

NOTICE OF STUDY SESSION

For Abilene City Commission
4 p.m. May 8, 2018
Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Building
419 N. Broadway Avenue, Abilene, Kansas

TO: Abilene City Commission
FROM: Austin Gilley, City Manager

PURPOSE

The City Commission's Study Sessions are for the purpose of providing the Commission the opportunity to study items in more detail. The City Manager is responsible for setting the items for study, determining speakers, staff attendance, and helping to managing the discussion.

OPEN FORUM

This is an opportunity to bring up items to be informally addressed.

STUDY ITEMS

- **2018-19 Priority list update:** I plan to add this as a standing item for each study session to help keep you informed of the actions and status of projects related to the City Commission's priorities.
- **Governance and Ends Policies review:** The City adopted in 2011 the policy that establishes roles, expectations, and goals for the City operation. I plan to provide some recommended changes to the policy and review some of the provisions to ensure mutual understanding. Good policy establishes clear guidelines and provides for accountability—good policy avoids being too narrow to be impractical or too broad to be ineffective. For example, this policy requires annual review in April—it is now May. Has the City violated policy? For that matter, it is my understanding that the Commission has not reviewed this policy in recent years. This policy mandates that I bring such issues to the Commission's attention, but I don't think it was the 2011 Commission's intent to create accidental or inadvertent policy violations. My review and recommendations are aimed at trying to address some of these incompatible provisions while preserving and strengthening the overall policy itself. The policy can be found online at: <http://abilenecityhall.com/documentcenter/view/423>. Printed versions with proposed changes will be made available at the meeting.
- **Land Bank policy/plan update:** The City Attorney received word from the League of Kansas Municipalities regarding the interpretation of the Land Bank statute as being uniform to all cities—and therefore not adaptable. I also have found it difficult to find volunteers willing to serve in this capacity. I plan to review the proposed amendment to the City's Land Bank policy, which would allow for the appointment of a separate board (not the Commission) to serve as this board. I also will review the names of the individuals who have confirmed their willingness to serve on this board.

END###

