

CITY OF ABERNATHY

The City Council for the City of Abernathy met in regular session on Monday, June 8TH, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Hall building at 811 Ave D. Members present were Mayor Lindsey Webb, Ron Johnson, Matt Riley, Gary Stone, Jared Shannon and Bilinda Prater. Also present were City Staff including Joe Hines, Krista Adames, Luis Villarreal, Oscar Martinez, Nadia Micheletti, Ricky Patterson, Matt Brightbill, Sean Thornton, Jessica Wilbanks, Will DeWitt and Desiree Stephenson. Members of the Public included Sharon Kester-Fair, Mona Shuey, Norma Stephens, Bill Atchley, Lisa Renfro, Matt Knight, Anna Jo Knight, Jay Stephenson, Robert Prater, Randall Carr, Matt Miller, Maria Cortez, Brenda Hernandez, Jeff Rogers, Doug Evans, and Cristela Perez

MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Mayor Webb called the meeting to order.

II. Welcome Guests

Mayor Webb welcomed the guest.

III. Invocation

Councilwoman Prater gave the invocation.

IV. Public Comment (non-action)

Sharon Kester-Fair- Spoke on behalf of Police Chief Luis Villarreal. While I was Mayor it was a pleasure and privilege to work with Luis and get to know him better. Police Chief Villarreal is honest, trustworthy, conscientious, hardworking, loyal and tried to enforce the law to the best of his ability and enforce it equally and fairly. Luis is well drafted in police education and procedures. He has 39 years of experience. Luis is loyal to his employees that he has under his supervision. He makes the department better for everyone. I have always seen Luis at the ball games whether he was in uniform or not. He has spent a lot of time watching over this community and always participating in the Christmas Parade, 4th of July Parade, and Chamber of Commerce Banquets. Luis is a vital part of this community. I feel like we do not have the trouble that is going on all over this country because of 3 things: The people that we have here, the leadership that we have here, and the Police Department that we have here.

Bill Atchley – Spoke on behalf of Police Chief Villarreal. I had the opportunity to serve on this Council for a number of years. Some with the former Police Chief and some with Luis. While I was on Council, I always thought Luis did an outstanding job. He is well respected in the community. He is a minority officer that represents a big part of our population here and that is a good thing to have. I have had school officials say things to me about how well Luis was liked and how they enjoy the support that the police department has given to them.

Lisa Renfro – As a former employee, one of the things I want to tell you that there are members of this council that have their own agendas; their own personal agendas that don't have the best interest of the City in mind, agendas that don't represent the majority of the citizens that you were elected to represent and agendas that will be detrimental to the City. When your elected as council members, you're required to complete a training course and are given a copy of the handbook for Mayors and Councilmembers which outlines their duties as well as appropriate conduct. Despite this, there are members of this Council who continue to violate the Open Meetings Act, ignore conflicts of interest, and continually question and instruct

employees without the knowledge of the Mayor or City Manager. There are members of this council that create a hostile work environment by creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation for all employees. No employer should expect its employees to work under these conditions. Rather than subject myself to this on a daily basis, I chose to move on from my position here. If this is allowed to continue more of your good employees will also choose to change jobs.

Anna Jo Knight – Spoke on behalf of all City Departments, I am the elementary music teacher and one of the high school band directors. I wanted to publicly thank this group of people and publicly thank our Police Officers, Fire Department and City Workers. Over the last year if it could go wrong it did. From not having enough people from the chamber to do the Christmas Parade, I made phone calls, anything I needed was taken care of. We had the Christmas Village in the elementary parking lot. Without really realizing we needed it at the time, we needed people to follow the band bus, the football bus, the cheerleading bus to football games. We have had a police officer follow us to every football game. If we have had a child that would have to go to the emergency room or if we have had a child that needed first aid, they are qualified to render that aid. The senior parade they got out and they supported me. The City workers blocked off areas to stop traffic. Everything that we have tried to do has been supported by the City Workers, the Fire Department, the Police Department, and this office and I wanted to publicly thank you for that. I wanted to thank you for the leaders that are in place. I wanted to thank you for the opportunity that I have as a citizen to provide special opportunities for my kids.

Jay Stephenson- Spoke on behalf of Police Chief Villarreal and Public Utility Director Oscar Martinez. I do not know what is going on, I just saw what was on the agenda and I support Luis, but I also support Oscar. I have watched him bust his butt for this City. It's incredible, he has a great personality and is amazing with people. We have lost some great employees and I am not sure why, maybe they did something wrong, maybe they didn't, but we are losing employees, great employees. If you keep doing this, you are going to have some big problems. You're going to have to rebuild and people with experience are priceless. I don't know what's going on, but it has got to stop.

Cristela Perez- Spoke on behalf of Police Chief Villarreal. I would like to address you all about the fact that you all seem to be wanting to get rid of a good man. He has treated us with respect even though we acted like jerks. His grandson and my son have grown up together. They play sports together and every time I was out there supporting my son, he was out there supporting my son also. I know Luis and I know that he is a good man. I have worked with Police officers, and not one police officer in Lubbock had any kind of integrity, respect, just general awesomeness like this man. This last time that I had direct contact with the Chief of Police was when he lead a parade for my grandson birthday because of this Covid nonsense. He did not have to do that and could have said no. Why are you all trying to fix something that is not broken? It's sad when elected people decide their own agenda is above the citizens of Abernathy; that is when every single one of you all need to look in the mirror.

Maria Cortez- Spoke on behalf of Police Chief Villarreal. I have been a citizen of Abernathy my whole entire life. I came because the possibility of looking at a change within our police chief. I would really like for you all to reconsider that. I have never known anyone that has been more outstanding as this gentleman right here. He's upstanding, he conducts himself in a manner that I believe is conducive to what Abernathy is all about. I have never seen him be derogatory to anyone. I think he comes with an experience that you cannot just pick up anywhere. I do believe that

laws are laws but you have to take that way further into consideration because you have to consider the persons experience and you have to take human decency and kindness and I think that Luis brings all that to the table. I believe that he represents us very well. Though if on the docket we are looking to change our police chief, I know that I speak for myself, my family, and my neighbors that's not a change that I want to see and I believe that's not a change that most of Abernathy wants to see.

Matt Miller- Spoke on behalf of Police Chief Villarreal. I have been in Abernathy for about 6 years. I have not been real involved in the Council meetings, but I have been trying to. I'm not sure what's going on with the Police Chief, so we trust you guys to take care of that properly. I own and operate a business in Lubbock County. I work with Hale County and several other counties. I just wanted to mention to you that I work on a professional level with lots of law enforcement agencies and all of the officers in Abernathy are top notch and that the Police Chief leads them in a great way.

Randall Carr- Spoke on behalf of Police Chief Villarreal. I am the minister at the Abernathy Church of Christ and when I heard about Luis and about this meeting that was taking place, my interest was trying to figure out what was going to happen and all the questions that are surrounding Luis. As I think about Luis, one word that continually comes to mind is integrity. Luis is a man who demonstrates incredible character. He always has, as long as I have known him the seven years that we have been here, whether he's following the band bus or leading a funeral procession through town; Luis conducts himself professionally. I think to the number of people in Abernathy who still consider character to be a major principle that somebody's life should be dictated by the way he lives, the way that he works and the way he treats people.

- V. Approval minutes of the previous meeting
Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilwoman Prater seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
- VI. Approval of monthly financial reports
Councilman Shannon made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports items A-G. Councilman Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
 - A. Monthly Bank Balances an CD report 2 pages
 - B. Actual vs Budget report 7 pages
 - C. General fund check summary 2 pages
 - D. Water fund check summary 1 page
 - E. Payroll check report 2 pages
 - F. Credit card statement
 - G. CDBG Budget summary
- VII. Approval of fleet maintenance report 2 pages
Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the fleet maintenance report. Councilman Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
- VIII. Approval of 2020-21 Holiday Calendar
Councilwoman Prater made a motion to approve the 2020-21 holiday calendar. Councilman Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
- IX. Discussion / Action Items
 - A. Discussion / Action extending Covid 19 Resolution 060820C through July 13, 2020
Councilman Riley made a motion to waive rent, late and reconnection fees until July 13th, 2020 and try to get everyone current. Councilman Shannon seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote or 5/0.
 - B. Discussion / Action Annexations / Water issues

1. Proctor
Councilman Johnson made a motion to Give the City Manager the privilege to negotiate and come back with a cost for Council, so that they may know the cost of going from 6 inch to 8 inches on FM HWY 2060. Councilman Shannon seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
2. Kirby
Councilman Johnson made a motion to enter into an agreement with Mr. Kirby to annex his property and allow him to have temporary water service until the annexation becomes finalized.
Councilwoman Prater seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
3. Myatt
City Council discussed annexation and instructed City Manager Joe Hines to have them go to their neighbors and seek a possible group annexation. No action taken.
4. Harkey
City Council discussed annexation and instructed City Manager Joe Hines to have them go to their neighbors and seek a possible group annexation. No action taken.

- C. Review and discuss progress on court room remodels
City Council discussed the progress on remodeling the court room.
- D. July 4th Activities – American Legion
Doug Evans with the American Legion informed City Council they took over the 4th of July activities and they will just have a parade this year. Councilman Johnson made a motion to allow the American Legion to have their 4th of July parade using the old route on Ave D from 1st Street to 15th Street. Councilman Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
- E. Discussion / Action on Tornado Sirens - City Manager
Councilman Shannon made a motion to fix the sirens. Councilwoman Prater seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
- F. Discussion / Action on 2019-20 Seal Coat Project
City Council discussed the 2019-20 Seal Coat Project with City Manager Joe Hines. No action was taken.
- G. Discussion / Action on City Property located at 1108 4th Street - City Manager
City Council discussed the city property located at 1108 4th Street with City Manager Joe Hines. No action was taken.
- H. Discussion / Action Resolution 060820A to allow City Manager to negotiate and execute a new lease agreement with Western Dairy Transport, LLC
Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution 060820A.
Councilwoman Prater seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
- I. Discussion / Action Resolution 060820B to allow City Manager to sign an agreement with WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS CAREER AND BUSINESS CENTERS, SOUTH PLAINS COMMUNITY ACTION ASSOCIATION
Councilman Riley made a motion to approve Resolution 060820B.
Councilwoman Prater seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.

X. Informational Items

- A. Police Chief's Report to Council
Police Chief Luis Villarreal gave his report to Council.

- B.** Director of Public Utilities Report to Council
Public Utilities Director Oscar Martinez gave his report to Council.
- C.** City Manager's Report to Council
City Manager Joe Hines gave his report to Council.

- XI.** Executive session – Convene into executive session in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.074, “Personnel Matters”, to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, duties, discipline, or dismissal regarding the Chief of Police. Mayor Webb moved Item XI. To above item VII on the agenda. Police Chief Villarreal opened the executive session to public and was evaluated by City Council.
- XII.** Reconvene Open Session – Discuss and consider approving the evaluation of the Chief of Police including, but not limited to, approving, and implementing a performance plan for the Chief of Police.
Mayor Webb moved Item XII to under XI and above VII on the agenda. The general consensus of the Council is that Police Chief Villarreal's evaluation is Satisfactory, and they will all get an evaluation form and they will all fill out an evaluation of the Police Chief.
- XIII.** Adjournment
Councilwoman Prater made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.

Mayor Lindsey Webb

Attest:

Krista Adames
City Secretary