

MINUTES, BOARD OF ALDERMEN, BOOK NO. 19

DEMENT-MERIDIAN 61-2994

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM  
JUNE 18, 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: Mayor Maurice Howard.

VICE MAYOR ALONZO SYKES CHAIRED THE MEETING.

INVOCATION: Alderman David Ewing.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the proposed Minutes dated June 4 and June 10, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Ewing to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated June 18, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Diane and Henry Hammock and their son-in-law attorney Berk Huskison appeared before the Board to complain about the Save Aberdeen Landmarks building adjacent to the Henry's of Aberdeen store building on East Commerce Street. They complained that the Save Aberdeen Landmarks building is causing structural problems to the Henry's of Aberdeen store building, and requested that the Board adjudicate the building and repair the common wall area of the two buildings at the expense of the City.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Buffington to adopt the 2019-2020 fiscal year Aberdeen Electric Department Budget. The Public Hearing for comment was held earlier at 4 p.m. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to approve the proposed accounting "write offs" of past due accounts of Aberdeen Electric Department customers in the total amount of \$37,786.49. The unpaid debts will be referred for debt collection procedures. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Alderman Buffington departed from the Board room.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Ewing to approve an APPLICATION FOR AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION TO AXIALL, LLC (A WESTLAKE COMPANY) for an expansion of property valued at \$5,038,862. The Application is to be forwarded to the Mississippi Department of Revenue for approval and certification. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye", except Alderman Buffington who was not present during discussion or the vote and had recused himself.

Alderman Buffington returned to the Board room.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Ewing, to authorize the purchase of "rip rap" from Burns Dirt Construction in the amount of \$32.10 per ton (\$12,840.00 total cost), necessary to complete the City - James Creek 24" Trunk Sewer Line to the South Lagoon repair project, per Project Engineer John Cunningham, Neel-Schaffer Engineers. The other quote received was from Hanna Construction in the amount of \$35.00 per ton (\$14,000.00 total cost). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to authorize an emergency purchase of 3 hydromantic pumps in the amount of \$11,151.00 each from Fluid Process & Pumps, LLC, to be used at the City sewer lagoon (South Pumping Station). The other quotes received were from Jesco - \$20,165.76 per pump, Tri-State Chlorination - \$14,972.65 each, and Magnolia Pump - \$15,549.32 each. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to accept the resignation of Aberdeen Street Department employee Terrance Cunningham. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Ewing, seconded by Alderman Stone to employ Corwin McFarland as a fulltime laborer in the Aberdeen Street Department at the wage of \$10.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Richard Boone - Public Works Certification - Athens, GA - July 8-12, 2019; Tina Robbins - Rural Tourism - Murfreesboro, TN - June 20-21, 2019; and Henry Randle - Police Chiefs Conference - Biloxi, MS - June 25-28, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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

- Mrs. Linda Record announced that the next Aberdeen City Cleanup Day is scheduled June 22, 2019.
- Mr. Charles Scott stated that the public was invited to the Scott Family Reunion events scheduled July 4-5, 2019. He also discussed options to rent/lease the Morgan's Landing Sportsplex for park and recreation activities and sports events.

Alderman Stone thanked Mr. Charles Scott for his holding his family reunion in Aberdeen and inviting the public.

Alderman Ewing stated that there is a "complaint procedure" in place at the Aberdeen Public Works Department and the procedure is working well.

Alderwoman Odom stated that she is thankful that all City projects are on track and working well.

Alderman Sykes had received a complaint about a person digging a pond in Alderman Sykes' ward.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderwoman Odom 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 Buffington, seconded by Alderman Ewing to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues concerning proposed promotions and raises for certain Aberdeen Fire Department personnel, and an issue with Police Chief Henry Randle. 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 personnel issues concerning proposed promotions and raises for certain Aberdeen Fire Department personnel, and an issue with Police Chief Henry Randle.


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

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to accept the resignation of Sandra Walker as the Park and Recreation Department Gym Supervisor and Food Service Coordinator effective July 12, 2019, and to post and advertise for applicants. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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

  
Maurice Howard, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Jackie Benson, City Clerk