

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM  
OCTOBER 1, 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 ROBERT FAULKS, CITY ATTORNEY.**

**ABSENT: JACKIE BENSON, CITY CLERK.**

INVOCATION: Alderman David Ewing.

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to approve the proposed Minutes dated September 10 and September 26, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Sykes to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated October 1, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Former Friendship Baptist Church Pastor Herb Hatfield shared his concerns about issues such as speeding, noise, litter, the Aberdeen School District's recent "F" rating through the Mississippi Department of Education's rankings, overgrown property and a suspected declining population. He said, "I want us to all have more pride in the City of Aberdeen, not just our sports teams, but for the fact that we live in a City that's peaceful, that's safe and quiet."

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Sykes to authorize the purchase of sixty-seven electric power poles for the Aberdeen Electric Department from Thomasson Company which submitted the lowest quote in the amount of \$8,810.50. The other quote received was from Koppers Products in the amount of \$8,927.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to advertise for persons interested in serving as a Commissioner on the Aberdeen Housing Authority Board. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Odom to approve the renewal of annual Beer Permits for the following businesses: Aberdeen Golf and Country Club, Aberdeen Marina, Buddy's One Stop, Discount Tobacco, Dollar General, El Jefe Mexican Restaurant, Family Dollar, H 2 O (Hollywood Squares), Food Giant, Kim's Steak and Fish House, Penny Lane's, Payne's Place, Walgreen's, Ro's Place, Shell Station, Smokey's Kwick Stop, Sprint Market, and Texaco. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye" except Alderman Sykes who voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to authorize completion and submission of the Mississippi Municipal Compliance Questionnaire for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize City Clerk Jackie Benson to act as the Applicant Agent / FEMA Designee for the City of Aberdeen, and to execute and file applications for the purpose of obtaining and administering federal financial assistance under the Disaster Relief Act. 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: Dejuantae Ewing - Hazardous Material - Alabama Fire College - Tuscaloosa, Al. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Ewing, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the sale of vacant City lots located at 503 N. James Street Aberdeen, Mississippi, PPIN #7155, parcel #108H-27-010-055.00; and PPIN #7156; parcel # 108H-27-010-056.00 to Erika McIntosh who submitted a purchase bid in the amount of \$650.00 for both parcels. No other quotes/bids were received. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Sykes to take the bids for the Aberdeen City Hall Restoration (painting) Project under advisement. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Ewing to impose a Citywide safety burn ban for the City of Aberdeen until weather conditions permit otherwise. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Howard requested that the Board of Aldermen retroactively reinstate the Mayor's salary, travel expenses, use of a City vehicle and use of a City credit card. There was no discussion, no vote, and no action was taken.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Ewing to authorize the City to solicit competitive contractor quotes for striping the newly paved streets. Project Engineer Dustin Dabbs estimates the cost for this work to be in the range of \$10,000 to \$12,000. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Citizens appearing before the Board but not on the printed Agenda:

- One lady stated that a culvert on High Street Extension needs immediate attention and repair, before it falls in or damages a vehicle; and she also asked the public to support the Aberdeen schools.
- Justin Crosby asked the Mayor and Board whether there were any current campaigns to encourage Aberdeen residents to participate in the 2020 Census. Crosby stated that Aberdeen could lose its County seat if the population was determined to be less than 5,000 residents.
- Linda Record reported another very successful City of Aberdeen clean-up day.
- Joann McKinney stated that there were complaints from citizens in the Treas Lake subdivision area having "bad water".

Alderman Sykes recommended installation of safety speed bumps on Evergreen Drive. He also stated that there are still several streets in Ward One that need to be paved; and the privately owned Oddfellows East Cemetery should be adjudicated.

Alderman Stone invited the public to attend the Open House at the M&O Depot and the old Health Department.

Alderwoman Odom asked the Mayor why he would not let the Aberdeen Public Works Department to help clean up the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department Sportsplex Facility. Alderwoman Odom stated that Mayor Howard had previously told her he would take care of it.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Sykes to accept the resignation of Aberdeen Police Officer Drakius Betts, effective October 14, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Ewing, seconded by Alderman Stone, to post and advertise for persons interested in employment as Police Officers in the Aberdeen Police Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, 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 Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding Park and Recreation Department employee Michael Hodges and Animal Control employee Carver Hale. 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 regarding Park and Recreation Department employee Michael Hodges and Animal Control employee Carver Hale.

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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 Buffington, seconded by Alderman Sykes to continue to employ Carver Hale as a part time employee with no more than ten hours of work per week. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to terminate the employment of Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department Gym Supervisor Michael Hodges for failure to comply with City Employee Handbook policies, and to post and advertise for persons interested in such employment. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to authorize City Attorney Robert Faulks to negotiate a settlement of the Bankruptcy Trustee lawsuit against the City of Aberdeen Public Utilities in the Pioneer Hospital bankruptcy case. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to adjourn until the October 15, 2019 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

  
Maurice Howard, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Jackie Benson, City Clerk