

## MINUTES, BOARD OF ALDERMEN, BOOK NO. 19

DEMENT-MERIDIAN 61-2994

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

## CITY HALL BOARD ROOM

December 1, 2020

5:00 P.M.

**BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN 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

Alderman Holliday was not present for the Roll Call

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve minutes dated November 17, 2020. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday was not present for the vote.

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 Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to table bid on tractor for the Public Works Department. A grant was received to cover some of the cost of the tractor. Public works Department allocated \$15,000.00 in their budget, and the remaining balance of \$12,029.79 will be paid from the Special Funds Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen that Flex Time is no longer available for city employees. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Holliday voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the one-dollar (\$1.00) raises to Aberdeen Police Department Officers Eric Potts moving to Sergeant and Jordan Gillespie completing the Academy. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to accept the lowest bid of \$715,142.08 with Weaver Electric Inc. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay" and Alderman Holliday recused his vote. Mayor Howard asked that it be notated in the minutes that he had nothing to do with this vote.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept to the lowest bid for the water line replacement on High Street and Charles Street from Ricko Nichols in the amount of \$13,968.90. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve Tony Rogers UDAG Loan with collateral in the amount of \$35,000.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen, Alderwoman Odom, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Holliday voted "Aye", and Alderman Haynes recused his vote.

## Citizens Input:

Tina Robbins asked about the mask mandate and curfew. Ms. Robbins understood the order to say if you cannot social distance, you must abide by the 10/50 rule, but if you can social distance you don't have too. Mayor Howard told Ms. Robbins the Board will discuss the mask mandate and curfew, and a decision will be made.

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Alderman Allen asked about the Atwell & Gent proposal that the Board needs to accept and vote on the bids. Westlake is asking the Board to move forward on this. Alderman Allen asked about the advertisement for bids on water lines on two streets in his Ward. Jason Roberson, Water Department Supervisor and Stanley Spradling recommended Ricko Nichols with lowest bid of \$13,968.90.

Alderwoman Odom had nothing to report at this time.

Alderman Haynes asked that the agreement the City had with Mr. Tony Ewing (deceased), that the property out by the Bankruptcy Court be reverted back to the City. It's been more than 90 days and the Board has a zero movement on the TVA Contract that was voided back in August. Mayor Howard told the Board that TVA will be here on December 15, 2020 to meet in Executive Session to offer a two-hundred million dollar (\$200,000,000.00) deal that will save us more than two-million dollars a year on the power bill. Alderman Haynes asked about hand sanitizer, hand sanitizing stations and cloth masks for all city employees. He asked where the City stands on the possibility of residents paying their electric bill online. This will help keep the electric Department employees safe and help slow down the spread of the virus. Mayor Howard told the Board he will ask Justin Overton with ION Business Concepts and Payment Systems to come back and talk about online payments.

Alderwoman Garth asked Tony Rodgers to bring his paperwork regarding the UDAG Loan he requested from the City in the amount of \$35,000.00. Mr. Rodgers told the Board the collateral he'll be using is the building he just purchased that was formerly Hollywood Square. Alderwoman Garth asked why is there twenty-four (24) speed bumps on Highland Street. Mayor Howard said the citizens on that street asked for the speed bumps in order to keep their children safe.

Alderman Holliday had nothing to say at this time.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Howard informed the Board that on December 15, 2020 a large company will be coming to Aberdeen to speak to the Board during Executive Session about a potential two-hundred million dollar (\$200,000,000.00) project. There will be several individuals here, and Mayor Howard asked that all Board members please be present. This presentation may take up to three (3) hours. This could be something so great for the City of Aberdeen. Mayor Howard thanked Alderman Haynes for giving him the time until January, and if we don't have something in concrete by January, then I'll stick to what I said. Need to verify an interim general manager. Alderwoman Garth asked that we do a co-interim for the general manager position. Alderman Allen asked that Danny Morris be the superintendent for the outside services. Mayor Howard and the Board agreed to let Samona Johnson supervise the inside and Danny Morris to supervise the outside until further notice.

There was a discussion about the Executive Mask Order mandated by Governor Tate Reeves. People will be required to wear masks inside businesses as a preventative measure against COVID19. Mayor Maurice Howard and the Board invoked the Executive Mask Order. The mandate will begin on Wednesday, December 2, 2020, and it shall remain in full force and effect until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 11, 2020, unless it is modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to extend vacation days for the calendar year 2020 for the Electric Department to be taken by January 31, 2021. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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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 Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to give Attorney Zinn, Jr. authority to pursue reclaiming land acquired years ago by the late Tony Ewing at Stinson Industrial Park for the purpose of a solar electricity farm be reverted back to the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to enact a City-wide curfew from 11:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. beginning on Monday, December 7, 2020 until further notice. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to adjourn until the December 1, 2020 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Maurice Howard, Mayor



Attest:

  
Melissa Moore, City Clerk