

Abilene Board of Zoning Appeals Minutes
Abilene Public Library
209 NW 4th St., Abilene, KS
July 7, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.



1. Call to Order by Chair Boyd at 4:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Board of Zoning Appeals members present: Chair Rod Boyd, Vice Chair Travis Sawyer, Matt Mead, Kristyn Anderson, Eric Anderson (arrived at 4:02 p.m.), Alan Baier, Bill Marshall

Absent: None

Staff present: Deputy City Manager/Community Development Director Kari Zook, Administrative Manager Kellie Olson, City Inspector Travis Steerman, Finance Director/Airport Board Liaison Kelsey Briand

Public present: Jeremy Gorman, Rob Goetz, Greg Huston

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Sawyer to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Marshall. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest/Ex Parte Communications - None

4. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Marshall to approve the June 2, 2026, minutes as written, seconded by Baier. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

5. Public Hearing for BZA 26-7, a request from Vertical Bridge, on behalf of Kiddco, LLC, to allow a variance from Article 23, Section 23-601 of the Airport Overlay District zoning regulations of the City of Abilene, KS. The applicant is requesting a communications guyed tower that would exceed the height limitations. The requested overall structure height is 305'0". The site address is 2200 Blk Fair Rd, Abilene, KS. The staff report was discussed.

Chair Boyd opened the public hearing at 4:09 p.m.

Rob Goetz, representative of Vertical Bridge, was present at the meeting to discuss the site plan and intention of the proposed cell tower. Two emailed responses from the notice of public hearing were received by city staff and presented to the board for review.

The public hearing was closed at 4:17 p.m.

Documentation provided in the agenda packet assisted the members during discussion. Those included the FAA's airspace analysis report indicating "determination of no hazard to air navigation" for the proposed tower. The Airport Board staff liaison and a board member were in attendance and presented their meeting minutes from May 4, 2026, indicating their approval of the variance request if the requirements for lighting and marking per the FAA report were met. Staff consulted with Diane Hofer of Olsson Engineering, the city's lead engineering team for the airport, regarding the variance request. Her response indicated that the variance appears to be acceptable in this situation, provided that the Airport Board is consulted and that the structure is marked/lighted in accordance with FAA's letter.

Motion by Marshall to approve the variance as requested for an overall structure height of 305'0", seconded by E Anderson. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

There is a 30-day appeal period which shall expire on August 6, 2026.

6. Adjournment

Motion by Marshall to adjourn at 4:19 p.m., seconded by Sawyer. Motion carried unanimously 6-0.

ATTEST:

Board of Zoning Appeals

Community Development