

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
JANUARY 4, 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 ATTORNEY ROBERT FAULKS, AND MELISSA MOORE, CITY CLERK.

Invocation: Mayor Scott.

ROLL CALL.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes dated December 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 Alderwoman Odom to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated January 4, 2022. Alderman Devaull requested that overtime compensation 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 Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department to become a Registered Member of and participate in the NFL Flag Football League, and to request the City Insurance plan to add the NFL Flag Football League as an additional insured to the City general liability insurance plan. 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 schedule a hearing date on February 1, 2022 for the adjudication of the Donald Dahlem building on Commerce Street, and directing the Building Inspector Roy Haynes to provide the proper statutory notices of the hearing to the owner of the property. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to appoint Patrick Lockett to the Aberdeen Municipal Separate District School Board. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes and Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay". Motion failed.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom to appoint Leigh Matthews to the Aberdeen Separate District School Board. Motion died.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to appoint Carolyn Hoskins to the Aberdeen Municipal Separate District School Board. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to appoint Antonio Crosby to the Aberdeen Municipal Separate District School Board. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to appoint Bobby Butler and Chestine Clay to serve as Members of the Aberdeen Planning and Zoning Commission for a five year term. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to appoint Anniece Riddle and Eddie Buchanan to serve as Members of the Aberdeen Planning and Zoning Commission for a three year term. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Haynes to appoint Jim Edwards and Rick Evans to serve as Members of the Aberdeen Planning and Zoning Commission for a two year term. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth "abstained".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to appoint Jane Nickerson to serve as a Member of the Aberdeen Historic Preservation Commission. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to re-advertise for persons interested in serving as a Member of the Aberdeen Historic Preservation Commission. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize payment in the amount of \$7,582.21 to project engineer Neel-Schaffer for services rendered on the Port of Aberdeen - Dock Facility Upgrade project (Engineering Design). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize payment to and refund the \$100.00 deposit paid by Stella Bell for a cancelled rental of the Aberdeen High Street Community Center. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott invited Michelle Stewart to come before the Board and present information regarding Park and Recreation Department participation in the NFL Flag Football League. Stewart shared information received from Matt Ausborn, National Outbound Sales - NFL Flag Football League. Stewart asked the Board to approve the Member application and to ask the City insurer to add the NFL Flag Football League as an additional insured to the City general liability insurance plan.

Mayor Scott invited Jonathan Chaney, Regional Administrator from the Monroe County, MS Health Department to discuss Health Department services offered and the Health Department hours of operation. Chaney was present for the Board Meeting via Zoom, and emphasized to call 601-496-7200 and schedule an appointment for COVID19 testing. Call 877-78-6453 to schedule an appointment for the COVID19 vaccination. Mayor Scott also stressed the importance of everyone being fully vaccinated for COVID19.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull: Alderman Devaull stated that more cleanup is required in Ward One. A citizen called him about an area on Martin Luther King Drive that needed some attention, and Boone took care of that. Alderman Devaull asked what we are doing about aging trees. A limb fell from a tree on Meridian Street and was laying in the street and someone picked it up and put it in an empty lot. Alderman Devaull would like to see the City trees trimmed and/or cut, and the potholes may be taken care of when the Street Department can get to them. Alderman Devaull complained about someone "spinning donuts in a circle" at the General Young Park and on Highway 25 in front of the carwash business. Citizens may help by reporting this type of behavior because the police cannot see everything.

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Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth stated Mrs. Ann McKinney called and asked Garth to come to her place of business to look at her building, and Garth did go. Mrs. McKinney said a wall is falling down on her building. Alderwoman Garth stated the City Inspector was to inform the adjacent building owner that if the building is not up to code, it's up to the owner legally to get it there. Garth said "if the building falls in and someone is hurt, then the City is going to have to eat that". Inspector Haynes stated the wall needs to be examined by a Structural Engineer to determine the strength and condition of the wall. Inspector Haynes stated he sent the adjacent building owner a letter that his building was a hazard to the community, and a date set for him to come to the December 21, 2021 Board Meeting. Mayor Scott stated the gentleman attended the Board Meeting but didn't speak on the issue of the wall. Alderwoman Garth asked Engineer Dustin Dabbs if he looked at the structure of the building. Dabbs stated he didn't look at the structure of the building. He looked at the building to see if it was Dahlem's property, and the visual findings indicate the property belongs to Dahlem. Alderman Devaull and Alderwoman Odom stated Dahlem was at the Meeting but never said a word. Attorney Faulks stated that it's privately owned property and it can be scheduled for an Adjudication Hearing. We do not have any authority to go onto a privately owned property for the purpose of having an engineer do a Structural Report. Haynes will send statutory notice to Donald Dahlem to attend the first Board Meeting in February for an adjudication hearing.

Alderwoman Garth stated there is a Park and Recreation Tournament this weekend, and was wondering who was making sure there was compliance with CDC COVID requirements, capacity limitations, or who would allow the public entry onto the premises. Alderwoman Garth asked Mayor Scott to please check and see that the protocols are in place. Alderwoman Garth mentioned to Chief Quinell Shumpert that it was Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes and herself who asked him for a meeting. Chief Shumpert stated that if meeting concerned a personnel issue regarding an employee the whole Board would need to be present. Alderman Devaull stated that we were told that we cannot directly talk to the policemen unless it was in a Board Meeting setting about a disciplinary action, and if the Chief needs the Board input he would bring it to the Board. Alderwoman Garth stated that this Board knows that Alderman Robert Devaull has moved off Evergreen Drive and is not living in Ward One. Alderwoman Garth stated that Ms. Moore is the record keeper for the City of Aberdeen and the attorney should not be doing your Minutes.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes stated he gets a lot of calls about racing on Vine Street, and requested more police officers be present on Vine Street, especially on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Alderman Haynes talked with Dustin Dabbs about the sink holes on Thayer Avenue, and would like for Hannah Construction to revisit that area. Alderman Haynes stated we are going into a new year and let us think different than we did in 2021, and let's not make the same judgements and decisions in 2021 and carry them forward and hoping for different results. Please think forward and not backwards. Alderman Haynes stated that if he doesn't do good service in the four years' time as Ward 3 Alderman, please do not vote for me. Alderman Haynes reported some observations regarding the Water Department and Public Works Department personnel, and they're all doing a great job. Alderman Haynes submitted an issue on the Complaint tab on the City's website, but it was rejected. Tina Robbins stated the Web Master is working to resolve the problem. Alderman Haynes stated he received a call about trash at Woodruff Manor, and he would like for the tenants to come together and keep it clean.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom requested City Inspector Roy Haynes to contact Sammie Straughter and ask Straughter to tell his visitors to park in his yard and not on the street. The cars are blocking the traffic. Alderwoman Odom stated a large tree has fallen on Murphy Circle near a water line and requested City employees to use the Clam Truck to pick the tree up before we have problems. The tree is quite large and will have to be cut up before being picked up. Alderwoman Odom apologized to residents of her Ward because her telephone landline has not been working for a month, and repairs will begin within the next two weeks.

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Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen would like to see another "Cleanup Aberdeen" Campaign. The City was looking pretty good up until the Christmas Holiday, and it seems like somebody went around with a garbage truck with the back door open on West Commerce, Meridian Street and Thayer Avenue. Mayor Scott stated this is one of the projects that the Mayor's Youth Council wants to jump on, and we'll let them push this and be a part of it. Alderman Allen appreciates any help with this cleanup. Alderman Allen stated he was following a school bus down West Commerce, and witnessed the bus stopping to let the children off the bus, and multiple cars passing the stopped bus while the children were getting off the bus. Alderman Allen would like to see police officers trailing the buses and making sure no vehicles are passing when the children are getting off the buses. Alderman Allen asked Mayor Scott to pass that request to Chief Shumpert.

Citizen's Input:

Tina Robbins provided an update on the Tourism Recovery Funds (\$87,500.00) that were received in 2020. The following additional information was provided:

1. 525K Impressions on five (5) Digital Billboards in North MS, TN and Alabama
2. Two National Magazine Ads with a 137K Readers. Geo-Targeted Print Ads, Good Housekeeping, and Women's Day Magazines
3. Two Creative Videos and Professional Videos featuring Aberdeen's Unique Shopping and Outdoor Recreation that had 273K views
4. Fifty (50) USA Today Readers that featured one (1) new attraction - our Black History Trail
5. 130K Readers with Travel Specific Print Ads across 12 Southern States and Regional Drive Market
6. Static Billboard featuring Bukka White Blues Festival in high traffic area I-22 that acquired 660K Impressions
7. Southern Living Magazine had 19M Readers and 11.2M Online Visitors which generated over 1,000 Travel Requests to visit Aberdeen
8. Restaurant and Lodging Revenue has increased from \$8M to \$12M

Mayor Scott invited Monroe County Sheriff Crook, Major Richey and Chamber of Commerce Director Chelsea Baulch to the Board Meeting to share the good news about the new project that's in the works for the City of Aberdeen and Monroe County, MS. The name of the project is called "Trojan Horse". The following phases listed are as follows:

- Phase 1: Parking Area
- Phase 2: Training Center
- Phase 3: Pole Barn with Shooting Ranges
- Phase 4: Walking Track
- Phase 5: Basketball Court and Exercise Equipment
- Phase 6: Living Quarters

Sheriff Crook and Major Richey talked about the Rehabilitation Programs that will be offered to inmates to help them cope and adjust to society once they have been released from jail. Sheriff Crook stated it's multipurpose for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office, the City of Aberdeen and the City of Aberdeen Police Department. Chief Shumpert will have access to everything the project has to offer to assist with his department. The GED Program will be offered in the near future. Ms. Baulch stated the only thing they are asking the City of Aberdeen for is encouragement and moral support.

Mayor Scott gave thanks to the following for helping the City of Aberdeen during the holiday season: Mrs. Katina Wiseman for the Winter Wonderland Toy Giveaway, and Buddy's Texaco for treating the City Hall and Aberdeen Police Department. Dr. James Cook invited the Board and the citizens to attend the Martin Luther King, Jr Event on January 17, 2022.

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Chestine Clay asked the Board about the CDC Guidelines for the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department tournament, and wants to know if the City will be providing personal protective equipment for participants. Clay thanked Mayor Scott for the helpful information given by the Health Department officials and providing the services they offer to the community. Clay stated when things get out of order at the Meeting, it's the Mayor's responsibility to put things back in order. Clay asked if the City of Aberdeen has any recourse for anybody that owns the buildings within the City. Mayor Scott stated there is a protocol that has to be followed, and a process has to be properly done.

Mrs. Ann McKinney wanted to thank Alderwoman Garth for talking with her about the neighboring wall falling on her building. Mrs. Ann McKinney stated she's constantly spending money because the wall continues to fall on her building. Attorney Faulks stated that Mrs. Ann McKinney has the right to file a civil lawsuit against any neighboring property owner who is trespassing or causing damage.

Mr. Brindle Pits complained about the speed bumps on Big John Road, especially the one that's by his bedroom window. Mr. Pits asked Alderwoman Odom if the speed bump can be moved further down. Mr. Pits asked the City of Aberdeen to "update their insurance to fix potholes that damage the wheels and tires on vehicles".


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 Alderwoman Garth to come out of closed determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

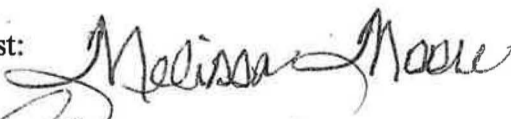
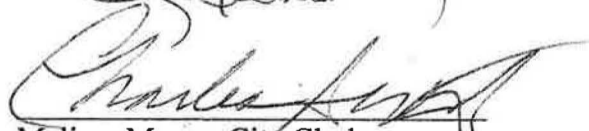
A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to appoint Margie McPherson to the Aberdeen Municipal Separate District School Board. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to appoint Patrick Lockett to the Aberdeen Municipal Separate District School Board. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to adjourn until the January 18, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk