

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

## CITY HALL BOARD ROOM

October 20, 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, CITY CLERK AND BARBARA VASSER, DEPUTY CITY CLERK.**

Invocation: Alderman Edward Haynes

## ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve minutes dated October 6, 2020. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Odom to pay bills to proper vendors. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes, Alderman Allen and Alderwoman Odom had a concern with the expense of \$3700.00. Mayor Howard told the Board it was the cleaning expense for the Park and Recreation Building and the Community Center. Alderman Haynes said expense wasn't a necessity and not good business practice. Mayor Howard asked the Board if they would like the procedure of signing PO's or not. The Board said no, please advise us on expenses that's not a necessity. Alderwoman Odom asked about the \$600.00, and was told by Mayor Howard the van was vandalized.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom for Employee Enhancement for Inspector Roy Haynes to attend the Building Officials Association of Mississippi, December 1-4, 2020, Natchez, MS. The fee is \$150.00, and City Clerk, Melissa Moore to attend the Certified Municipal Clerk Program Virtually, October 28-30, 2020. The fee is 200.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Final Resolution Cap Loan with Three rivers to renovate General Young Park and New Burger Park. Alderman Allen asked the loan amount. Mayor Howard said \$250K. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye" and Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Resolution Letter Approval for Subdivision. Mayor Howard made note that the Resolution Letter Approval for Subdivision is contingent upon proof of a \$500,000.00 Surety Bond. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

The Aberdeen Police Department Hiring on the agenda was asked to be omitted at this time by Chief Henry Randle.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept the Cares Act Relief Fund (MEMA) in the amount of \$131,444.21. Mayor Howard explained to the Board the details of the Cares Act Relief Fund. The City will receive the check in about two weeks. Mayor Howard asked that it be put in a separate account and the monies can be used for any need within the City. This is a grant, not a matching grant, and it doesn't have to be paid back. Alderwoman Garth asked if the expenses have to be accounted for. Mayor Howard told the Board we have to document everything we spend when using this money. On a roll call vote, all voted "Aye". Mayor Howard gave a special thanks to Ms. Melissa and Ms. Barbara for being so quickly to respond, and Ms. Karen for doing the paperwork. We appreciate you.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to Table and discuss the Morgan's Landing concern in Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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Brenda Harrington and Pastor Harrison, Healing Waters Christian Fellowship, Aberdeen, MS would like to buy coats for needy children in the school system. We would like to set up boxes for the coats, and need input and help on how to do this. Ms. Harrington would like to get with the teachers and counselors at the schools to see which children are really in need for the coats. Alderman Haynes asked Ms. Harrington to contact the principals at each school for the names of the children that need coats. Mayor Howard suggested a meeting be setup next Tuesday to speak with the superintendent. Alderwoman Garth informed Ms. Harrington due to the Pandemic, please talk to Superintendent Jeff Clay, and he will provide you with the information needed.

Robert Dale Blanchard had a concern as to why his lights were disconnected due to an old electric bill at an address where he never lived on Highway 45. The amount of the bill was \$625.00. Mr. Blanchard believes someone stole his license and used his social security number to get electricity in his name at the address on Highway 45. Mr. Blanchard asked the Board to please contact the Electric Department and turn his lights back on. He has a gas heater in his trailer, and when he went to light the gas in his trailer it caught fire. Mr. Blanchard told the Board that former Mayor Cecil Belle was going to get it straightened out, but never got a chance to do so. Mayor Howard told Mr. Blanchard his concern will be discussed in Executive Session and Alderman Holliday will contact him @ 662-626-3910.

**Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:**

Alderman Allen asked if the water lines on High Extension have been attended too. Mayor Howard will contact Mr. Roberson in the morning to make sure there is some motion on that. Also, to advertise for Walters Drive where the initial contract was done several months ago and we need to get a cheaper price. Mayor Howard asked Alderman Allen if he was making a motion. Alderman Allen said I will. Mayor Howard said we need a second to advertise for Walters drive. Alderwoman Garth seconded the motion. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye". Alderman Allen asked about the TVA Contract. Mayor Howard said we are prepared to deal with that tonight, and it will be discussed in Executive Session.

Alderwoman Odom asked about the digging of graves at all of our cemeteries. In the past the City has dugged the graves and billed the Mortuary that is in charge of the burial. I understand that Amory comes over with their equipment and digs the graves and does their thing. Our city needs to benefit by digging the graves and bill the funeral home. Mayor Howard said the City had to remove two people with heavy equipment that was taken out of the budget, and now we only have one individual with the responsibilities of the City. It's hard for him to cut, tear down houses, dig graves and do all other things needed in the City. The City has a subcontractor to help dig the graves. Alderwoman Odom said the Board need to look at this in the future to make sure we can do this and benefit from it. Mayor Howard told the Board Ms. Vasser is in charge of that and the City does get a lot of that. The City is doing their best due to working short hand. Alderwoman Odom asked that Pedro check on the rescue dogs on 204 High Extension Street belonging to George and Lisa Wise. It's about 20 dogs at that residence. Also, there are two pit bulls at 1404 Parkview Drive that had a liter of puppies. Please ask Pedro to enforce the ordinance. Mayor Howard will get with Pedro in the morning and check on this and ask Mr. Roy about the ordinance.

Alderman Haynes talked about drain top on Washington and Columbus Street that needs a concrete slab. He needs to schedule a department head workshop Tuesday after lunch. City Inspector and Fire Chief need to visit the Thrift Store on the left hand side of Main Street. There are trash and bags left on the sidewalk. Also, on the inside of store there is no walking room due to it being over crowded with merchandise. Alderman Haynes gives a big shout out to Public Works for cleaning the curbs in Ward 3.

Alderwoman Garth understood the jake breaks are in, and the inbox will need to be checked. Mayor Howard is awaiting a response, and being that this is on the highway, the signs have to say break away and the ones the City has don't say that. We will send them back and order the correct ones. The approval letter from MDOT should be in by Tuesday, and then we can put them back up. Alderwoman Garth received calls from residence in Ward 2 thanking Public Works for doing a great job. Aberdeen Police Department to patrol more on Chestnut and Forrest Street.



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Alderman Holliday thanked Public Works for the speed bumps in Ward 1. We have some new ones smaller and better being put down, and the citizens are thankful.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Howard gave thanks to Ward 3, 2, and 1. For a very long time, every since I sat in this seat one of my main goals and priorities was to make sure we were able to renovate both parks, New Burger and General Lee Young Parks. The Cap Loan Approval of \$250,000.00 was approved to for us to do so. Spring of 2021 we will be having a ribbon cutting on both parks. Thanks again to Ward 3, 2, and 1 for making this possible. Mayor Howard and the City greatly appreciate you.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to enter into closed determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted "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 Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to go into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issues with Aberdeen Police Department and Accounting Department. Mayor Howard has a request as well. 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, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to give Sophia Jones a write-up and three days at home with no pay. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept State Contract from Clark's, Amory, MS for \$35,000.00. Leased purchase in the amount of \$7,000.00 for a Tahoe police car. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve State Contract from Clark's, Amory, MS for \$27,000.00 for Mayor Howard a SUV. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay" and Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Holliday voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to terminate Karen McMillian. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay", and Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Holliday voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth asked Attorney Zinn can an individual vote for their church member. Attorney Zinn told the Board not, but he will research more and inform the Board at a later date.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Holliday to terminate Larry Darty and vacate premises in 30 days. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to do a Resolution with the State Auditor's Office and Attorney General's Office to file a complaint against Jackie Benson regarding the American Express Reward Points. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen and Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay" and Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Holliday voted "Aye".

DEMENT-MERIDIAN 61-2994

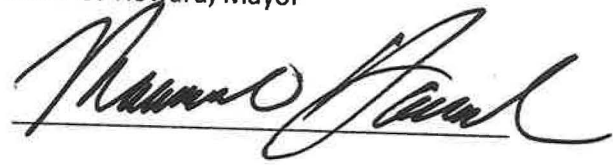
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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to adjourn until the November 3, 2020 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Maurice Howard, Mayor



Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk