

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM  
FEBRUARY 4, 2020  
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; JACKIE BENSON, CITY CLERK; AND ROBERT FAULKS, CITY ATTORNEY.**

Invocation: Alderman David Ewing.

Judge Sharion Aycock reported concerning the status of the remediation project at the Thomas G. Abernethy Federal Building. The project is currently being "re-scoped", and jurisdiction of the project has been reassigned from General Services Administration (GSA) Region 4 to Region 7. Aycock stated that the Courthouse areas had been deemed uninhabitable, and dangerous to one's health by FOH (Federal Occupational Health). The Judge and her staff have been conducting court business at the Bankruptcy Courthouse in Aberdeen, and at the Federal Courthouse in Oxford, and working out of offices at the Gilmore Foundation building in Amory. Aycock applauded Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith and Senator Roger Wicker's offices for their work in addressing the project, but requested the Board to delay contacting federal officials until more information was available regarding the scope of the project and projected costs and available funding.

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to approve the proposed Minutes dated February 4, 2020. 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 February 4, 2020. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Ewing to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Jason Roberson - MS Water School - Jackson, MS - March 29 - April 2, 2020; and Quinell Shumpert - Firearm Instructor - Jackson, MS - April 26 - May 1, 2020. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Ewing to accept the resignation of Police Officer Matthew Wade effective February 16, 2020. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Sykes to advertise for persons interested in appointment to serve on the Aberdeen Visitors Bureau Board. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Ewing to open a savings account for deposit of Mississippi Infrastructure Modernization Act funds received by the City. The funds are being provided for repair, maintenance and/or reconstruction of roads, streets and bridges. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Sykes to approve a LEASE AGREEMENT effective February 5, 2020, by and between the CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, and the BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MONROE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, and Gregory Lindor, said property identified as "Loc. 2, Building 1", 10013 Water Tank Road, Aberdeen/Prairie Industrial Park, Monroe County, Mississippi. The Lease is for a one year term, requiring initial rental payments of \$200.00 per month for six months and subsequent rental payments of \$500.00 per month thereafter. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT NO. 1, Aberdeen LPA Sidewalk Improvements Project, with Dabbs Corporation. Dabbs Corporation entered into a Construction Engineering & Inspection Contract with the City of Aberdeen to perform construction, engineering and inspection services for the LPA sidewalk improvements project, and has been requested to provide continued CE&I services during the Liquidated Damages period resulting from a change in the scope of the project; for an additional cost not to exceed \$14,879.04. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Sykes to approve an agricultural LEASE AGREEMENT, by and between the CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, and the BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MONROE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, and Big Creek LLC, concerning certain real estate at the Aberdeen/Prairie Industrial Park, Monroe County, Mississippi. The Lease is for a multi-year term, February 1, 2020 to December 31, 2023, and requiring annual rental payments of \$6,100.00 per year. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A proposal to purchase and install lighting at Aberdeen Sportsplex athletic fields was tabled until the next Board meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Ewing, seconded by Alderman Sykes to authorize Dustin Dabbs, Dabbs Engineering to evaluate drainage issues on Canal and Matubba Streets. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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

- Mary Wilson commented concerning flooding in the Canal and Matubba Streets area.
- Anita Ewing also voiced her concerns concerning flooding in the Canal and Matubba Streets area.
- A concerned citizen asked about abandoned cars on Davis Street.
- Toni Reece invited everyone to attend the Mardi Gras Parade and the Mardi Gras Gala Ball on February 8, 2020. The purpose of the Mardi Gras events is to raise money for the Friends of the Aberdeen Animal Shelter.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded Alderman Sykes to permit local businesses to park their trucks and 18 wheelers at the parking areas of the City/ Monroe County property previously leased to Holley, subject to the approval of Monroe County. Consent to park the trucks and trailers is conditioned upon the City not being responsible for any damage to trucks, trailers or other property of the businesses. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to request the City Clerk to contact MDOT concerning authority for the City to change the name of Martin Luther King Drive to General Young Drive, and to change the name of the Highway inside the City limits to Martin Luther King Drive. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Alderman Sykes commented regarding concerns with drainage and potential flooding in the Chestnut and Warren Streets area. He also asked whether the City had a preventative maintenance program for cleaning City ditches to alleviate potential flooding in the City. Alderman Sykes also asked everyone to pray for Aberdeen and a successful resolution of the remediation project at the Thomas G. Abernethy Federal Building.

Alderman Stone asked what the procedure for changing a street name was. Alderman Stone has been contacted by persons who requested that Eckford Alley be renamed "Annie's Alley".

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Alderman Ewing stated that Ann Tackett with the Aberdeen Main Street had updated the Board of Aldermen concerning several projects that she was working on, the old service station building, the library, the hotel building, and the downtown school district buildings, all projects that may be beneficial to Aberdeen. He also thanked the Aberdeen Public Works Department for garbage pickup.

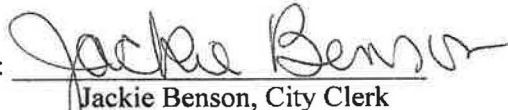
Alderwoman Odom stated that she had talked with the Monroe County Board of Supervisors regarding the proposal to permit local businesses to park their trucks and 18 wheelers at the parking areas of the City/ Monroe County property previously leased to Holley.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Sykes to recess until the February 18, 2020 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".



Maurice Howard, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Jackie Benson, City Clerk