

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
OCTOBER 19, 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 Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes 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 Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated October 19, 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 Allen to authorize Dabbs Corporation to draft a cost estimate and request competitive quotes for purchase and installing a new culvert on Oakland Drive. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize a Professional Service Contract with Neel-Schaffer for the Port of Aberdeen – Dock Facility Upgrade Project: Engineering Design: \$27,500.00 / Construction Administration: \$34,000.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize the date change for previously authorized travel and class attendance for Building Inspector Roy Haynes to attend the MACE Educational Conference, D'Iberville, MS / October 20-22, 2021 / Cost: \$100.00 / Hotel: \$129.00 per night. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Haynes to accept the resignation of Aberdeen Police Officer Chaz Thompson. Alderman Haynes withdrew his second. No vote was called.

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to accept Chaz Thompson's resignation as a full-time Police Officer for the City of Aberdeen but authorize Thompson to be employed as an Auxiliary Police Officer as needed. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept the resignation of City employee Deon Spratt. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to post and advertise for persons interested in employment as a CDL Driver for the Public Works Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to employ Walter Brooks as a Patrolman in the Aberdeen Police Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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There was no motion to employ Alforzinie Sims as a Patrolman in the Aberdeen Police Department. Alderman Haynes requested that this matter be discussed later in Closed Determination/ Executive Session.

There was no motion to employ Lamar Boggan as a Laborer in the Public Works Department. This matter may be discussed later in Closed Determination/ Executive Session.

There was no motion to approve the proposed Resolution Authorizing the Aberdeen Electric Department to become a member of the Seven States Power Corporation. Discussion regarding the Resolution was "tabled" until the next Board meeting.

There was no motion to authorize any vending or other agreement with the PepsiCo Food Service City Bottling Company. There was no written agreement available for review. Discussion regarding any agreement was "tabled" until the next Board meeting.

There was no motion to authorize the purchase of a John Deere 6105E Cab Tractor for the use of the Aberdeen Water Department. The Board requested written confirmation that the low bid was a state contract price by a state contract vendor. Discussion regarding the purchase was "tabled" until the next Board meeting.

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott stated the Home Buyer Fair will be held on Monday, November 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. at the Aberdeen City Hall.

Mayor Scott also stated that Access Health will administer Booster Vaccinations for COVID once they have the final information concerning the Moderna Booster Vaccine. Access Health will be scheduling a day and time to do the Booster Vaccinations. Mayor Scott asks everyone to please get your COVID19 Vaccinations.

Mayor Scott stated the General Young Park project is evolving, and work on the bleachers is being done today. Installation of the over-head cover may be awhile due to shipping delays, and Mayor Scott asks everyone to please be patient with the process.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull: Alderman Devaull stated "I would like to thank the Aberdeen Electric Department, Mr. Thompson and his crew for the work they did on Peacock Alley, putting up more lights in that area. Even after the cleanup on Peacock Alley, someone put two old tires on the side of the road. A word of warning to whomever is doing it, and once they get caught, they will be handled accordingly by Law Enforcement". Alderman Devaull thanked Mr. Boone and his crew for cutting the City ditches and keeping them clean. Alderman Devaull asked Mr. Thompson if he had checked with the Corp of Engineers about the situation with the ramp at the end of Morgan Landing. Mr. Thompson stated "he didn't get a chance to, but went out there and looked at it myself. I reached out to them, and they didn't get back with me. It is one of our lights. I will get it taken care of as soon as our lights come in".

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth did not have anything to report at this time.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes stated MDEQ had sent a text message thanking the Aberdeen Electric Department for their help during MDEQ testing of the wells at the Holley Building. The message was "MDEQ thanks the Aberdeen Electric Department for all the courtesy that was shown to them, and it was the best treatment they have had since coming to Aberdeen. MDEQ really appreciates everything and the efforts done in making it happen. They appreciate the kindness and hospitality".

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Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom commented that the paint job on the Aberdeen Historic Welcome Sign on Highway 45 looks great, and motorists can read the Sign when traveling into town. Alderwoman Odom asked whether the City owned the lot between the Federal Bankruptcy Courthouse and the Stinson Park, because "it's bad over grown out there and needs to be trimmed up". Attorney Faulks stated the City of Aberdeen owns all of that property. Alderwoman Odom requested City Inspector Roy Haynes to find out what's going on with a house and lot near that area along Highway 145. It's directly across from 633 Highway 145 North, Aberdeen, MS. It's a red looking house. The weeds and bushes have grown up, and it's an eye sore. City Inspector Roy Haynes needs to find out who owns the place so they can do something about it, or the City needs to do it and bill them for the services. Alderwoman Garth asked Mayor Scott if City Inspector Roy Haynes still worked for the City. Mayor Scott said he does. Alderwoman Odom stated I would like for the grass around Murphree Circle to be trimmed because the weeds are high.

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen complimented the Aberdeen Street Department employees for cutting and mowing areas in his Ward, which now looks great. The lot on the corner of Hillcrest Drive and Commerce Street was cut recently. I got a telephone call asking if we can consider taking that old barn down. The City actually owns this property.

Citizen's Input:

Engineer Dustin Dabbs shared with the Board that they will video some drainage pipes this week. We inspected areas on Parkway and Jefferson Streets and found some issues. Parkway has a pretty severe issue and I recommend closing that street or a portion of it. Buses or garbage trucks should be prohibited from being on that street. I also did a survey on Oakland Drive. It's very flat and grades are not good. We will have to replace the pipe culverts under Oakland Drive in order to make something work. If you would like for me to continue with that, I'll be happy to come back with some proposals and quotes.

Dustin Dabbs stated he had a meeting with the Aberdeen Planning and Zoning Commission members today regarding Comprehensive Planning components. We had a very positive meeting. The next step will be to bring something back to the City Attorney in the way of an enabling Ordinance for adoption of Building Codes, and then later to work on Land use and other Comprehensive Planning components over the next several weeks.

Chestine Clay commented about some issues at the apartment complex where she resides that's not being handled and taken care of. We have water leaks, the lawn is not being mowed, and there's a really bad smell out there. I have a petition of complaints with several tenant signatures. Attorney Faulks stated the petition needs to be referred to the Building Inspector for review, and the Building Inspector may bring the matter back before the Board and ask to schedule an Adjudication Hearing. Chestine Clay stated we need some help out there because it's pretty bad. Alderwoman Odom has called several times asking the landlord to check on Colonial Apartments. Clay stated she appreciated Alderwoman Odom for calling and trying to help. Mayor Scott stated he did ask the Apartments Manager to contact the owner of the Complex, and he will follow up on this.

Barry McMillian stated that "I'm an employee with the City and I have a personnel issue that I need to discuss with the Board". Mayor Scott informed McMillian that his issue may be discussed later in Executive Session.

Linda Record addressed the Mayor and Board about the speeding and fast driving at the intersection of Jefferson and South James Streets, and asked for installation of speed bumps at that intersection for safety.

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William Sanford, Engineer with Neel-Schaffer, discussed the Dock Facility Improvement Project at the Aberdeen Port. The Project is to be funded by the MDOT Multi-Modal Grant Program. This Project will include some improvements at the Port Dock site, and it's the first step getting the Dock workable again. Sanford anticipates construction by next summer.

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

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues concerning employees Barry McMillian, Richard Boone and Caleb Angle, and applicants Alforzinie Sims and Lamar Boggan. 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 concerning employees Barry McMillian, Richard Boone and Caleb Angle, and applicants Alforzinie Sims and Lamar Boggan. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen 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 Devaull to terminate the employment of cashier Chassity Trotter due to inadequate job performance, and to advertise for persons interested in being employed as a cashier in the Aberdeen Electric Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize a Worksite Agreement (Gateway Workforce Services Programs) with Three Rivers and Gateway Workforce Services. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Attorney Faulks informed the Board that the Aberdeen School Board President and School Superintendent called him and Chief Shumpert to discuss School Resource Officers. Faulks was informed that the School does not have the funds necessary for three SRO's but was agreeable to a two officer agreement at two-thirds the price, or \$133,333.33 annual cost. The School would pay the City the sum of \$11,111.11 per month on the first day of each month and the City would provide two School Resource Officers total, to work at the three school sites. If approved, this Agreement will become effective November 1, 2021, and Chief Shumpert would assign and supervise the two police officers to the three schools.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize an Agreement with the Aberdeen Separate School District for two School Resource Officers. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize Attorney Faulks to draft a correction Quitclaim Deed containing a corrected survey description for the City to convey Prairie buildings and lots to Sonny Long that Long had previously purchased from the City in January 2020. Long paid the consideration, was given keys to the buildings and accepted the Deed from the City in January 2020, but the Deed contained an erroneous property description provided by Dabbs surveyor. Dabbs will provide a new property description. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth left the Meeting without voting, and did not return.

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A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to terminate the employment of City employee Titus Eckford due to job abandonment. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".


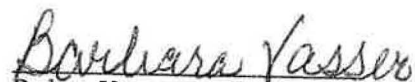
A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Devaull to terminate the employment of City employee Caleb Angle and to authorize Electric Department Manager Thompson to seek restitution from Angle by a lawsuit in the Monroe County Justice Court. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to post and advertise for persons interested in employment as a Laborer in the Public Works Department. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to adjourn until the November 2, 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