

MINUTES, BOARD OF ALDERMEN, BOOK NO. 19

DEMENT-MERIDIAN 61-2994

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
JANUARY 18, 2022
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, CITY CLERK MELISSA MOORE, AND CITY ATTORNEY ROBERT FAULKS.

Present by telephone: Alderwoman Lady B. Garth.

Invocation: Mayor Charles Scott.

ROLL CALL.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the proposed Minutes dated January 4, 2022. 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 Allen to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated January 18, 2022. 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 to grant the use of up to 112 hours of temporary paid administrative leave for City employees who are unable to work due to COVID-19. Motion died for a lack of a second.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to retain Chester Patterson for appraisals of certain real estate and buildings offered for sale by Stevens Properties LLC and Bradley Lumber Company, Inc. The appraisal services will be paid from Electric Department funds. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, 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: April McMillian - IAED Basic Course, Tupelo, MS / February 7-11, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, 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: Constance McFarland - Lab One Training, Huntsville, Alabama / February 7-11, 2022 / The cost: \$804.75. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize the purchase of a 3 phase pad mount transformer for the Aberdeen School District HVAC project from MS-TN Transformers, Inc., 608 Tallahatchie Street, Greenwood, MS 38935 in the amount of \$21,000.00. MTBB Transformers also submitted a quote in the amount of \$24,500.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize project engineer Neel-Schaffer to issue a Sealed Bid Request for the Port of Aberdeen - Dock Facility Upgrades project. This project includes entrance drive improvements, site grading, crushed stone surfacing, dock wall handrail and ladder replacement, dock wall and dolphin fender replacement, structural repairs and repainting of dolphins. The contract time is 90 consecutive calendar days. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 18, 2022
Page 2

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize and request proposals for updating and drafting a new City Employee Handbook. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to table a request to authorize City payment of attendance fees and travel expenses for members of the Mayor's Youth Council to attend a MML Leadership Summit / February 25-26, 2022 at Delta State University, Cleveland, MS. This matter was "tabled" to the February 1, 2022 Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize City Officials and certain employees to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: the MML 91st Annual Conference, Biloxi, MS / June 27-29, 2022. Cost: \$837.76 per person. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to adopt a Board Meeting procedure "to go paperless and use Drop Box for City Officials to view documents for Board Meetings". This procedure will go in effect for the March 1, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth, and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes and Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

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: City Clerk Melissa Moore - the Certified Municipal, Oxford, MS / March 9-11, 2022 / Cost: \$200. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott invited some of the Mayor's Youth Council members to the Board Meeting to talk about the next Community Clean-Up Day. Ms. Kaitlin Morrow and Ms. Malia Luker, Event Coordinators, shared with the Board that the next Community Clean-Up Day will be scheduled Saturday, January 22, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. If anyone has questions, please call Mayor Scott's Office at 662-369-4165. Alderman Allen thanked the Mayor's Youth Council members for their efforts, and he appreciates their service. Alderman Allen stated it's going to take the involvement of citizen volunteers. Mayor Scott stated there are six coordinators designated to assist with this program, and they're set up to help in the areas where they reside. Mayor Scott also appreciates the young people for deciding to coordinate the Clean-Up Aberdeen Project, and we're looking forward to supporting them this weekend.

Mayor Scott informed the Board and Community that a website is available for everyone to order four COVID19 tests and have them delivered to their home. The website is www.covidtests.gov. The Aberdeen Plaza will be doing COVID19 tests, Monday - Thursday, from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. They close for lunch from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. The price for the COVID19 Test is \$50.00. Dr. Crump's Office will be doing COVID19 tests by appointment only. The times are 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The cost of the COVID19 test is \$50.00. Dr. Brown's Office will be doing COVID19 tests for City employees on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., and on Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The office is closed for lunch from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. If City employees are asked by their supervisor to take a test, the cost is \$140.00. The City will receive the bill for this reason. If an employee chooses however to go on their own, he/she will be asked to pay the \$140.00 cost. Mayor Scott stated there is money in the ARPA Funds that the City can authorize to pay for services related to COVID19.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**January 18, 2022****Page 3**

Mayor Scott shared with the Board that the Aberdeen Community Center will be closed temporarily and not delivering meals to the Senior Citizens. This temporary closure results from someone testing positive for COVID19. The Community Center will remain closed until January 24, 2022. If there is a great need for meals, Three Rivers will coordinate with the Aberdeen Community Center Directors, verify the names of the Senior Citizens that need meals, and they will deliver the meals.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull: Alderman Devaull stated the City now has the Hot Box equipment and he would like to see the potholes on Peacock Alley, Meridian Street, South Matubba Street and Martin Luther King Street be repaired. Alderman Devaull thanked the Mayor's Youth Council for the planned Community Clean-Up Day. It's an outstanding accomplishment to give back to your town.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth thanked the citizens of Aberdeen for using their tax payer dollars to allow City Officials to attend the training classes in Jackson, MS. Alderwoman Garth stated there are others who may need to attend the training classes. Alderwoman Garth stated that Department Supervisors need to understand they do not have the right to send employees home during their regular work week, and request them to come back to work on another day, because the Board has not approved this. This directive is for any and all Department Supervisors.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes shared with the Board about a project he is working on called "Operation Upgrade". Alderman Haynes would like to see the Board Meetings be held in the City Court Room. This will keep everyone safe; and citizens and employees will be able to attend the Meetings with no problems. Alderman Haynes would like to see the Aberdeen Police Department moved to the Aberdeen Public Utilities Building once that building has been vacated by Public Utilities. Alderman Haynes wanted to know where we stand on the proposal that was given to the Board regarding a new location for the Electric Department, and if we have any intentions of having any discussions in the relocation of the Aberdeen Electric Department. Mayor Scott stated we need appraisals for the properties being discussed. Alderman Haynes asked if the process has started, and how long will it take. Alderman Allen stated that an appraiser Chester Patterson has been contacted, and the Board needs to vote tonight to authorize Patterson doing the appraisals. Alderman Haynes stated the "Operation Upgrade" will also include the renovation of the Judge's Chamber and the City Court Room to accommodate everyone and make it safe.

Alderman Haynes added the Board has dropped the ball on the hiring of a cashier for the Aberdeen Public Utilities Department. The Board needs to handle this as soon as possible. Alderman Haynes would like for the Board to extend the 112 hours of temporary administrative leave COVID19 Pay for City employees for the year 2022. Attorney Faulks stated the 112 hours temporary administrative leave had been allowed by statutory authority, and we may or may not have authority at this time to extend it. Alderman Haynes thanked the citizens for the tax dollars spent on allowing us to attend the MML training in Jackson, MS. One of the great classes I attended was Advanced Economic Development, and I would like to share the information with the citizens of Aberdeen in March.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom has received a lot of calls about the potholes on Lakewood Drive, and the back side of Murphy's Circle being a gully wash. It has quite a few holes that need to be repaired. Alderwoman Odom would like for Animal Control to pick up any dead animals they see laying in the streets.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**January 18, 2022****Page 4**

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen appreciates the Mayor's Youth Council members' efforts regarding the Community Clean-Up Day, and asked if they could talk with people that work at the fast food restaurants (McDonald's, Wendy's, etc.) and ask them to be involved in the litter cleanup campaign. Alderman Allen stated there is a water line broken or leaking at 205 Walters Drive. There is a resident at 1201 Barksdale Drive who has reported a culvert that needs repairing or replacement under the driveway. Alderman Allen asked the Board to retain Chester Patterson to appraise the properties on North Meridian Street.

Citizen's Input:

Tohona Larthridge has a personnel issue she would like to discuss in Executive Session.

Dustin Dabbs stated he is in the process of working on the project at 205 Walters Drive. Hannah Construction and Jason Roberson, Water Department Supervisor, are aware of the drainage issue, and we're on top of it. Alderman Haynes asked Dustin about the project on North Thayer Avenue. Dustin stated it was filled in, and it needs to be put on the list. Dustin will discuss this issue with Public Works Supervisor Boone.

LaMarcus Thompson, General Manager, stated that Public Utilities is working on the Aberdeen High School HVAC underground project for the air conditioner unit. They want to do all the transformers. I have two quotes, and it will take twelve (12) weeks before we receive the transformers. LaMarcus Thompson stated he used MSTN Transformers all the time. His recommendation is for the Board to authorize the purchase from the lowest bid quote, and all this will be included in the School District bill once they pay us on the conclusion of the job.

Marcus Thompson also informed the Board that TVA will be doing a check presentation at the Aberdeen Elementary School at 10:30 a.m., and would like for the Mayor and Board to attend.

Thompson stated he still has vacation days from 2020, and would like for the Board to approve him to take them this year. Thompson understands if this isn't granted to him.

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull 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 the Bradbury Logistics bankruptcy litigation. 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 the Bradbury Logistics bankruptcy litigation.

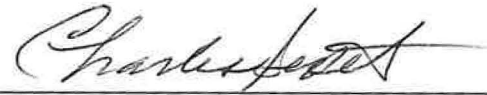
A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to come out of Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the change of the deposit account for the Infrastructure Modernization funds at Renasant Bank from a Savings Account to a Checking Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**January 18, 2022****Page 5**

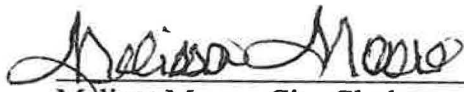
A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull that the City would continue to follow the stated vacation policy procedures in the City Employee Handbook. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adjourn until the February 1, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".



Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk