

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM  
FEBRUARY 15, 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.**

Invocation: City Inspector Roy Haynes.

**ROLL CALL:**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes dated February 1, 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 Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated February 15, 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, seconded by Alderman Devaull authorizing Zoning Administrator Roy Haynes to post the required signage notice and to publish the required newspaper notice in the Monroe County Journal, concerning the public hearing for March 15, 2022 regarding the application of Torrey Boykin to rezone certain property (PPIN: 34782 / Parcel ID: 109H-29-001-020.02). The Aberdeen Zoning Commission has recommended the rezoning. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize the following City Employees: Tashanda White/ Melissa Moore/ Jason Roberson to serve as chaperones and advisors to the Mayor's Youth Council attending the Annual Statewide Youth Leadership Summit at Delta State University, Cleveland, MS/ February 25-26, 2022, and to pay the City employees' necessary travel expenses according to state guidelines. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Devaull and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom to authorize a full service vending agreement with the Pepsi Beverage Company. The Motion died due to a lack of a second.

There was no Motion to award any contracts regarding proposed gate, parking and security improvements to the City property previously occupied by Holley Performance. Attorney Faulks asked for this item to be "tabled" for a few weeks.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize the purchase of certain real property and buildings owned by Stevens Properties LLC (Parcel # 108H-27-011-005.00 / PPIN 7164) for \$280,000.00, the appraised value. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize the disbursement of \$280,526.00 from the Electric Department Equipment Fund to the Robert Faulks Trust Account to fund the purchase and pay for closing costs to purchase the Stevens Properties LLC real estate (Parcel # 108H-27-011-005.00 / PPIN 7164). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to retain Chester Patterson for an appraisal of certain additional real estate offered for sale by Stevens Properties LLC (Parcel # 108H-27-011-006.00 / PPIN 7165). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize payments to Patterson Appraisals - Chester Patterson, Aberdeen, MS [Licensed State Certified Number GA-196] for the January 27, 2022 appraisals of the Stevens Properties, LLC real estate in the amount of \$3,000.00 and the Bradley Lumber Company real estate in the amount of \$1,250.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize Mayor Charles Scott and City Clerk Melissa Moore to attend the "Robert's Rules of Order" Seminar, Oxford, MS / March 10, 2022, and pay the registration and their necessary travel expenses according to state guidelines. The fee is \$25.00 per person. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize a refund of the \$200.00 rental deposit paid by Lequita Stevenson due to her cancellation of a rental of the Aberdeen Park and Recreation building. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to appoint Janyth Dalrymple to serve as a Member of the Aberdeen Historic Preservation Commission for a three year term. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to appoint David Ewing to serve as a Member of the Aberdeen Historic Preservation Commission for a three year term. 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 accept Electric Department employee Clayton Jones' resignation with an effective date of 2/9/2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Scott asked Tina Robbins to list activities scheduled in the City of Aberdeen for the month of February 2022. Robbins shared the following events:

1. NAACP will be sponsoring the Unity Walk/Run on February 26, 2022 beginning at 8:00 a.m. at St. Peter's Church on Highway 45, Aberdeen, MS.
2. The Aberdeen Pilgrimage
3. The Black History Trail

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**Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:**

**Alderman Devaull:** Alderman Devaull stated he received a few calls yesterday from citizens in Ward One about some potholes that need to be filled. Alderman Devaull had a discussion with City Inspector Roy Haynes about the house that burned on Chestnut Street. Citizens are asked to be patient, and the cleanup will begin once it dries up. Alderman Devaull commented regarding the "No Parking" zone on the corner of Martin Luther King Street and Hardy Street. If people continue to park in that "No Parking" area, the police will be asked to write tickets and have the violators' vehicles towed away at their expense.

**Alderwoman Garth:** Alderwoman Garth stated that Officer Kendrick delivered her Board packet, and while he was at her home they had a conversation about the Police Department not having walkie talkies. This was a concern for Officer Kendrick and for Alderwoman Garth. Alderwoman Garth asked Mayor Scott if the Police Department had money for walkie talkies. Mayor Scott stated new walkie talkies were ordered for the School Resource Officers, and that upgraded walkie talkies for the Police Department have been ordered and will be paid for with grant funds.

**Alderman Haynes:** Alderman Haynes related the conversation he had with Engineer Dustin Dabbs about the North Thayer Avenue sink hole that was repaired. The sink hole has pulled in part of a neighbor's yard, and sink hole area is beginning to settle from the repair done by the City. Alderman Haynes added the driveway has a dent that needs to be filled in and made right like it was before any repairs were done. Alderman Haynes asked that the sink hole area be revisited because it's eroding and damaging Mr. Whitley's yard.

Alderman Haynes stated he has received telephone calls from a young lady wanting to rent an Aberdeen Park and Recreation building, and was told she could not rent it due to some events already scheduled. The events never took place, and the young lady should not have been denied the opportunity to use the building. Alderman Haynes asked that citizens be allowed to use the Park and Recreation building if no Park and Recreation Department activity is taking place.

Alderman Haynes received telephone calls from citizens about Meridian Street, and when will the damages be completely repaired and the street passable to travel on. Alderman Haynes asked that the responsible department repair the street. Alderman Haynes would like to see Department Heads manage their departments better and create a winning environment with the employees. Alderman Haynes stated that City Employees are selling City property without the approval of the Board. Alderman Haynes asked Attorney Faulks, "Is this legal?" Attorney Faulks said "no", and only the Board can decide what property to sell and not to sell.

**Alderwoman Odom:** Alderwoman Odom stated that a Mr. Williams' 1502 West Drive mailbox has been knocked down twice in the last six months due to people speeding off of Meadowlane Drive. Williams asked for a speed bump to be installed to control the speeding. Alderwoman Odom shared with Attorney Faulks that she received several calls this week wanting to know why the City has not paid the Election Commissioners for the work they've done. Attorney Faulks stated and Karen Crump confirmed the Election Commissioners have been paid for election work on the dates of the elections. The Election Commissioners have requested compensation for other items, and Attorney Faulks has talked with the Attorney General's Office and the Secretary of State's Office, and there are some legal issues about paying the additional compensation the Election Commissioners have requested. Attorney Faulks stated he will ask for an Advisory Opinion and does not know if we will receive a favorable answer on these issues. Faulks commented that there are statutes that authorize compensation to County Elections Officials but not to Municipal Election Officials for some of the items, and that there is an issue whether a City may compensate the election commissioners without an ordinance in place.

**Alderman Allen:** Alderman Allen did not have anything to report at this time.

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Ernie Gruwell and Janet Gruwell have received certifications in Rehab Therapy. Mr. and Mrs. Gruwell have started a Drug, Alcohol and Anger Treatment Program. The program will offer assistance to everyone within the community, especially the ones that have been sent to them by Judges and Probation Officers. There are 24 sessions the individual has to complete, but they can be on-going if more sessions are needed. There is "No Cost" for the sessions. The sessions will be held at the Aberdeen First Pentecostal Church, Aberdeen, MS every Thursday night, beginning Thursday, February 17, 2022 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Mr. Gruwell stated we're here for the community, and if you know of anyone that can benefit from the sessions, please let us know.

City Inspector Roy Haynes advised that Torrey Boykin attended the Zoning Board Meeting and asked for his property (PPIN: 34782 / Parcel ID: 109H-29-001-020.02) to be re-zoned so he can build a "Night Club" on the three acres of land he purchased on the By-pass south of the lake. Boykin would like for the property to be changed from a R1 to a C2 zone. City Inspector Roy Haynes stated the Zoning Board had approved the re-zoning, and I'm asking permission that a public notice be posted and notice be published in the Monroe Journal Newspaper for two weeks and schedule a public hearing before the Board for March 15, 2022.

Public Works Director Richard Boone asked that he be allowed to discuss some personnel issues in Executive Session.

Chestine Clay asked the Board, "When applicants complete an application for positions within the City, are they notified by anyone if they do or don't get the position?" Mayor Scott told Clay that in the past the applicants who were not selected were not notified, but this will change in the future.

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 Devaull to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters involving Richard Boone, Joe Cunningham, Jermaine Sacus, and Barry McMillian; and to interview Mitchell Finn and Brady Slupik for employment in the Aberdeen Electric Department. 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 matters involving Richard Boone, Joe Cunningham, Jermaine Sacus, and Barry McMillian; and to interview Mitchell Finn and Brady Slupik for employment in the Aberdeen Electric Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth 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 Haynes to employ Ralph Flanagan as an Assistant Mechanic in the Public Works Department at a rate of pay of \$16.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to employ Mitchell Finn as a Lineman Apprentice in the Electric Department at a rate of pay of \$17.50 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to employ Brady Slupik as a Groundsman in the Electric Department at a rate of pay of \$14.50 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to terminate the employment of City Employee Jermaine Sacus on the violation of City Policy. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to terminate the employment of City Employee Joe Cunningham on the violation of City Policy. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull voted "Pass". Alderwoman Garth "Abstained". Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Devaull next voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize a full service vending agreement with the Pepsi Beverage Company. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Alderman Allen "Abstained". Due to a tie vote, the Mayor has the right to vote. Mayor Scott voted "Aye". Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes to transfer City Employee Barry McMillian from the Water Department to the Sanitation Department and be employed at a rate of pay of \$14.00 per hour. Motion died due to lack of a second.

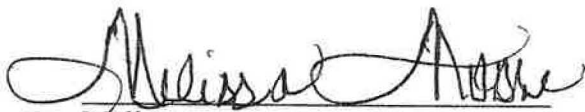
A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to suspend City employee Richard Boone for five days without pay. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes to cut Mayor Scott's salary by \$15,000.00 for "failing to do his day-to-day duties". Motion died due to a lack of a second.

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

  
Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:

  
Melissa Moore, City Clerk