

MINUTES, BOARD OF ALDERMEN, BOOK NO. 19

DEMENT-MERIDIAN 61-2994

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
MAY 21, 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, ALDERMAN DAVID EWING, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM AND ALDERMAN JIM BUFFINGTON; AND JACKIE BENSON, CITY CLERK AND ROBERT FAULKS, CITY ATTORNEY.

INVOCATION: Alderman Alonzo Sykes.

Absent: City Clerk Jackie Benson.

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to approve the proposed Minutes dated May 7, 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 May 21, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to adopt a Resolution to designate Mayor Maurice Howard as the Aberdeen Voting Delegate, and to designate Alderman Alonzo Sykes as the Aberdeen First Alternate Voting Delegate, to vote at the 2019 Mississippi Municipal League Election. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Sykes to employ Devante Smith as a full time Backman in the Aberdeen Sanitation Department at the wage of \$10.00 per hour (90 day probation and no raise). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to employ Tashanda White as a part-time Cashier in the Aberdeen Electric Department at the wage of \$10.00 per hour (90 day probation and no raise). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to employ Montrel Clay as a fulltime Fireman in the Aberdeen Fire Department at the wage of \$10.00 per hour (90 day probation and no raise). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Buffington to employ Alford McMillian as the Part-time Gym Supervisor in the Aberdeen Park & Recreation Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Sykes to retain Municipal Bond attorney Keith Parsons, Jones and Walker Law Firm, pursuant to the engagement letter, on behalf of the City of Aberdeen to answer the IRS Audit of the City 2015 Water Department Bond Issue. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Jim Buffington, seconded by Alderman Alonzo Sykes to authorize a Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) Agreement with the Mississippi Department of Education, Office of Child Nutrition. The Board authorizes the submission of a SFSP application by the City of Aberdeen to be a Sponsor of a Summer Food Service Program, the attendance of designated administrative and site personnel to attend training as required, the supervision of the staff and volunteers by the City of Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department Director, the arrangement for meals to be prepared and/or delivered at the City Park and Recreation Department site, the monitoring of the site by the City Park and Recreation Department Director, the preparation of claims for reimbursement, and the City acceptance of final financial and administrative responsibility for which SFSP reimbursement is contingent upon the availability of federal funds. The SFSP reimburses approved sponsors for serving meals that meet the nutritional guidelines. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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Mayor Howard stated that he had received several complaints concerning the City speed bumps installed on Matubba Street. Alderman Buffington stated that he did not like them either but he wanted to control the speeding on Matubba Street, for safety. Alderman Ewing stated that if the Aberdeen Police Department would do their jobs then there would be no speeding.

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Ewing to remove the speed bumps installed on Matubba Street. On a roll call vote Aldermen Sykes, Stone and Ewing voted "Aye" and Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Buffington voted "Nay". Motion carried.

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

- Robert Devauld suggested that the speed limit on Matubba Street be lowered to discourage speeding.
- Charlene Cook suggested that the Aberdeen Police Department should patrol more on Matubba Street.
- Mary Jo Williams, J & E Enterprises owner, complained about the speed bumps on Matubba Street and the effect on her business.
- Pedro Clay stated that he never had a problem contacting Aldermen on the phone, and that the speed bumps were being removed and everyone needed to stop taking about it.
- Mary Wilson said she had a complaint concerning Pedro Clay, stating that he got her fired from her job.
- Pat Spicer thanked the Aberdeen Street Department for cleaning the old Aberdeen Big Star Building site.
- Jean Ann Jones stated that City owned property on Matubba Street needs to be mowed and sprayed.
- Robert Devauld stated that the City ditch behind his house on Evergreen Street needs to be mowed.

Alderman Sykes stated that he was always available to the public, and that the drainage at 1100 Martin Luther King Street needed to be repaired.

Alderman Stone stated that the Aberdeen Street paving project should commence in two weeks.

Alderman Ewing commented about the recent flooding in Aberdeen, and that City ditches needed to be cleaned out.

Alderwoman Odom agreed that the City needs a preventive maintenance program on City ditches. She also invited everyone to attend the Memorial Services at Oddfellows Cemetery at 10:00 a.m., Monday, May 27, 2019.

Aberdeen Electric Department Manager Brian Sanders stated that Charlene Cook had received an adjustment to a water utility bill for a recent water leak at her residence, and that an additional adjustment may be recommended on a subsequent utility bill. Sanders also discussed TVA incentives programs and that a seminar concerning the programs would be available soon.

Joe Stone, whose residence is on Alice Street, complained that his car was flooded and that his insurance would not cover the entire loss.

Janice Cullum complained that she had received a \$4,000.00 plus water utility bill and requested that the bill be reviewed by the Utility Department.

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 Alderman Ewing to go into Executive Session to discuss the contractor bids/quotes received regarding the Aberdeen cemeteries mowing and landscaping contract. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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The Mayor and Board announced to the public they were going into Executive Session to discuss the contractor bids/quotes received regarding the Aberdeen cemeteries mowing and landscaping contract.

Alderman Jim Buffington departed the Meeting during Executive Session.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Ewing to rescind the motion to employ Alfred McMillian, Jr. as the Park and Recreation Department Gym Supervisor. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Ewing to grant authority to Aberdeen Electric Department Manager Brian Sanders to adjust Mrs. Cook's water bill, as recommended by Sanders. The Board determines that Cook did not receive the benefit of the utility service due to the water leak, and that she timely noticed the Water Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to award the Cemetery Landscaping Contract to Lee's Home Improvements (Laura Lee and Nelson Lee, Owner and Operator) on the annual amount of \$69,599.96 beginning June 1, 2019. This contract includes maintaining the City of Aberdeen Cemeteries, Oddfellow's (two locations), on Whitfield and Poplar Streets and Oaklawn (one location), Highway 8 West, Aberdeen, Mississippi. On a roll call vote, Alderman Stone and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye"; Aldermen Sykes and Ewing voted "Nay"; and Mayor Howard voted "Aye". Motion carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Ewing, seconded by Alderman Stone to adjourn until the June 4, 2019 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Maurice Howard, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jackie Benson, City Clerk