

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

DEMENT-MERIDIAN 61-2994

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM  
OCTOBER 5, 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 FAULK.**

Invocation: Mayor Charles Scott.

**ROLL CALL.**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes dated September 7, 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 approve the proposed Minutes dated September 14, 2021. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes dated September 21, 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 Devaull, seconded by Alderman Haynes to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated October 5, 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 Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize engineer Dustin Dabbs to work on a survey, project specifications and a cost estimate concerning the drainage issue and City infrastructure on a site along Oakland Drive. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to award the Walters Drive Project to Hanna Construction which submitted the lowest bid of \$49,775.00. This action was recommended by project engineer Dabbs. The contractor will be paid from the Modernization Act Funds Program. 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 Alderwoman Odom to award the Sidewalk Repair and Concrete Pads for Bleachers at General Young Park Project to Hanna Construction which submitted the lowest bid of \$19,510.00. This action was recommended by project engineer Dabbs. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize a Professional Service Agreement for Regulatory Planning Components, Zoning / Subdivision Regulations and related Mapping provided by Dabbs Corporation. 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 Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to permit the Aberdeen High School Homecoming Parade (following the CDC Guidelines for COVID concerns) on Commerce Street, and the Pep Rally immediately following on the steps of the Aberdeen City Hall on October 21, 2021. The City Police Chief shall be provided notice to plan for the traffic. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING****October 5, 2021****Page 2**

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, 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: Comptroller Karen Crump - TVPPA Accounting and Finance Conference, Pigeon Forge, TN / October 20-22, 2021. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to adopt the Park Rules for the public who visit the General Young Park. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye", Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize the City Attorney to request an Advisory Opinion from the Attorney General's Office to determine the authority of the Board to make retroactive changes to the City Employee Handbook vacation policies. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize the City Attorney to request an Advisory Opinion from the Attorney General's Office to determine the authority of the Board to compensate and/or pay the Municipal Election Commissioners for their service. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay". Alderman Haynes "recused".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to defer discussion of Richard Boone's request for a pay raise later on a motion for a Closed Determination, and subsequently in Executive Session for personnel reasons. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Devaull and Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to defer discussion of Tevin Walker's disputed utility debt later on a motion for a Closed Determination, and subsequently in Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to transfer Barry McMillian from the Electric Department to the Water Department and employ McMillian as a full-time Laborer at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour, and to employ Ronny Raudle as a part-time Laborer in the Water Department at \$10.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Sean Parson and Caleb Angle - TVA Substation Switching Class, 3197 Brooks Rd., Belden, MS 38826 / October 20, 2021. It's a free class. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Building Inspector Roy Haynes / Building Official Winter Conference, Natchez, MS / December 1-3, 2021 / Cost: \$150.00. 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 Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: AVB Tina Robbins / Rural Tourism Conference, Sweetwater, TN/ Cost: \$95.00 / Hotel: \$273.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING****October 5, 2021****Page 3**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: City Clerk Melissa Moore/ 2021 Annual MS Municipal Clerks and Collectors Association, Flowood, MS/ December 15-17, 2021 / Cost: \$165.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize the City Clerk to post and advertise from October 7-28, 2021 for all persons interested in serving as Members of the Aberdeen Planning and Zoning Commission. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize a consulting agreement with Seven States Power Corporation and to pay a one-time nonrefundable payment of \$1,000.00. This consulting agreement concerns electric vehicle infrastructure and participation in the Valley Wide EV Fast-Charging Network project. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

**Mayor Report:** Mayor Scott asked Dustin Dabbs to provide information pertaining to the Walters Drive Project and the General Young Park Sidewalk Project. Dustin Dabbs presented to the Board three (3) contractor bids for the Walters Drive Project. They are as follows:

- (1) Hanna Contracting Bid - \$49,775.00
- (2) Hodges Construction Bid - \$59,475.00
- (3) Phillips Contracting Bid - \$62,000.00

Dustin Dabbs presented to the Board three (3) contractor bids for the General Young Park Sidewalk Repair and Concrete Pads for bleachers. They are as follows:

- (1) Hanna Contracting Quote - \$19,510.00
- (2) Slaton Concrete Quote - \$22,695.00
- (3) Phillips Contracting Quote - \$30,500.00

Dustin Dabbs informed the Board that a shade structure, playground equipment, court improvements, goals and bleachers equipment, and a fence will be completed soon. The amount of that work adds up to \$220,000.00. If we add \$19,510.00 for the Sidewalk Repair and Concrete Pads for bleachers plus the \$220,000.00, the project cost will equal \$239,510.00 of the budgeted \$250,000.00 Cap Loan Project.

Mayor Scott stated he missed a special treat. Mr. James Meredith stopped by the Mayor's Office and even sat in the Mayor's seat. Mr. Meredith was the first black man to attend Ole Miss University in 1972.

Mayor Scott and Alderman Haynes attended the Water Training today at BancorpSouth, Tupelo, MS. We are on track on some things, but we have a lot of work to do in making sure our City is in compliance and moving forward. We are blessed to have a Director that is "Certified" and knows what he is doing. Great job Jason Roberson on the things you are doing for the City of Aberdeen.

The City of Aberdeen will schedule a Mass Casualty Exercise.

Tina Robbins informed of the following fall events in Aberdeen for the month of October:

- (1) Fall Fest sponsored by the Aberdeen Police Department on October 8, 2021
- (2) Movie Night in the Park at Newberger Park on October 8, 2021
- (3) Trunk-Or-Treat (Drive Thru) sponsored by the Jr. Women's League on October 30, 2021
- (4) Harvest Party sponsored by the Healing Waters Christian Fellowship on October 31, 2021
- (5) Bukka White Blues Festival and Southern Best Catfish Tournament on October 15-16, 2021

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING****October 5, 2021****Page 4**

Tina Robbins stated the Christmas Parade will be held on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 @ 6:30 p.m. The City of Aberdeen is the new host this year. Robbins is asking all Alderpersons to participate in the Christmas Parade.

Mayor Scott introduced Dr. Greg Yarbrough, DPA from Itawamba Community College. Dr. Yarbrough runs the Workforce Development and Opportunity Act Program through Itawamba Community College and through Three Rivers. Yarbrough advised that they work with people that have barriers to employment. It can be anything from transportation issues, to having a baby, childcare, and/or anything that can be a barrier to employment. The Program helps people to obtain training and the opportunity they need to work. The WDOA Program for the FY 2020 in Monroe County put \$132,100.65 back into the Community. If anyone is interested in the program, please give Yarbrough a call at 662-407-1236.

Mayor Scott invited Ms. Winter Walker to discuss the planning of the Aberdeen High School Community Homecoming Parade. Walker commented that the Aberdeen Separate School District has not planned to have a Homecoming Parade this year. Walker contacted several teachers to discuss a parade for the students. Walker contacted Mayor Scott, and was asked to discuss the parade with the AHS Principal. Walker spoke with Ms. Fair, and was informed that she was welcome to give the students a Homecoming Parade this year. Walker stated that, after asking everyone I needed to participate in the parade, and they agreed, I received a call from Ms. Fair saying that I could do the parade. I'm asking the Board will it be okay to schedule the Aberdeen High School Homecoming Parade on October 21, 2021, downtown at 4:30 p.m., and immediately following the Homecoming Parade, to also schedule a Pep Rally in front of the City Hall.

Alderman Devaull asked: Why did the school not schedule a Pep Rally and a Homecoming Parade like always done in the past. It looks like everything that the school should be doing is being pushed down on the City Hall. For the sake of the students, I will vote for it. I think the high school is out of control, and it needs to clean up its act. Alderwoman Odom stated she has the same concerns, because the City has always allowed the school to have the Parade downtown, and it's been great every year. Alderwoman Odom wanted to know why the school all of a sudden is not supporting the Parade. Ms. Walker said she asked the School that same question, but they failed to give her an answer. Alderwoman Odom stated that between now and next year the school needs to do something.

**Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:**

**Alderman Devaull** Alderman Devaull stated that, after the City workers cleaned up the terrible mess on Peacock Alley, he has since received calls that someone has dumped more trash down there. Alderman Devaull asked Lamaricus Thompson to inspect street lights on Peacock Alley, and proposed more lights to be added in the dark places. Alderwoman Garth stated that back in the day it was put in the Minutes that if a name was found in the paperwork of that trashy mess, then the person could be identified, prosecuted and fined. Alderman Devaull stated that he talked with Inspector Roy Haynes about getting in contact with the owner of that hay field along Millennium Drive that's not being mowed. Citizens are complaining about rodents running out of it, and it hasn't been mowed this year. Haynes contacted the owner of the property to take care of it, and it still hasn't been done. Devaull requested this property be scheduled for an adjudication hearing.

**Alderwoman Garth** stated she needs the attorney to ask the Secretary of State Office as well as the Attorney General Office if we have a City Official who has moved out of his Ward, why has the Board not declared his seat empty. I'm putting everyone on notice that if the Board does not declare his seat empty, I'm going on record, so the Attorney and Alderpersons know that he has moved out of his Ward. Alderwoman Garth asked Ms. Crump if she looked into Mr. Boone's money. Mr. Karen stated she did, but did not see it written anywhere that it was promised to him. Crump stated Boone said he had attended classes, and I explained to him that others had been to class and have gotten monies for attending class.

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING****October 5, 2021****Page 5**

Attorney Faulks stated that any agreement to compensate an employee with a pay raise for attending a class must be recorded in the Board Minutes in advance. Boone stated he did not just attend class. I have my Certification for Public Works Management from the National Acclaim Carl Vinson Institute of Georgia. I'm a Certified Public Works Manager on a National basis, not just in Aberdeen. Boone stated that he was asked to wait on my raise, and it was promised to me that I was going to get my money. Whether it's in the Minutes or not, that's irrelevant. Everyone that goes to certification since I been here, have gotten their 10% when they come back and received their certification. Alderman Haynes asked that it be motioned to discuss this issue in Closed Determination and/or Executive Session.

**Alderman Haynes:** Alderman Haynes stated that he has been contacted by an agency representative from MDEQ to check wells at the Holey Building, and Haynes needs a key to have access to the building. The dates are October 12-13, 2021.

Alderman Haynes complimented employees for over-time being much less than when he started on the Board fifteen months ago. It was \$13,000.00, and has decreased to \$4,000.00. Alderman Haynes stated that citizens need to hear that the City does not pick up tires and shingles. The items that need to go to the Landfill have to be bio-degradable.

Alderman Haynes is asking citizens to please bag your raked leaves. Do not put your leaves in a pile on the side of the street to be washed down the drain. That will create another problem for the drains.

There is an empty lot on Franklin Street that has several water lines without a lid on them, and please make sure they're covered up. We "tabled" several meetings ago a request from employee Sophia Jones and we never got back to that issue. I'm asking that we discuss that issue in Executive Session.

**Alderwoman Odom:** Alderwoman Odom stated that a yard is washing away on Oakland Drive and was discussed with Dustin Dabbs earlier in the Meeting. A citizen on Big John Road is asking that a speed bump be put on the end of the road where he resides. Alderwoman Odom stated you can pick up trash every day, and people will come off the By-pass and sling their Taco Bell bags and other garbage on the highways. The littering is ridiculous,

**Alderman Allen:** Alderman Allen did not have anything to add at this time.

**Citizen's Input:**

Brenda Brock-Nabors complained about a dog problem in the City and would like something to be done about it. Nabors stated she was walking through the neighborhood and was almost attacked by a vicious dog. Nabors asked the Mayor to please look into this.

Joyce Vasser informed about the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bowl-A-Thon, Bowling over Cancer. It will be held on Saturday, November 6, 2021, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at 790 Moncrief Drive, Tupelo, MS. Please bring a team if you can, or someone that would like to bowl. All donations are welcomed. Proceeds from the Bowl-A-Thon will be given to St. Jude's. The cost is \$50.00 per team. You may reach me at 662-325-7673 for more information and details.

Pastor Brenda Harrison expounded on the Harvest Party that's being sponsored by Healing Waters Christian Fellowship on October 31, 2021. It's going to be a Trunk-Or-Treat. It's for the kids of Aberdeen. We're serving chili dogs and cupcakes, and it will be held in the parking lot. Also, we're having Coats-for-Kids again this year. The box will be at City Hall. We will be starting a Daycare at the church, and other programs to help parents with child care and tutoring.

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING****October 5, 2021****Page 6**

Tevin Walker, 300 South James Street, complained concerning a water leak that increased his utility bill to \$1,200.00. Walker said he was given an adjustment on the prior utility bill, but it was still too high and he cannot afford to pay it. Walker's electricity service has been disconnected, and wants to know what can be done to have his lights turned back on.

General Manager Lamarcus Thompson asked the Board to correct an Order at the previous Board Meeting. Barry McMillian was hired for the Electric Department but needs to be transferred to the Water Department. Water Department Supervisor Jason Roberson asked the Board for permission to employ Barry McMillian full-time at \$12.00 per hour and to employ Ronny Randle part-time at \$10.00 per hour.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen to enter into a closed determination to determine whether to go into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Devaul to go into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation with Tevin Walker and his disputed Utility bill. 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 potential litigation with Tevin Walker and his disputed Utility bill. 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".

Attorney Faulks stated to the Board that he completed a title search on the Harvey Hogan property proposed as collateral to secure a requested UDAG loan, and it appears that Harvey Hogan owns it, free and clear. The property taxes are current, no bank loans, and no judgement liens or any issues. Harvey Hogan has a clean title. The Tax Assessor's Office appraises all properties to try and determine the property taxes to charge on properties. On the Tax Assessor's Card they show the Hogan house and land is worth a little over \$35,000.00. Harvey Hogan is applying for a \$50,000.00 + loan, and the customary UDAG Loan request is that the collateral must be equal in value or more than the amount of the loan Harvey Hogan is asking the City to approve. Alderman Haynes asked Hogan if he has any other collateral to get you up to that loan amount. Hogan stated he has another house. Hogan asked the Board if they would approve him for the loan on the collateral he has already provided with his application. Alderman Haynes told Hogan if we approve just a \$35,000.00 loan, you cannot come back and ask for a second loan. Hogan said that is just fine. Alderman Haynes said to Hogan, "You'll take \$35,000.00. He said, I will take \$35,000.00. Alderman Haynes told Hogan if you can wait and bring the other collateral, and wait another Board Meeting and come back for the whole \$50,000.00, then wait and consider the whole \$50,000.00 loan. Harvey stated he will wait and bring the other collateral description tomorrow.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to "table" the Harvey Hogan UDAG Loan request until the next Board Meeting, and wait for a title search on the second property. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to accept Tevin Walker's proposal to pay his \$1,299.51 utility bill over time, and to prorate the water and sewerage bill, and to give authority to the Utility Manager Lamarcus Thompson to establish the pay schedule with Tevin Walker. This is based on the fact of the water leak and the late discovery of the water leak. Tevin Walker will sign a contract with the Aberdeen Electric Department to pay his regular monthly electric bill, plus \$108.31 every month for twelve (12) months until the balance of the \$1,299.51 has been paid in full. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Scott informed Richard Boone the Board had decided not to take your pay raise request in to Executive Session.

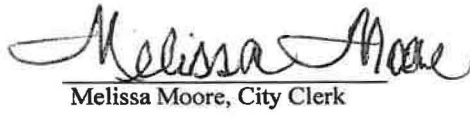
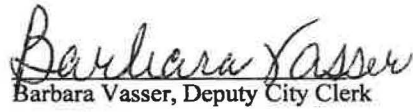
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**October 5, 2021**  
**Page 7**

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to adjourn until the October 19, 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