



The City Council for the City of Abernathy met in regular session on Monday, September 11th, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. in the City Hall building at 811 Ave D. Members present were Mayor Ron Johnson, Eva Cortez, Jared Shannon, Gary Stephenson, Tammy Mahan, and Bilinda Prater. Also present were City Staff including Dwain Read, Cindy Tapia, Luis Hernandez, Melissa Jackson and Ricky Patterson. Members of the public included Thom Jackson and Cree Welch.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order
Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:32 P.M.
2. Roll Call of Council Members
Members present were Mayor Ron Johnson and Councilmembers Jared Shannon, Bilinda Prater, Eva Cortez, Tammy Mahan, and Gary Stephenson.
3. Welcome Guest
Mayor Johnson welcomed the guest.
4. Invocation
Councilwoman Bilinda Prater gave the invocation.
5. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
Mayor Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.
6. Texas Pledge – “Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.”
Mayor Johnson led the Texas Pledge.
7. Public Comment (non-action)
Cree Welch would like to be put on the agenda about updating the ordinance to allow chickens and to make the ordinance more understandable. She also asked for seizure of animals not be done on Fridays if there is no threat to the public. She would like to know if there are any regulations on dog breeding in the community and if the code applies to everyone in the city or if there is exceptions. She also stated that some citizens would like to know the kill to adoption ratio on animals.
Thom Jackson who was raised in Abernathy and is a U.S. Marine Veteran who believes in constitutional rights, and he supports protests done in good faith, there was a protest that occurred last Sunday and is planned to be continued, but peaceful protest gathering under the racist guides of a peaceful protests are not okay. He believes the actions taken by the citizens on Sunday, were nothing short of racist gathering since comments like “go back to where you came from” and “We hate New Mexico”, he believes racist statements, lead to racist actions that divide a community. He has personally witnessed the employees of the City of Abernathy get subjected to the most abhorrent and cruel verbal abuse from a few citizens and continue to perform their jobs. He requests that the City Council to make an official statement condemning the recent actions of the protestors.
8. Review/Approval minutes of the previous meeting
Councilman Shannon made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting.
Councilwoman Prater seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
9. Presentation/Approval of monthly financial reports
Councilman Shannon made a motion to approve the monthly financial reports. Councilwoman Cortez seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
10. Consent Agenda

Councilwoman Mahan made a motion to approve the following consent agenda items a- o.
Councilwoman Cortez seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.

- a. Call for November 7th 2023 Special Election
 - b. Resolution 091123A – Adopting the use of Hart Intercivic Verity Duo Controller Version 2.5.3, Hart Verity Duo Writer Version 2.5.3, The Hart Verity Scanner Version 2.5.2, and Hart Verity Duo Go
 - c. Resolution 091123B - Calling for Joint Election to conduct a Special Election of November 7, 2023.
 - d. Approve Contract with Lubbock County Election Office – November 7, 2023 Election
 - e. Appointment of Roxzine Stinson, Elections Administrator as the Joint Elections Officer for the November 7, 2023 Special Elections.
 - f. Appointment of Roxzine Stinson, Elections Administrator as the Joint Early Voting Clerk for the November 7, 2023 Special Elections.
 - g. Approval of the Lubbock County Elections Office, 1308 Crickets Ave, Lubbock, TX as the Main Early Voting Polling Place.
 - h. Approve Joint Early Voting Schedule and Locations (Exhibit A)
 - i. Approve Election Day Vote Centers (Exhibit B).
 - j. Appointment of Central Count Station Personnel
 - i. Roxzine Stinson, Election Administrator as Central Counting Station Manager
 - ii. Karen Cruz, Tabulation Supervisor
 - iii. Charla Carpenter, Assistant Tabulation Supervisor
 - iv. Beth Bender, Central Counting Station Judge
 - v. Nellie Hopson, Central Counting Station Alternate Judge
 - k. Appointment of the Early Voting Ballot Board Judge and Alternate Judge
 - i. Beth Shapiro – Judge
 - ii. Nicky Anderson – Alternate Judge
 - l. Approve Election Day Judges (Supervisors) and Alternate Judges (Rovers)
 - m. Approve of early voting Lead Clerks
 - n. Approve members of the Early Voting Ballot Board
 - i. Beth Shapiro
 - ii. Nicky Anderson
 - iii. Billy Martinez
 - iv. Ruth Martinez
 - v. Debbie Rowan
 - vi. Barbara Sucsy
 - vii. Anita Neff
 - viii. Billie Russell
 - o. Appointment of the following Bilingual Election Clerks
 - i. Sandy Salazar
 - ii. Aaron Frodsham
11. Discussion/Action Items
- a. Public Hearing on Proposed Budget for FY2023-2024
Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing on the proposed budget for FY 2023-2024 at 6:49 P.M.
Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing on the proposed budget for FY 2023-2024 at 6:51 P.M.
No comments were offered.
 - b. Public Hearing on Proposed Property Tax Rate for FY2023-2024
Mayor Johnson opened the public hearing on the Proposed Property Tax Rate for FY 2023-2024 at 6:51 P.M.
Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing on the Proposed Property Tax Rate for FY 2023-2024 at 6:53 P.M.
No comments were offered.

- c. Consider the Approval of Lubbock County and City of Abernathy Agreement for Fire Suppression and Rescue Services
Councilman Johnson made a motion to approve the Lubbock County and City of Abernathy Agreement for Fire Suppression and Rescue Services. Councilman Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
 - d. Discussion and Action about Fire Hydrant Installation Interlocal Agreement with the City of New Deal – *City of New Deal Representative*
Councilman Shannon made a motion to approve the Fire Hydrant Installation Interlocal Agreement with the City of New Deal with permission from Ricky Patterson and if the man power is available. Councilman Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
 - e. Discussion and Action about Atmos Settlement Resolution 091123 – *Robert Prater*
Councilwoman Prater made a motion to approve the Atmos Settlement Resolution 091123. Councilwoman Mahan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
 - f. Discussion and Action about Resolution 091123A, with Regards to Adopting Use of Multiple Hart Verity Systems for Elections
Approved in the in the consent agenda.
 - g. Discussion and Action about Time Clocks for City Personnel
Councilman Shannon made a motion to purchase time clocks for city personnel. Councilman Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
 - h. Discussion and Approval of Budget for FY2023-2024
Councilman Shannon made a motion to approve the FY 2023-2024 Budget. Councilwoman Mahan seconded the motion. The motion passed with vote of 5/0.
 - i. Action to Ratify the Property Tax Increase Reflected in the FY2023-2024 Budget
In accordance with Texas Local Government Code Section 102.007, Councilman Shannon moved to ratify the property tax increase reflected in the budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. Councilwoman Cortez seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
 - j. Consider the Approval of FY2023-FY2024 Pay and Holiday Calendar
Councilman Stephenson made a motion to approve the FY 2023-2024 Pay and Holiday Calendar. Councilwoman Prater seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.
 - k. Executive Session – Convene into executive session in accordance with Texas Government Code §551.072 Deliberations Regarding Real Property
City Council entered into executive session at 7:30 P.M.
 - l. Reconvene Open Session – Take action on items discussed in executive session.
City Council reconvened open session at 8:04 P.M.
No action was taken.
12. Informational Items
- a. Police Chief Read gave his report to council.
 - b. Code Enforcement & Animal Control Officer Cindy Tapia gave her report to council.
 - c. Public Works Supervisor Ricky Patterson gave his report to council.
 - d. City Manager Delano Smith was absent.
 - e. Council gave their reports.
 - f. Mayor Johnson gave his report.
13. Adjournment
Councilwoman Prater made a motion to adjourn at 8:04P.M.