

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM  
DECEMBER 21, 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, AND MELISSA MOORE, CITY CLERK.**

Not Present at the Meeting: Deputy Clerk, Barbara Vasser and City Attorney Robert Faulks

Invocation: Mayor Scott.

ROLL CALL.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes dated December 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 Haynes, seconded by Alderman Devaull to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated December 21, 2021. Alderman Haynes asked that the overtime be discussed in Executive Session. 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 authorize a renewal contract with United Systems, Benton, KY to purchase upgraded meter reading handhelds for use by the Electric and Water Departments, for lease and maintenance of FCS software, for mobile cloud set up, for technical services for installation and onsite user training, and for service and maintenance, in the total amount of \$22,753.90. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize City Attorney Robert Faulks to do title searches and to provide preliminary real estate legal services to purchase certain real estate and buildings offered for sale by Stevens Properties LLC and Bradley Lumber Company, Inc. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes for Employment Enhancing and to pay all necessary expenses according to State Guidelines for Richard Boone and Tohona Lartaridge to attend the American Public Works Association, Public Works Officials Executive Management Certificate Program Conference, Athens, Georgia 30602 / January 25-28, 2022 / \$550.00 per person. Hotel Cost: \$89.00 - \$149.00 per night. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to hire Skeeter Lee Busbin as a full-time Firefighter for the Aberdeen Fire Department at a rate of pay of \$10.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize Dustin Dabbs to serve as an Engineer and be a Designated Applicant Agent for BRIC Mitigation Grants. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to accept the letter of resignation from City Employee Blake McElroy. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to employ Joseph Gunn and Kelly Davis, Jr. as a Laborer for the Aberdeen Sanitation Department at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour, and Curtis Braylock as a Laborer for the Street Department at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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**Mayor Report:** Mayor Scott informed the Board about the Holliday's Second Annual Winter Wonderland Toy Giveaway on Wednesday, December 22, 2021 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm at the Royalty Event Center, 21631 Highway 45 North, Aberdeen, MS 39730. If you have any questions, please contact (662) 304-5658 for more information.

Mayor Scott shared with the Board about the McFarland Grant Fund. The McFarland Fund is an Endowment from a gentleman that originated from the City of Aberdeen. The McFarland Fund falls under the umbrella of the Create Fund. The following amounts will be distributed to the following on December 22, 2021:

- (1). Aberdeen School District will receive \$11,000.00
- (2). Mayor's Youth Council will receive \$1,500.00
- (3). R.C.D.C., Prairie, MS will receive \$1,500.00
- (4). Aberdeen Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry will receive \$2,250.00
- (5). Aberdeen Main Street will receive \$2,250.00
- (6). Calvert's ABC & Preschool Nursery will receive \$2,000.00
- (7). Mrs. P's Daycare will receive \$2,000.00
- (8). L & J Nursery will receive \$2,000.00

Mayor Scott stated that Monroe County, MS is still under 60% for the COVID19 Vaccine. Mayor Scott is asking everyone to please get your COVID19 and Booster Vaccine and wear your mask. We don't want our schools to be closed and the City to be forced to shut down.

**Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:**

**Alderman Devaull:** Alderman Devaull wished everyone a Merry Christmas and enjoyed the Christmas Parade. He is looking forward to next year's parade. Alderman Devaull thanked Mr. Boone for assisting an elderly citizen with leaves on Martin Luther King Street and picking up tires on Peacock Alley. Alderman Devaull liked the usage of the Hot Box in Ward One, and asking citizens to be patient with the other pot holes that needs to be filled. Alderman Devaull asked Mayor Scott if he set up the Pot Hole Hot Line. Mayor Scott stated the City is using the Complaint Form on the City's Website. Alderman Devaull stated the Mr. Boone is cleaning up some of the abandon houses on Catlee and Chestnut Street. Alderman Devaull asked the residents to please be patient with the leaves that needs to be picked up. Alderman Devaull asked Mr. Boone about the leak the Water Department fixed on Meridian Street, it's pretty bad and needs attention. Alderman Devaull asked Dustin Dabbs about a bad place on Peacock Alley that needs repairing. Dustin stated he will take a look at it.

**Alderwoman Garth:** Alderwoman Garth commended Ms. Robbins for doing a spectacular job on the Christmas Parade, and thanked her for all the hard work. Alderwoman Garth stated that Mrs. Latoya Straughter has an issue with her UDAG Loan. Mrs. Straughter said the information she received from the City of Aberdeen is incorrect or not accurate. Lump sum payments were made, but they were not applied to the UDAG Loan. Mrs. Straughter sent Alderwoman Garth a text message stating the balances she received from Ms. Crump's Office was \$3,000.00 plus, but now the balance is \$6,432.00. Mrs. Straughter is gathering her information and coming to pay the balance of the UDAG Loan.

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Alderman Garth shared with the Board that Mr. Richard Boone and Ms. Tohona Larthridge will attend the American Public Works Association, Public Works Officials Executive Management Certificate Program Conference, Athens, Georgia. The dates of the Conference are January 25-28, 2022. Alderwoman Garth stated that Chief Fred Hodges has a trained and certified firefighter that he would like to hire.

**Alderman Haynes:** Alderman Haynes stated there are some leaves on Woodruff Drive and bed mattresses that need to be picked up on the side of the streets. Trees are growing up in the drain ditches, especially off of Franklin Street. Mr. Thompson is looking at a shortage of wiring on Woodcrest Circle in front of Ms. Hudson house. Mr. Thompson stated it was taken care of today. Alderman Haynes is asking that a letter be sent from the City of Aberdeen to different organizations, citizens and employees that showed love to the Angel Tree. Pleasant Grove MB Church fed the Aberdeen Fire, Electric, and Police Department, and City Hall lunch last Friday. Alderman Haynes wanted to know where the City of Aberdeen stands with truckers being able to park at the Holley's Building. Alderman Haynes stated the City of Aberdeen is at the point of appointing someone for the Aberdeen School Board. Mayor Scott stated he has the applications and they will be presented at the next Board Meeting. Alderman Haynes stated that him and Mr. Boone looked at the erosion behind the Old Cadence Bank, and the plans to repair that area. We also looked at area on Project Street behind the Band Hall at Belle Shivers School.

**Alderwoman Odom:** Alderwoman Odom wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season. Alderwoman Odom complimented the Leadership Training. It's an excellent program. Alderwoman Odom received a number of calls of trucks being parked in the neighborhood. It's a problem that has to be addressed, and the sooner the better.

**Alderman Allen:** Alderman Allen asked Mayor Scott to re-iterate the Complaint Line Number. Mayor Scott stated he would get that number for him. Alderman Allen stated he is getting calls about the speeding on the streets, and he's asking the public to call the Aberdeen Police Department and report it. Alderman Allen congratulated everyone that worked on the Christmas Parade. It was one of the best ones that I've seen in a decade. Alderman Allen wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

**Citizen's Input:**

Ms. Tina Robbins stated the City of Aberdeen is concluding the December events for Christmas in Aberdeen tonight at 6:30 p.m. with Caroling. Several people from out-of-town came to attend the Polar Express which is an Annual Event, and the Christmas Parade Committee did an outstanding job. There was an average of 2,000 to 2,500 people at the Christmas Parade given by the Drone footage. Ms. Robbins will have the Economic Impact Report will be ready in January 2022. Ms. Robbins stated there will be featured article in Mississippi Magazine in January. Ms. Robbins shared with the Board that Mr. Gospel will be having his 9<sup>th</sup> Year Radio Show Anniversary at Northside Christian Church, 125 Cottrell Street, West Point, MS 39773 on February 20, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. LaMarcus Thompson, General Manager shared with the Board of the changes that has taken place within the past two months at Aberdeen Public Utilities. The City of Aberdeen has a total of 4,212 Electric Customers, 3,686 Water Customers, and 2,764 Sanitation Customers. The AMI System is reading meters at 100% as of today. The Meter Readers are reading the meters in sixteen (16) days compared to 32-33 days.

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A list of other improvements and jobs for the months of November and December:

- (1). Remote Disconnects
  - (2). Remote Connects
  - (3). Service Man hours 8am-5pm
  - (4). The General Manager is the only person driving a truck home, and this is saving the department \$659.18 in fuel cost
  - (5). Completed Steve Koehn's Underground Project \$9,620.45
  - (6). Completed Tisdale Holdings 3-Phase Project \$3,042.28
  - (7). Completed Lee's Precast Underground Project \$22,784.14
  - (8). Sold Scrap and cleaned the Scrap Yard \$1,878.51 (1<sup>st</sup> Load)
- Total: \$37,325.38

Mr. Thompson shared with the Board the quote for Handhelds and Software upgrades for Aberdeen Public Utilities provided by United Systems & Software, Post Office Box 547, Benton, KY 42025 in the amount of \$22,753.90. The equipment being used at this time by Aberdeen Public Utilities will go obsolete December 31, 2021.

Mr. Thompson shared with the Board that he had spoken with Mr. Dwight Stevens, and he wanted to know where the City of Aberdeen stands on purchasing his building. Mr. Stevens is asking \$300,000.00 for his building, and Mr. Brad Bradley is asking \$65,000.00 for his vacant lot behind Stevens Auction. The total price for both lots is \$365,000.00.

Mr. Thompson asked the Board if he could go into Executive Session to discuss an issue concerning a check that was given to him.

Mr. Richard Caradine would like to discuss a personal issue in Executive Session.

Mr. Richard Walker wants to know when the City will be fixing his sewer on Big John Road. Dustin Dabbs shared with Mr. Walker that Water Department Supervisor Jason Roberson will have to contact him and provide an update on the sewer repair.

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 Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue concerning Police Officer Christopher Dobbins regarding his rate of pay, and Mr. Richard Caradine regarding the Cemetery Contract with the City of Aberdeen. 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 a personnel issue concerning Police Officer Christopher Dobbins regarding his rate of pay, and Mr. Richard Caradine regarding the Cemetery Contract with the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


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".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to reimburse LaMarcus Thompson \$250.00 for the check that was given to him from Westlake to support the Aberdeen Public Utilities Christmas Party. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adjourn until the January 4, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

  
Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:

  
Melissa Moore, City Clerk