

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**March 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, ALDERMAN JOHN ALLEN, CITY CLERK MELISSA MOORE AND CITY ATTORNEY ROBERT FAULK.

Invocation: LaMarcus Thompson.

ROLL CALL.

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the proposed Minutes 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 Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Special Call Minutes dated February 22, 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 Alderwoman Odom to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated March 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 authorize engineer Dustin Dabbs to update the City streets survey list and update the condition of each street and a cost estimate to repair each street in the City of Aberdeen. The updated information will be used to determine the amount of a proposed street repair bond issue. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize the transfer of the remaining 2011 Bond Refunding Account balance in the amount of \$10,292.48 to the Common City General Fund. Comptroller Karen Crump advises that the bond indebtedness has been paid in full, and the remaining balance no longer required to pay for the bond. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize the transfer of the remaining 1998 Public Improvement B & I Fund in the amount of \$536.85 to the Common City General Fund. Comptroller Karen Crump also advises that this bond indebtedness has been paid in full, and the remaining balance no longer required to pay for the bond. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the transfer of the remaining 2001 Electric Bond and Interest Fund in the amount of \$139,188.67 to the Electric Department General Fund. Comptroller Karen Crump also advises that this bond indebtedness has been paid in full, and the remaining balance no longer required to pay for the bond. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the transfer of the remaining 2001 Water and Sewer Bond Interest Fund in the amount of \$41,320.96 to the Water Department General Fund. Comptroller Karen Crump also advises that this bond indebtedness has been paid in full, and the remaining balance no longer required to pay for the bond. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**March 1, 2022****Page 2**

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize AT&T to install fiber optic cables in various locations (City Right-of-Way on South Meridian Street) to extend internet services to residents and businesses in the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to accept the resignation of City employee Ralph Flanagan, effective as of February 25, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to post and advertise for two weeks for persons interested in being employed as a Public Works Department Assistant Mechanic. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to "table" discussion regarding a Park and Recreation Department Youth Banquet for players and coaches on March 3, 2022. The anticipated cost of the banquet is \$340.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes 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: Jermaine Polk - Lineman Apprenticeship Pre-Apprentice Assessment Workshop, Jackson, TN / April 3-8, 2022 / Cost: \$1,236.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, 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: Angela Fears - Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association Workshop, Brentwood, TN / March 27-30, 2022 / Cost for classes: \$579.75 & \$784.50. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to again "table" discussion regarding a proposal from Ten One Strategies, LLC for capitol lobbying before the Mississippi Legislature and other advocacy services, in exchange for a flat fee of \$4,000.00 for the remainder of the legislative session. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize the purchase of certain real property owned by Stevens Properties LLC (Parcel # 108H-27-011-006.00 / PPIN: 7165) for \$25,000, the appraisal amount. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the purchase of certain real property owned by Jeffrey Ausborn (Parcel #: 107E-26-005-001.00 / PPIN: 5869) for \$4,500, the offer price. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes to authorize the City to fund 50% of the cost to pay for upgrades to the Monroe Regional Hospital site. Alderman Haynes withdrew his motion.

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to express the Board's support in favor of exterior and interior building upgrades to the Monroe Regional Hospital site. The hospital property is jointly owned by the City and Monroe County. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**March 1, 2022****Page 3**

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize advertisements for contractor bids and to adopt the repair specifications provided by Dustin Dabbs Corporation for repair of the sink hole in the Treas Lake area (Cheryl Drive). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to adopt a proposed Ordinance pursuant to Mississippi Code Section 25-60-5 to assess an extra fee in the amount of \$1.00 to be collected by any Municipal Official who accepts documents for filing as public records. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott asked Tina Robbins to update the Board concerning activities scheduled in the City of Aberdeen.

Robbins provided Sales Tax revenue information reported in February 2022. Robbins stated that the February receipts are a reflection of December 2021 sales. The Promotional Campaign of Christmas in Aberdeen (including digital and print ads promoting Aberdeen events throughout the month of December) was very successful. The Sales Tax revenue increased by \$10,000.00. The year 2020 reflected an increase in spending of \$150,000.00.

Robbins also provided a copy of the Mississippi Official Tour Guide, and the City of Aberdeen is featured on at least ten pages. The Black History Trail is featured in a Civil Rights section on page 48, the Blues Trail is featured on page 58, the Aberdeen Editorial with photos is featured on page 72, and the Special Mississippi Main Street Co-op Ad is featured on page 139. Robbins stated that over 50,000 copies are distributed to Welcome Centers, Main Streets, and Visitor Bureaus all over the state.

Robbins stated that the Aberdeen Pilgrimage is scheduled April 1-2, 2022. There will be a lot of great activities this year. There will be a few activities happening in May. The Taste of Aberdeen is scheduled July 1st, 2nd & 4th, 2022.

Mayor Scott asked Tashanda White and other Mayor's Youth Council Members to share the experience they had this weekend at the 14th Annual Statewide Youth Leadership Summit, Delta State University, Cleveland, MS. City Clerk Melissa Moore was asked to provide some feedback as well. The City of Aberdeen Mayor's Youth Council did an awesome job and represented Aberdeen in a powerful way. We are very proud of all of you. Keep up the good work! Mayor Scott commended Ms. White, Ms. Moore and Mr. Roberson for mentoring our students. Great job!

Mayor Scott asked the Board to review information concerning a proposed Bond Request and initial information for street repairs provided by Dustin Dabbs that's included within their packets. The three streets listed are:

1. **Meridian Street:** 1.45 miles @ \$435,000.00
 2. **Matubba Street:** 1.40 miles @ \$420,000.00
 3. **Highway 8:** .75 miles @ \$225,000.00
- Totaling:** \$1,080,000.00

Mayor Scott stated the street pavement bonds could be paid by the Internet Sales Tax revenues received by the City.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**March 1, 2022****Page 4**

Mayor Scott asked Comptroller Karen Crump to report on the status of 4 bond payment accounts. Crump stated there are four bank accounts that were opened to fund payment of bonds issued by the City of Aberdeen, and the bonds debts have been paid in full. The accounts can now be closed and the funds transferred over to other City accounts. The flowing accounts are:

1. 2011 Bond Refunding Account has a total of \$10,292.48 to be moved to the Common City General Fund.
2. 1998 Public Improvement B & I Fund has a total of \$536.85 to be moved to the Common City General Fund.
3. 2001 Electric Bond and Interest Fund has a total of \$139,188.67 to be moved to the Electric Department General Fund.
4. 2001 Water and Sewer Bond Interest Fund has a total of \$41,320.96 to be moved to the Water Department General Fund.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull Alderman Devaull stated there are several streets in Ward One that need to be repaired and paved along with some potholes that need to be repaired. Alderman Devaull gave credit to Manager Boone and his crew for cleaning curbs and picking up paper throughout the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Devaull appreciated the good job they are doing, and asked Boone to let the guys know. Boone stated he was grateful for the compliment.

Alderwoman Garth stated she does not have anything to report at this time.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes asked that the volleyball nets be relocated and taken to Newberger Park. Mayor Scott stated the volleyball nets are in the basement at the gym. Alderman Haynes complimented the City workers that are keeping the City ditches clean within the City.

Alderwoman Odom stated she does not have anything to report at this time.

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen has a request from AT&T asking for permission to set two boxes at the locations listed on the paperwork. The boxes are 48 inches high. They will sit on the City Right-of-Way on South Meridian Street. It's 2-Feeder Fiber Optic Cables that will service residential and businesses with internet.

Citizen's Input:

Chestine Clay suggested the Board to provide more ways in making sure the citizens are informed about the meetings and activities going on within the City of Aberdeen.

Tina Robbins shared the following events that taken place in the City of Aberdeen:

1. Let's Get Clean Aberdeen Community Cleanup Day on March 19, 2022 / 8am-10am
2. Free 2-Hour Golf Clinic on March 16, 2022 at the Aberdeen Sportsplex / 11am-1pm
3. T-ball / Baseball / Softball sign up at Aberdeen Park and Recreation

LueEllen Childress expressed the sadness she felt about Aberdeen Separate School Superintendent Jeff Clay terminating his time as the School Superintendent a year early. Childress will be making him a plaque, and thanking him for all he has done for the Aberdeen School District.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING**March 1, 2022****Page 5**

Tina Robbins stated there is a the Search Committee doing a survey and search for the next School Superintendent, and there will be a Zoom Call for input, scheduled Thursday, March 3, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. The links for the Zoom call will be listed on the Aberdeen City Hall, Aberdeen High School, Belle-Shivers and Aberdeen Elementary web pages.

Public Works Director Richard Boone asked the Board to accept Ralph Flanagan's resignation and to post and advertise for persons interested in being employed as an Assistant Mechanic for the Public Works Department.

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 regarding City employee Joseph Gunn. 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 regarding City employee Joseph Gunn. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve a pay raise for Public Works Department C.D.L. drivers in the amount of \$1.05 per hour. The following City employees to receive this raise are: Robert Smith and Lenzo McMillian. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to terminate the employment of City employee Joseph Gunn. On a roll call vote, all present voted "aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize the use of the Aberdeen Park & Recreation Building to host a Basketball Banquet on March 3, 2022, at "No Cost" to the City. 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 Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to adjourn until the March 15, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk