

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
FEBRUARY 1, 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, CITY CLERK MELISSA MOORE, AND CITY ATTORNEY ROBERT FAULKS.

Absent from the Meeting: Alderman John Allen.

Invocation: Mayor Charles Scott.

ROLL CALL:

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes dated January 18, 2022. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, and Alderwoman Odom 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 February 1, 2022, with the exception of a proposed expenditure for the Mayor's Youth Council in the amount of \$1,199.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to pay a proposed expenditure for the Mayor's Youth Council in the amount of \$1,199.00 on the Docket of Claims dated February 1, 2022. The City has received private funds in this amount that were donated in support of the Mayor's Youth Council. The expenditure includes clothing that will have "Aberdeen" displayed, to be worn at a Youth Council event, and the Mayor/ Board determine that this expenditure is authorized pursuant to Mississippi Code Sections 17-3-1, -3 for the purpose of advertising and bringing into favorable notice the opportunities, possibilities and resources of the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Mayor Scott voted "Aye" in favor of the Motion.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize Kathy Seymour to apply for a grant on behalf of the City regarding a proposed "North Aberdeen Historic Preservation District". On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the City Clerk and project engineer Dabbs Corporation to advertise for and solicit contractor bids for the "Highway 8 Water Tap and Road Bore Project". On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to continue the adjudication hearing concerning the Donald Dahlem property on Commerce Street, to allow Dahlem and interested parties to provide information. The Mayor and Board were provided information by Building Inspector Haynes, Engineer Dabbs, Dahlem and Ann McKinney. Dahlem contended that the brick debris was falling from a middle wall that was not situated on his side of the property line. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize Attorney Faulks to revise the City of Aberdeen Dog Ordinances and include applicable items suggested by Animal Control Officer Pedro Clay. Drafts of the amended ordinances will be presented to the Mayor and Aldermen for consideration. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to post and advertise in the local newspaper for three weeks that dogs must be registered in the City of Aberdeen pursuant to the City's 1994 Dog Ordinance. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to accept the resignation of employee Frederick Young. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to employ Gregory Burton as a Laborer in the Aberdeen Water Department with a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize the Emergency and Sole Source Lease Purchase of the 2012 Terex Commander 6060 International 7400 Digger Truck from Custom Truck One Source, Bakersfield, CA, requested for the Aberdeen Electric Department, in the amount of \$169,900.00. Electric Department Manager Lamarcus Thompson advised the Mayor and Board that the Department's Digger Truck was not repairable, that a digger truck was essential to the work of the Electric Department, and that this particular 2012 Terex Commander digger truck was the only such equipment available now. Delay from advertising for competitive quotes would be harmful to the Electric Department, and there are no available trucks from other sources that could be delivered sooner than a year or more out. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize the financing of the Lease Purchase of the 2012 Terex Commander through BancorpSouth which submitted the lowest and best quote for financing at an interest rate of 2.41% for 36 months and \$4,896.84 payment each month. The other quote received was from Government Capital Corporation at 3.259%. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to amend the Aberdeen Electric Department policy to allow limit extensions on utility services to requests by the customer named on the account or the customer's authorized representative ("in care of" designation). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to amend the Aberdeen Electric Department policy to require the re-connect fee to be \$50.00 "across the board". On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize Janet Parks to attend the Basic Municipal Liability and Worker's Compensation Risk Management workshop, Starkville, MS / February 17, 2022 / 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. No fee for the training. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize a refund of a \$424.20 deposit to Jasmine Thomas, per agreement. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

No motion was made by the Board to authorize the purchase and installation of security gates and related items at the City property formerly occupied by Holley Performance. Quotes were received from All Star Fence LLC and Columbus Fence Company LLC. This item was "tabled".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept the retirement request of Bobby Smith, with an effective date of January 25, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to accept the resignation of City employee Richard Lewis, with an effective date of January 28, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize posting and advertisement in the local newspaper for two weeks for persons interested in being employed as an Assistant Mechanic. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaul to employ Lamar McFarland as a Laborer in the Sanitation Department at a rate of pay of \$11.00 per hour. McFarland must have a valid driver's license within 90 days of this employment. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaul and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Mayor Scott voted "Aye" in favor of the Motion.

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott invited Kathy Seymour to address the Board regarding a grant the City did not receive this year, and other grants that may be available to the City of Aberdeen. Seymour shared with the Board that the City had two visitors last week from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Lydia Charles, Certified Local Government Personnel, and Jennifer Balm. Charles and Balm suggested the City of Aberdeen put together a North Aberdeen Historic District, and hire a consultant to do the work. Seymour asked the Board to give her permission to apply for a grant. Seymour asked the Board if they know of anyone that's willing to donate their skills, material and supplies to help with completion of the work on The Depot, and please contact her.

Mayor Scott shared with everyone that the Aberdeen Health Department will be open to administer COVID19 vaccinations and COVID19 tests. The following dates and times are: Tuesdays from 9:00 am – 4:30 pm, and Wednesday thru Thursday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. The Aberdeen Health Department will be administering COVID19 vaccinations and COVID19 tests on Thursdays from 1:00pm – 3:00 pm, everyone must schedule an appointment. Also, the Monroe County Health Department, Amory, MS is having a FREE Community Testing for the Rapid & PCR COVID19 tests on Tuesday – Thursday, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Everyone must register for the free test.

Tina Robbins shared with the Board the face page of the Southern Living Magazine and the Uptown & Downtown meet Down-Home ad that will be published in the magazine. Information about the Mardi Gras Events and daily activities planned for February 2-5, 2022. Robbins is working on a Trail Head Marker for the Black History Trail, stop number one, and the design is already picked out. Robbins is also working on adding a photo to the Wall of Fame in City Hall.

Dustin Dabbs discussed the Water Tap and Bore on Highway 8 project, and requested authority to advertise and solicit contractor bids for the project.

Edward Lockett came before the Board asking for more time to commence repairs to his property on Dr. Woodruff Street. This property has been adjudicated twice and is scheduled for demolition. Inspector Roy Haynes advised the Board that Lockett had an ample amount of time to do the repairs, and he has not done anything. Lockett stated that Linzie Cook had agreed to do the repairs to the house. Cook was not present at the Meeting to verify this statement.

Inspector Roy Haynes informed the Board he could not get in contact with Linzie Cook to ask if he was contracted to do the repairs on Edward Lockett's home. The City of Aberdeen Board has issued the order twice to proceed with demolishing the house, which has substantial weather and tree damage and is not inhabitable.

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On the adjudication hearing, Donald Dahlem came before the Board and contended that brick debris was falling from "The Wall" next to his building and Ann McKinney's building, and that this "Wall" was not inside his property line. Ann McKinney shared with the Board that the "The Wall" belongs to Dahlem. The Board decided to "table" this issue until additional information and documents have been provided to clear up this matter.

Animal Inspector Pedro Clay was asked to come before the Board to explain two Dog Ordinances that the City of Aberdeen has on record, including the 1994 Ordinance requiring that "All dogs should be registered". Clay stated that this Dog ordinance has been in effect since 2/1/1994. Clay asked the Board to advertise in the local paper that all dogs must be registered in the City limits of Aberdeen.

Aberdeen Public Utilities General Manager LaMarcus Thompson contacted two different companies to purchase a Line Truck. Mr. Thompson stated the current Line Truck would not hold pressure to stay cranked, and its twenty-five (25) years old. When the Line Truck is running, it takes two people to operate: one person has to sit in the inside and hold the gas while the other person has to hold the levers on the back. At this present time both trucks are down, the Line Truck and the 1998 Ford. The Line Truck gets in a bind when we pick up transformers, poles, etc. When the Specs were done on the Line Truck, we were informed that we don't need to be operating the Line Truck. Mr. Thompson shared with the Board the expenses it has cost the City of Aberdeen to constantly repair the Line Truck. The amount was \$17,130.20.

General Manager LaMarcus Thompson stated a brand new Line Truck from Terex Company will cost \$459,000.00, but this truck will not be ready until the end of 2023. All-Tech, Memphis, Tennessee wouldn't take his order due to a back log. Custom Truck One Source, Bakersfield CA has a Line Truck for lease purchase in the amount of \$169,900.00. Thompson expressed to the Board that he is not functioning at the Electric Department because he doesn't have the truck he needs to get the jobs done in the City of Aberdeen. This is the only equipment that Mr. Thompson can get right now for the Electric Department or for an extended period of time, and the equipment is essential to the work of the Electric Department. This is a SOLE SOURCE and an EMERGENCY PURCHASE, and Manager LaMarcus Thompson says he has to have the truck as soon as he can get it.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull: Alderman Devaull asked Richard Boone about the list of potholes in Ward One and wants to know where we stand on them. Boone stated the list he had with potholes has been repaired. Alderman Devaull stated there is a pothole on Meridian Street by the Burger Shack Building that needs repairing. Alderman Devaull thanked Dustin Dabbs for repairing that bad spot on Meridian Street. Alderman Devaull stated on beautiful, sunny days he would like to see more work being done by the Street Department employees.

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

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes stated the Board talks about COVID19 at every Meeting, and I want to know if we're taking COVID19 protocols seriously. If we're going to encourage COVID19 prevention we should enforce the rules and regulations as it relates to COVID19.

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Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom thanked Dustin Dabbs for the great job he did on Oakland Drive. Alderwoman Odom stated the City has dug out ditches and the water is backing up in Dr. Shepherd's yard and other areas. On the McKinney property, the City cut the driveway and failed to inform the property owner before they did this work affecting her driveway. McKinney is upset about the damage done to her driveway. Mayor Scott asked Inspector Haynes to explain to the Board about the City culverts. Inspector Haynes stated that the culverts do not belong to the homeowner; they belong to the City of Aberdeen because they fall into the right-of-way. If anything is put in the right-of-way of the City, it can be removed by the City because it interferes with their day-to-day operations.

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen was not present at the Meeting

Citizen's Input:

Brindle Pits inquired about the speed bumps in front of his home on Big John Road. Pits would like for them to be removed because of the noise of the vehicles that cross the speed bumps is at his bedroom window.

Terry Morgan and Akela McNairy have a personnel issue they would like to discuss in Executive Session.

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 a personnel issue with Terry Morgan and Akela McNairy, and an investigation regarding employee use of a City of Aberdeen Fuelman Card. 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 with Terry Morgan and Akela McNairy, and an investigation regarding employee use of a City of Aberdeen Fuelman Card.

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

Rod Nixon, Worksite Specialist and Eddie Parvin, Supervising Agent with Liberty National Life Insurance Company came before the Board to share the types of insurance policies the company offers and would like the Board's approval to discuss these insurance products with City employees.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize Liberty National Insurance Company personnel to schedule a day and time with the City Clerk to discuss their insurance products and plans available to the City employees. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize Confidential Counter Offers for the Stevens Properties, LLC and the Bradley Lumber Company properties. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Devaull to "table" the issue regarding employment of Gerry Dobbs until the next scheduled Board Meeting or a Special Call Board Meeting. Alderman Haynes withdrew his motion.

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to terminate City employee Gerry Dobbs for violation of City Policy. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

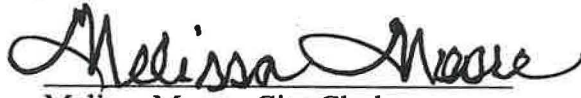
Alderman Haynes asked that Mayor Scott make sure that all Departments understand the Board has voted in a previous Meeting that the City does not have Flex Schedules, and all employees are to work the hours they are scheduled, and if overtime is necessary on weekends due to other things going on within the City, its okay.

Alderwoman Garth shared with Terry Morgan and Akela McNairy they will work their regular scheduled hours, and if they have to work on Saturday they will receive overtime pay.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adjourn until the February 15, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk