

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
MAY 4, 2021
5:00 P.M.**

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

MAYOR CHARLES SCOTT, ALDERMAN ROBERT DEVAULL, ALDERWOMAN LADY B. GARTH, ALDERMAN EDWARD HAYNES, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM, ALDERMAN JOHN ALLEN, MELISSA MOORE, CITY CLERK, BARBARA VASSER, DEPUTY CITY CLERK, AND CITY ATTORNEY WALTER H. ZINN, JR.

Invocation: Mayor Charles Scott.

ROLL CALL.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the proposed Minutes dated April 20, 2021. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderman Allen and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated May 4, 2021, with adjustments to the billing statements submitted by City Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye", with the exception of Alderman Allen who voted "Nay" concerning the bill of M & J Lawn Service.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize the purchase of two lawn mowers for Morgan Landing and for the Aberdeen Park & Recreation Department (Scag Tiger Cat / 202 STC61V2-26FTEFI / 2 @ \$8,300.00 each) from J & E Enterprises, Aberdeen, MS. City Clerk Melissa Moore advised that the purchase price was State Contract pricing. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Allen, and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to accept Aberdeen Court Clerk Sharon Edmond's letter of retirement, with an effective date of April 30, 2021. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to accept Mechanic Charles A. McComic's letter of resignation. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to accept Police Dispatcher Brenda Watson's letter of resignation. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize posting/advertising for persons interested in being employed as a part-time Dispatcher for the Aberdeen Police Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to schedule interviews the same day of and after the Board's work/ planning sessions. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderman Allen and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to adopt an Employee After-Training Commitment Agreement, which will be required for the employees of the Aberdeen Public Utilities, and for all of our other Departments in the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**May 4, 2021****PAGE 2**

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize the purchase of a side-by-side 2021 Polaris Ranger 570 Full-Size w/Sport Roof 3-piece for the Aberdeen Electric Department from Amory Marine Sales, Amory, MS which submitted the lowest and best bid/ quote at a price of \$10,868.99. Chickasaw Equipment Company, Houston, MS also submitted a quote. Funds in the Equipment Budget will be used for this purchase. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the purchase of a lawn mower for the Aberdeen Electric Department (Scag Tiger Cat 202 STC61V2-26FTEFI / 26HPKW 61 inch Velocity / \$8,300.00) from J & E Enterprises, Aberdeen, MS. The purchase price was State Contract pricing. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve an APPLICATION FOR AD VALOREM TAX EXEMPTION TO AXIALL, LLC (A WESTLAKE COMPANY) for an expansion of property valued at \$5,690,390.00. The Application is to be forwarded to the Mississippi Department of Revenue for approval and certification. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderman Allen and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

Citizen's Input:

Mrs. Em Walters addressed the Board by asking whether the Bukka White Blues Festival may be held at the Aberdeen Acker Park, during October 15-16, 2021. Em Walters also inquired about the Board increasing the funds allocated in the City Budget for this Festival by October 1, 2021

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize the Bukka White Blues Festival to be held within the Aberdeen City limits at the Aberdeen Acker Park during October 15-26, 2021. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderman Allen and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

Ms. Tina Robbins addressed the Mayor and Board and informed them of events scheduled in the City of Aberdeen this week, including the Ribbon Cutting at City Hall and Travel and Tourism Week. The City has again received the Certified Retirement City designation, maintaining a designation that the City has had since 1995. Tina Robbins has also created an Aberdeen City Hall page on Facebook. The Aberdeen Visitors Bureau website has also been updated, and is distributing CD's for audio tours which have also been added to the website.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull: Alderman DeVaul talked with the Building Inspector Roy Haynes about getting people off the side of the road on M.L.K. Drive before someone has an accident. There are some citizens complaining about the police officers driving too fast when there is no emergency. Alderman Devaull asked Asst. Police Chief Dobbins to please address this concern with his officers. Alderman Devaull wants the citizens to know that he's available if you would like to talk to him. Alderman Devaull may be contacted by calling his work cell phone or his personal cell phone, and he's willing to listen and to work with anyone.

Alderwoman Garth: No additional input at this time.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes sent a list to you (Mayor Scott) and the Department Heads to please follow-up on. There are some things that are still lingering, and it may be due to man power or something else that was more crucial that was in the way. Please don't let it get lost in the shuffle. Alderman Haynes sent a shout out to the "Drive the Train" Group that consists of volunteers in the City that are making our City look better. Alderman Haynes asked that drains be checked at least once a month, and follow-up with the Vacuum Truck. Alderman Haynes asked Mayor Scott if he had confirmed the visit to Westlake for Mr. Thompson and myself on May 10th or 11th. Mayor Scott said he hasn't confirmed any dates, he was waiting on the new Alderman to be seated and will reset the date, and only two Aldermen may go at a time.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**May 4, 2021****PAGE 3**

Alderman Odom: Alderman Odom have been to the Westlake site and thoroughly enjoyed it and it was quite interesting. It's well worth the hour and a half to two hours spent out there. Alderman Odom commended Tina and everyone involved on the hall downstairs, it's beautiful. Ms. Tina has done a wonderful job, and we're proud to have you in charge of all this. Alderman Odom asked that the green cones in front of the City Hall be removed because it detracts from the appearance of the City Hall building.

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen advised the Board that the Aberdeen Police Department already has a procedure in place for departing Police officers which extends for three years versus the two year period in the Employee After-Training Commitment Agreement adopted earlier, and would like to leave the Aberdeen Police Department departing employees' obligation to remain at three years.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to amend the motion made earlier approving the Employee After-Training Commitment Agreement to extend the obligation to three years instead of two years. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Alderman Allen requested an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Mayor Charles Scott's Input: The "Drive the Train" has been an outstanding program, and the volunteers have been doing a great job around the City. I would like to thank everyone that has been supporting it. I really appreciate you all. If you have not been supporting it, please ask the people in the community to support it. "Drive the Train" is making a difference around our City.

COVID19 Drives: the first series were setup in Aberdeen at different locations. Walgreens was setup at Daniel Baptist MB Church, Aberdeen, MS, and the Mississippi Alliance Coalition was setup at the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Building. There were a total of over 60 vaccines given that day. Today, Access is giving COVID19 vaccines at the Park and Recreation Building. On May 29, 2021, Walgreens will be coming back to give their second vaccine. The location for that date is Daniel Baptist MB Church. On June 1, 2021, Access will be giving the second vaccine, and June 3, 2021 will be the second date for the first shot. Mississippi Alliance will be giving the second COVID19 vaccine on June 5, 2021. They are working with the local barber shops and salons in getting the word out.

A Ground Breaking Ceremony was held on May 3, 2021. This is the first one we've had of this size in forty-one years. This is pretty major to us, and I think we have a great chance of having many more in the future.

Mayor Scott has talked with the District Manager of Bill's Dollar Store, and was informed that they're not trying to leave Aberdeen, but want to stay in Aberdeen. Mayor Scott assured the District Manager that we will do our best to support that effort.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Garth to authorize the purchase of a Transformer (750 KVA Three Phase Pad Mount) for the Aberdeen Electric Department, from MS-TN Transformers, Inc., Greenwood, MS in the amount of \$14,500.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve Employee Enhancement Training for Asst. Police Chief Chris Dobbins, specifically the Reid Technique of Investigative Interviewing and Positive Persuasion / May 18, 2021 - Zoom Training / Fee: \$149.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderman Allen and Alderman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Garth recused from voting.

Building Inspector Roy Haynes addressed the Mayor and Board regarding the properties of Arnold Huggins, Jr., and of Doug and Brenda Stone, requesting approval of subdividing their properties.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**May 4, 2021****PAGE 4**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize Arnold Huggins, Jr., to subdivide his property located at Peacock Alley, Aberdeen, MS (PPIN: 8915 / PARCEL ID: 112A-03-007-023.00). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize Doug and Brenda Stone to subdivide their property located at Chestnut Street, Aberdeen, MS (PPIN: 6176 / PARCEL ID: 107N-35-007-002.00). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to enter into a closed determination to determine whether to go into Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding the appointments/ employments of City Attorney, City Judge and City Clerk. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding the appointments/ employments of City Attorney, City Judge and City Clerk.

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

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize Aberdeen police cars to be striped. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize prosecution of the litigation to recover the City property from Ewing Solar Corporation, specifically the property located at the Stinson Industrial Park. The deeds contained a reverter clause. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Devaull recused from voting. Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize the City Attorney to draft and file a Position Statement in response to the Stewart E.E.O.C. charge. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes recused from voting. Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

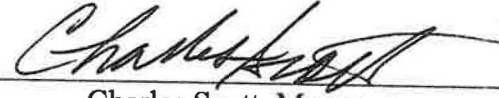
A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to replace the City Attorney and to appoint/employ Bob Faulks to serve as the City Attorney. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Allen and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to replace the City Judge and to appoint/employ Shane Tompkins to serve as the City Judge effective immediately. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Allen and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Motion passed.


A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to table discussion of the City Clerk appointment/employment for the time being. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderman Allen, and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".


REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 4, 2021
PAGE 5

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adjourn until the May 18, 2021 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk


Barbara Vasser, Deputy City Clerk