

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**July 20, 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 H. FAULKS.

Invocation: Mayor Charles Scott.

ROLL CALL.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes dated July 6, 2021. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated July 20, 2021. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth to change Akela McNairy's job title to Court Secretary with the same work description and duties. No second on the motion was made. Motion died.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to require that contracts for the rental of the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Gymnasium or the Aberdeen Community Center be picked up at the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department Office rather than at the City Clerk's Office. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Devaull voted to "Pass". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to assign Larry Jackson to a full-time position at the Aberdeen Animal Shelter at a rate of pay of \$11.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to reject all bids received for the sale of the City properties on South Matubba Street (PPIN: 8973 and PPIN: 8974), and on E. Washington Street (PPIN: 6001). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize Neel-Schaffer Engineers to submit an application on behalf of the City of Aberdeen (and do all necessary engineering work required to submit the application) to request a Maritime Administration port infrastructure development program grant for \$4 million to complete construction of the Rail Spur Project at the Aberdeen Port (cost not to exceed \$19,000.00). On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the employment of Joseph McElroy as a Utility Laborer at a rate of pay of \$12 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**July 20, 2021****PAGE 2**

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the employment of Deon Spratt as a "CDL" driver at a rate of pay of \$12 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize posting and advertisement for two Utility Laborers. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize the employment of Eric Crenshaw as an Aberdeen Police Officer at a rate of pay of \$14 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to retire the Badge Number 701 of the late Aberdeen Police Chief Henry Randle. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize posting and advertisement for four certified Police Officers. Assistant Chief Dobbins stated these prospective officers may be employed as school resource officers and as a housing authority officer. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize Tohona Larthridge to attend the American Public Works Association 70th Annual Meeting/Management Training, Jekyll Island, GA / August 24-27, 2021, and to pay all necessary travel and seminar registration expenses according to state guidelines. The motion was amended to authorize Aberdeen Public Works Director Richard Boone to attend this management training meeting as well and to pay all necessary travel and seminar registration expenses. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Devaull to suspend any additional advertisement for persons interested in being employed as the Aberdeen City Court Clerk until the Board has interviewed a City employee who previously sought employment for that position. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

No motion or vote was made to proceed with an auction of surplus City equipment / personal property scheduled on August 6, 2021 @ 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. This item was "tabled".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize contracts for the Special Election System and Software for the July 27, 2021 Special Election for Aberdeen Police Chief / Cost: \$8,980 / Ballots @ \$0.34 each. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Devaull to terminate the employment of Collin Metcalf as a Machine Operator. Metcalf declined to accept the employment he applied for. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**July 20, 2021****PAGE 3****Mayor's Input**

Mayor Scott asked Tina Robbins to report concerning Visitors Bureau projects and other events or activities in the City of Aberdeen. The Storm Shelter Art Project Dedication for the General Young Park will be held July 22, 2021. The next Storm Shelter Project will be held at the Newberger Park, Aberdeen, MS. The Bukka White Blues Festival will be held on October 15-16, 2021, and the Southern Best Catfish Tournament is scheduled on October 16, 2021. The First Baptist Church, Aberdeen, MS is having a Back-to-School Drive on July 24, 2021 from 2 p.m.- 4 p.m. The Mississippi Aquarium, Gulfport, MS is bringing their Educational Van to the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Gymnasium on July 27, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. There will be free haircuts for children going back-to-school at the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Gymnasium on July 28, 2021. There's a new Monopoly Game with Monroe County, MS and Aberdeen, MS listed on the board. You may purchase one from Wal-Mart.

Mayor Scott provided an update and scheduling on COVID19 vaccinations. There are two dates set up for the COVID19 vaccinations to be administered to the public. The first date is August 7, 2021 at Pilgrim Rest MB Church, and the second date is August 13-14, 2021 at the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Gymnasium. Also, there will be a Rental Assistance Program to assist residents with their rent that will coincide with the COVID19 vaccinations events. Currently, Aberdeen and surrounding counties are at a 37 % vaccination rate. Our goal is to create an infomercial to obtain testimonies from individuals who may or may not have had COVID19, and we will televise the infomercial.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull: Alderman Devaull requested to discuss the grant for the Port project. Alderman Devaull has received numerous calls regarding old tires at the entrance to the cemetery. The old building at the cemetery needs to be torn down and rebuilt, and citizens are complaining about it. Alderman Devaull has asked Tronox about donating back-to-school supplies for children this school year. Alderman Devaull has also contacted Westlake, and will be reaching out to Toyota to donate back-to-school supplies. A few pot holes in Ward One need to be repaired once the rain ceases, and later on in the Meeting the grant for the Port should be discussed.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth stated her concerns about the letter the Board members received from Lenoir Legal Services and the individuals that were "CC'ed" according to the letter. Garth said the letter is a sad representation of Aberdeen. Alderwoman Garth has received calls regarding the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department. Alderwoman Garth wants answers to the following concerns: (1) who authorized the opening of the Park and Recreation building, (2) who is managing the building when the children are coming in and out, (3) who is watching the children at the Park and Recreation building. Parents are concerned as to who is watching their children. Alderwoman Garth has a personnel issue to discuss in Executive Session. Alderwoman Garth put a motion on the floor to change Ms. Akela McNairy's title to Court Secretary and upgrade her pay. Alderwoman Garth asked that the discussion regarding Ms. Akela McNairy's job title change and pay, and School Board appointments be discussed in Executive Session. Alderwoman Garth cited Code Section 37-7-203 regarding appointments of School Board members.

Alderwoman Garth requested that the cost of the Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen and other people at the table traveling to the Coast or elsewhere be stated on the Agenda, so that citizens may know how much of their money we're spending, and to detail the travel and educational expenses.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**July 20, 2021****PAGE 4**

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes asked if anyone happened to go by and see Ms. Shepherd on Marshall Street about the water issue she had, that was discussed in the last Board Meeting. Mr. Boone stated that issue has been taken care of. Alderman Haynes asked Mr. Boone if I can meet with you tomorrow after lunch to give recommendations to help straighten out the problem with another water issue on Marshall Street. Alderman Haynes asked Mayor Scott for an update on the sidewalk repairs that was asked about two weeks ago. Mayor Scott stated that Hanna has been contacted to do the work, and Hanna will get to it within a week or so. Alderman Haynes commented that a lot of young children reside in that area and walk to school, and the grass needs to be maintained for their safety. Alderman Haynes stated that Animal Control Officer Pedro Clay needs additional help at the Aberdeen Animal Shelter and proposed that Larry Jackson be employed full-time.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom reported that there were big tree limbs hanging out over the streets of West Commerce, Walters Drive, Meadowlane, Maple and South Matubba. Those limbs fall down even lower during rain. Alderwoman Odom stated she cannot remember when anyone has cut any trees or pruned them. The sidewalks along East Jefferson Street are horrible, both sides.

General Manager LaMarcus Thompson addressed the Board and stated that tree limbs are being trimmed and pruned by the Aberdeen Electric Department. The power lines that everyone is seeing hanging low or on the ground belong to AT&T and MaxxSouth, and they have been contacted to fix that problem.

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen stated, regarding the three City properties that I asked to be advertised for sale, I need to request that all bids be rejected on the first two. It turns out there is a right-of-way issue on the two lots on South Matubba and after talking with our Building Inspector we also need to do an Environmental Study before we can actually sell it. Alderman Allen asked City Clerk Melissa Moore if we had received any bids on the other parcel. City Clerk Melissa Moore stated that one bid was received and given to Mayor Scott. Alderwoman Garth stated that all three parcels should be rejected according to the information provided by the Building Inspector. City Clerk Melissa Moore stated that Building Inspector Roy Haynes said PPIN: 6001 cannot be sold. Alderman Allen asked that we hold that bid on PPIN: 6001 for now.

Alderman Allen has received estimates concerning the Live Stream equipment in the amounts of \$4,900, \$8,000 and \$3,500. Alderman Allen asked Attorney Faulks for some guidance on how to proceed with the estimates. Attorney Faulks stated that a list of uniform specifications or requirements be typed out and approved so that prospective contractors are all bidding on the same specifications.

Alderman Allen also asked that the cost for Employee education and travel be included on the Agenda.

Citizen's Input:

Ms. Joyce Vasser commended the Aberdeen Electric Department for cutting the tree limbs and branches that are near the power lines.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull 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 Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue regarding Mayor Scott. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Allen voted "Nay".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**July 20, 2021****PAGE 5**

The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue regarding Mayor Charles Scott.

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

Interim Chief Chris Dobbins wanted the Board to be aware of an incident involving Officer Potts. We cannot do anything at this time, I just wanted you'll to know in case you hear about it.

Alderman Devaull stated he needed advice from Assistant Chief Chris Dobbins about complaints concerning parked vehicles on the corner of Martin Luther King and Clay Streets. Residents are complaining they cannot see when driving on Scale Street because of the cars parked along the side of the street in front of two mobile homes. Assistant Chief Dobbins has discussed this with Building Inspector Roy Haynes and stated the owners of the properties need to find a place for their visitors to park. Assistant Chief Dobbins stated he will enforce this and will talk with the home owners.

Mayor Scott and the Board Members discussed who will be the Voting Delegate and the Alternate Voting Delegate for the MML 2021 Election of the MML 2nd Vice President. It was unanimously decided that Mayor Charles Scott will be the Voting Delegate and that Alderman Robert Devaull will be the First Alternate.


Ms. Sheena Jones came before the Board to request permission to install a double-wide mobile home on a lot on High Extension Street. Ms. Jones was told the Board of Aldermen would have to respect the decision of the Aberdeen Zoning Commission, and that other residents in that neighborhood did not want a manufactured home installed there. The appeal was denied.

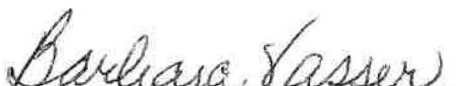
Utilities General Manager LaMarcus Thompson addressed the Mayor and Board about the DOXO website. This website is not affiliated with the Aberdeen Electric Department and the fine print published on the website clearly states this. If a customer attempts to pay their utility bill through the DOXO Website, the customer will be responsible for contacting DOXO to obtain a refund.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to adjourn until the August 3, 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