

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

DEMENT-MERIDIAN 61-2994

## REGULAR BOARD MEETING

## CITY HALL BOARD ROOM

February 23, 2021

5:00 P.M.

**BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THE VICE-MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN MET IN THE CITY HALL BOARD ROOM WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**VICE-MAYOR LADY B. GARTH, ALDERMAN NICHOLAS HOLLIDAY, ALDERMAN EDWARD HAYNES, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM, ALDERMAN JOHN ALLEN, CITY ATTORNEY WALTER ZINN, JR., MELISSA MOORE, CITY CLERK AND BARBARA VASSER, DEPUTY CITY CLERK.**

**Serving as Interim Vice-Mayor: Lady B. Garth**

Invocation: Alderman Allen

## ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve minutes dated January 19, 2021. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve minutes dated February 2, 2021. Alderman Haynes motioned to amend February 2, 2021 Board Minutes to vacate the Mayor seat and installing Vice-Mayor Garth as Interim Mayor until the following election, and giving Madam Garth all the duties and responsibilities of Mayor. Alderman Holliday amended February 2, 2021 Board Minutes to change the end qualifying date from March 3, 2021 to February 24, 2021. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the Special Call Board Meeting Minutes on February 8, 2021. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Holliday voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes recused his vote.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to table the discussion regarding Enviro-Builders MDEQ until facts and findings come back. Attorney Zinn, Jr. was asked follow-up with Mr. Harper and Judge Houston and let the Board know. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye". Mr. Harper was present by telephone on a Zoom call.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve Resolution to authorize Execution of Equipment and Lease Purchase Agreement with BancorpSouth. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve employee enhancement for City Clerk, Melissa Moore to attend the 2021 Municipal Election Training on February 25, 2021 (Virtual / No charge), and the 2021 Spring Certified Municipal Clerk Session (Virtual). The fee is \$200.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve and accept bid on advertise land PPIN: 8252 / Parcel Id: 108R-34-015-014.00 from Demetrius Thomas in the amount of \$300. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve to advertise land sale and accept bid(s) on PPIN# 8252 / Parcel# 108R-34-015-014.00. Alderman Haynes said to advertise for fourteen (14) days. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the ESS Rental of Six (6) Voting Machines and fee amount of \$10,980.00 and the Ballots at \$0.34 each for the Special Election on March 16, 2021. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING****February 23, 2021****PAGE 2**

The item on agenda to approve and pay invoice from Murphree's Paving for paving work in the amount of \$42,500.00 and Dabbs Corporation phase services invoices 2101.01.1 (\$550.00) / 2001.01-6 (\$1,100.00) on High Street extension and Evergreen Drive did not require a motion or vote because Comptroller Karen Crump advised the Board the invoices were paid on February 2, 2021.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve UDAG Loan for EHolliday, LLC in the amount of \$10,000.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen and Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay". Alderman Haynes and Alderman Holliday voted "Aye". The vote was a tie, and Vice-Mayor Garth was given a vote to break the tie. Vice-Mayor Garth voted "Aye". Attorney Zinn, Jr. advised the Board the UDAG application has insecure collateral, and the Board need to ask for additional collateral. Alderman Haynes asked Mr. and Mrs. Holliday if they had something else to use for collateral. If so, please give to Karen Crump, so the attorney can review it. Once the collateral has been approved your loan will move forward.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes giving permission to apply for the FEMA Grants. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom asked, "Who will apply for the grants?" Vice-Mayor said Ms. Crump, Ms. Moore and Attorney Zinn, Jr. will do that.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes giving permission to the Aberdeen Electric Department to change out lights at the hospital parking lot. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mr. Charles Scott asked to be removed from the agenda and rescheduled at a later date and time to provide an update to the Board regarding the Aberdeen Sports Complex.

**Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:**

Alderman Allen said the Board are terrible Bankers, and if our livelihood depended on us being Bankers and getting our money back we would've been broke and out of here. Alderman Allen would love to see us do away with the UDAG Loans. Alderman Haynes suggested the Board to have a bottom cap and not go below \$43,000.00, and once we recruit some of the money back it can be raised to \$50,000.00. Alderman Allen would like for the City to apply for some of the FEMA grants, and with change of management with the City we got a list of the electronic devices and slowly itemizing these items. Alderman Allen will be putting together this and do a complete inventory and provide to the Board. The Board will need to make a determination, because we're paying \$40.00 to \$52.00 a month for these devices, and a lot of them are for people who have no use of them. Alderman Allen asked the Board if it's okay for the Aberdeen Electric Department to change out the lights in the parking lot at the hospital.

Alderwoman Odom would like for the Board to come up with a policy about the lots where trees are being cut off of, and the stumps are being left. They looked terrible. If you clear a place don't leave the stumps, clear it to develop it. On the corner of Meadowlane and Highway 8, it doesn't happen anywhere else in the City, and it's a bad looking spot.

Alderman Haynes said a big thanks to all the City workers who had to brave the cold elements during the ice storm we just had. Your work didn't go unnoticed. Alderman Haynes wanted to recognize the young man that was killed on the bridge trying to help someone that was involved on an auto accident. This is the stuff heroes are made of. Alderman Haynes will be attending a conference with the Monroe

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING****February 23, 2021****PAGE 3**

County Chamber of Commerce on March 2, 2021 to see first-hand how Aberdeen is stacking up against others in the surrounding areas. He proposed a Resolution to the student body at Aberdeen High School for their hard work during Black History Month putting together their programs to honor Black History. Alderman Haynes has six (6) motions to bring before the Board to vote on. They are as follows:

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom that the City is not responsible for the Mayor's transportation to and from work as well as his/her day to day operation. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom that the City only pay for gas and mileage for the Mayor's travel that is pre-approved by the majority of the Board. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom that the \$1.00 raise given after 90 days to new employees be removed from the hand book. All raises will be done on performance based evaluations. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to restart the process to hire an Electric Department Manager. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes to reinstate TVA contract ASAP. No seconded was given, motion died. Attorney Zinn, Jr. advised the Board this matter needs to be discussed in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen that City Clerk, Ms. Melissa Moore, be paid for working from home the first two days (2/16-17/2021) of the winter mix storm. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Alderman Holliday wants to figure out or ask the question, "Where are we headed?" My vision is cloudy, and we're opening up old wounds, settling scores, and doing everything besides moving this City forward. I can't understand it or digest it. We're not here to tear Aberdeen down, we're here to build Aberdeen up and move forward with businesses and progress that wants to come to Aberdeen. When I read my information packet, I understand where these people are headed who wants loans and businesses in Aberdeen. I expect for you to do your homework and do the same thing I do. Let's make sure we're making the right decision when it comes to moving Aberdeen forward, because of right now we haven't moved forward one inch since we sat in these seats. Alderman Holliday wants to know where the Board is on the issue of paying for vacation time with COVID money since vacation time was lost. Vice-Mayor Garth said we need the money people who's going to be talking about writing these checks and writing this money to contact them, get the list and make sure what's on the list is in line on what we need to be doing. Alderman Holliday said the Board needs to put something in policy for inclement weather and natural disaster to cover the employees that don't have vacation days. The employees shouldn't have to use their sick time. The Board needs to put in policy three or four days a year to be used for this reason.

**Vice-Mayor Report**

Vice-Mayor Lady B. Garth told the Board that the police department has found two cars that Sheriff Crook will be nice enough to let them purchase. They're going to need approval to purchase those two vehicles. One is a 2016, and one is a 2012 at the wonderful rate of \$6500.00 tax and all. We need those two to be approved. Judge Houston is doing the paperwork, and he will get that to Ms. Crump as soon as he finish putting everything in order. Also, the stripes are needed for the cars, and the installation is

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING****February 23, 2021****PAGE 4**

Also, the stripes are needed for the cars, and the installation is \$395.00 per car, which will be \$790.00. Officer Chris Dobbins addressed the Board and told them he called Clark's Ford, Amory, MS, and was given a price of \$36,988.00 for one vehicle, and we want three. All I need is for the Board to approve it so we can get cars ordered, and the reason why I say now is because they're going to potentially stop making them. It will be June 2021 before they are ready.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to purchase the two used cars from the Sheriff's Department for \$6500.00 and putting the stripes on for \$790.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve to buy three (3) 2021 Explorers from Clark Ford, Amory, MS at \$36,988.00 each, totaling: \$110,964.00. Officer Chris Dobbins presented this to the Board in the absence of Chief Henry Randle. These cars will be used as police cars for the Aberdeen Police Department, and will not be ready until June 2021. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Allen to enter into Closed Determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Allen to come out of Closed Determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to enter into Executive Session to discuss to discuss a matter with the Water Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to advertise for two weeks to hire for Public Works Sanitation Department for a General Laborer. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to advertise for three weeks for a General Manager for Public Utilities. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Alderman Holliday rescinded his motion, and Alderman Allen rescinded his second motion to purchase three (3) 2021 Explorers for the Aberdeen Police Department from Clark Ford, Amory, MS priced at \$36,988.00 each, totaling \$110,964.00.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Allen to purchase one 2021 Explorer for the Aberdeen Police Department from Clark Ford, Amory, MS priced at \$36,988.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Allen to purchase one 2021 Explorer for the Aberdeen Police Department from Clark Ford, Amory, MS priced at \$36,988.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Allen to purchase one 2021 Explorer for the Aberdeen Police Department from Clark Ford, Amory, MS priced at \$36,988.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING****February 23, 2021****PAGE 5**

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Holliday to adjourn until the March 2, 2021 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".



Lady B. Garth, Vice- Mayor

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk