



Notice of Study Session

For Abilene City Commission
4 p.m. Monday, May 20, 2019
Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Building
419 N. Broadway Avenue, Abilene, Kansas

PURPOSE

The City Commission's Study Sessions are for the purpose of providing the Commission the opportunity to study items in more detail.

OPEN FORUM

This is an opportunity to bring up items to be informally addressed. Mayor may impose a time limit on open forum.

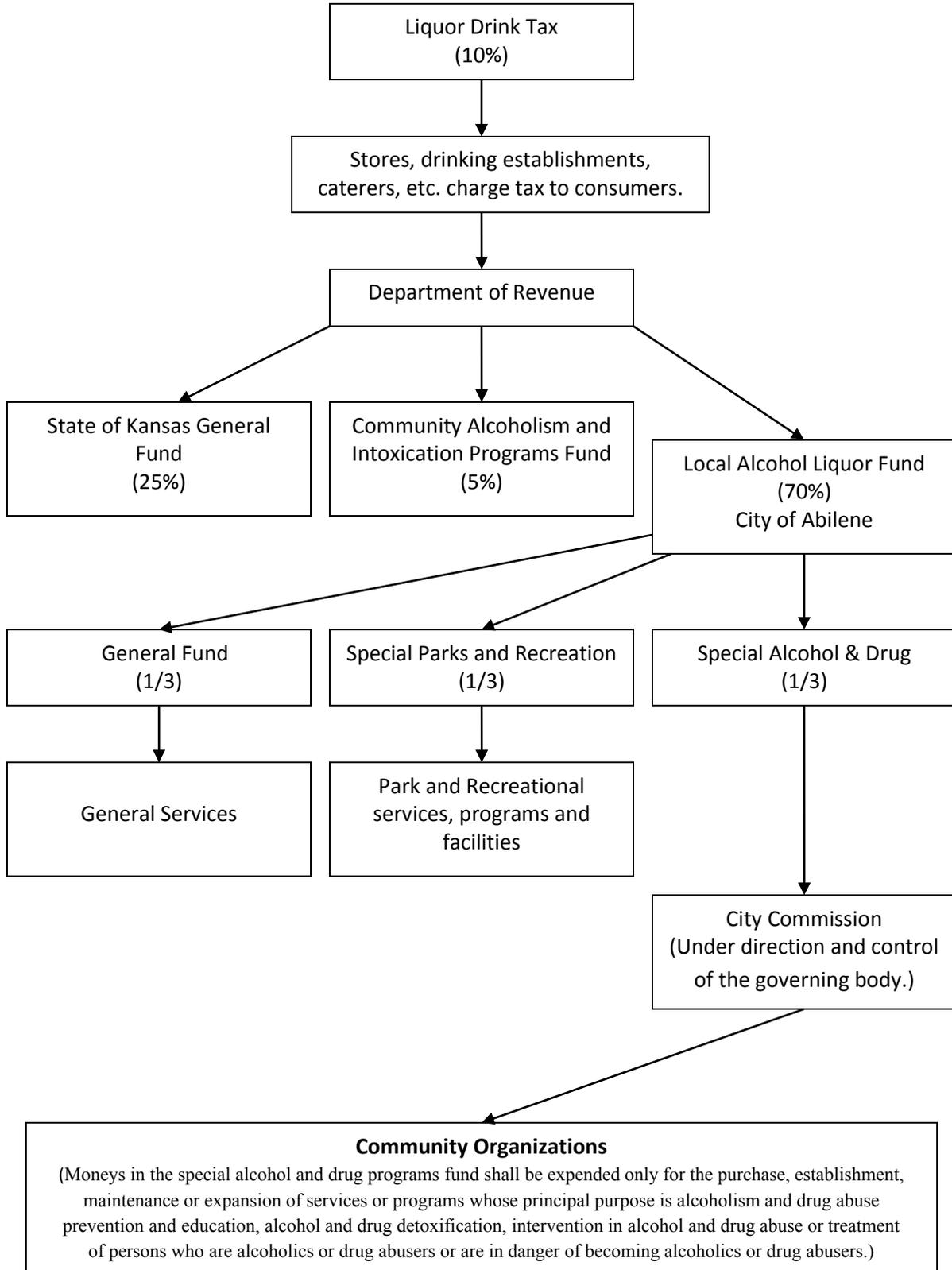
- Doug Smart present information regarding Abilene Forward

STUDY ITEMS

1. Alcohol and Drug Fund discussion.
2. Discuss Audio Video for Library
3. Discussion regarding Agreement with Jim Rowland of Red Hills Group
4. Discuss Interim City Manager options



Special Alcohol and Drug





TO: Austin Gilley – City Manager
FROM: Jim Rowland – Red Hills Group
DATE: March 11, 2019
RE: Scope of Work – Economic Development Consultation

Thank you for the opportunity to present this scope of work for the City of Abilene.

- Competitiveness assessment to identify unique assets of Abilene compared to the rest of the region and how the City can best capitalize on these opportunities.
- Identify and interview key stakeholders and business leaders to provide insights into the local and regional environment, opportunities, and challenges. This “on the ground” perspective reveals the strengths of relationships between firms, service providers and other stakeholders involved in a local and regional economy and identifies opportunities for private and public investment that cannot be seen solely through data analysis. Moreover, stakeholder and public involvement can help to create community buy-in for the strategies developed in the policy which enable effective implementation.
- Analysis of the community’s existing economic development policies, infrastructure, amenities, etc. and how they relate to business attraction, retention and expansion. The objective of this task is to ensure that the results of this economic development process and the final Economic Development Policy contains strategies that are consistent with, and build upon, efforts already underway.

Red Hills Group will assemble the deliverables from the tasks above into a draft economic development plan in approximately six months. In our experience, the best economic development strategies are brief and get straight to the point: implementation. Therefore, we propose organizing the information into an executive summary style.

Red Hills Group will also conduct a follow-up meeting after the transmittal of the final document. This meeting will focus on implementation, and Red Hills Group will provide further counsel and troubleshooting to help ensure that the City is able to hit the ground running with the economic development policy.

Budget: \$7,500
Schedule: Work to be concluded six months from start date
Availability: Available to begin immediately