

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**June 7, 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 Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes dated May 17, 2022, with two corrections specified by Alderman Haynes and Alderwoman Garth. 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 June 7, 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 Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize engineer Dustin Dabbs / Dabbs Corporation to develop a Comprehensive Drainage Infrastructure Project List, organized by Wards. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize a Change Order to an Aberdeen Port Docks contract with Ausbern Construction. William Sanford, Neel-Schaffer, Inc., Project Manager recommended the Change Order (Steel Hopper work) at an additional cost of \$4,500.00 to be paid from the Port Maintenance funds account. 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 contract with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. concerning the Aberdeen Port Rail Spur Project, including Design Phase Services, Environmental Documentation / Coordination, and advertising for competitive contractor bidding on the Project. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize emergency drainage repairs for the City drainage infrastructure adjacent to Bulldog Boulevard. The Board determines that the situation is deemed an "Emergency" because of the dangerous sinkholes forming and that the repair work should proceed without delay from advertising for several weeks requesting competitive contractor quotes. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize a professional services contract with Neel-Schaffer, Inc. to develop specifications and a cost estimate and act as Project Engineer concerning the emergency drainage repairs for the City drainage infrastructure adjacent to Bulldog Boulevard. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize funds of \$200.00 "in change" to be used for concessions during the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department "Prepare for Excellence" Football Camp and Fun Day on June 11, 2022. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

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A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize City Clerk Melissa Moore to act as a purchasing clerk for the rental of machinery from United Rentals, as needed by the Aberdeen Water Department, with a cap amount of \$500.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize Alderman Allen to act as Voting Delegate and Alderwoman Odom to act as Alternate Delegate for the MML 2022 Election of MML 2nd Vice-President. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to include Proof of Residency documents verifying the Ward 1 address of 100 Evergreen Drive, Aberdeen, MS 39730 submitted by Ward 1 Alderman Robert Devaull as a part of the record for consideration on the Appeal filed by Alderwoman Garth, and these items are notated in the Alderman Input. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull and Alderwoman Garth "Abstained". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Mayor Scott was asked to vote, and his vote was "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize employment of additional workers for the Aberdeen Park and Recreation program the weekend of June 11, 2022, at a rate of pay of \$10.00 per hour, in the event Department employees Terry Morgan and Akelia McNairy decline to work. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize Comptroller Karen Crump to amend certain City of Aberdeen Sales Tax Returns for Kemira Corporation. . On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize a contract with Barnyard Construction, 688 CR 179, Okolona, MS for repair of the shower and tile at the Aberdeen Fire Department building. Barnyard Construction submitted the lowest quote in the amount of \$12,200.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to adopt the "RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2022, OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$1,286,000 TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ERECTING OR PURCHASING WATERWORKS, GAS, ELECTRIC, AND OTHER PUBLIC UTILITY PLANTS OR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS OR FRANCHISES, AND REPAIRING, IMPROVING, AND EXTENDING THE SAME; ALTERING OR CHANGING THE CHANNELS OF STREAMS AND WATER COURSES TO CONTROL, DEFLECT, OR GUIDE THE CURRENT THEREOF; CONSTRUCTING, IMPROVING, AND PAVING STREETS, SIDEWALKS, AND PARKWAYS, AND PURCHASING LAND THEREFOR; CONSTRUCTING BRIDGES AND CULVERTS; REPAIRING, IMPROVING, AND EXTENDING THE SANITARY, STORM, DRAINAGE, AND SEWERAGE SYSTEMS OF THE MUNICIPALITY; PROTECTING THE MUNICIPALITY, ITS STREETS, AND SIDEWALKS FROM OVERFLOW, CAVING BANKS, AND OTHER LIKE DANGERS; PURCHASING MACHINERY AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT WHICH WILL HAVE AN EXPECTED USEFUL LIFE IN EXCESS OF 10 YEARS, BUT SPECIFICALLY NOT INCLUDING ANY MOTOR VEHICLES WEIGHING LESS THAN 12,000 POUNDS; PRESCRIBING THE FORM AND INCIDENTS OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE LEVY OF TAXES FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS; PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE NOTICE OF BOND SALE; SALE OF THE BONDS; MAKING PROVISION FOR MAINTAINING THE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS OF THE BONDS; ACKNOWLEDGING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF POST ISSUANCE COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES FOR THE BONDS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES." On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize posting and advertisement for competitive contractor bids for the City-wide sidewalk repair project. 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 Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the use of a Rental Property Inspection form and a Registration Checklist form. 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 employ Devonshae Young as a Deputy City Clerk at a rate of pay of \$13.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to employ Shevockus Swing and Brandon Blanchard as employees in the Aberdeen Sanitation Department at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to promote Nick Orr to the position of Superintendent of the Aberdeen Electric Department, and to increase his salary by 10%. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to accept the resignation of Aberdeen Electric Department employee Constance McFarland, effective May 31, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the application of Westlake for an ad valorem tax exemption for a recent expansion in the amount of \$21,576,971.00. 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 Allen to adopt a Resolution to enter into a joint project with the Monroe County Board of Supervisors to provide plumbing and electrical infrastructure improvements to the Monroe Regional Hospital, jointly owned by the City of Aberdeen and Monroe County, and currently leased to Boa Vida Hospital of Aberdeen, MS, LLC. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the Interlocal Governmental Agreement with the Monroe County Board of Supervisors to provide plumbing and electrical infrastructure improvements to the Monroe Regional Hospital, jointly owned by the City of Aberdeen and Monroe County, and currently leased to Boa Vida Hospital of Aberdeen, MS, LLC. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adopt a Resolution to enter into a joint project with the Monroe County Board of Supervisors to provide enhanced water services to areas within the corporate limits of the City of Aberdeen, as well as, in the western and southwestern parts of Monroe County, located outside the corporate limits of the City of Aberdeen, but which are served by the City of Aberdeen Water System. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the Interlocal Governmental Agreement with the Monroe County Board of Supervisors to provide enhanced water services to areas within the corporate limits of the City of Aberdeen, as well as, in the western and southwestern parts of Monroe County, located outside the corporate limits of the City of Aberdeen, but which are served by the City of Aberdeen Water System. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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Alderman Devaull shared Proof of Residency documents verifying his Ward 1 residential address to be 100 Evergreen Drive, Aberdeen, MS 39730, including Atmos gas billing, Aberdeen utilities billings, a hospital bill, a credit card statement, and his City payroll and tax withholding records. Attorney Faulks read out loud the Devaull documents to the Mayor and the Board.

Mayor Scott mentioned at this time that he also will be "Opting Out" of attending the MML 91st Annual Conference, June 27-29, 2022, and from being the Voting Delegate for the MML 2022 Election of MML 2nd Vice-President.

Alderwoman Garth: Citizens are complaining again about the "big trucks" barreling through downtown, and requesting signs be placed in areas for the truckers to see. Alderwoman Garth stated that employees Morgan and McNairy approached her again, stating they were told they had to take off work on Friday and return to work on Saturday. They do not have a problem working on Saturday, but feel they should not have to take off on their regular scheduled work day; and that Saturday should be their overtime day. Mayor Scott stated they should work on days as the Department Director requests. Alderman Haynes suggested that the Director ask the workers what day they would like to take off, and this should make everyone happy.

Alderwoman Garth stated the job of the City Clerk calls for the City Clerk to act as the Custodian of all Official City Records, Municipal Contracts, etc. Alderwoman Garth asked City Clerk Moore if her hand is the last one to touch the Minutes. Moore answered and said "no ma'am". Alderwoman Garth asked Moore if this is a choice you make. Moore responded and said "yes ma'am". Alderwoman Garth shared with Ms. Moore that whatever goes down being that it is number two listed under your job description, and when they (Board Minutes) are tampered with and changed the Attorney General needs to be notified. This makes this a felony. Alderwoman Garth told Ms. Moore that your neck could be on the line if this happens. Attorney Faulks asked Alderwoman Garth whether she was claiming someone was taking the "Minutes" in the "Minute Book" and changing those Minutes or marking them up. Alderwoman Garth did not answer.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes thanked the citizens who participated, volunteered, donated, showed up and showed out for "Joe Lee Day in the Park". It was a fantastic day!

Alderman Haynes said there is some City Park equipment that needs to be looked at on a serious note. A lady fell on the guard rail at the High Street Community Center today. We must be proactive instead of reactive. There is a merry-go-round at Newberger Park that needs to be taken out of service before a child is hurt, and should be replaced. Alderman Haynes provided pictures of the damaged merry-go-round and a sliding board. Alderman Haynes stated he would like for the City to have a look at the equipment, and see if it can be repaired if not remove it from the park. Alderman Haynes stated that maybe the City can find some money in the near future or a fundraiser of some kind to go towards replacing the equipment in the park. Mayor Scott noted that Director Michelle Stewart is working on obtaining prices for all those items, and there were a couple of things talked about that was messed up last year, and Ms. Stewart was asked to get prices of all the equipment in all of the parks including Newberger Park. Alderman Haynes asked Mayor Scott to ask Stewart to get some red tape and tape off the merry-go-round and put a "Do Not Use" sign on the equipment. Alderman Haynes thanked City Inspector Haynes for the cleanup in Ward Three. Mr. Boone was asked to look at the house behind Pilgrim Rest Church. The lot needs to be cleaned up when it gets dry.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom thanked Boone and the Public Works Department for the great job they have done cutting the grass along the highways, and she appreciates it. Alderwoman Odom stated that Ward Four will not cost the City anything for sidewalk repairs.

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Mayor Report: Mayor Scott attended the Rural Infrastructure Summit in Cleveland, MS that was hosted by MDOT and several other State agencies. Representative Bennie Thompson shared information that would help the City of Aberdeen and the various funding that is available.

Mayor Scott has invited USDA representatives to host a Summit on available funding, including the construction of affordable housing.

Mayor Scott thanked the Monroe County Sheriff's Department for the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Law Enforcement Center, and all who assisted with the ground-breaking ceremony for the Port of Aberdeen - Dock Facility.

Mayor Scott invited Dustin Dabbs to update the Board on the status of the General Young Park Project, the contractor bidding for the renovation of the Aberdeen Electric Department property purchased from Stevens Properties LLC, and other projects within the City of Aberdeen. Dabbs specifically mentioned the following drainage projects:

- (1) Park Street - Flood Plane Area: requested the FEMA Hydraulic Study; and
- (2) Meridian Street - the Box Culvert: some hydraulic routing.

A Pre-Bid Conference for the Street Paving Program was completed Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. in the City Hall Board Room. The receipt of sealed bids for the Aberdeen Mill & Overlay Project will be held on Thursday, June 16, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. in the City Hall Board Room.

Project Manager William Sanford, Neel-Schaffer, Inc., discussed the following items:

- (1) Contract Change Order #1 - Ausbern Construction - to add the Abandon Steel Hopper to the Ausbern Contract. The Scope original bid price is \$4,500.00;
- (2) Professional Services Contract - Aberdeen Port Rail spur Project - Preliminary Engineering; and
- (3) Professional Services Contract - Bulldog Boulevard emergency drainage repairs.

Tina Robbins said voting through the Mississippi Magazine Best of contest continues through June 15, and is asking everyone to vote for the Bukka White Blues Festival which is a nominee for best Fall Festival.

Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau was awarded a \$500.00 grant from the South Monroe County Community Fund, which will provide for 2 smaller murals. Robbins discussed updates on Tourism Relief Funds. The date for disbursing the funds has changed from July 1, 2022 to August 1, 2022.

Restaurant Bingo will continue throughout June, which gives people who support the local restaurants the opportunity to win prizes.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull: There are numerous potholes in Ward One that need repairs. The house in the vicinity of Tucker Place that was demolished by the City of Aberdeen needs to be cleaned up, and the grass in City ditches needs to be cut. Alderman Devaull asked Mr. Boone and his crew to please take care of it. Alderman Devaull has "Opted Out" of attending the MML 91st Annual Conference, June 27-29, 2022, and from being the Alternate Delegate for the MML 2022 Election of the MML 2nd Vice-President.

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Alderman Allen: Repairs need to be done on North Hillcrest Drive and Ben Bender Road. The streets are torn up, and the residents are asking the City to repair it. The drainage North of Glendale Circle and the intersection of High Extension Street that runs by the McMillian property has trees and roots in there that stops it up. (Mobile Street and Glendale Circle) Alderman Allen stated the Board had a discussion several months ago about Kemira Chemicals and the sales tax issue. Alderman Allen asked Comptroller Karen Crump to explain this sale tax issue to the Board

Comptroller Karen Crump advised the Mayor and Board that Kemira Chemicals is requesting the City of Aberdeen to amend City Sales Tax Returns for thirty-six months. Comptroller Karen Crump asked the Board for permission to amend the City of Aberdeen Sales Tax Returns.

Citizen's Input:

Chief Fred Hodges came before the Board with two quotes for repairs on the Aberdeen Fire Department shower tile and door. Chief Hodges stated the money to pay for this work would come from his budgeted Capital Expenditure Funds. The quotes are: Tombigbee Contractors, LLC, Aberdeen, MS - \$12,400.00 and Barnyard Construction, Okolona, MS - \$12,200.00.

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 Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues concerning Public Works Department employees Martez Whiteside and Kevin Brooks. 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 personnel issues concerning Public Works Department employees Martez Whiteside and Kevin Brooks. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth 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 terminate the employment of Kevin Brooks. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to terminate the employment of Martez Whiteside. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to terminate the employment of Thomas Humbers. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to post and advertise for persons interested in serving as an Aberdeen Separate School District Board Member. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Elected Officials Mayor Charles Scott, Alderman Robert Devaull and Alderman John Allen to attend the 40th Tennessee - Tombigbee Waterway Conference, Point Clear, AL / August 10-12, 2022. Registration Fee: \$495.00 each. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to employ Terrell Smith in the Aberdeen Street Department at a rate of pay of \$13.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the hiring of Hayden Davis as Assistant Mechanic for the Aberdeen Public Works Department at a rate of pay of \$13.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to terminate the employment of Kimberly Payne as a cashier in the Aberdeen Electric Department at a rate of pay of \$13.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize On-Call overtime pay for Aberdeen Electric Department General Manager LaMarcus Thompson until September 30, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Chief Quinell Shumpert to attend the 2022 MACP Annual Conference, Biloxi, MS / June 14-17, 2022 / Fee: \$350.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to adjourn until the June 21, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk