

MINUTES, BOARD OF ALDERMEN, BOOK NO. 19

DEMENT-MERIDIAN 61-2994

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
MAY 18, 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 ROBERT FAULKS

Invocation: Mayor Charles Scott.

ROLL CALL.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the proposed Minutes dated May 4, 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 Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman DeVaul to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of claims dated May 18, 2021. On a roll call vote, Alderman DeVaul, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman DeVaul to accept employee Harold Eli Schrock's letter of resignation, with an effective date of June 15, 2021. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize the purchase of Two 2022 Nissan Extended Cabs 4x4 Meter Reading Trucks for \$41,200.00 and One 2022 Ram 2500 Crew Cab 4x4 V8 Hemi for \$40,559.00 from Cannon Motors of Mississippi, Greenwood, MS. Electric Department General Manager LaMarcus Thompson advised that the purchase price of each was State Contract pricing, and it will be taken out of the Equipment Fund. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize the following City employee/official to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Tina Robbins - Southeast Tourism Society Marketing College, Macon, Georgia - June 13-16, 2021. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman DeVaul to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: LaMarcus Thompson, Samona Johnson and Jason Roberson - CSA 2021 Annual User Education Conference, Orange Beach, AL - June 27- July 1, 2021/ Price: \$599.00 each. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman DeVaul, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize the following City employee/official to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Michelle Stewart - 2021 NRPA Annual Conference, Nashville, TN - September 21-23, 2021 / Fee: \$125.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman DeVaul, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**May 18, 2021****PAGE 2**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Constance McFarland - Lineman Apprenticeship Pre-Apprentice Workshop, Huntsville, AL - May 23-29, 2021/ Fee: \$1,236.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman DeVaul to authorize Mayor Charles Scott, Alderman Robert DeVaul, and Alderman John Allen to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Tennessee – Tombigbee Waterway Conference, Point Clear, AL - August 10-13, 2021, and 2021 Tennessee – Tombigbee Waterway Development Council Annual Council (Membership Dues / Cost: \$175.00). On a roll call vote, Alderman DeVaul, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman DeVaul to appoint Mayor Charles Scott to represent the City of Aberdeen on the Three Rivers Solid waste Management Authority Board of Commissioners. On a roll call vote, Alderman DeVaul, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to accept the resignation of employee Finas Jackson, with an effective date of May 21, 2021. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Charles Scott's Input: Mayor Scott expressed his condolences to the Randle family on the passing of Chief Henry Randle, and asked everyone to please keep the family in their thoughts and prayers.

Mayor Scott asked Karen Crump, Comptroller to explain to the Board how the CARES Act Fund Coronavirus Relief Fund to pay for the expenses of paid sick leave, and paid family and medical leave to public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions between the period of March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020.

A motion was made by Alderman DeVaul, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize the transfer of funds in the amount of \$46,437.48 received from the CARES ACT Fund to the City General Funds. (The Common City General Fund in the amount of \$32,303.13 / The City Water General Fund in the amount of \$4,171.68/ The City Electric General Fund in the amount of \$9,962.67). Comptroller Crump advised that these sums were incurred for the expenses of paid sick leave, and paid family and medical leave to public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions, and that these expenses had not been accounted for in the prior Budget. On a roll call vote, Alderman DeVaul, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay". Alderman Haynes stated that if the employees are not going to be taken care of, his vote would be "Nay".

Mayor Scott informed the Board and citizens that Chief Henry Randle funeral will be held at the Aberdeen High School Gymnasium. No other arrangements have been made at this time.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**May 18, 2021****PAGE 3**

Mayor Scott discussed the efforts made to encourage participation in and to facilitate the COVID Vaccination Program in Aberdeen, and how he has been working with Daniel Baptist Church and Walgreens in trying to make this happen. Mayor Scott asked Dr. Vernon Rayford, (Internal Medicine, Tupelo, MS) and Felecia Cox-Lenoir, R.N. (Monroe Regional Hospital, Aberdeen, MS) to come and share with the Board and public about the COVID-19 Vaccination Program, and to address any questions and concerns they may have as it relates to the COVID19 vaccination. Dr. Rayford works with an organization call the Northeast Mississippi Coalition against COVID-19.

The group will administer vaccinations on May 22, 2021 at Daniel Baptist Church and on June 5, 2021 from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Building for ages 12 and older. Additionally, Walgreen's will host a COVID-19 vaccine clinic on May 29, 2021 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at General Young Park, Aberdeen, MS. Access Family Health Services will also host a vaccination on June 1, 2021 at the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Building, Aberdeen, MS.

Mayor Scott asked Columbus developer Chris Chain of Renovations of Mississippi to recap the history of a community effort to purchase the Parkway Hotel to try to attract an investor on where it stands now. Mr. Chain's background is in Historic Restoration, and he did a study of the property in 2019.

Mayor Scott asked Michelle Stewart, Aberdeen Park & Recreation Director to discuss proposed renovations and improvements to the Aberdeen General Young Park, including fencing, playground equipment, bleachers, a goal system, court improvements and canopies.

A packet was provided to Board members which included quotes from contractors. Ms. Stewart shared with the Board the different pricing on the canopies. Mid-South Recreation provided an initial quote of \$150,000.00 - \$175,000.00, but has reduced the quote to \$129,000.00 The City has been approved for a Cap Loan in the amount of \$250,000.00. After deducting the cost of \$15,000.000 for the engineers, the balance of the CAP Loan would fund the costs of the renovations and improvements up to \$235,000.00. Ms. Stewart stated that the total cost from these quotes is \$236,736.50.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman DeVaul to approve the renovations of General Young Park and include the ground breaking ceremony at General Young Park. On a roll call vote, Alderman DeVaul, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

Mayor Scott shared the dates/times of the Town Hall Meetings in each Ward:

Ward One: Monday, May 24, 2021 @ 6:00 pm at Daniel Baptist MB Church, Aberdeen, MS
 Ward Two: Date and location will be discussed at a later date
 Ward Three: Wednesday, May 26, 2021 @ 6:00 pm at Pilgrim Rest MB Church, Aberdeen, MS
 Ward Four: Thursday, May 27, 2021 @ 6:00 pm at Healing Waters Church, Aberdeen, MS
 Ward Five: Friday, May 28, 2021 @ 6:00 pm at Park & Recreation Building, Aberdeen, MS

Mayor Scott stated that the Assistant Chief of Police would be present at the Town Hall Meeting to discuss "community policing".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

May 18, 2021

PAGE 4

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull: Alderman DeVaul asking the citizens in Ward One to please be patient with the City grass cutting program; due to the rainy season, the use of heavy equipment to mow certain places requires more time to avoid the equipment "getting stuck". Alderman DeVaul noted the locations of the potholes in Ward One that require repairs. Southside Baptist Church and Mrs. Gettys' property have a drainage ditch running behind the properties, and it's flooding her yard and washing out the culvert/property behind the Church. Mrs. Gettys told Alderman DeVaul she believes the ditch belongs to the City. Alderman DeVaul said he will look into that and see if the City owns it. Alderman DeVaul sympathized with the passing on Chief Henry Randle. Alderman DeVaul was asked by Mayor Scott to help with the Tombigbee Waterway Project, and would like to see if we can get something accomplished at the Ports to help the City out.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth stated that the first thing they want to know is why the Mayor does not have a tag, and everyone else is being stopped for no tag on your vehicle, your truck. Alderwoman Garth wanted to know why the minutes weren't delivered 72 hours in advance. What happened? Mayor Scott answered that his tag was inside his truck, and the Minutes were not delivered because some adjustments had to be made, and we wanted to make sure the proper information was delivered.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes stated that cones are still there on the corners of Maple and Washington Street. Several water leak repairs are needed in Ward Three. The grass cutting at Acker Park, and the cutting and spraying of the grass/cracks on the sidewalks on the wall. It's making our City look bad. Alderman Haynes has invested time in energy in making sure the curbs and sidewalks are clean and presentable for visitors coming in and passing through our City. The lot across from Westbrook Funeral Home needs mowing. He will be contacting the owner of that lot. Complaints of loud noises on Franklin Alley. Alderman Haynes is asking all department heads to monitor the overtime in their departments and make sure it's being used wisely. Alderman Haynes is wearing the colors black and gold that represents the Pittsburgh Steelers. This was Chief Henry Randle favorite NFL Team. Alderman Haynes is honoring Chief Randle tonight, and asked everyone to wear those colors this week in honor of Chief Randle.

Alderwoman Odom:

Alderwoman Odom mentioned a large lot on Meadowlane Drive where the grass has grown too much, and looks bad and needs to be mowed. Alderwoman Odom suggested the grass be sprayed to make the grass go away, which would improve the looks of the property and keep snakes away. Alderwoman Odom requested the City Public Works to cut the bushes, trees and shrubs at Stinson Park that have grown up and prevent seeing the monument that's out there. I would like to see the corner of the Holley Building cleaned up. We are having a lot of trouble with the trucks in town parking on the street, even the cabs in the neighborhood. There is a tree growing right beside a sign on the highway on the other side of Tombigbee Bridge that needs trimming. It's blocking the sign. Alderwoman Odom said the sign is in the City limits. Alderwoman Odom has received several complaints that assistant Chief Dobbins is driving too fast coming through town and particularly in his neighborhood.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**May 18, 2021****PAGE 5**

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen asked Mayor Scott for an update on the Railroad Spur going down to the Port. Mayor Scott said the Waterway has been "de-clogged", and it's running now. Alderman Allen stated that there were potholes on West Commerce and Ausborn Lane requiring repair. Work Session Meeting Minutes will have to be approved by the Board also, and the public should be provided notice of all Work Session Meetings. Mayor Scott informed the Board and citizens there will be no Work Session on Monday, May 31, 2021 due to the Memorial Day Holiday.

Citizen's Input: Gina Pounders complained of loud noise from cars racing, and asked whether anything can be done and if there is an Ordinance prohibiting such noise. Mayor Scott told Ms. Pounders the City has an Ordinance concerning reckless driving and noise.

LaMarcus Thompson, General Manager for Public Utilities would like to terminate a part-time employment position, and advertise two weeks for persons interested in applying for a full-time position at the Aberdeen Electric Department. The advertisement would be for two weeks, and the position would be a cashier/float at a rate of pay of \$13.00 per hour.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept Mr. Thompson recommendation to terminate a part-time position and advertise for a full-time position. The position is a Utility Person/ Floater that will work front and back as needed. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman DeVaul 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 Alderman Haynes to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issues regarding the Sanitation Department Fred Fair and the Michelle Stewart E.E.O.C. charge. 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 Sanitation Department employee Fred Fair and the Michelle Stewart E.E.O.C. charge.

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 Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to employ Jarvis Dearing as a Fireman for the Aberdeen Fire Department at a rate of pay at \$10.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to employ Kevin Brooks as a Machine Operator for the Public Works Department at a rate of pay at \$13.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to move Matt Sanders to the position of Leadman for the Street Operators at the Aberdeen Street Department at a rate of pay at \$15.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
May 18, 2021
PAGE 6

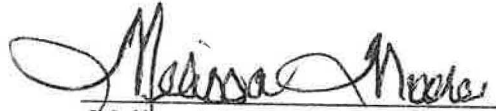
A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to advertise two weeks for persons interested in employment as an Assistant Mechanic and as a C.D.L. Driver for Public Works. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

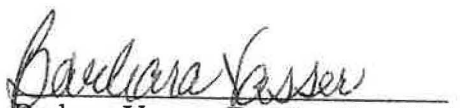
A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman DeVaul to terminate the employment of Fred Fair pursuant to the City self-termination policy, and that Fred Fair be released. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adjourn until the June 1, 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