

RESOLUTION NO. 022519-1

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DICKINSON COUNTY, KANSAS, AND THE CITY OF ABILENE, KANSAS.

WHEREAS, The City of Abilene and Dickinson County have come together to collaborate in certain areas for the benefit of the broader community served by both jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, The City held a stakeholder meeting April 4, 2018, at the Civic Center for the property owners and governing jurisdictions near the Fair Road and 14th/I-70 area. From that and subsequent discussions and circumstances, initial challenges emerged to the orderly development of the area. To begin addressing some of the challenges, the City and County Commissions held a facilitated and combined workshop on October 1, 2018, to discuss their vision for this area. Consensus was reached for the County Administrator and City Manager to draft this memorandum of understanding to begin spelling out a path forward; and

WHEREAS, The City and County seek a spirit of cooperation, collaboration, and coordination.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Abilene City Commission that the attached Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Abilene, Kansas and Dickinson County, Kansas be approved.

PASSED on this 25th day of February, 2019.



ATTEST:

Penny L. Soukup, CMC
Penny L. Soukup, CMC
City Clerk

Timothy B. Shafer

Dr. Timothy B. Shafer, Mayor

Memorandum of Understanding

**By and Between
Dickinson County, Kansas; and
City of Abilene, Kansas.**

This Memorandum of Understanding sets forth the understanding between the City of Abilene (City) and Dickinson County (County) on the current status of economic development opportunities as it relates to shared infrastructure, overlapping or adjoining jurisdiction, and mutually beneficial projects in the northwest area of Abilene from Vine Street to Fair Road and 8th street to Interstate 70. This also helps establish a renewed interest, focus, and effort on effective cooperation for the benefit of the broader community served by both jurisdictions.

Background and Current Status

With the opening of Love's Travel Stop, Great Plains Manufacturing's expansion, the extension of 8th Street from Washington to Van Buren, this area is drawing interest for additional commercial, residential, and industrial development. Both the City and County have vested interests in the successful and orderly development of this area. Both the City and County have a shared interest in addressing challenges to help provide for successful and orderly development.

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Guiding Principles

The City and County seek a spirit of cooperation, collaboration, and coordination. In order to maintain a productive working relationship, both the County and City commit to the following:

- Focusing on outcomes that are in the best interest of all taxpaying citizens and not just any one individual, business, organization, or jurisdiction.
- Conducting all business in an open and transparent manner through the proper channels of good governance.
- Maintaining open and productive communication between the entities to ensure the spirit of cooperation.
- Providing opportunities for both jurisdictions to share the cost and benefit of shared challenges and opportunities.
- Respecting the other jurisdiction's role, responsibility, and limitations when conflict emerges.
- Committing to work through conflicts in a productive manner, including the use of third-party support when deemed necessary by either jurisdiction.
- Holding staff accountable for the same spirit of cooperation, collaboration, and coordination.

Priority Issues

In line with these guiding principles, the City and County commit to pursuing the following priorities:

1. Help ensure the Great Plains and 8th street expansion are successful projects.
2. Commit to making long term plans for and providing for the funding of the improvement of 14th street from Buckeye to Fair road.
3. Develop a policy vision for economic development — establishing goals, defining targets, and clarifying roles of organizations.
4. Establish guidelines for continued cooperation between the County and City, asking the County Administrator and City Manager to lead the effort.

Identified Challenges

The following is a working list of specific challenges to be addressed. This is not intended to be exhaustive or exclusive and it will change.

- Need for clear vision, goals
- Traffic safety
- Water capacity (pressure and volume)
- Sewer capacity
- Limited City GIS data
- Storm-water mitigation
- Absentee ownership in the area
- Land-use planning
- Island annexations leading to confusion about public safety jurisdiction and street maintenance responsibilities
- Multi-jurisdictional zoning
- Highway access road ownership confusion

Next Steps

The following is a list of action items proposed by the County Administrator and City Manager to begin addressing the challenges within the priorities and principles here.

1. Both Governing Bodies formally adopt this memorandum.
2. County lead an engineering evaluation on the 14th street bridge options.
3. City leads the execution of the 8th street expansion project.
4. City and County both through their planning and engineering functions evaluate the alternatives for improving the intersections of 14th and Old 40/Van Buren and 14th and Fair.
5. County assists the City in the renewed look at its comprehensive plan in the context of the multiple roles and shared objectives.
6. County Administrator and City Manager meet monthly to review progress on these priorities and recommend additional steps as needed.
7. Both Governing Bodies agree to review this memorandum annually.

END###