The City Council for the City of Abernathy met in special meeting on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 6:30 P.M. in the City Hall building at 811 Ave D. Members present were Mayor Harold Bufe, Eva Cortez, Gary Stephenson, Matt Speer, Robert Prater, and Tammy Mahan. Also present were City Staff including Julie Arrington, Krista Adames, Ricky Patterson, Pyne Gregory, Travis Thornton, and City Attorney Mattthew Murray.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

   Mayor Bufe called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.
2. Establishing Quorum
   A quorum was established.
3. Welcome Guests
   Mayor Bufe welcomed the guests.
4. Invocation
   Councilman Stephenson gave the invocation.
5. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
   Mayor Bufe 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 Bufe led the Texas Pledge.
7. Public Hearing
   a. Public hearing on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

- This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by an amount of $22,280, which is a 2.73% increase from last year's budget. The property tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year is $14,128.61.
- Hale County Taxpayer Impact Statement

Median-Valued Homestead Property for Current Fiscal Year:	$149,690.00
Property Tax Bill for Current Fiscal Year ($0.547299)	$819.925
Median-Valued Homestead Property for Upcoming Fiscal Year:	$156,017.00
Property Tax Bill for Upcoming Fiscal Year ($0.536508)	$837.04

- Lubbock County Taxpayer Impact Statement

Median-Valued Homestead Property for Current Fiscal Year:	$139,896.00
Property Tax Bill for Current Fiscal Year ($0.547299)	$765.65
Median-Valued Homestead Property for Upcoming Fiscal Year:	$150,017.00

Property Tax Bill for Upcoming Fiscal Year ($0.536508)	$804.85

Mayor Bufe opened and closed the public hearing on the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027. No one spoke for or against the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027.

b. Water Service Agreement by and between the City of Abernathy and Aligned Data Center.
Mayor Bufe opened and closed the public hearing. Council heard comments from concerned citizens.

c. Exception to the City of Abernathy Code of Ordinance Chapter 4 Business Regulations Article 4.02.046 Convenience Store and Drive Thru Sales of Alcoholic Beverages for Off-Premises Consumption to be located at 100 East 16th Street Abernathy, TX 79311.
Mayor Bufe opened and closed the public hearing. No person spoke for or against an exception on a Convenience Store and Drive Thru Sales of Alcoholic Beverages for Off-Premises Consumption to be located at 100 East 16th Street Abernathy, TX 79311.

8. Discussion/Action Items

a. Consider and take necessary action to propose a tax rate for Fiscal Year 2026 – 2027.
Councilman Stephenson moved that the FY 2026-2027 proposed tax rate be $0.536508 per $100 of valuation, which is effectively a 2.01% decrease in the tax rate. Councilman Prater seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0, with Councilman Stephenson voting Aye, Councilman Prater voting Aye, Councilman Speer voting Aye, Councilwoman Mahan voting Aye, and Councilwoman Cortez voting Aye.

b. Discuss, consider, and take possible action on a Water Service Agreement by and between the City of Abernathy and Aligned Data Center.
Councilman Prater moved to take no action on the water service agreement. Councilman Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.

c. Discuss, consider, and take possible action on an exception to the City of Abernathy Code of Ordinance Chapter 4 Business Regulations Article 4.02.046 Convenience Store and Drive Thru Sales of Alcoholic Beverages for Off-Premises Consumption to be located at 100 East 16th Street Abernathy, TX 79311.
Councilman Prater moved to allow an exception to the City of Abernathy Code of Ordinance Chapter 4 Business Regulations Article 4.02.046 Convenience Store and Drive Thru Sales of Alcoholic Beverages for Off-Premises Consumption to be located at 100 East 16th Street Abernathy, TX 79311. Councilman Speer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 4/1. With Councilman Prater, Councilman Speer, Councilwoman Mahan, and Councilwoman Cortez all voting Aye, and Councilman Stephenson voting against.

d. Discuss, consider, and take possible action on allowing Covenant Health to install Starlink onto the leased building located at 409 8th Street Abernathy, TX 79311 and perform some property upgrades.
Councilman Prater moved to allow Covenant Health to install Starlink onto the leased building located at 409 8th Street Abernathy, TX 79311 and perform some property upgrades without penetrating the roof. Councilwoman Mahan seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.

e. Discuss, consider and possible action on a Memorandum of Understanding designating a Public Information Officer for the Abernathy Police Department and adoption of a Public Information Officer Policy.
Councilman Prater moved to designate Dwain Read as the Public Information Officer for the Abernathy Police Department. Councilman Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0. Councilman Stephenson moved to adopt the Public Information Officer Policy. Councilman Speer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.

f. Discuss, consider and possible action on an ordinance establishing the Abernathy Police Department Reserve Force.

Councilman Prater moved to adopt Ordinance 667, establishing the Abernathy Police Department Reserve Force. Councilman Speer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.

g. Discuss, consider, and take possible action on the Approval of Police Reserve Officers.
Councilman Prater moved to approve Ricky Patterson, Phillip Martin, and Dwain Read as Police Reserve Officers. Councilman Stephenson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.

h. Discuss, consider, and take possible action on the Police Chief Job Description.
No action was taken.

9. Executive Session In accordance with Texas Government Code, Section 551.074, Personnel Matters, to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee or hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee – Chief of Police
Council entered into executive session at 7:17 P.M.

10. Reconvene Open Session - in accordance with Texas Government Code, consider any action necessary regarding matters discussed in Executive Session.
Council reconvened open session at 7:48 P.M. No action was taken.

11. Adjournment
Councilman Prater moved to adjourn at 7:49 P.M. Councilman Speer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 5/0.

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Mayor Harold Bufe

ATTEST

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Krista Adames, City Secretary