



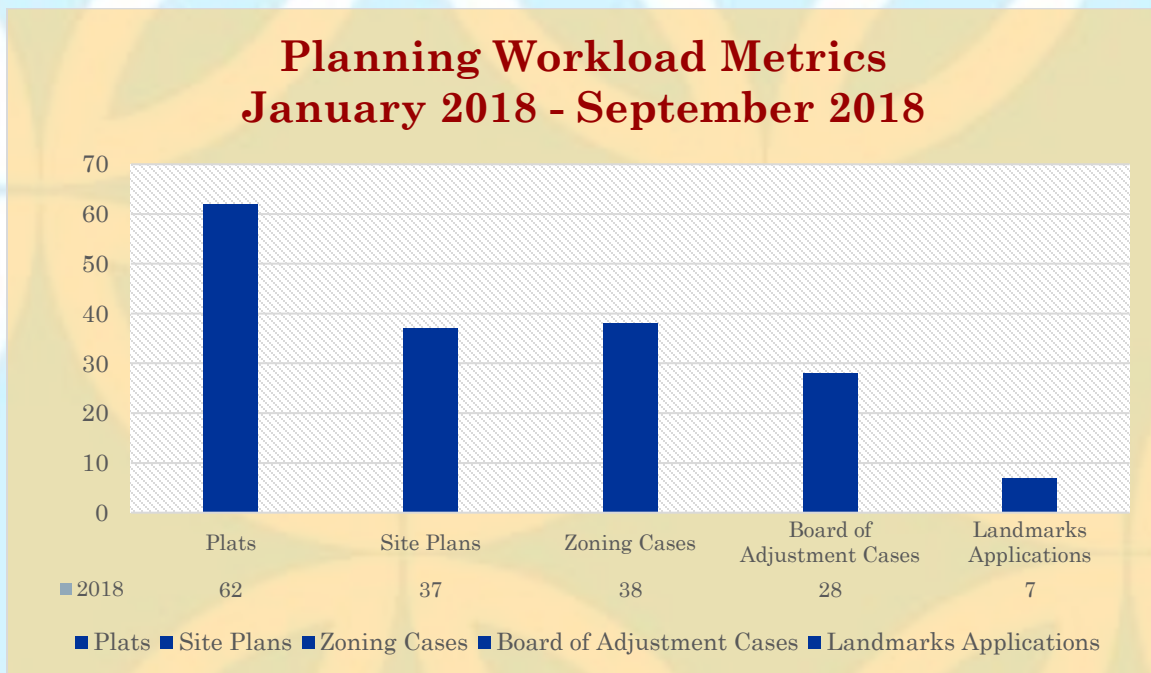
Council Update Report

September 2018





Planning Services



★ The Planning and Zoning Department serves as an information resource and as the point for coordinating development functions for the public and other City departments. The Planning staff provides expertise and policy advice to citizens and staff alike and also works to create new standards for community enhancement. The Department serves a unique role in balancing the needs of the development industry with the interests of the public. It is housed with the Building Inspection Department in the Development Service Center in order to facilitate permit processing and questions from the public.

Congratulations to
Mr. Zack Rainbow!!

Congratulations!

Mr. Zack Rainbow was promoted to Assistant Director. Zack has been an integral part of this team for over eleven years. It is with pride the City of Abilene and Zack, as well, can say he was hired from within. The team agrees his leadership style boasts the authority on boosting employee morale. Zack is not only the “Go-to” person for his department, he is the resource widely used by employees at City Hall and within the development community.

Great
Job!
😊

Congratulations to Ms. Merle Vandiver!!

Ms. Merle Vandiver has been promoted from a customer service representative to a residential plans examiner. Merle has worked in this department for a year and a half, and brings a wealth of knowledge of the construction industry proving she is a most valuable asset to the team.

Mr. Hayden Brodowsky featured in *Abilene Living Magazine*

Mr. Hayden Brodowsky, historic preservation officer, was interviewed for the “Dreaming of Downtown” article about Abilene’s historic downtown.



Meet our

NEW HIRES

Christina Martínez, Building Inspections



Building Inspections

*The Division issued 18 permits for new single family residences, 4 commercial permits, and 8 commercial alterations in September 2018. Year-to-date single family permits are at 306, Commercial at 124, and Commercial Alterations at 247.

**REMINDER: October is the beginning of a new budget year. Numbers reflected above are as of October 1, 2017 and not based upon a calendar year.*

Significant Projects:

- Hardin-Simmons University Houston-Lantrip Center (HLC) - \$4,500,000



The Building Inspections Department administers professionally-accepted standards and adopted regulations to safeguard life, safety, health, property, and public welfare of all construction-related activity within the City limits. We are responsible for the enforcement of the City's adopted building and construction codes and ordinances.

Code Compliance

CODE OFFICERS INSPECTED 639 LISTED BELOW ARE ONLY SOME OF THE VIOLATION GROUPS.

67	Junked vehicles
298	Grass and weeds
116	Unightly conditions
118	Vehicles parked in yard
89	Bandit signs removed

Code officers were able to close 631 violations during September.

Condemnation/Rehabilitation

- ❖ 11 new complaints were investigated
- ❖ Seven (7) cases were completed
- ❖ Three (3) cases were presented at the Board of Building Standards

Other Activity

Code officers attended a “Contact and Cover” course provided by City Marshals

One (1) code compliance sweep of 73 properties was performed with 67 violations

Attended an online meeting with MyGov to resolve new 5.0 issues

Participated in Abilene Team Meeting

New code officer, Mr. Robert Marsh, completed on-the-job training



The mission of Code Compliance is to educate the public and gain citizen compliance on health, safety, and quality of life issues. The City of Abilene residents need and deserve to live in a safe and healthy environment. Code Compliance is responsible for enforcing city ordinances. The division is authorized to pursue criminal and civil remedies to abate nuisances for the purpose of maintaining a safe, sanitary, and clean city.



Office of Neighborhood Services

CDBG and HOME Programs and Projects - September 2018

All CDBG and HOME programs and projects benefit low- to moderate-income families/ individuals. The following clients were served and projects completed:

Code Enforcement Officers (CEO) will be funded through the CDBG at \$125,000. This will include the hiring, training and certification of two (2) CE Officers and will address code enforcement and neighborhood enhancement in approximately 14 Low-Moderate Income (LMI) Super Neighborhoods identified in the City of Abilene Comprehensive Plan. Items that may be addressed by the CEO are the prevention, detection, investigation and enforcement of violations of statutes and ordinances regulating public health, safety and welfare. In addition, Code Enforcement includes the maintenance and preservation of the value and appearance of residential and commercial buildings within its boundaries. The enforcement may also focus on the community, public advertisement displays, garage sales, lawn care, environmental concerns (such as abandoned tires) and the condition and parking of motor vehicles in yards and streets as addressed in City Code and Ordinances. In September 2018, the Code Officers combined worked year-to-date cases: Junk Vehicles 211; Unsightly conditions-522; Vehicles in Yard-290; High grass and weeds-551; mowing charges-\$3,980; Abatement-\$125.

Condemnation and Demolition Program is the second inter-City program that is funded through CDBG funds. This program will address Spot Slum Blight National Objective and is funded at \$150,000. This program will be operated by the City’s Code Enforcement Officers to identify substandard residential structures in approximately 14 Low-Moderate Income (LMI) Super Neighborhoods identified in the City of Abilene Comprehensive Plan. In these LMI Neighborhoods the goals are having the properties rehabilitated or demolished and cleared. As of

September 2018, Code Officers combined worked year-to-date cases: 14 substandard houses that have been identified and demolished.

Critical/Limited Repair Program, CDBG (\$297,080) is one of the most needed and popular programs. This program serves those at the 0-50% Median Family Income (MFI) level. These repairs are intended to address an urgent need such as broken sewer, gas leaks, plumbing and handicap accessibility. 42 projects have been completed year-to-date. The type of repairs that were completed were new roofs, replacement of gas lines and electrical system rewired. The need for client assistance has been extremely high in this funding cycle.

Mercy Clinic is proposed at (\$19,992). The Mercy Clinic offers no cost healthcare services to Abilene residents who meet the CDBG Program Income Limits. CDBG funds purchased much needed medical equipment. Remaining Funds will assist with the expense of Medical Services \$6,803.00. YTD 1,954 clients have been treated.

Access to Jobs is proposed at \$45,000, Advisory Council (ONSAC) for the FY17/18 funding cycle. The purpose of this program is to enable low-income persons and persons on public assistance better access to employment or school after regular business hours. Realizing the importance of very low-income households, particularly renters and homeless persons, the City will focus its resources on assisting these families and individuals through economic development programs by providing LMI households a door-to-door service that begins at 6:15 p.m. and ends at 12 a.m. 157 unduplicated CDBG eligible clients year-to-date were served.

The First-Time Homebuyer Program is funded by \$50,000 in HOME funds. Homebuyers must be in the 80% and below median income bracket. ONS has had 25 inquiries about the FTHB program and requirements. Six (6) clients were eligible for assistance.

The Single-Family Rehab Program, HOME (\$227,900) assists families that are 80% or below median income. The entire unit must meet City building code upon completion. Three houses completed YTD 2018, and one new client was contracted, but not complete.

Habitat for Humanity, CHDO, HOME (\$90,500) Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) funded. Two houses have been completed. Plumbing, electrical rough-in for one new house has been completed.