

MINUTES, BOARD OF ALDERMEN, BOOK NO. 19

DEMENT-MERIDIAN 61-2994

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
MARCH 19, 2019
5:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN MET IN THE CITY HALL BOARD ROOM WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

MAYOR MAURICE HOWARD, ALDERMAN ALONZO SYKES, ALDERMAN DOUG STONE, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM AND ALDERMAN JIM BUFFINGTON; AND JACKIE BENSON, CITY CLERK AND ROBERT FAULKS, CITY ATTORNEY.

INVOCATION: Alderman Doug Stone.

ABSENT: Alderman David Ewing.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the proposed Minutes dated March 5, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated March 19, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to award the "ROADWAY MILL & OVERLAY PROGRAM – 2019 ANNUAL BID" contract to Murphree Paving on its lowest and best bid in the amount of \$731,375.00 for the furnishing of all labor and materials and for all necessary construction to complete the Project. Other bids/quotes were received from APAC - Mississippi - \$831,000.00 and Falcon Contracting - \$790,500.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to award the contract for repainting the Aberdeen 250,000 Gallon Elevated Tank, project # 216182, to MS Rural Tank Service on its lowest and best bid in the amount of \$241,000.00. Other bids/quotes were received from Tank Pro, Inc. - \$281,422.00, Maguire Iron, Inc. - \$377,568.00, and Utility Service Co., Inc. - \$304,800.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to award the contract for the purchase of a new Electric Department Bucket Truck 55'- 60' to Terex Utilities in the amount of \$266,237.50. This was the only bid received from the Reverse Auction process. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A Public Hearing was held concerning the request to rezone the property of James Bell currently zoned as A-1 and proposed to be zoned as C-2. The Aberdeen Planning and Zoning Board adopted an Order in favor of the re-zoning. Notice of the public hearing was published in the Monroe Journal and was posted at the site by Zoning Administrator Haynes. No one stated an objection to the rezoning request. The area is no longer an agricultural use area, and a public need for commercial zoning exists so as to justify the rezoning.

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Buffington to approve the application of James Bell to rezone the following described property to C-2: "Commencing at the Southwest Corner of the South Half to the Southeast Quarter of Section 29, Township 14 South, Range 7 East, Monroe County, Mississippi, thence run East along the centerline of Old Highway 8, for 418 feet thence run North for 40 feet; thence run North 15 degrees 33 minutes West for 393.64 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence run North 15 degrees 33 minutes 29 seconds West for 374.23 feet; thence run North 21 degrees 24 minutes 54 seconds West for 580.39 feet; thence run North 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds East for 146.96 feet to a point on the West right of way of Highway 45; thence run South 21 degrees 10 minutes 05 seconds East along the West right of way of Highway 45 for 531.29 feet; thence run South 21 degrees 11 minutes 00 seconds East along the West right of way of Highway 45 for 434.77 feet; thence run North 90 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West for 183.63 feet to the point of beginning and containing 3.13 acres more or less". The property is located near the intersection of the Highway 45 Bypass and Commerce Street, and Bell intends to construct a Wedding Venue. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to award the contract to Government Capital for financing the purchase of the City Fire Truck in the loan amount of \$223,000.00 at a rate of 3.79% for five years and an annual payment of \$49,796.70 (the total purchase price was \$535,357.43 but the City will finance only a portion of the purchase amount). The other quote received was from BancorpSouth Equipment Finance at the rate of 3.94% for a 5 year plan. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Sykes to proceed with the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department Summer Food Program, to be funded from Mississippi Department of Education funds. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to employ J. Ethan Donahoo as an Apprentice Lineman in the Aberdeen Electric Department at the wage of \$14.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Sykes to increase the wage of Caleb Angle by \$1.00 per hour as a merit increase. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to accept the retirement of Assistant Fire Chief Daniel Jiminez after 31 years of service, effective April 21, 2019 and to accept the retirement of Water Operator Ed Smith after 25 years of service effective April 16, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Jason Roberson - Water School - Jackson, MS - March 24-28/ 2019; Michelle Stewart and Sandra Walker - Food Service - Jackson, MS - 4/10-11/ 2019; Roy Haynes - Building Official Conference - Biloxi, MS - 6/9-14/ 2019, and Archives and History - Jackson, MS - May 1-3/ 2019; Tina Robbins - Mississippi Tourism - Meridian MS - 4/16-17/ 2019, and Rural Tourism - Dahlonga, GA - 5/12/19, 2019; Jackie Benson - MDOT - Biloxi, MS - 7/9-11/ 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Citizens appearing before the Board of Aldermen and not on the printed Agenda:

- Ms. Robbie Huffman asked the Mayor and Board why the Aberdeen Zoning Commission had not requested that her application to rezone the downtown old service station lot be placed on the Board of Aldermen Agenda.

Alderman Sykes asked Aberdeen Utilities Department Manager Brian Sanders why the due date on City utility bills had changed. Alderman Sykes commented that the earlier due date occurring before citizens receive a monthly check (such as social security) was causing a burden on some citizens.

Alderman Stone asked Attorney Faulks whether a zoning variance could resolve the Robbie Huffman application to rezone the downtown old service station lot.

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to request that the Aberdeen Zoning Board meet the week of March 25-29, 2019 to consider the application of Robbie Huffman to rezone the downtown old service station lot. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Buffington to authorize the purchase of four basketball goal sets from First Team Ruffneck Max in the amount of \$4,516.00, for installation at the City General Young and Newburger Parks. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to enter into a closed determination to determine whether to go into Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue concerning Park and Recreation Department employee Terry Morgan. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue concerning Park and Recreation Department employee Terry Morgan.

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Buffington to come out of Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A second motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue concerning Park and Recreation Department employee Terry Morgan. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue concerning Park and Recreation Department employee Terry Morgan.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to come out of Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Sykes to adopt the proposed job description presented by City Clerk Jackie Benson concerning the position of Park and Recreation Department Assistant Director. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adjourn until the April 2, 2019 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Maurice Howard, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jackie Benson, City Clerk