

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
APRIL 21, 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: Building Official Roy Haynes.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Ewing to approve the proposed Minutes dated April 21, 2020. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated April 21, 2020, with the exception of a final application and certificate for payment submitted by Hanna Contracting, Inc. regarding the City Sidewalks Improvements Project. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Ewing to adjudicate the following properties as being a public hazard and nuisance and in such a state as to be a menace to the public health and safety of the community; and further directing that said properties be demolished and/or cleaned, as applicable. Building Inspector Roy Haynes stated that he provided the statutory notices to the property owners, and no one appeared to contest:

- 1.) Lynette Stark Estate, PPIN # 7671, parcel # 108K-34-004-018.00, 935 West Commerce Street;
- 2.) Pearl and James Lockett Estate, PPIN # 7030, parcel # 108H-27-004-003.00, 510 Short Street;
- 3.) Pearl and James Lockett Estate, PPIN # 7040, Parcel # 108H-27-27-005-004.0, 604 Short Street;
- 4.) Spencer Eckford, PPIN # 6216, Parcel # 107N-35-013-012.00, 820 South Meridian Street;
- 5.) Doris Blanchard, C/O Harolyn Jean Walker, PPIN # 7041, Parcel # 108H-27-005-005.00, 606 Short Street; and
- 6.) Willie A. Cook, PPIN # 6898, Parcel # 108G-27-012-001.00, 721 West Vine Street.
- 7.)

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

A motion was made by Alderman Ewing, seconded by Alderman Stone to take under advisement the Contract Change Order No. F-1 (Closeout) proposed by City Engineer Dustin Dabbs, regarding the City Sidewalks Improvements Project completed by Hanna Contracting, Inc. The proposed change order would reduce the cost of the contract to \$287,582.95, a reduction of \$6,097.05. The proposed change order would also increase the contract completion date an additional 49 days. Dabbs reported various reasons for delays and also advised that the MDOT grant reimbursement would likely be reduced. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to authorize Dabbs Corporation to install AMI automated water meters for the estimated fee of \$11,250.00 (system planning, design and inspection \$1,000.00/ field services \$10,250.00). This quote is calculated on \$60.00 per meter and 160 + meters on site. The authorization is also conditioned upon the agreement in writing that GE Energy Management Services, Inc. allows the City of Aberdeen a credit for the cost of installing the meters against the monthly charge otherwise payable by the City of Aberdeen to GE Energy Management Services, Inc. The other quote received was \$72.00 per meter installation, submitted by Millerco, Gulfport, Mississippi. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
APRIL 21, 2020
PAGE 2**

A motion was made by Alderman Ewing, seconded by Alderman Stone to require a "spending freeze" regarding the purchase of all non-essential items by all City departments at this time. Non-essential items include nonessential travel by employees and officers, new employments, and any other materials, supplies, equipment or tools not needed at the present time to provide essential City services. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Alderman Buffington momentarily terminated his participation by teleconference.

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Ewing to adopt a RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, GRANTING FINAL APPROVAL OF AN AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION TO AXIALL/WESTLAKE CORPORATION, ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye", except Alderman Buffington who was not present during discussion or the vote and had recused himself.

Alderman Buffington returned to the Meeting by teleconference.

The Board next read and considered a proposed ORDINANCE POSTPONING AND RESCHEDULING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AS A RESULT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

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 shall be rescheduled to June 2, 2020, and the runoff municipal elections shall be rescheduled to June 16, 2020, and the general municipal election shall be rescheduled to July 7, 2020.

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 AN ORDINANCE POSTPONING AND RESCHEDULING MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AS A RESULT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen discussed the Curfew Ordinance and agreed that the Curfew Ordinance shall continue to remain in force.

No citizens had any input.

Alderman Stone reported that the Aberdeen Main Street and a private citizen had asked landlords to forgive the payment of business property rent for the month of April if the business tenants were current on their rent thru March 2020; and that several downtown business tenants had received that offer.

Alderman Ewing thanked the Aberdeen Public Works Department and first responders for all of their dedication, work and assistance during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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".

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
APRIL 21, 2020
PAGE 3**


A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Ewing to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue regarding Aberdeen Street Department employee Corwin McFarland. 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 regarding Aberdeen Street Department employee Corwin McFarland.

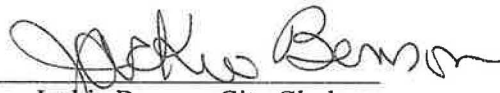
A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderman Buffington to come out of Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Ewing to reinstate Aberdeen Street Department employee Corwin McFarland. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Ewing, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adjourn until the May 5, 2020. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Maurice Howard, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jackie Benson, City Clerk