

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**April 19, 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: Pastor James Cook.

ROLL CALL.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes dated April 5, 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 Alderman Haynes to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated April 19, 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 Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to award the contract for the Port of Aberdeen - Dock Facility Upgrades project to Ausbern Construction Co., Inc. which submitted the lowest responsive bid in the amount of \$422,500.00. This includes the schedule A base bid of \$382,500, the schedule B base bid of \$32,500, and the Add alt. No 1-B of \$7,500.00. The MDOT multi modal funds available for this construction is \$389,545, and City matching funds of \$32,955 will be required. This award was recommended by project engineer William Sanford, Neel-Schaffer, Inc. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize a Professional Services Contract USDOT Rural Grant Application to be prepared by Neel-Schaffer Inc., which proposes to provide the services for a fee in the amount of \$37,500.00. This proposal was presented by Kevin Stafford, Neel-Schaffer, Inc. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize the refund of Registration Fees for T-Ball and Coach Pitch in the amount of \$385.00, "dollar for dollar", due to not having enough children to register for these programs at the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize certain changes to the Board Order made at the February 1, 2022 Board Meeting 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 Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to employ Lucinda Randle as an Accounting Department Administrative Clerk at a rate of pay of \$14.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to accept the recommendation from the Aberdeen Zoning Board and to suspend Zoning Commission member Jim Edwards indefinitely. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Janel Davidson to attend the Court Clerk Conference, Biloxi, MS / June 27-29, 2022 / Registration Fee: \$275.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, 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: Jason Roberson to attend the MSRWA Water Conference, Biloxi, MS / May 31-June 3, 2022 / Registration Fee: \$250.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to set a Public Hearing for input from the public concerning a Dog Regulations Ordinance and a Rental Property License and Inspection Ordinance on Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 5:00 P.M. at City Hall. City Clerk Moore is authorized to post and publish notice to the public. 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 City employee James Pargo, effective April 27, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize the Canon Copier Rental Agreements for the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department at \$146.09 per month and the Mayor's Office at \$299.15 per month. The five year contract agreement dates: 4/30/2022 - 4/30/2027. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize a Municipal Advisor Agreement with Daylight Capital Advisors LLC, to authorize an Agreement with attorney Brad Davis and Watkins & Eager PLLC to act as Bond Counsel with respect to the proposed General Obligation Bonds of the City of Aberdeen, Series 2022, and to adopt the Resolution authorizing the engagement of certain professionals to assist with the issuance of the proposed general obligation public improvement bonds of the Municipality and for related matters. 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 approve following MEA Drug Testing pricing with an effective date of 4/19/2022 - Dr. Arthur Brown's Office @ \$56.00 for drug screen and \$45.00 for breath alcohol. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott invited Principal Karen Howard, Belle-Shivers Elementary School and the BETA Club Members to be introduced to the Board and let everyone know they'll be competing with other BETA Club Members on a National Level. Ms. White presented the BETA Club Members with certificates. The BETA Club Members are doing a fund raiser to help fund their trip.

Tina Robbins presented information concerning the positive economic impact to sales revenues from the following events within the City of Aberdeen that in total grossed over \$100,000.00 during the previous calendar quarters:

1. Christmas Parade: \$46,130.00
2. Mardi Gras Parade: \$27,000.00
3. Pilgrimage: \$40,025.00.

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Tina Robbins also shared that the Monroe County Extension Service will be having Monroe County Vegetable Gardening Seminars (Around the County). The dates and locations for the gardening seminars are as follows:

1. April 21, 2022 – Hatley Community Center, Hatley, MS
2. April 25, 2022 – Hamilton Community Center, Hamilton, MS
3. April 26, 2022 – Walton's Greenhouse, Amory, MS
4. May 5, 2022 – Monroe County Extension Office, Aberdeen, MS

Tina Robbins stated Mississippi Governor Reeves is expected to sign for a second round of the Tourism Relief Funding. The Visitor's Bureau Destination Marketing Organization for Aberdeen is anticipating \$250,000.00 funding. These funds are a part of the ARPA Fund.

Mayor Scott expressed special thanks to Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau Director Tina Robbins, Public Works Director Richard Boone and Public Works Department employees, City Inspector Roy Haynes, Electric Department General Manager Lamarcus Thompson, Water Department Supervisor Jason Roberson, Administrative Secretary Tashanda White, City Clerk Melissa Moore, and other City employees who played a part in making the event at the Port of Aberdeen a success.

Mayor Scott provided a copy of the Aberdeen Vision 2030, "Aberdeen Changing the Game" to Board Members. The booklet includes a list of projects for the City of Aberdeen.

Mayor Scott invited Engineer William Sanford to discuss the Dock Facility Upgrades Re-Bid Summary for the Port of Aberdeen. The only Bid received was from Ausbern Construction Company in the amount of \$422,500.00. Sanford also discussed the Professional Services Contract concerning a USDOT Rural Grant Application, and the Neel Shaffer fees for this grant application, not-to-exceed \$37,500.00.

Mayor Scott invited Kathy Seymour to discuss the status of a City grant application and adding more buildings to the National Registry. Seymour stated the Mississippi Department of Archives and History has agreed to pay their half of the grant which is \$5,600.00 and also pay \$6,000.00 to prepare it for the National Registry nomination. Seymour in turn thanked Mayor Scott for meeting with the members of Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull Alderman Devaull was very pleased, describing a "smooth and organized program" at the Port of Aberdeen during the recent visit from United States Senator Roger Wicker. Alderman Devaull also commended Mayor Scott for organizing this historic event. Local, state and national dignitaries talked about history of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway and the future potential of the Port of Aberdeen during an April 14 program celebrating the City's \$4 million allocation in U.S. Department of Transportation federal funding to complete an ongoing rail spur project.

Alderwoman Garth Alderwoman Garth asked Mayor Scott whether he had confirmed who requested the "No Parking" signs placed along the Highway 45 Bypass on the west of the City. Mayor Scott stated he had not, but he is working on it and will give MDOT another call. Alderwoman Garth stated she had a slew of calls concerning the fence being taken down at the Aberdeen High School Softball field, and asking who ordered this to be done. Alderwoman Garth asked about "money for City employees, and will a pay raise be considered for them".

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Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes cautioned travelers to be careful when driving through puddles of water that accumulate from several days of rain. Matubba Street and Canal Street was an area that has not flooded in over a year, but due to heavy rains that area was recently flooded and caused hazardous situations. Please be careful and try to avoid these areas whenever possible. Alderman Haynes commended Principal Karen Howard and the BETA Club for the outstanding job they are doing, and said he will be donating to their fundraiser. Alderman Haynes challenged the City of Aberdeen Mayor and Alderpersons to meet his pledge of \$100.00 to support the BETA Club.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom also commended Mayor Scott for his work to obtain the federal funding and organizing the program at the Port of Aberdeen.

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen asked about continuing the "Mask Mandate" on City properties. Mayor Scott stated we need to generally comply with the current CDC guidelines, and make the adjustments if and when necessary.

Alderman Allen stated he is still receiving complaints about potholes on West Commerce Street. The Street Department did a great job half way out on that Street, but the other half needs to be done.

Alderman Allen expressed concerns about the loss of sales tax revenues when Piggly Wiggly and Bill's Dollar Store stop doing business in the City of Aberdeen. Hopefully, The Pointe on Highway 145 being a bigger store and a newer facility will generate more business and sales tax revenues, but this may have an impact on this year's budget.

Alderman Allen has received several reports concerning speeders on West Commerce Street and Thayer Avenue, and is asking Chief Shumpert and the Aberdeen Police Department to step up on patrolling these areas. Mayor Scott stated that a survey will be done regarding City streets and a proposal for new speed limit signs to be placed at several intersections. Mayor Scott also proposed to the Board to purchase several radar signs to highlight motorists' speeds.

Citizen's Input:

General Manager Lamarcus Thompson has an Electric Department personnel matter to be discussed in Executive Session.

Chestine Clay stated she has also received calls from parents asking why the fence at the Aberdeen High School Softball field was taken down. Mayor Scott asked Jim Edwards to share some insights from the Aberdeen School District Board about the fence being taken down. Edwards stated that he was not authorized to speak on the matter. The School Board meeting is scheduled Thursday night and the fence removal will be on the School Board agenda. Chestine Clay also asked about the Marijuana Opt In - Opt Out issue and whether the Mayor and Board of Aldermen had made any decision for the City of Aberdeen.

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 Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues concerning Aberdeen Electric Department employees Polk, Pickle and Finn. 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 personnel issues concerning Aberdeen Electric Department employees Polk, Pickle and Finn. On a roll call vote, all present noted "Aye".

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

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize a 10% increase in pay to City employee Jermaine Polk. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, 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: Michael Pickle and Mitchell Fimm to attend the Lab Training, Huntsville, Alabama / May 2-6, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Lamarcus Thompson, Samona Johnson, Karen Crump and Jason Roberson to attend the CSA Training, Orange Beach, Alabama / June 27-30, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to employ Willie Jones as a part-time Police Officer at a rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour and a hire date of 4/19/2022. 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 Devaull to adjourn until the May 3, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk