

MINUTES, BOARD OF ALDERMEN, BOOK NO. 19

DEMENT-MERIDIAN 61-2994

**SPECIAL CALLED BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
MARCH 25, 2020
2:00 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.

Attending by phone was Mayor Maurice Howard.

ABSENT: Alderwoman Carolyn Odom.

Alderman Sykes opened the Meeting, but Mayor Howard called during the Invocation Prayer.

The Board reviewed and considered the following matters:

On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar declared the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic to be a "public health emergency"; and

On March 13, 2020, Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves issued a Proclamation declaring that a State of Emergency exists in the State of Mississippi as a result of the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus; and

On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic to be a "national emergency"; and

On March 17, 2020, the City of Aberdeen Mayor and Board of Aldermen declared the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic to be a State of Local Emergency; and

On March 24, 2020, Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves issued Executive Order No. 1463, which among other requirements, ordered and directed that all municipalities "are authorized and directed to cooperate in actions and measures taken in response to COVID-19 during the State of Emergency"; and

The Mississippi Department of Health has reported confirmed cases of the COVID-19 coronavirus in Monroe County and in adjoining Counties in our area.

The Board next considered the following matters:

The Governor of the State of Mississippi issued an Executive Order on March 20, 2020 to postpone the primary election runoff in the State's 2nd Congressional District scheduled for March 31, 2020 as a result of the spread of the corona virus; and

The Natchez Mayor and Board of Aldermen, who also operate pursuant to a Special Charter, unanimously passed a resolution to postpone the City of Natchez municipal election dates to protect their citizens from COVID-19; the Natchez primary election having initially been scheduled for April 7, 2020, and postponing the Natchez primary election to May 12 and the Natchez run-off, if necessary, to June 2, and the Natchez general election to June 12, 2020; and

The Aberdeen Board of Aldermen received correspondence from the Aberdeen/ Monroe County NAACP asking that the Board delay the upcoming Aberdeen City Election due to the spread of COVID-19; and

The First United Methodist Church of Aberdeen has decided to suspend all face to face church gatherings, worship service and meetings; and

The Episcopal Church of Aberdeen has decided to suspend church services pursuant to a statewide Order of the Mississippi Episcopal Diocese; and

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The Aberdeen Pilgrimage has been postponed until further notice; and

The Aberdeen Board of Aldermen were advised that the Aberdeen Democratic Committee was requesting a delay of the Aberdeen Democratic Primary per Coy Flynn and Will Walker.

Several people in the audience next shared their comments and reasons why they thought the Aberdeen municipal elections should be moved to another date due to the Covid-19.

Mayor Howard and Alderman Candidates Nick Holliday and Lady B. Garth stated their disagreements with the Aberdeen Municipal Elections being postponed and rescheduled.

City Attorney Faulks read out loud a proposed Ordinance postponing and rescheduling Municipal Elections as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic for consideration by the Board:

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MONROE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AS FOLLOWS, TO-WIT::

The City of Aberdeen primary municipal elections set for April 7, 2020 shall be rescheduled to May 5, 2020, and the runoff elections set for April 21, 2020 shall be rescheduled to May 19, 2020, and the general election set for May 5, 2020 shall be rescheduled to June 2, 2020; and


All dates for City of Aberdeen City of Aberdeen early voting shall be scheduled by the City Clerk of Aberdeen/ Election Registrar to conform with the Mississippi Elections Code and administrative regulations; and

The City Clerk of Aberdeen/ Election Registrar shall preserve and maintain any and all early ballots received to date; and any early ballots may be counted subject to compliance with and as required by the Mississippi Elections Code and administrative regulations;

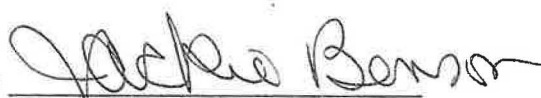
Pursuant to Section 21-13-11 of the Mississippi Code, said Ordinance shall take effect and be enforced immediately; and the City Clerk is authorized to publish said Ordinance in the manner required by law”

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Ewing to adopt the Ordinance postponing and rescheduling Aberdeen Municipal Elections as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Ewing to adjourn until the April 7, 2020 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.


 Maurice Howard, Mayor

ATTEST:


 Jackie Benson, City Clerk