

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM  
April 5, 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, MELISSA MOORE, CITY CLERK, AND CITY ATTORNEY ROBERT FAULKS.**

**Invocation:** LaMarcus Thompson

**Not present for the meeting:** Alderman John Allen

**ROLL CALL.**

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes dated March 15, 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 Devaull seconded by Alderman Allen to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated April 5, 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 Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the closure of the Water Well Airport Park ARC Project Account held at The First Bank. The account has a balance of \$6.28. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve Plan House Enterprises, LLC (PH Bidding) contract and their services through the Online Bid Management Portal – Sourcing Network. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the Dabbs Corporation Professional Services Agreement for Aberdeen Public Utilities Building Renovation including Architectural, Mechanical & Electrical Engineering Sub-Consultants. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the Dabbs Corporation Highway 8 Fire Loop Improvement Project Contract in the amount of \$79,500.00. This Bid amount was given by Hanna Construction and awarded by 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 approve Dabbs Construction to post and advertise for the construction of the Parkway Street Drainage Improvement Project and paid with the ARPA Funds. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye"

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the Ability Works, Incorporated Program and providing the students be residents of the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve Three Rivers Planning & Development District to work with the City of Aberdeen on their Redistricting Process. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to suspend the Zoning Board for six (6) months and give the Board time to meet with the Zoning Board Members to clarify their responsibilities, positions, authority, and the City Inspector authority as to who answers to whom. The effective date is April 15, 2022. There was no vote on this motion. Alderman Haynes withdrew his motion.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth, to give permission to Walter and Joann Lann to landscape the parking lot and maintain the up keep at no cost to the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to give permission to Amy Bell, Walter and Joann Lann to clean up and paint the building located at Oddfellow Rest Cemetery at no cost to the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

The Approval to Hire an Administrative Clerk for the Accounting Department will not be voted on until after the second interview scheduled on April 18, 2022 @ 10:00 a.m.

No motion or vote is needed for Line Item #9 to approve the support of American Red Cross. Comptroller Karen Crump stated the amount of support will be \$1,500.00, and it's already on tonight's docket to be paid.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Norris James to attend the Building Officials Association of MS Summer Conference, Gulfport, MS / June 13-17, 2022 / Registration Fee: \$175.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept the resignation for City Employee Todd Palmer. Effective date: March 28, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to post and advertise for a fireman for the Aberdeen Fire Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the Canon Copier Rental Renewal Contract for Aberdeen Visitors Bureau from 3/30/2022-3/31/2027 @ \$85.01 per month. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

The Approval for the Daylight Capital Advisor Road Payment Bond Process will be "Tabled" until next Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the pay increase for Officer Davis Hankins in the amount of \$1.00 for completing his training and certification. On a roll call vote, all present noted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the hiring of Rodney Walker as Laborer for the Aberdeen Water Department at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present noted "Aye".



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**Mayor Report:** Mayor Scott thanked everyone for coming to the meeting today. Mayor Scott informed the Board of the meeting held with Plan House Enterprises, LLP (PH Bidding) on yesterday about the services they offer as it relates to Bids offered by contractors on projects within the City of Aberdeen.

Mayor Scott asked Dustin Dabbs to share with the Board the projects and contracts that's being done throughout the City of Aberdeen.

Mayor Scott shared with the Board and citizens about the 2022 Scholarship Program open to any high school seniors in Mississippi who plans to attend an accredited community college or university in Mississippi. Mayor Scott is seniors to please go online and complete and application. City Clerk Melissa Moore has applications in the Clerk's Office. This scholarship is being offered by the Mississippi Municipal League (MML).

Mayor Scott shared with the Board the services offered by Ability Works, Incorporated, which is a division of the Mississippi Department of Rehabilitation Services (MDRS).

Mayor Scott shared with the Board about Three Rivers Planning & Development District (TRPDD) regarding Redistricting for the City of Aberdeen.

**Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:**

**Alderman Devaull** Alderman Devaull stated the Hot Box is being used in Ward One for the repairing of the potholes. Alderman Devaull asked the citizens in Ward One to please be patient with the Street Department while repairs are being done. Alderman Devaull is asking the citizens of Aberdeen to please keep their children away from the General Young Park until the renovations have been completed and it's safe to play.

**Alderwoman Garth** Alderwoman Garth stated a gentleman living at 202 Parks Street, Aberdeen, MS contacted her because someone is dumping over there and when it rains it looks like a swamp. Alderwoman Garth asked Dustin Dabbs to please address that area and see what needs to be done. Alderwoman Garth shared with the Board and citizens the following: On November 16, 2021 Board Meeting, the Proposal for Bradbury Logistics by Mr. Harper to purchase Holley's was "Cancelled and Rescinded". On March 15, 2022 Board Meeting, Torrey Boykins was declined to rezone and build "The Stratos Lounge". The Adult Daycare (Gracefully Aging Senior Services, Inc.) owners are being molested from opening their business. Alderwoman Garth stated she would like for the Board to consider giving the City Employees a raise, because the City has the money to do so. Alderwoman Garth asked Mayor Scott who put all those "No Parking" signs on Highway 45, and who authorized them to be put there. Mayor Scott told Alderwoman Garth that MDOT put the signs there, and he will call them and asked who requested the signs to be put up.

**Alderman Haynes:** Alderman Haynes stated he received several telephone calls about the Zoning Board and the privacy fence on Bulldog Boulevard. Alderman Haynes made a motion to suspend the Zoning Board. Alderman Haynes asked that the Board meet with the Zoning Board to see who has the authority and power within the Zoning Board. Alderman Haynes stated the Board received a letter from Mr. James Bell about the Zoning Board not doing their job. Attorney Faulks stated that the Aberdeen Zoning Ordinance is really easy to read language. If the Zoning Commission is suspended it will bring extra work on the City Board members. It needs to be thought a little bit before suspending the Zoning Commission.



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Alderman Haynes stated if you're not going to lead and do what needs to be done, please move out the way of others that's trying to do what's right. Alderman Haynes stated he asked two Board Meetings in a row for the volleyball net to be placed back at New Berger Park, and wants to know why that's a problem. Mayor Scott stated there was never a volley ball net at New Berger Park, and the net being referred to is the one I donated to the park. Alderman Haynes has been working with Ms. Tina Robbins on doing a Joe Lee Howard "Day in the Park" on June 4, 2022 from 4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at New Berger Park. Alderman Haynes asked that everyone please come out and support that day. Alderman Haynes asked that the Senior Citizens be giving permission to use the Aberdeen Park & Recreation Van on May 6, 2022 to go to lunch at Cracker Barrel. The Haynes Foundation will be sponsoring this event and paying for their meals. Alderman Haynes would like to see the Aberdeen Police Department move to the Aberdeen Public Utilities for more space once they have moved out. Alderman Hayes would like for the Board to give the City Employees a raise and use the ARPA Funds if it's legal to do so.

**Alderwoman Odom:** Alderwoman Odom stated that Walter and Joann Lann would like to have permission behind their place of business to landscape the highlands in the parking lot and maintain it. Alderwoman Odom stated Amy Bell has been talking about the building at Oddfellow Rest Cemetery that needs some work done to it. Amy Bell, Walter and Joann Lann would like permission from the Board to clean up the building and paint it.

**Alderman Allen:** Alderman Allen wasn't present for the meeting.

**Citizen's Input:**

Pastor Jeffrey Riddle addressed the Board about the privacy fence on the softball field, and asked that the Board and Zoning Board give some consideration before having the fence taking down. Pastor Riddle stated the Aberdeen High School Softball Team is proud of the program that the school offers and the fence that was put up for their safety, and please give this some thought before any actions is taken. Alderman Haynes shared with Pastor Riddle that the Board hasn't addressed the issue of the fence because the concerns hasn't been brought before the City Board or Zoning Board. Alderman Haynes advised Pastor Riddle to address his concerns with the Aberdeen School Board.

Ms. Chestine Clay addressed the Board about the petition that was brought to the Board in September of last year regarding the Rental Ordinance that needs to be in place for the City of Aberdeen. Ms. Clay stated the Zoning Board was thrown under the bus, and it's not fair. Please address the issues with the individual(s) on the Zoning Board that's causing the problems, and not target everyone.

Mr. Jim Edwards stated Alley Martin called and asked him to speak about the issue regarding the Adult Daycare in Aberdeen, MS. Mr. Edwards told Mr. Martin as long as he can speak as Jim Edwards and not the Zoning Board. Mr. Edwards stated the only reason he's coming forward is because it's a safety issue, and the Zoning Board hasn't met in the last two months.

Public Works Director Richard Boone would like to discuss a personnel matter in Executive Session. Mr. Boone asked to be included in the streets projects that's being done within the City of Aberdeen.

Attorney Demario Reddick shared with the Board that he's representing City Employee Barry McMillian on two issues involving the City of Aberdeen. Attorney Reddick stated he sent Mayor Scott a letter asking to be put on the agenda, but didn't receive any correspondence from Mayor Scott, and would like to know if he will be able to speak about a pay discrepancy involving his client Mr. McMillian.

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Attorney Reddick stated there will be a Notice of Claim letter coming to the City of Aberdeen referencing a lawsuit that will be filed for Mr. McMillian about a Deformation case against the City of Aberdeen and Ms. Melissa Moore. Attorney Faulks shared with Attorney Reddick that his client notified the Ethics Commission about his request to talk with the Board in Executive Session, and one ruling has been made by the Ethics Commission. Mr. Mcmillian appealed the ruling and it's pending before the Ethics Commission, and provided him a copy of the order from the City of Greenwood with similar issues.

Mr. Robert Brown and his spouse Mrs. Sara Brown was asked by Mayor Scott to discuss the drag racing within the City of Aberdeen and offer help by opening the Drag Strip on different nights throughout the week. Mr. Brown asked the Board to please help promote to the public about the opening of the Drag Strip.

Mrs. Earnestine Metcalf and spouse Mr. Terry Metcalf came before the Board to discuss the pay she hasn't received for working the City Elections last year, and wants to know when she will be paid. Attorney Faulks shared with the Board that Comptroller Karen Crump assured him that all three Municipal Commissioners were paid fees for what they did on Election Day. The Election Commissioners want to be paid for the work done outside of the Elections. The Legislatures Statues for paying County Election Commissioners are very clear for the work they do, but the Legislature hasn't passed similar statues for Municipal Election Commissioners. The Attorney General Opinions states you need to have an Enabling Ordinance in place prior to the Election Commissioners doing the work and being paid for it. It's a debatable legal issue as to if the City of Aberdeen to authorize payment to them for these other services. Attorney Faulks stated the Board authorized him to ask for an Advisory Opinion, and when he gets an answer it will be shared with the Board.

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 Devaul to come out of Closed Determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to go into Executive Session to discuss possible litigations concerning James Bell and Barry McMillian, and personnel issues involving Jessie Eichelberger, Kelly Davis, Jr., and Stepher Johns. On a roll call vote, all present noted "Aye".

The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss possible litigations concerning James Bell and Barry McMillian, and personnel issues involving Jessie Eichelberger, Kelly Davis, Jr., and Stephen Johns. On a roll call vote, all present noted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the pay raise of \$1.00 for City Employee Angela Fears for completion of training. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the pay raise of \$1.00 for City Employee Derrick Davis for completion of CDL Training. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the purchase of an iPad for the Aberdeen Electric Department Servicemen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".



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A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve to re-test City Employee Kelly Davis, Jr. on his drug screen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to terminate City Employee Stephen Jones. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to terminate City Employee Jessie Eichelberger. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve hiring for Willie Sykes, Jr. as Laborer for Aberdeen Street Department at a rate of pay at \$12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve hiring for Dalton Dahlem as Laborer for Aberdeen Sanitation Department at a rate of pay at \$12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Public Works Director Richard Boone asked the Board if he can have the first opportunity to address some issues and concerns at the next Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to adjourn until the April 19, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".



Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk