

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM  
APRIL 7, 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 DOUG STONE, ALDERMAN DAVID EWING, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM, AND ALDERMAN JIM BUFFINGTON; JACKIE BENSON, CITY CLERK; AND ROBERT FAULKS, CITY ATTORNEY.**

Invocation: Mayor Maurice Howard.

Mayor Howard, Alderman Ewing, Alderwoman Odom, Alderman Buffington and City Clerk Jackie Benson attended the Meeting through teleconference. Alderman Stone and City Attorney Faulks attended the Meeting in person in the Board Room.

Absent: Alderman Alonzo Sykes.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Ewing to approve the proposed Minutes dated March 17, 23, 25 and 31, 2020. 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 April 7, 2020. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Ewing, seconded by Alderman Buffington to increase the wage of Aberdeen Police Officer Lelon Cook to \$14.00 per hour for the successful completion of the Mississippi Police Academy training classes. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Ewing to authorize City Clerk Jackie Benson to transfer the funds required to pay the City payroll from the Common City General Accounting Fund (BancorpSouth Bank account) to the City Payroll Clearing Fund (BancorpSouth Bank Account), via computer/internet-based system, without paper checks or paper deposits. This authorization is for the completed employee payroll period. Records documenting the date and amount of the transfer shall be provided for review at the following Board of Aldermen Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the following Employee Administrative Leave policy:

**COVID-19 Temporary Paid Administrative Leave**

The City of Aberdeen is granting the use of temporary paid administrative leave up to 112 hours effective March 19 through the duration of the Local Emergency for City employees who are unable to work due to COVID-19.

Administrative leave temporarily relieves an employee of their normal job responsibilities. The employee is asked to remain at home during regular work hours but continues to receive regular pay and benefits.

This type of leave is rarely used and only in situations when an employee should not remain in the workplace.

All full time benefits-eligible employees shall be eligible for this one-time allotment that can only be used due to COVID-19 related absences.

The following conditions apply:

- All hours must be used by close of business on December 31, 2020 at which time the remaining allotted hours will expire.
- In consultation with the supervisor to ensure use of leave does not disrupt the delivery of essential services, the hours may be used at any time during this designated period, including intermittently, either before or after the use of any accrued leave or other paid leave.

This paid administrative leave is only for employees who are unable to work, on City worksites or remotely, for the following purposes:

- When an employee is unable to work due to the employee's own COVID-19 related illness or that of a family member for whom the employee would normally be able to use sick leave;
- When an employee is unable to work because the employee has been directed by their supervisor or healthcare provider not to come to the City worksite for COVID-19-related reasons and/or it is not operationally feasible for the employee to work remotely; or
- When an employee is unable to work due to a COVID-19-related school or daycare closure, and the employee is required to be at home with a child or dependent, and it is not operationally feasible for the employee to work remotely.
- When an employee who has not been designated as performing essential functions has been ordered to "shelter in place" and is not able to work remotely.

On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Ewing to re-open the Aberdeen City Hall on April 13, 2020, due to several Aberdeen City employees who have confirmed cases of COVID-19 related illnesses and who had regularly worked in the Aberdeen City Hall building. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

No citizens had any input at this time. However, a Monroe Journal news reporter was present.

A motion was made by Alderman Ewing, seconded by Alderman Stone to employ Lee Johnson and Christopher Dobbins as part time Aberdeen Police Officers (no more than 20 hours work per week) during this current City fiscal year, which employments were recommended by Aberdeen Police Chief Henry Randle. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Alderman Ewing thanked all the City employees for their work efforts during these uncertain times.

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Ewing 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 a personnel issue concerning Mayor Howard's request to increase his salary. 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 personnel issue concerning Mayor Howard's request to increase his salary.

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

There was no further discussion or any vote regarding Mayor Howard's request to increase his salary.

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Ewing to adjourn until the April 21, 2020. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".



Maurice Howard, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
Jackie Benson, City Clerk