

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
JUNE 4, 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.

ATTENDING BY TELEPHONE: Alderman Alonzo Sykes

INVOCATION: Alderman Doug Stone

Monroe County Sheriff candidate Kennedy Meaders appeared before the Mayor and Board of Aldermen and the audience, discussed his qualifications and stance on various issues, and asked for support in his candidacy for the Office of Monroe County Sheriff.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated June 4, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Ewing to set an adjudication hearing for the following properties at the Board Meeting on July 2, 2019 and directing the Building Inspector to provide the proper statutory notices of the hearing to the owners of the properties. Hansel Wiggins Estate, Dennis Moore, ppin # 6727, parcel # 108G-27-001-007.00, N. Matubba Street; Brenda Thurston, ppin # 6131, parcel # 107M-35-024-002.00, 403 S Maple Street; Rufus B. Haughton, ppin # 24045, parcel # 108H-27-0016-008.01, 301 N. Long Street; Emma G. Wheeler Revocable Trust, ppin # 6899, parcel # 108G-27-012-002.00, Vine Street; Lady Tucker / Melba Johnson, ppin # 7117, parcel # 108H-27-010-016.00, and ppin # 7203, 108H-27-017-001.01, Vine Street; Willie A. Cook Estate, ppin # 6898, parcel # 108G-27-012-001.00, 721 Vine Street; and Harolyn Jean Walker, ppin # 6249, # 107N-35-015-024.00, Odd Fellows Rest Cemetery. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Ewing, seconded by Alderman Buffington, to accept the resignation of employee Chris Sumrall from the Aberdeen Electric Department, and post and advertise for persons interested in employment. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to adopt the State of Mississippi's legal holidays for July 4th and July 5th, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to authorize the purchase of a 2019 Ford F-350 Extended cab truck from Courtesy Motor at the State contract price of \$29,304.00, for use by employees of the Aberdeen Water Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Ewing, seconded by Alderman Buffington to employ Walters, Zaniy; Walters, Zykeria; Loggan, Jaylan; Walker, Tamia; McMillian, JaVian; Jones, Ashani; Poe, Jartashia; Murray, Miracle; Stegall, Alexis; Crawford, Jaqualon; Gladney, Tiffany; Knox, Deon; Gunn, Keenen; Kelly, Madaline; Johnson, Monica; Lenoir, Mikhaila; Holiday, Dontavious; and Howard, Lilton for the Aberdeen Summer Work Program for 34 days at the hourly wage of \$7.25. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to authorize the acquisition of the buildings and real estate in the Prairie Industrial Park formerly occupied by the Mississippi Authority for the Control of Fire Ants. The property will be jointly owned by the City of Aberdeen and the Monroe County Board of Supervisors. The County will engage and pay for the survey and the deeds preparation. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR MEETING**JUNE 4, 2019****PAGE 2**

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to offer the appraisal amount of \$18,500.00 to purchase the Huffman Property located on Commerce Street for the use of the Aberdeen Visitors Bureau Office. The purchase will be funded from the City UDAG funds account, and anticipated rent from the Aberdeen Visitors Bureau will be disbursed back into the UDAG fund. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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

- Linda Record complained about a person operating a 4 wheeler in an unsafe manner on Jefferson and James Streets and that the person needs to be stopped from riding on the public road. She also announced that the next Aberdeen City clean up date will be scheduled on June 22, 2019, commencing at 8:00 am at the Aberdeen City Hall.
- Suzanne Lucas stated that the City of Aberdeen needs a homeless shelter.
- Glenda Garth complained about her grandchild's grave site being run over and damaged.

Alderman Sykes stated that the driveway at 1100 MLK needed to be repaired and that the City ditch behind the house needed to be cleaned.

Alderman Stone asked Mayor Howard if Howard had signed a Special Counsel Contract of Employment with attorney Walter Howard Zinn Jr. to provide legal services on behalf of the City of Aberdeen and the Aberdeen Economic Development Authority. Mayor Howard implied that the signature of Maurice Howard on the Contract was a forgery.

- * City Attorney Faulks stated that he had received a copy of a letter addressed to Mayor Howard from the Wilson Law Firm demanding \$850,000.00 from the City of Aberdeen for legal fees rendered by the Withers & Withers law firm of Baton Rouge concerning alleged legal services rendered for the Aberdeen Economic Development and Energy Initiative. The Wilson Law Firm also provided a copy of the purported Special Counsel Contract of Employment with attorney Walter Howard Zinn Jr., and stated that Withers & Withers law firm was a 3rd party beneficiary of that contract.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to declare the Special Counsel Contract of Employment with attorney Walter Howard Zinn Jr. to be unauthorized, null and void. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to deny the purported claim of the Wilson Law Firm demanding \$850,000.00 from the City of Aberdeen for legal fees rendered by the Withers & Withers law firm of Baton Rouge. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Ewing to increase the wage of Aberdeen Water Department employee Calvin Parker by \$1.00 for the successful completion of his probation period, and to increase the wage of Aberdeen Public Works Department employee Xavier Wilson & Derrick Hogan by \$1.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to adjourn until the June 18, 2019 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Maurice Howard, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jackie Benson, City Clerk