

MINUTES, BOARD OF ALDERMEN, BOOK NO. 19

DEMENT-MERIDIAN 61-2994

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CITY HALL BOARD ROOM

SEPTEMBER 15, 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 NICHOLAS HOLLIDAY, ALDERWOMAN LADY B. GARTH, ALDERMAN EDWARD HAYNES, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM, ALDERMAN JOHN ALLEN; CITY ATTORNEY WALTER H. ZINN, JR., MELSSA MOORE, CITYCLERK AND BARBARA VASSER, DEPUTY CITY CLERK.

Invocation: Alderman John Allen

ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve minutes dated September 1, 2020. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to pay bills to proper vendors. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to terminate an Agreement with MS Rural Tank Services. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to advertise for bids to pave High Extension Street. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to advertise for bids to pave Evergreen Drive. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to table Cemetery Bids in closed determination. On a roll call all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth, to advertise for Land Acquisition. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to advertise for Housing Authority Board Appointment. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to accept the retirement date of Mrs. Judy Harrison effective September 30, 2020. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to table ION Business and Payment System until next Board meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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Citizens Input:

Mrs. Joann Cunningham, FEMA Coordinator of Monroe County, MS asked the Board permission to send two firemen from the Fire department and one officer from the Police Department to attend a 4-5 day training in Anderson, Alabama for FEMA Training. A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded, Alderman Holliday. On a roll call vote, all present "Aye".

Brick Young complimented the Aberdeen Police Department for the great job they have been doing in the community, and presented Chief Henry Randle with 45 gift cards from McDonald's.

Rev. Hatfield expressed his concerns regarding the trees being cut down on Meadowlane Drive. Ditch lines are stopped up creating standing water, bad smell and mosquitoes. He would like for the City to have someone come and test the water and clean ditches. He received a report from DEQ that the water tested positive for E-Coli, and will provide the City with paperwork at a later date.

Mrs. Martha Randle expressed her concerns about the trees being cut and the trash being thrown on the ground on Peacock Alley.

Aldermen Input:

Alderman Allen asked the Board about reversing the vote on the TVA Contract. Mayor Howard asked to table it. A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen and Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay". Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Holliday voted "Aye". He asked the Board to pay the old American Express bill. The Board approved to pay \$3,763.46.

Alderwoman Odom mentioned employee of the month and asked Mayor Howard to purchase items from the City of Aberdeen instead of shopping out-of-town. She also talked about making a citizen arrest for individuals littering the streets of Aberdeen. Attorney Zinn informed the Board this was dangerous and unsafe.

Alderman Haynes suggested that Franklin to Jefferson Street behind Allmond's Printing Company need to be cut and cleaned because trees have grown up and drainage is stopped. A community meeting scheduled for Ward 3 on September 16, 2020, and a City clean-up day, Saturday, September 19, 2020 at 8:00 a.m.

Alderwoman Garth mentioned Ms. Annie Doss asked that speed bumps be removed on the street where she lives. The speed bumps are too big and they're tearing up her car. Mayor Howard shared with Alderwoman Garth the City ordered 20 new speed bumps and they will be 3 inches smaller.

Alderman Holliday commended City Workers for the great job they're doing with less man power. He also commended the Electric Department for a good job they did on cleaning up the tree that fell.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Howard was happy to announce to the City the contract executed with EnviroBuilders. It was signed by the Mayor and Board today. EnviroBuilders will hire 150 people. The retrofitting of the building will begin within the next 6 months, and expected grand opening within the next 18 months. Mayor Howard thanked the Board and Monroe County Supervisors. Mayor Howard plans are to create a campaign, "Aberdeen Open for Business Campaign Initiatives." The doors of Aberdeen, MS are open and not closed for growth, development and new revenue. Mayor Howard asked each Board Member to share ideas on Economic Development and Growth for the City and please limit to 2 minutes.

Alderman Haynes supports the idea of new industry and businesses coming to the City of Aberdeen, and asked that we continue to focus on existing businesses in the City.

Alderman Allen agreed with the ideas shared by Alderman Haynes. He would like to see land expansion on Highway 45, a truck stop, more retail shops, and help keeping the City clean. Alderman Odom would like to see everyone shop Aberdeen Merchants first.

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Alderman Holliday suggested Port Authority to be more developed, 24-hour businesses, and Economic Development.

Alderwoman Garth concur with everything shared by her fellow Constituents. She stressed the importance of education and the City of Aberdeen needs to partner with other school districts to improve education.

Alderwoman Odom would like to see more hotels, restaurants and convenient stores. There are wonderful people living in the City of Aberdeen.

All present were in Favor for Business Initiatives in the City of Aberdeen.

Mayor Howard recommended new hires for the Electric Department. They were Lamarcus Thompson and Gregory Partlow at a rate of pay of \$14.50 per hour, and Josh Summers at a rate of pay of \$16.50 per hour. Brian Sanders wanted to talk with new hires before the City agrees to hire them. Mayor Howard wants to table the discussion, but Brian Sanders continue to discuss the matter after he was asked by Mayor Howard to be quiet. Mayor Howard banged the gavel and motion to go into Closed Determination.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to enter into closed determination. On a roll call vote, all present "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to come out of closed determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to go into Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to come out of Executive Session.

On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen voted "Nay" and Alderwoman Odom, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes and Alderman Holliday voted "Aye".

Chief Henry Randle asked the Board to accept Leland Cook and Jimmy Cockerham's resignation. Mr. Cook didn't provide the Aberdeen Police Department with his letter of resignation. Chief Henry Randle told the Board he will hold Leland Cook's check until everything has been given to the department. Chief Henry Randle asked the Board to approve applications for new hires Chris Dobbins, Michela Gill, Davis Hankins and Markeen Griffin for the Aberdeen Police Department.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to hire Lamarcus Thompson and Gregory Partlow for the Electric Department at a rate of pay of \$14.50 per hour, and Josh Summers for the Electric Department at a rate of pay of \$16.50 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen voted "Nay" and Alderwoman Odom, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Holliday voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to hire Chris Dobbins as Sergeant a rate of pay of \$15.20 per hour, Michela Gill and Davis Hankins as Patrolmen at a rate of pay at \$13.00 per hour, and Markeen Griffin as Dispatcher at a rate of pay of \$10.00 per hour for the Aberdeen Police Department. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen, Alderman Haynes, an Alderman Holliday voted "Aye", Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay", and Alderwoman Garth recused her vote.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to change Janet Parks position to Administrative Assistant. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

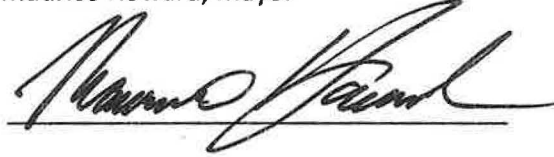
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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to adjourn until the October 6, 2020 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Maurice Howard, Mayor



Attest:

