the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation for the Kansas Housing Investor Grant
- d. Resolution authorizing preparation of an application to the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation for the 2025 Kansas Moderate Income Housing Grant.
- e. NE 15th Street Drainage
- f. Review and City Regulations for Golf Carts and Low Speed Vehicles
- g. Wastewater Treatment Plant Building Settlement and Crack Mitigation bids
- h. Water Utility Revenue Requirements/Sewer Rate Discussion
3. Adjournment

- a. Consider a motion to adjourn the September 8, 2025, City Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Witt, seconded by Commissioner Meysenburg, to adjourn the September 8, 2025, City Commission Meeting at 7:23 pm. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Kollhoff YES, Meysenburg YES, Miller YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 5-0.



Shayla L. Mohr, CMC
City Clerk


Brandon Rein, Mayor



Date: 9/8/25

CITY COMMISSION
MEETING ATTENDANCE SHEET
PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME & ADDRESS

1. Curtis Rein
2. Sandy Rein
3. Tom Miles
4. Ron Smith
5. Jacquie Webb
6. Charlie Busch
7. Martin Schneider
8. Dob Upton
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
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