

# CITY OF ABERNATHY

The City Council for the City of Abernathy met in regular session on Monday, May 13, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Hall building at 811 Ave D. Members present were Mayor Sharon Kester-Fair, newly elected Mayor Lindsey Webb, Gary Stone, Ron Johnson, Jared Shannon, Matt Riley, and Bilinda Prater. Also present were City Staff including Mike Cypert, Krista Adames, Luis Villarreal, Judge Carl Johnson, Will DeWitt, Luis Hernandez, Henry Ramirez, and City Attorney Matt Wade. Members of the Fire Department were Robert Prater and Kelly Vandygriff. Members of the public were Norma Stephens, Jay Stephenson, Desiree Stephenson, Barbara Webb, Steven Sims, and Kenny Friar.

## MINUTES

- I. Mayor Kester-Fair called the meeting to order.
- II. Mayor Kester-Fair welcomed the guests.
- III. Councilwoman Prater gave the invocation.
- IV. Election
  - A. Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the Official Canvass of Returns, May 4<sup>th</sup> Election. Councilman Shannon seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4/0.
  - B. City Secretary Krista Adames administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Lindsey Webb, Councilman Gary Stone, and Councilman Matt Riley.
  - C. Nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem were Councilman Johnson with 3 votes and Councilwoman Prater with 2 votes. Councilman Johnson was selected Mayor pro-tem with 3 votes.
- V. Public Comment (non-action)

Jay Stephenson is concerned about a couple items that were placed on the agenda.

  1. Speed Bumps – Jay is against any kind of speed bumps. He is worried about damage to low vehicles. He has an extremely low vehicle and a lot of cars are extremely low these days. To help slow down traffic on his block, he would like for the stop sign that was removed several years ago to be placed back on Ave H on the south bound side.
  2. Hiring Freeze – Jay is concerned about the City Council initiating a hiring freeze for new employees. He doesn't know what the hiring freeze is about but is concerned about it especially when it comes down to the Police Department. He believes the Police Chief needs all the resources he can get.
- VI. Consent Agenda

Councilman Shannon made a motion to approve the following consent agenda. Councilman Riley seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.

  - A. Approval minutes of the previous meeting.
  - B. Approval of monthly financial reports.
  - C. Approval of fleet maintenance report.
- VII. Discussion Items
  - A. City Manager Cypert introduced Matt Wade, City Attorney to the City Council.
  - B. Public Hearings were conducted for zoning change, Lot 6 Block 125, O.T. Abernathy from C2 Heavy Commercial to C1 Light Commercial. No comments were given.
  - C. City Council discussed creating a policy for traffic calming devices, including speed humps/bumps, placed on the agenda by Councilman Shannon. Mayor Lindsey Webb tabled the discussion until we have more information.

- D.** City Council discussed methods of conveying time-sensitive decisions between City Officials and Council Members, placed on the agenda by Councilman Riley.
- E.** City Council had a discussion on City Personnel Policy Section 4.01, Hiring Practices, Methods of Recruitment and Selection, placed on the agenda by Councilman Riley. City Council would like for the City Attorney, Matt Wade and City Manager, Mike Cypert to amend the Personnel Policy and add that job openings will always be posted on the City Website and that job openings will remain open under normal circumstances for 7 days and for the amended Policy to be brought back to the next City Council meeting for approval.
- F.** City Council had a discussion about the Time and Place of City Council Meetings, Code of Ordinances Section 1.03.01, placed on the Agenda by Councilman Johnson. Councilman Johnson would like to schedule the City Council meetings around the School Board meetings. City Attorney Matt Wade suggested amending the current Ordinance and adding flexibility. The amended Ordinance will be brought back to the City Council to be voted on.
- G.** City Council discussed the EOC Generator, placed on the agenda by Councilman Johnson. The Fleet Maintenance employee will start testing the generator every 2 weeks instead of monthly and the City Council would like for Fire Chief Kelly Vandygriff to get quotes on a new generator and present them to City Council by the next meeting.

VIII. Action Items

- A.** After reviewing the Engineers Opinion of Probable Construction Cost on the CDBG Paving Project, Councilman Shannon made a motion to go forward with the bid approach and break it up on 6<sup>th</sup> street and then add 3 alternate bids. Councilwoman Prater seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
- B.** Councilman Riley made a motion to adopt Ordinance 607 amending fees related to building permits. Councilman Stone seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
- C.** Councilman Shannon made a motion to adopt Ordinance 608 zoning change, Lot 6 Block 125, O.T. Abernathy from C2 Heavy Commercial to C1 Light Commercial. Councilwoman Prater seconded the motion. The vote was 4/0/1 with Councilman Johnson Abstaining.
- D.** Councilman Riley made a motion to accept Resolution 051319A authorizing bank account signatories. Councilman Shannon seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
- E.** Councilman Johnson made a motion to block off Main Street for the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities. Councilwoman Prater seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
- F.** Councilman Shannon made a motion to approve the Chamber of Commerce request for a Firework Display on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Riley seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
- G.** Councilman Johnson made a motion to appoint Carl Johnson as Municipal Judge. Councilman Riley seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
- H.** City Council discussed the purchase of Holiday Decorations for the City placed on the agenda by Councilman Johnson. Councilman Johnson made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Prater, Krista Adames, and Lisa Renfro on a committee in charge of purchasing and decorating City Hall for the Holidays. Councilman Shannon seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
- I.** City Council discussed initiating a hiring freeze for new employees placed on the agenda by Councilman Johnson. Councilman Johnson made a motion requiring department heads to first come to City Council before filling any vacancy and to

withdraw the current opening posted for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Councilman Riley seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.

- J.** Councilwoman Prater made a motion to table the emergency expenditure for health and safety of public EOC radios until we get better bids. Councilman Shannon seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
- K.** The budget workshop for the city budget FY 19-20 will be scheduled at the June meeting.
- L.** Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the Holiday/Payroll calendar FY 19-20. Councilman Shannon seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.

Councilman Riley made a motion to accept both of the following Resolutions, Item M and N. Councilwoman Prater seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.

**M.** Consider Resolution of Appreciation, Sharon Kester-Fair

**N.** Consider Resolution of Appreciation, Michael Macias

IX. Informational Items

**A.** Police Chief Villarreal gave his report to Council.

**B.** City Manager Cypert gave his report to Council.

- X. Councilman Johnson made a motion to Adjourn at 9:25 P.M. Councilman Riley seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.