

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM  
JULY, 2, 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:**

**ALDERMAN DOUG STONE, ALDERMAN DAVID EWING, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM AND ALDERMAN JIM BUFFINGTON; AND JACKIE BENSON, CITY CLERK; AND ROBERT FAULKS, CITY ATTORNEY.**

ABSENT: MAYOR MAURICE HOWARD AND ALDERMAN ALONZO SYKES

ALDERMAN DAVID EWING CHAIRED THE MEETING

INVOCATION: Kevin Crook

Monroe County Sheriff candidate Kevin Crook appeared before the 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 Stone, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the proposed Minutes dated June 18, 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 July 2, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Auditor Matt Woods, Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC, presented Auditor Reports for Aberdeen Common City and Aberdeen Water and Sewer Department (year ended September 30, 2018), and for Aberdeen Electric Department (year ended June 30, 2018).

Auditor Matt Woods commented that financial records are in good shape for the City, and audit findings were down from seven or eight instances in previous years to one through the latest report. Woods stated that the City fund balance ratio was in a "healthy" range and improving.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to accept the 2018-2019 Auditors Reports for the Aberdeen Common City, Aberdeen Water Department and the Aberdeen Electric Department as presented by Auditor Matt Woods, Alexander Thompson Arnold PLLC. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Stone to retain Alexander, Thompson, Arnold, PLLC, Jackson, TN to conduct the Audits of the Aberdeen Common City, Aberdeen Water Department and the Aberdeen Electric Department for fiscal year 2019-2020. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to adjudicate the property of Rufus B. Haughton, PPIN # 24045, parcel # 108H-27-0016-008.01, 301 N. Long Street, as being a public hazard and nuisance and in such a state as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community; and further directing that said property be demolished and/or cleaned, as applicable. Building Inspector Roy Haynes stated that he provided the statutory notices to the property owner, and no one appeared to contest. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to instruct the Water Department personnel to inspect the water meter and the billing for Robert and Kathy Seymour, Franklin Street. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Robert Seymour also questioned whether the City fire hydrants along Franklin Street were useable and may have contributed to difficulty in the suppression of a recent fire at another residence on Franklin Street

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to take under advisement bids or quotes received from vendors for the purchase of an Hydraulic Excavator for the use of the Aberdeen Water Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Sharon Edmond - Court Clerk Conference - Biloxi, MS 9-11/13, 2019; and Jackie Benson and Board Members - Tenn-Tom Meeting - Point Clear, AL August 27-30, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Stone to accept the resignation of Aberdeen Police Officer Joseph Levi Inmon, effective July 8, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Buffington to authorize the deposit of Aberdeen Water Department funds in a BancorpSouth money market account for two years at a 2.20 percent interest rate. A lower interest rate quote was also received from Cadence Bank for both a money market account and a certificate of deposit. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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

- Joseph Stone stated that he had received a denial of claim letter from the City of Aberdeen's liability insurance carrier, and he requested the City Board of Aldermen to pay for flood related damage to his vehicle sustained in the flash flood that struck parts of the City in May 2019. Stone also contended that citizens had previously complained about the condition of City ditches to the Mayor and Aldermen.
- Linda Record announced that the next Aberdeen City Cleanup Day is scheduled September 21, 2019. She also asked that pet owners be responsible.
- Clayton Deryl complained that City employees had cut a City ditch near his residence, and that he was now experiencing problems relating to the presence of rats at his house.

Alderman Stone thanked Charles Scott for his holding his Scott family reunion in Aberdeen and inviting the public to attend and participate several activities planned for the weekend. Alderman Stone also commented that there are "several good things happening in Aberdeen" like the street paving project, the sidewalks improvements projects, and the comments from Auditor Matt Woods earlier during the Board Meeting that the City of Aberdeen financial reports and financial condition of the City of Aberdeen was in better shape than it has been in a long time.

Alderwoman Odom also stated she was proud of the ongoing work and projects in the City of Aberdeen.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington 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 Buffington to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues concerning proposed promotions and raises for certain Aberdeen Fire Department personnel. 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.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderwoman Odom 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 authorize certain expenditures for the Taste of Aberdeen Festival which the Board finds be used for the purpose of advertising and bringing into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and resources of the City, and public entertainment which in the judgment of the Board will be helpful toward advancing the moral, financial and other interests of the City. Expenditures include a payment to JJ's Jumpers for children passes to bouncy houses and waiver of the Park and Recreation Department fee as an in kind donation for the Spades Tournament at the City Gymnasium. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to authorize the purchase of a 2019 304E Hydraulic Excavator from Thompson "Cat" for the price of \$47,956.80. The other quote received was from Puckett "Cat" in the amount of \$49,974.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to recess until the July 16, 2019 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

  
Maurice Howard, Mayor

ATTEST:   
Jackie Benson, City Clerk