

MINUTES, BOARD OF ALDERMEN, BOOK NO. 19

DEMENT-MERIDIAN 61-2994

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
FEBRUARY 18, 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 FAULK, CITY ATTORNEY.

Invocation: Alderman Jim Buffington.

Alderman Alonzo Sykes attended the Board meeting by telephone.

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 Alderman Sykes to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated February 18, 2020. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Dwight Stevens informed the Mayor and Board of Aldermen that he had "adopted" the City Acker Park in 2015 and is planning on doing more renovations at the City Park. He asked the Board to assist with possible grants, and commented about a butterfly garden, a stage, and an amphitheater at Acker Park. Stevens also stated that he had been mowing the Acker Park property for several years; but agreed that Acker Park is a City park and not privately owned.

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to confirm that Acker Park is on the City Public Works maintenance plan and that Acker Park will continue to be recognized and maintained by the City as a City Park. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Dustin Dabbs with Dabbs Corporation updated the Board concerning projects Dabbs is working on.

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to appoint Dustin Dabbs with Dabbs Corporation to be the City Project Engineer or point of contact for the completion of the AMI Meter System installation. Dabbs will communicate with GE concerning the completion of the current AMI Meter System installation. The City of Aberdeen is in year six of the contract with GE and all electric and water meters have not been installed by GE.

A motion was made Alderman Ewing, seconded by Alderman Stone to authorize Dustin Dabbs with Dabbs Corporation to conduct camera system inspections of City drainage infrastructure at several locations. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to appoint Margaret "Meg" Evans to serve on the Aberdeen Visitors Bureau Board, to replace Marsha Ballard who has retired. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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: Michelle Stewart - Child Nutrition - Pearl, MS - February 25, 2020; Ethan Donahoo - Lab 1 - April 12-17, 2020; Josh Herndon - Lab 5 - Scottsboro, AL - March 22-27, 202; and Caleb Angle - Lab 2 - Scottsboro, Al - April 26 - May 1, 2020. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize the emergency repair of the Aberdeen Electric Department bucket truck by Wren Body Works for the cost of \$12,533.99. The delay incident to giving opportunity for competitive bidding would be detrimental to the interest of the City. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Buffington to authorize the Electric Department to install lights on two athletic fields at the Aberdeen Sportsplex. The estimated cost would be 8-15 thousand dollars per field. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Buffington to authorize the City purchase of lights for the athletic fields at the Aberdeen Sportsplex from Stewart C. Irby which submitted the lowest bid/quote at \$410 per light, or 18 lights at \$7,380, or 36 lights at \$14,760. Spectrum also submitted a bid at \$425 per light. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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

- Mrs. Ginny Pounders asked whether the Board of Aldermen could authorize construction of a City dog park and animal shelter somewhere on City owned property.
- Emma Spratt complained about her neighbor's yard. The Board requested that this matter be referred to the Building Inspector and the City adjudication procedure.
- Lady Garth stated that City ditches were full of trash and need to be cleaned.
- Citizens complained that there are 4-wheelers being driven carelessly all over Aberdeen; and that there are citizens operating business garages at their homes in violation of City ordinances. The Board requested that the owners and addresses of these home businesses be referred to the Building and Zoning Inspector for investigation.

Mayor Howard stated that he had contacted Three Rivers Planning and Development concerning an application submitted by the City back in June 2017 for a loan from Three Rivers Planning and Development in the amount of \$500,000.00, for the construction of a swimming pool at the Stinson Park and to upgrade the basketball courts at the General Young and Newburger Parks. In September 2017, the Board did not proceed with the loan application due to lack of available funds in the Budget. Paying back the CAP loan of \$500,000.00 and interest would require the City to pay annual payments of \$33,000.00 plus.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to table discussion concerning the matter of the application submitted back in 2017 for a \$500,000 CAP loan through Three Rivers Planning and Development for the construction of a swimming pool at the Stinson Park and to upgrade the basketball courts at the General Young and Newburger Parks, until the next Board meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Alderman Sykes asked whether any progress had been made on the proposed name changes of Martin Luther King Street and the Highway bypass through the Aberdeen City limits.

Alderman Stone agreed that City ditches need to be cleaned. He also stated that a uniform policy needed to be adopted by the City Board of Aldermen to permit private use of the City Courtroom.

Alderman Ewing thanked Dwight Stevens for his efforts to beautify Aberdeen. He also stated that City drainage issues are being inspected and dealt with. Alderman Ewing stated that Aberdeen had lost a great man with the recent death of Bishop Eugene Sacus, and asked everyone to remember the family of Bishop Eugene Sacus in their prayers.

Alderwoman Odom told Mayor Howard that she did not appreciate him sending out a letter that appeared to be authorized by the City Board of Aldermen, concerning a candidate political rally in the City Courtroom, disguised as a town hall meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Ewing, 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 Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Stone to go into Executive Session to discuss a property damage claim submitted by Adrian Garth. 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 a property damage claim submitted by Adrian Garth.

Mayor Howard departed from the Board room.

Alderman Sykes terminated his telephone participation in the Board Meeting.

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Stone 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 the payment to Adrian Garth in the amount of \$108.56, as the full and final settlement of any and all remaining claims for property damage. The Board was advised that the City insurance carrier will or has paid the additional amount of \$108.56, which will result in total payments of \$217.12 to Garth. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Howard returned to the Board room.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Buffington to formally rescind the letter that Mayor Howard had previously circulated "on behalf of the Board of Aldermen" inviting candidates and the public to attend a political campaign rally in the City Courtroom. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye", except Alderman Ewing who voted "Nay". Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Ewing 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