

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
May 3, 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: Dustin Dabbs.

Roll Call.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the proposed Minutes 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 pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated May 3, 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 authorize Dustin Dabbs of Dabbs Corporation to draft and submit an application to MDOT for Emergency Roads and Bridges Repair funds to repair City streets. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize all advertisements required by statute for contractors to bid per design specifications and a cost estimate drafted by Dabbs Corporation for interior improvements to the recently purchased Aberdeen Electric Department building on Meridian Street. This includes an advertisement in the local Monroe Journal newspaper and on the PH Bidding website, and if necessary, in the Tupelo Daily Journal. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize advertisement for bids for the City to purchase asphalt for Aberdeen Street Department Road improvements projects. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to appoint Alderman John Allen to serve as Vice-Mayor or Mayor Pro Tem until May 7, 2024. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes remained silent and did not vote. Alderman Allen "abstained". Mayor Scott voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve an Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department program for senior citizens, including use of a Department van and employee to transport senior citizens, to attend a luncheon at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Tupelo, MS on May 6, 2022 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. The Haynes Foundation will fund the expenses. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Allen voted "Aye" if the action is legal. Alderman Devaull voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to temporarily close a section of College Street for the NAACP Community Event and Fundraiser for the Children of Aberdeen on May 14, 2022 between 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Devaull voted "Nay".

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A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to post and advertise for persons interested in being employed as a Deputy Clerk in the City Clerk Office. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize a professional services agreement with Neel Schaffer Inc. to provide engineering services for a CDBG grant project. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize a grant match request for the Egypt Road 200,000-gallon Water Tank Project and the Chemical Buildings Project which are estimated to be \$4 million cost projects. The Monroe County Board of Supervisors have approved a grant match of \$1 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The City match of \$1 million funds will also be paid from ARPA funds. 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 agreement with Calvert - Spradling Engineers to provide engineering services for the 200,000-gallon Water Tank project. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize a refund of \$100.00 to Torrey Boykins for the deposit he paid for the rental of the High Street Community Center. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize a refund of \$100.00 to Warren Johnson for the deposit he paid for the rental of the Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department Gymnasium. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to appoint/employ Melissa Moore as Aberdeen City Clerk until May 7, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to appoint/employ Robert Faulks as Aberdeen City Attorney until May 7, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to appoint/employ Shane Tompkins as Aberdeen City Municipal Judge until May 7, 2024. 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 Alderman Allen to employ Dexter Moore as a Laborer in the Aberdeen Street Department at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Dustin Dabbs reported that the Mississippi Legislature has allotted \$250 million funds to MDOT and DEQ to use toward Emergency Roads and Bridges Repair projects, and the criteria within the MDOT program would allow for some of the Aberdeen City streets to be repaired with these funds. Dabbs asked the Board for permission to complete an MDOT funds application and assemble a packet of information to submit by the 5:00 pm May 8, 2022 deadline. Dabbs also asked the Board for authority to advertise for contractor bids per design specifications and a cost estimate for interior improvements to the recently purchased Aberdeen Electric Department building on Meridian Street, and to advertise for asphalt purchase bids for Aberdeen Street Department Road improvements projects.

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Tina Robbins discussed events scheduled in the City of Aberdeen during the next week, and the theme "Celebrate Travel and Tourism Week." The events include:

1. Wear Red and receive a 15% discount at participating stores and restaurants on May 4, 2022.
2. National Day of Prayer on May 5, 2022 @ 11:30 A.M.
3. Wall of Fame Unveiling for General Young on May 6, 2022 @ 12:00 P.M.
4. Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics on May 10, 2022 @ 8:00 A.M.

Tina Robbins shared the good news of the Black History Trail -Trail Head Marker being installed and unveiled at the Blue Mural today May 3, 2022, and her conversation with some cyclists visiting from Seattle, Washington.

Mayor Scott commented how nice the Black History Trail - Trail Head Marker event was today, and thanked everyone who played a part in making it all come together.

Ann Tackett / Aberdeen Main Street passed out Orion Group documents about a booklet of the City of Aberdeen.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull: Alderman Devaull thanked the Street Department for doing an awesome job in Ward One and other Wards within the City. Alderman Devaull is asking citizens to please be patient with their requests; everything will be taken care of as soon as they can get to them. Alderman Devaull commented that old tires are once again being dumped on Peacock Alley. If offenders are caught dumping old tires, the City of Aberdeen will be prosecuting those charges.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth stated that Ms. White and Ms. Standifer complained about the noise drivers are making when they cross over the speed bumps on Columbus Street. Alderwoman Garth asked Chief Shumpert to assign police officers to monitor Columbus Street.

Alderwoman Garth commented that Aberdeen School Board member Patrick Lockett has traveled to Australia, and will be there for 90 days. Alderwoman Garth states that Standards 1:1 and 1:2 indicate that Lockett's failure to attend a percentage of the School Board Meetings will cause accreditation issues for the Aberdeen School District as well as Downgrade and Classification issues.

Alderwoman Garth asked everyone to please wear your COVID masks when attending the City Board Meetings.

Alderwoman Garth stated that the NAACP has asked to use College Street on May 14, 2022, between 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm to host an event. There will be booths set up to complete applications for scholarship funds, and give out cell phones. The NAACP will be giving away three scholarships to high school students in the Aberdeen School District.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes requested an Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department program for senior citizens, including use of a Department van and employee to drive the senior citizens, to attend a luncheon at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant in Tupelo, MS on May 6, 2022 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. The Haynes Foundation will fund the expenses.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom thanked the Aberdeen Public Works Department for the great work they did in Ward Four. They stepped up to the plate, and she greatly appreciated it.

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Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen appreciates the additional patrol by the Aberdeen Police Department on West Commerce Street and Thayer Avenue. The "speeding" has slowed down, and Allen requested the Police Department to continue to patrol those areas.

Alderman Allen received a call today concerning City property located on the corner of Hillcrest Drive and Main Street that needs to be mowed.

Alderman Allen stated that he did not seek to be appointed Vice Mayor, but he thought that it is an honor to be considered, and that he will serve the City in any capacity deemed necessary.

Attorney Faulks read a part of Section 11 of the Special Charter stating: "That whenever the mayor shall be absent from the City, or unable, or from any cause fails to discharge his duties, or whenever the office shall be vacated by death or otherwise; the selectmen in council, shall have power to appoint one of their own Mayor Pro Tem, who, until the return to his duties of the mayor in office, or in case of vacancy, the election and qualifications of a successor, shall be, by such appointment, invested with all the powers and rights, perform all the duties, and receive the compensation and perquisites belonging and pertaining to said office."

Citizen's Input:

There was no Citizen Input at this time.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom to enter into a closed determination to determine whether to go into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter / EEOC litigation concerning Police Officer Kelly Whitfield Drake. 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 a personnel matter / EEOC litigation concerning Police Officer Kelly Whitfield Drake. On a roll call vote, all present noted "Aye".

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

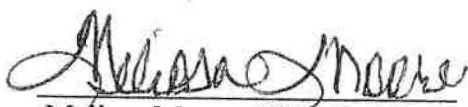
A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to terminate the employment of Curtis Blaylock due to job abandonment. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize City Attorney Faulks to resolve the Drake EEOC Charge on the terms discussed. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adjourn until the May 17, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk