Abilene City Commission Special Meeting Minutes
Abilene Public Library – 209 NW Fourth Street
February 18, 2026, 4:00 pm.
Abilene, Kansas

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call – City Commission Present: Mayor Rein, Commissioners Taylor, Meysenburg, and Lytle. Absent: Commissioner Kollhoff

Staff Present: City Clerk Mohr, City Attorney Martin, Finance Director Briand, Police Chief Wilkins and Deputy City Manager/Community Development Director Zook.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Approval of the Agenda for the February 18, 2026, City Commission Special Meeting

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

5. Executive Session

John Deardoff, Kansas League of Municipalities, gave an overview of the City Manager search process. He was excited when they first started the process because Abilene is always a sweet spot for city managers, especially for young people coming up from smaller communities to this size. He is very disappointed with the numbers we ended up with and the pool, though there are some we need to look at. He personally spoke with eight to nine city managers about the opportunity, and all of them seemed interested at first, but after they looked into it, saw what had happened here and what happened to Ron Marsh, and watched some commission meetings, they decided this is not the place for them. A lot of these people are the ones he had in mind when he met with the commission the first time. The last search the League conducted was at Baldwin, and they had 38 applicants, some of whom he spoke to about this job.

Mayor Rein asked whether the Baldwin City search was on the same timeline as this one.

John Deardoff said 38 is a big number, about 10 met the qualifications, and 6-7 were very good.

Commissioner Lytle inquired whether the City's budget issues were what turned candidates away?

John Deardoff explained that it was interactions with the elected body and the city manager.

Motion by Mayor Rein, seconded by Commissioner Meysenburg, to recess into executive session for 30 minutes to discuss individual applicants for the City Manager position, pursuant to K.S.A. 75-4319(b)(1), based upon the need to discuss personnel matters of non-elected personnel. The open meeting will resume in this room at 4:38 pm. Roll call vote: Lytle YES, Meysenburg YES, Taylor YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 4-0.

The regular meeting resumed at 4:41 pm.

No action was taken in executive session.

The executive session included the Commissioners present, City Attorney Martin, John Deardoff and the community members on the search committee: Marcus Rothchild, Ross Taplin, Elizabeth Weese, Cassy Wilson, Dana Sprinkle, and Natalie Muruato

6. Adjournment of Special Meeting

a. Consider a motion to adjourn the February 18, 2026, Special City Commission Meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Meysenburg, seconded by Commissioner Taylor, to adjourn the February 18, 2026, Special City Commission Meeting at 4:42 pm. Roll call vote: Meysenburg YES, Taylor YES, Lytle YES, Rein YES. The motion carried 4-0

(Seal)

Brandon Rein, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shayla L. Mohr, CMC
City Clerk