

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
June 21, 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, AND MELISSA MOORE, CITY CLERK.

Invocation: Mayor Scott.

ROLL CALL:

Present on the telephone: City Attorney Robert Faulks.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the proposed Minutes 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 Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated June 21, 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 Allen to authorize the write-off of debts identified on the 2022 Aberdeen Electric Department Bad Debt List in the total amount of \$37,524.44 as "uncollectible", for accounting purposes only. The unpaid debts will be referred for debt collection procedures. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to employ Brent Thompson as a Lineman Foreman in the Aberdeen Electric Department at a rate of pay of \$28.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize a 10% pay raise for Aberdeen Electric Department employees Mitchell Finn and Michael Pickle, who completed Lab 3 training. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize Project Engineer Dustin Dabbs / Dabbs Corporation to solicit competitive contractor quotes or bids for the following exterior components of the Aberdeen Public Utilities building improvements project on N. Meridian Street: 1 - Chain Link Fence with 2 gates around Vine St. property, 2 - Site Grading, Stone & Drainage Improvements, 3 - Asphalt Paving for employee parking lot, 4 - Concrete Slab / Transformer Pad, 5 - Concrete Light Pole Supports, and 6 - Metal Building / Pole Barn for Equipment Storage. Each component must not exceed \$50,000 cost which would otherwise require advertisement for contractor quotes; and the total for all exterior components must not exceed \$200,000 per the anticipated funding. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to award the contract for the interior improvements/ renovations of the Aberdeen Public Utilities building on N. Meridian Street to L.C. Cook Development, Caledonia, MS 39740 which submitted the lowest bid at \$900,000. This award was recommended by Project Engineer Dustin Dabbs / Dabbs Corporation. Competitive bids were received on June 7 and tabulated by Dabbs. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth to request a draft of a proposed City of Aberdeen "Trucker's Ordinance" to forbid truckers from damaging streets within the City of Aberdeen. Motion died for lack of a second.

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A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize removal of damaged equipment at the City Newberger Park, and to authorize replacement when the City of Aberdeen has sufficient funding for the expenditures. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to terminate the employment of Hayden Davis due to job abandonment; and to post and advertise for persons interested in employment as an Assistant Mechanic in the Aberdeen Public Works Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to employ Terrell Johnson as a Firefighter in the Aberdeen Fire Department at a rate of pay of \$10.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize the repair of the City Hall elevator by T.K. Elevator in the amount of \$49,950.00, and authorize a first initial payment of \$12,487.50. Payments will be funded from the Tax Redemption Funds account. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to accept the resignation of City employee Rodney Walker, effective June 21, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to employ Sheraine Davis as a Part-Time Seasonal Worker in the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department at a rate of pay at \$10.00 per hour, and require that she be bonded. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to adopt the Resolution to form the Mayoral Health Council with an effective date of June 21, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to "table" action regarding a Resolution to join the Northeast Mississippi Intermodal Transit Association (NITA) with an effective date of June 21, 2022, until the next City Board Meeting on July 5, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize a \$25.00 refund to Torye Ford, paid for 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 Alderman Allen to approve the Aberdeen Public Utilities Fiscal Year 2023 Budget. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to appoint Angie Irvin to serve as a Board Member for the Aberdeen Municipal School District, for the remainder of the term ending December 2025. 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 Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize a \$1.00 per hour pay raise for City employee Davis Hankins, who has completed the certification course at the Police Training Academy. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Roy Haynes - MACE Conference, D'Iberville,

MS / August 10-12, 2022 / Cost: \$125.00 / Hotel: \$129.00 per night. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to employ Autumn Moore as a Part-Time Seasonal Worker in the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department at a rate of pay of \$10.00 per hour. No bonding will be required for this position. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott invited Judge Sharion Aycock to update the Board and the public concerning the Aberdeen federal courthouse construction components and schedule, commencing July 13, 2022. The contractor assigned to this project is Brassfield and Gorrie. Judge Aycock stated that all windows will be replaced and a new vestibule will be constructed. GSA is providing temporary cooling, heating and electricity for the U. S. Postal Service employees at the site during the construction. Judge Aycock indicated this project that will take about 18 months to 2 years to complete. The amount of this project will cost \$24.3 million dollars. Mold remediation will be done as a part of the interior construction. There will be additional contracts including installation of new state of the art audio for the courtrooms. This is an investment the Court is making and shows the courthouse will be here for a long period of time. Judge Aycock added there will not be a lot of changes to the outside of the building, due to the courthouse being a National Historical Landmark. The completion date of this project is anticipated to be April 2024.

Mayor Scott asked Judge Aycock, "What can the City of Aberdeen do to help?" Judge Aycock stated no additional help is required from the City of Aberdeen at this time. Judge Aycock asked that the City of Aberdeen give the contractors a big welcome and thank them for the work they will be doing at the courthouse and for the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Devaull asked Judge Aycock, "Do you anticipate round-the-clock work, or will this be strictly day shift?" Judge Aycock stated that it will be at this point in time. There will be some specialty contractors from Florida that will be doing the mold remediation, and you might see them come in as sub-contractor who will work on their assignment and then leave, but you should not see this from our General Contractor. The Project Manager is David Reyff. Judge Aycock will ask the local community to please give him a reception, and thank him for the work he has done. Alderman Allen acknowledged that Judge Aycock has been the driving force behind this project and deserved the appreciation and thanks for all she has done.

Mayor Scott next asked Tina Robbins of the Aberdeen Visitors Bureau to share the exciting activities scheduled in the City of Aberdeen. Robbins reported there was a meeting of local businesses including restaurant owners, food trucks operators and food suppliers. Robbins asked them to please do not close your business early when you gave a time you stated you would be open.

The Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau has contracted with Maker Mark Marketing, Ken Schaffer, to create a webpage for each local restaurant for customers' reviews. Robbins is asking everyone to please support our local restaurants and businesses.

Robbins also reported over the past two weeks the Elkin Theatre had 524 people to pay for tickets and watch movies.

Robbins commented regarding Way-Finder Signs for the City of Aberdeen. These signs will be on both ends of Highway 45 to help travelers who need to stop for gas and food.

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Mayor Scott asked Utilities Manager LaMarcus Thompson to report and share his ideas with the Board. Thompson asked the Board to approve the Aberdeen Electric Department Bad-Debt List for 2022, which totaled \$37,526.44. Thompson asked the Board to employ Brent Thompson as a Line Foreman for the Aberdeen Electric Department. Thompson also recommended that Mitchell Finn and Michael Pickle receive a 10% pay raise for completion of Lab 3 training.

Manager Thompson advised the Board that the City has already received contractor bids for the interior improvements for the Aberdeen Public Utilities Building Renovations Project, and asked for their approval to solicit contractor quotes or bids for the exterior site improvements proposed by Project Engineer Dustin Dabbs, which should not exceed \$200,000.00 total cost due to the anticipated funding. The following exterior work components are:

1. Chain Link Fence with 2 gates around Vine Street property;
2. Site Grading, Stone and Drainage Improvements;
3. Asphalt Paving for employee parking lot;
4. Concrete Slab / Transformer Pad;
5. Concrete Light pole Supports; and
6. Metal Building / Pole Barn for Equipment Storage

Thompson invited Architect David Jones to the Board Meeting to discuss the bidding process and the three bids that were received for the Aberdeen Public Utilities Renovation Project (interior work). The bidders for the project included:

1. Flagstar Construction, Inc., 2006 Aspen Cove, Brandon, MS 39042: \$1,104,000.00;
2. Roberts Builders, 204 West First Street, Ripley, MS 38663: \$970,000.00; and
3. L.C. Cook Development, 105 Jamison Road, Caledonia, MS 39740: \$900,000.00

Mayor Scott asked Aberdeen Park and Recreation Director Michelle Stewart to update the Board concerning scheduled programs and events, and the status of the General Young Park Project. The following events occurred or have been scheduled:

June Events:

1. Senior Citizens (55 and older) Yoga Class on June 14th, 21st and 28th, beginning at 10 am;
2. Prepare for Excellence Football Camp / June 11, 2022 / 114 children attended the camp;
3. Game Night / June 18, 2022 / 40 people were in attendance.

July Events:

1. Game Night / TBA;
2. Young Kings Training Session / July 16, 2022; and
3. Wrestling Match / July 30, 2022.

Ms. Stewart stated the tarp at the General Young Park is being installed and should be completed this week, and hopefully the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony will be scheduled sometime next month.

Mayor Scott invited Doug Wiggins of Three Rivers Planning Development District and Monroe County Solid Waste Department Manager Tony Ligon to discuss a "Draft Contract" between the City of Aberdeen and Monroe County, Mississippi. Pursuant to this Contract, Monroe County, Mississippi would provide Residential and Solid Waste and Commercial Waste Collection on behalf of the City of Aberdeen, Mississippi. The Commercial Dumpster rates will be adjusted before October 1, 2022, but the Board of Supervisors has not set those new rates at this time. There will be an increase in rates.

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Alderman Allen asked to know the time frame for accepting this Contract. Monroe County Board of Supervisors would like to know as soon as possible so the necessary adjustments can be made. The start date will be Monday, October 3, 2022. The Commercial Dumpster Services will run on Monday, and the Residential Services will be Tuesday - Friday. Alderman Devaull asked whether any additional Commercial and Residential Customers dumpsters could be provided by the County. There will be at least two additional dumpsters. The contact name and number to contact for additional questions and concerns is Mike King at 662-436-6712.

Mayor Scott discussed the Restaurants businesses meeting and some of the changes made that will accommodate the City of Aberdeen. Mayor Scott asked the public to please show their appreciation to the restaurants and other businesses for making the adjustments in their business days and hours.

Mayor Scott thanked Manager Thompson and his utilities crew for the amount of money they saved the City of Aberdeen for the organization of the Department warehouse on personal time on Saturdays and Sundays. Mayor Scott asked everyone to please go and take a look at the warehouse and see how well it has been organized. Great job and keep up the good work!

Mayor Scott is asking City residents to please clean up their neighborhood and pick up the paper and debris in their yards, nearby streets and along the curbs. There will be several visitors coming to the City of Aberdeen for the "Taste of Aberdeen Family Reunion", and Mayor Scott is asking the merchants in the downtown area to please have your businesses open to accommodate them.

Mayor Scott thanked Tina Robbins for helping to orchestrate the Fireworks for the Red, White & Bulldog Blue Day on July 4, 2022. Robbins in turn thanked the Masonic Lodge for agreeing to help shoot the fireworks, and the Aberdeen Fire Department for being on standby as a safety precaution.

Mayor Scott invited Eloise Smith, MPH, CHES, and Community Health Director of the Mississippi State Department of Health to discuss the Resolution for a Mayoral Health Council. Ms. Smith stated the Mayoral Health Council will focus on policies, systems and environmental initiatives to create long term sustainable changes in our communities. Some of those include the Farmer's Market Development, Walking Trails, Park Renovations, Policies and Ordinances to increase the overall well-being of our community. This Council will be the eyes and ears of the Community. Grant money is available to implement different projects within the Community, and this will be good for the City of Aberdeen. Mayor Scott and the Board will have an input on selecting a coordinator and selecting committee members.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull Alderman Devaull asked everyone to stay tuned, because there are some great things happening in Aberdeen. Alderman Devaull gave thanks to Mr. Boone and the crew for the outstanding job they did on cleaning up Public Works. Alderman Devaull wanted to give a shout out of thanks to Albert Johnson for doing a great job on the repair of potholes in Ward One. Alderman Devaull thanked LaMarcus Thompson for the great job on the new facility and the layout, and asking everyone to please go and take a look at the good works Thompson and the crew has done. Alderman Devaull stated that when the Aberdeen Fire Department has completed the work they are doing to the department, he will go and take a look. Alderman Devaull thanked the citizens of Aberdeen for their support and believing in the City of Aberdeen and the Board.

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Alderman Garth Alderman Garth stated Mrs. Young is a little skittish in her position (Deputy City Clerk) right now because she does not have a back-up, and my concern was whether or not we can contract with Barbara Vasser into being a Consultant for the City of Aberdeen and paying her to stay a little longer until Mrs. Young feels more comfortable with what's she's doing. This is just a suggestion. Alderman Garth stated she is annoyed with Monroe County because their trucks are still barreling through the City of Aberdeen every single morning. There are three of them at a time going straight through the City tearing up our streets. Why can they not go around! Alderman Garth asked Mayor Scott, "What did the person do that came to the City to address this issue?" Mayor Scott stated they will do whatever we ask of them, and put out signs, etc. Mayor Scott asked Alderman Garth to put a motion on the table to have a Trucker's Ordinance. Alderman Garth asked Mayor Scott didn't you have someone coming in to do some kind of analysis? Mayor Scott replied the analysis has been done, and now everything else is on us. The last Ordinance was pretty weak, and we don't have an Ordinance that has teeth in it.

Alderman Garth made a motion for the Board to draft and propose a Trucker's Ordinance. Alderman Garth thanked the Public Works Department for doing a good job on cleaning up Ward Two and cleaning up the City ditches. Alderman Garth asked Mayor Scott if the City of Aberdeen will try and duplicate what Columbus did and give the employees something. Mayor Scott said we will ask for a copy of the Columbus paperwork and see what protocol they used, and have it ready for the next Board Meeting.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes stated he has received complaints from Main Street about the sidewalk usage. There is a business on Main Street that has bedding and other items that are beginning to clutter up the sidewalk. The same business is cluttering up the driveway that belongs to Vaughn's Beauty College, and they would like for that business to remove the "junk" from their property. Alderman Haynes would like to see some potholes repaired in Ward Three. Alderman Haynes asked Michelle Stewart to please put some danger tape on the merry-go-round at Newberger Park before someone is seriously hurt. Alderman Devaul made a motion to remove damaged equipment from Newberger Park. Alderman Allen asked whether the equipment can be repaired. Mayor Scott said the equipment needs replacing, and it should have been removed last year. Alderman Allen stated he has seen photographs of the damaged equipment.

Alderman Odom: Alderman Odom also thanked Public Works for the good job they are doing in Ward Four, and hope it continues. Alderman Odom stated that everything in the City of Aberdeen is looking good, and I'm very proud.

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen stated he is glad potholes are being repaired throughout the City. I wished more were fixed in my Ward. Alderman Allen has a list of thirteen streets that require repairs, dated back to May 14th. I have three more streets to add to the list. Alderman Allen stated that Drake Street has more potholes than asphalt. Alderman Allen said everyone needs to go down and visit the Aberdeen Electric Department Building. It looks outstanding. It would be wonderful if we can take all our managers down there and let them look at it and see how things should be done. It's a great place to compare to any place, and Allen is looking forward to the Open House so people can see what they are paying for.

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Tohona Larthridge stated Mr. Boone has submitted some information on the training they attend in Georgia twice a year, and she noticed it was not on the Agenda. Mayor Scott stated it was held off until certain action has been completed, and we have another Board Meeting before the training and it can be approved at that time. Larthridge stated the training is filling up quickly and we need to get registered as soon as possible. Larthridge shared with the Board in order for us to learn and be better at our jobs, we must attend these trainings. Larthridge informed the Board that David Hayden never reported to work and asked the Board to terminate his position and post / advertise for an Assistant Mechanic in Public Works. Larthridge stated pothole repairs on 68 streets on her lists have been completed, and she is trying to get to every Ward's potholes being repaired. Albert Johnson is doing a wonderful job with the Hot Box equipment and doing his very best in repairing the potholes.

Aberdeen Fire Chief Fred Hodges asked the Board to approve the employment of Terrell Johnson as a Firefighter at a rate of pay of \$10.00 per hour.

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 Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to come out of Closed Determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the purchase of a John Deere FC10R Flex Wing Rotary Cutter for the Water Department in the amount of \$20,646.16, from State Contract vendor at state contract pricing. The vendor's name is Deere & Company, 2000 John Deere Run, Cary, North Carolina 27513. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Public Works Assistant Director Tohona Larthridge reported that Barbara Jones, a resident of the Pullen Lake area, called today about an issue with her driveway that has shifted to the street. The street is "coming away from both sides and is in terrible shape". Mayor Scott stated we will have the engineers to take a look at it

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to employ Jamerius Hayden as a Laborer in the Aberdeen Sanitation Department at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour, with a start date of June 27, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, 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: Richard Boone and Tohona Larthridge - American Public Works Association Georgia Chapter 71st Annual Meeting, Jekyll Island, GA / August 9-12, 2022. Richard Boone must first complete the work tasks requested by Mayor Scott. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

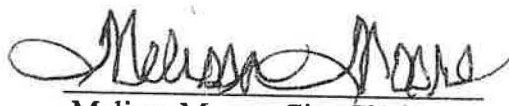
A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to accept the donation given by the CREATE Foundation in the amount of \$1,000.00 for the Mayor's Youth Council, and the donation given by Westlake Chemical Corporation in the amount of \$500.00 for the Taste of Aberdeen, both checks were made payable to the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to adjourn until the July 5, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".


Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk