

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
May 17, 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: Mayor Scott.

Roll Call.

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the proposed Minutes 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 accept as written the Public Hearing Notes dated May 10, 2022. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay". Alderman Haynes voted "Pass".

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 17, 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 authorize Tina Robbins (Aberdeen Visitors Bureau) to be the representative for the City of Aberdeen, and to complete and submit the necessary paperwork to apply for the Mississippi Hills Heritage Grant. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize and permit Aberdeen First Pentecostal Church to shoot fireworks following a cookout at their Church property located at 204 South Locust Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730, on July 3, 2022. 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 Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize a payment to MML for a CMO Graduate framed certificate and lapel pin (for Alderwoman Lady B. Garth) in the amount of \$35.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize an additional day of hotel stay for Alderwoman Lady B. Garth on June 25, 2022 at the Quality Inn Biloxi Beach Hotel, Biloxi, MS. Her graduation ceremony (Basic Certified Municipal Official) is scheduled Sunday, June 26, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to remove Mayor Scott and Alderman Devaull from the elected Offices of Mayor and Alderman, Ward 1, respectively. Alderwoman Garth alleged that Mayor Scott and Alderman Devaull did not meet the legal requirements to hold their Offices. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Nay". Motion failed.

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A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom for Board approval to contact the District Attorney or the Secretary of State for an Advisory Opinion concerning City Officer misuse of City property and City equipment. Attorney Faulks advised no motion was required for that matter. Alderman Devaull withdrew his motion.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to adopt an Ordinance Establishing Regulations to License, Inventory, and Inspect Rental Properties for the Health, Safety, and Welfare of the Citizens of the City of Aberdeen. Effective date: June 17, 2022. Publication of the Ordinance per Mississippi statute. 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 adopt an Ordinance Regulating the Owning or Keeping of Dogs, and Providing Penalties for Violations. Effective date: June 17, 2022. Publication of the Ordinance per Mississippi statute. 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 authorize the refund of \$650.00 paid by Lia Poe for a Water Tap to be purchased from the City of Aberdeen Water & Sewer Department on 04/02/2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to designate Mayor Charles Scott as a Voting Delegate and Alderman Robert Devaull as the Alternate Voting Delegate for the MML 2nd Vice President Election on June 28, 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 Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to accept the retirement of City employee Danny Morris, effective retirement date of June 28, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve a pay raise from \$10.50 to \$13.65, and a position change from Firefighter to Lieutenant, for City employee William White. 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: Jimenez Cruz - CC Tactical Combat Care at MS Fire Academy, Jackson, MS / June 6-9, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott thanked Ms. White and all the mentors for the excellent job they did with the Mayor's Youth Council. Mayor Scott also thanked Ms. Vasser and Exhale of Monroe County, MS and Pastor Earnest Holliday, Jr. for providing the meal for the Mayor's Youth Council Luncheon. Mayor Scott appreciates the time and effort that everyone gave in making this a success for the students. It made a great impact in the lives of the students.

Mayor Scott shared with the Board that the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) has approved the following Fiscal Year 2022 Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant award to the City of Aberdeen:

- \$9,555.00 for the North Aberdeen Survey and National Register District Nomination.

This grant has been allocated under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act.

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Mayor Scott recognized Alderwoman Lady B. Garth on her accomplishment for meeting the qualifications required to graduate as a Basic Certified Municipal Official. The graduation ceremony will take place on Sunday, June 26, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. in Biloxi, MS.

Tina Robbins shared with the Board the following events in May and June in the City of Aberdeen:

There will be a "Let's Get Clean Aberdeen, Community Clean-Up Day" on Saturday, May 21, 2022. Everyone is asked to clean-up your neighborhood.

Fireworks on July 4th will be a first for the City of Aberdeen. There will be inflatables, games, music and concessions for everyone to enjoy. This event will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen High School Football Field. The fireworks will begin at 9:00 p.m.

Tina Robbins also asked the Board for permission to complete and sign documents and to act as the representative for the City of Aberdeen to submit the application for the Mississippi Hills Heritage Grant.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull: Alderman Devaull congratulated the Aberdeen High School graduating Class of 2022. He's very proud of all of them. Alderman Devaull thanked Aberdeen Public Works for the cleanup they have done in Ward One, working on the potholes and cutting the grass in the City ditches.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth stated in 2021 the City of Aberdeen had an election, and a Mayor-Elect to sit in the seat. On March 7, 2021, our Mayor filed Homestead in Kentucky, and the next month he went into that seat. She said information was provided to the Board and nothing was done. Alderwoman Garth also stated that that Ward One Alderman Devaull lives next to her brother, and has paid twelve plus electric bills at that residence. Alderwoman Garth made a motion that Mayor Scott and Alderman Devaull be removed from their seats of Mayor and Alderman, Ward 1.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes acknowledged the supervision and follow-up work he had seen at Public Works. He thanked them for stepping up to the plate and working as a team in making it happen. Alderman Haynes thanked Public Works for the cleanup of the City ditch on North Franklin Street. Alderman Haynes is inviting the public to the Joe Lee Howard Day on June 4, 2022 at Newberger Park. Alderman Haynes asked Mayor Scott to locate the owner of the property between Canal Place and the Aberdeen Housing Authority. The grass is high and needs to be mowed. City Inspector Haynes advised Alderman Haynes and the Board that he was contacted by an individual who was contracted to keep the grass mowed in that area, and he will start mowing the grass.

Alderman Haynes stated he had converted the City of Aberdeen Handbook to a Word Document so changes and corrections can be made. Alderman Haynes asked the Board if we should do the updates to the handbook or contract it out for someone else to do it. Mayor Scott said the City will contract it out. Alderman Haynes asked Tina Robbins whether the Citizens Complaint Link webpage has been repaired. City Clerk Moore informed Alderman Haynes and the Board that Three Rivers was in the process of updating the server, and the City webpage will be down until this is completed. Alderman Haynes asked for a copy of the "potholes list" for Ward Three.

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Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom stated she had received a request for speed bumps to be placed on Meadowlane Drive in front of the Ernie and Toni Reese home. There are small children living in that area that play in the yard, and their safety is important. Alderwoman Odom also stated Mike Bunch is complaining about the speed bump placed by the Bunch Farm Supply business and requested that the speed bump be removed. Alderwoman Odom asked Dustin Dabbs to check Blue Jay Drive, because the residents would like for the street to be repaved.

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen stated there are drainage issues on South Walters Drive, and potholes on Woodland Heights and Barksdale Drive to be repaired.

Citizen's Input:

Ms. Martin on behalf of the Aberdeen First Pentecostal Church asked for permission to shoot fireworks on July 3, 2022 after their Church family cookout. This would take place at the Church from 8:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Dustin Dabbs updated the Board on drainage repair work done in the City of Aberdeen. Also, Dabbs reported the status of bidding on City projects and applications for grants that have been submitted for the City of Aberdeen. Dabbs stated that Mr. Boone had asked whether a Comprehensive Drainage Plan for the next 3-5 years, can be done this summer. Dabbs will address the Board in June for a proposal to move forward with that plan. Mayor Scott stated he had asked Dabbs to take a look at the drainage problem on Bulldog Drive and the AHS Football Field.

Chestine Clay asked what other ways the Mayor and Board might inform citizens of public hearings and other meetings held within the City of Aberdeen. Clay stated that several residents do not have access to internet, computers or social media pages, nor do they subscribe to the local newspaper. Clay suggested that a letter about public hearings and other meetings be mailed with the utility bill statement.

Tohona Larthridge informed the Mayor and Board that she has a personnel issue to be discussed in Executive Session.

Rico Collins, Store Manager of Sonic's of Aberdeen, introduced himself to the Board and citizens, and thanked everyone for support and giving them another opportunity to serve Aberdeen. The new restaurant hours are currently from 7:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m., and during summer months the restaurant hours will change to 6:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Michelle Stewart asked to be paid for mileage while using her personal vehicle locally during work hours, because she uses her personal vehicle for City business.

Joyce Vasser expressed her concern to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/Alderwomen, asking them to please put your personal and legal differences aside and work together for the betterment of the City of Aberdeen.

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

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter concerning Public Works employee Tohona Larthridge. 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 matter concerning Public Works employee Tohona Larthridge. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to come out of Executive 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 Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to terminate the employment of City employee Kelly Davis due to job abandonment. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to post and advertise for persons interested in being employed as a Line Foreman. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize a \$1.00 per hour raise for City employee Lamar McFarland. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to designate Tohona Larthridge's work title to be "Public Works Assistant Director". On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Devaull voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize refunds to Latara Peterson and Melody Morrow in the amount of \$15.00 each due to lack of registrations to proceed with the Kickball Camp. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to adjourn until the June 7, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk