

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CITY HALL BOARD ROOM

April 6, 2021

5:00 P.M.

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THE INTERIM 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 ~~Vice-~~ Mayor: Lady B. Garth
Alderman Holliday was present by FaceTime (on the telephone)
Attorney Zinn, Jr. was present by Zoom (on the iPad)

Invocation: Alderman Allen

ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve minutes dated ~~March 16,~~ March 16, 2021. Alderman Allen asked that one correction be made to the word Tantamount on page 2 of the minutes. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to pay bills to proper vendors. Interim Mayor Garth had a question regarding the Poll Managers pay. Comptroller Karen Crump explained to the Board that Poll Managers get a based pay of \$125.00, and the Receiving/Returning Manager receives \$20.00 (picking up and returning election material). Will discuss Poll Managers pay and approve in Executive Session. Attorney Zinn, Jr. addressed the \$10,980.00 ESS billed the City for April 20, 2021 Special Election. City Clerk Melissa Moore will request a corrected invoice from ESS, and the amount will be approved at next Board Meeting. Alderman Allen approved Bills except M&J Lawn Service. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to table the side-by-side for the Electric Department. Alderman Hayes said we need someone from the Electric Department at the Board Meeting to speak on this. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve James Pest Management Contract in the amount of \$18,060.00. ((\$645.00 per week) (\$2,580.00 x 7months = \$18,060.00). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Holliday to hire Lamarcus Thompson for the General Manager for the Electric Department. On a roll call vote, Alderman Haynes and Alderman Holliday voted "Aye". Alderman Allen and Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay". The vote resulted in a tie vote, and in this event Interim Mayor Garth will have to break the tie. Interim Mayor Garth voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Holliday for General Manager for the Electric Department Lamarcus Thompson salary to be \$55,000.00 annually. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

To approve payments for Poll Managers to work the Special Election Run-Off on April 6, 2021 will be discussed in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorized City Employee to attend the following meeting, and pay all necessary expenses according to State guidelines: Inspector Roy Haynes to attend the Building Officials 2021 Summer Conference, Gulfport, MS / June 13-18, 2021 / Member Fee: \$150.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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Attorney Zinn, Jr. informed the Board on the MDA Application that was filed on the Cap Loan said there's a legal fee of \$275.00, and the invoice we received was \$350.00, so we're trying to reconcile the difference in amounts. Attorney Zinn, Jr., sent an email to Bulter Snow as well as Ms. Childs with Three Rivers, and he will have an answer quickly due to committee meeting on Friday. Attorney Zinn, Jr., recommendation for the Board is to give authorization to remit a check not exceeding \$350.00, but I wanted to reconcile the numbers so our paperwork can align with the payment amount. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

To approve the change in pay scale for Temporary Assistant Chief Chris Dobbins will be tabled and discussed in Executive Session. The salary for Assistant Chief is \$40,000.00 annually.

Citizen's Input:

No citizens input given.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Allen gave Interim Mayor Garth a list of potholes on Hillcrest Drive. A ditch on High Extension needs to be cleaned out in front of Mrs. Irene Lenoir's house. Alderman Allen asked that the Street Sweeper go all the way down the end of Jett Street looks like it's cutting across on Jefferson Street. The street sign on Maple and Main Street someone knocked down the nice historic sign. We need it repaired. A request from Loaves Fish and Food Pantry about the big trucks parking and blocking both sides of the streets, and making it difficult for the people to receive their distribution of food. Trash and debris is blocking the sidewalks by the old hotel that was torn down needs to be picked up. A citizen wanted to commend Officer Davis for his professionalism and being courteous while helping her and her children. She really appreciated his kindness and wanted to say "thank you". He asked if A PSA (Public Service Announcement) about burning leaves and household garbage.

Alderman Allen told the Board about the recommendations from the Judge that was given by the Election Commissioners to change the venue of Ward One Election from the Aberdeen Housing Authority Precinct to the Monroe County Courthouse. Interim Mayor Garth asked that the Election Commissioners, Lee Turnage and Jennifer Rollison come before the Board and explain their recommendations. Mrs. Rollison told the Board they felt it was in the best interest of the voters in Ward One to move to a better location, and the Judge asked us if there was any other location or spot that would be a good neutral zone, and we agreed it would be the Courthouse.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to move the Ward One Special Election to the Courthouse. On a roll call vote, Alderman Allen and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes recused his vote. Alderman Holliday could not vote on this matter.

Alderwoman Odom said her Ward has been kind of quiet. Interim Mayor Garth and Alderman Haynes shared with Alderman Odom that residents in her Ward has been calling them because she will not answer her telephone. Alderwoman Odom apologized to the people.

Alderman Haynes is thankful for the opportunity to attend the MML Conference, Jackson, MS. The training was very helpful and we needed it to help improve us and the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Haynes asked that we translate what we learned into action to help better and improve the City of Aberdeen. Communication is a tool we need with one another, and it shouldn't be just at the Board Meeting, and more things could be solved before we get to the table. It doesn't hurt to call and check on one another every now and then, including myself. City Clean-Up Day (City Wide) is set for this coming Saturday morning at City Hall on the steps @ 8:00 a.m. Vests and trash bags will be provided, and someone will be driving by to pick up filled bags. On April 12th @ 1:00 p.m. will be the Department Head Meeting. The supervisors are asked to bring a work plan for the month of March. Grass cutting, ditches, curb attention and pick-up day in each Ward. If you're not sure of your pick-up day in your Ward, please

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contact Public Works for that information. The curbs are looking much better, but we still have work to do. Let's help one another complete their goals and tasks in their Ward, and it starts by communicating.

Alderman Holliday asked the Board why the voting precincts was't moved in the two previous elections.

Vice Mayor Garth informed the Board of the resignation of Mr. Joshua Somers. His last date of work was April 2, 2021, and he's already gone. Mr. Somers wrote a letter stating that he would like to give his remaining sick time to Lamaricus Thompson. Mr. Pacall Parks resigned from the City of Aberdeen Sanitation Department on March 23, 2021. Mr. Boone wants to move Mr. Robert Smith to full-time, effective May 1, 2021, and Ms. Imogene Dancy to be hired as a part-time secretary. The decision to hire Ms. Dancy will be discussed in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to move Robert Smith from part-time to full-time on May 1, 2021 at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Interim Mayor Garth read a complaint to the Board received from Doyle Brooks for being wrongly charged for his utilities because his meter was misread two times in the past 18 months. The first time resulted in a light bill for over \$1,000.00, and the second one for over \$900.00. My bill never goes over \$100.00 because no one lives at this address. It is a camp house. Mr. Doyle's address: 19152 Highway 50 West, Cedarbluff, MS 39741. Interim Mayor Garth asked City clerk Melissa Moore to discuss this with the Electric Department and have them to re-read this and report findings to the Board.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to accept the resignation on Joshua Somers and Pacall Parks. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Interim Mayor Garth shared with the Board the quote received from Integrated Communication to outfit the three police cars in the amount of \$20,794.18. Temp-Assistant Chris Dobbins informed the Board on how many officers that has been hired and how important it is to have the number of police vehicles for the department to get longer use of them.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom to lease the three Explorers, no seconded was given. Alderwoman Odom retracted her motion.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to order and outfit the three Explorers in the amount of \$20,794.18. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to order the three Chargers using the grant from Three Rivers at State contract price. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Interim Mayor Garth asked Attorney Zinn, Jr., if the Board needs to respond to the Client Notice Letter from Jones Walker LLP concerning Brad C. Davis resigning from their company on March 24, 2021, and joining the law firm of Watkins & Eager PLLC. The Board has a choice to:

- (1) have another attorney at Jones Walker LL{ handle the matters that are currently being handled by Brad C. Davis;
- (2) transfer the files currently being handled by Brad C. Davis to Watkins & Eager PLLC; or
- (3) request the return of your files for the above-referenced matter so you may register other counsel altogether.

MINUTES, BOARD OF ALDERMEN, BOOK NO. 19

DEMENT-MERIDIAN 61-2994

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Attorney Zinn, Jr., told the Board it makes sense to stay with the same lawyer, but he doesn't have a recommendation one way or another on that. Alderman Allen said nothing has to be done tonight anyway. Interim Mayor Garth told the Board we'll attend to that later.

Interim Mayor Garth shared with the Board that Mr. Darty from Morgan Landings needs a lawn mower that is big enough and powerful enough to handle the situation down there. Comptroller Karen Crump told the Board that Mr. Darty did request a lawn mower when I was working on the budget, but we just didn't have it.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve Officer Potts attending Defense & Tactics Training from April 12-16, 2021. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, 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 Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters with the Court Clerk, Electric and Park & Recreation Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, 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 Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to allow Sharon Edmond the ability to resign pending no further investigation, and if she fails to resign, she will be terminated. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to accept Ryan Love resignation. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

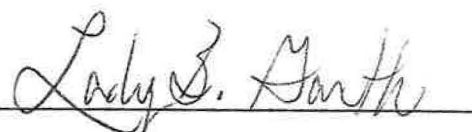
A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve hiring of Imogene Dancy part-time secretary for Public works at \$10.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the \$1.00 raise for Caleb Angle and Levail McFarland. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the pay for Poll Managers / Workers Pay, Election Commissioners, and Resolution Board. They will receive \$75.00 (base pay); \$10.00 (each training); and \$20.00 (\$10.00 for receiving/\$10.00 for returning election materials) On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to table until next meeting about Temp- Assistant Chief Dobbins being given the Assistant Chief position. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adjourn until the April 20, 2021 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Lady B. Garth, Vice- Mayor

Attest:

Melissa Moore, City Clerk