



**Abilene City Commission Meeting Minutes
Abilene Public Library – 209 NW Fourth Street
September 27, 2021 @ 4:00 p.m.
Abilene, Kansas**

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call – City Commission Present: Mayor Rein, Commissioners Marshall, Ostermann, and Witt. Absent: Commissioner Shafer.

Staff Present: City Manager Marsh, Human Resources Director/City Clerk Mohr, Finance Director Rothchild, City Attorney Martin, Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Roller-Weeks, Parks and Recreation Director Timbrook, Fire Chief Strunk, and Public Works Director Schrader.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Consent Agenda

4. Agenda Approval for the September 27, 2021, City Commission Meeting

5. Meeting minutes: September 13, 2021, Regular Meeting

6. Approval of Cereal Malt Beverage License (packaged sales) for Family Dollar 1709 N. Buckeye

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commission Ostermann to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Roll call vote: Marshall YES, Ostermann YES, Witt YES, Rein YES. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

Public Comments and Communications

7. Rotarian Day Proclamation

Mayor Rein read the proclamation for October 6, 2021, as Abilene Rotary Club Centennial Day and presented it to members of the Abilene Rotary Club.

8. Persons who wish to address the City Commission may do so when called upon by the Mayor.

Connie Franklin and Debbie Barnes, 1800 W. First Street expressed concerns regarding possible work being done on Grand Boulevard.

Public Works Director Schrader explained that the City is looking into drainage issues on Grand Boulevard but that no plans have been finalized regarding the issues.

Convention and Visitors Bureau Director Roller-Weeks announced that Abilene has been chosen as a finalist in USA Today's 2021 Reader's Choice Best Historic Small-Town contest for the third year in a row. Please vote daily at abilenekansas.org.

Old and New Business

9. Consider Ordinance No. 21-3405, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 9 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS BY AMENDING SECTION 1-909 TO ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM MILL LEVY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

City Manager Marsh explained the adoption of this ordinance would give both the Abilene Library and the City of Abilene a budgeting tool to follow when working on budgets.

Wendy Moulton, Abilene Public Library Director, spoke about the library and her role in budgeting for the library and expressed her concerns regarding the establishment of a maximum mill levy for the library.

Sheila Biggs, Library Board Chair, expressed her concerns regarding this ordinance and that the library staff or board were notified in advance that this was taking place. She asked the Commission to table this item.

Ellie Cauthon, Library Board member, expressed her concerns regarding this ordinance. Costs continue to go up and this will affect the library being able to operate if a maximum mill levy is established.

Motion by Commissioner Ostermann to table this item pending further communication with the library staff and board members.

This motion failed due to lack of second.

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Witt to adopt Ordinance No. 21-3405, **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1, ARTICLE 9 OF THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS BY AMENDING SECTION 1-909 TO ESTABLISH A MAXIMUM MILL LEVY FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE ABILENE PUBLIC LIBRARY.**

Commissioner Witt explained the intent of this ordinance, it is a budgeting tool for both the City of Abilene and the library. If changes are needed in the future, they can be brought to the City Commission to vote on again.

City Manager Marsh explained if a mill levy increase is requested and there are valid reasons for the request, then it can be brought before the City Commission.

Roll call vote: Ostermann NO, Witt YES, Rein YES, Witt YES. Motion carried 3-1.

Reports

10. City Manager reports

Shayla has been awarded a scholarship to attend Year One of the Certification Institute at the CCMFOA Conference this year. This is the first step in the Certified Municipal Clerk process and the scholarship covers the registration fees, tuition, course materials and meals.

We interviewed 8 applicants for Shayla's former position. Megan Jenkins accepted an offer and will start on October 11th.

The city has partnered with the county and DKEDC to submit a letter of interest in a KDOT Direct Current Fast Charging request for information. If granted, this would construct an electric vehicle charging station at the I-70 Abilene exit at the Holiday Inn Express.

The Fire Department and Police Department will be pumping gas for patrons at Love's on Wednesday, September 29th at 10:00 a.m. as a fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network.

Marcus and I have been meeting with Enterprise Fleet Management to learn about their vehicle replacement program and any cost saving advantage for the city. They will be meeting with staff this week and present information for the commission at the next study session on October 4th.

We received word last Thursday that the Civic Center is now exempt from property taxes from March 2, 2021, forward.

Adjournment

11. Consideration of a motion to adjourn the September 27, 2021, City Commission meeting.

Motion by Commissioner Marshall, seconded by Commissioner Witt to adjourn at 4:35 p.m. Roll call vote: Witt YES, Rein YES, Marshall YES, Ostermann YES. Motion carried unanimously 4-0.

(Seal)

Brandon Rein, Mayor

ATTEST:

Shayla L. Mohr
City Clerk