

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
July 5, 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, AND ALDERMAN JOHN ALLEN, MELISSA MOORE, CITY CLERK AND CITY ATTORNEY ROBERT FAULK.

Invocation: Richard Boone.

Roll Call:

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes 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 Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated July 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 Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to award the Bulldog Boulevard Emergency Drainage Repair contract to Ausbern Construction Company, Inc. which submitted the lowest and best bid in the amount of \$139,559.00. Payments will be paid from the Modernization Infrastructure Fund. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes "Abstained".

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, ACKNOWLEDGING AND APPROVING THE SALE AND AWARD OF THE \$1,286,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2022, OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. The Bonds will be sold to Trustmark National Bank, Jackson, MS at an interest rate of 4.25 %. 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 adopt a RESOLUTION TO ENGAGE PROFESSIONALS presented by Brad Davis, Watkins & Eager, PLLC. 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 adopt a RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, DECLARING THE INTENTION TO ISSUE ELECTRIC SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, IN THE MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000, IN ONE OR MORE FEDERALLY TAXABLE OR TAX-EXEMPT SERIES, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING, REPAIRING, AND EXTENDING THE EXISTING ELECTRIC SYSTEM OF THE MUNICIPALITY; DIRECTING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF SUCH INTENTION; AND RELATED PURPOSES. 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 the purchase of climate control blinds for three windows in the Board Room. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept the resignation of City employee Markeen Griffin, effective July 10, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to adopt the Police Department Body Worn Camera Policy, with corrections. The effective date is July 5, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to adopt the Police Department Body Armor Mandatory Wear Policy, with corrections. The effective date is July 5, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaul to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Sean Parson / Substation Technician Training, Auburn, Alabama / August 15-18, 2022 / Registration Fee: \$475.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaul to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for LaMarcus Thompson / Substation Technician Training, Auburn, Alabama / August 15-18, 2022 / Registration Fee: \$475.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaul to authorize the purchase of a 2021 John Deere 5090E Cab Utility Tractor from Deere & Company, 2000 John Deere Run, Cary, NC 27513, for the Aberdeen Electric Department, in the amount of \$58,558.14, at state contract pricing per State Contract # 8200061319. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaul to authorize the purchase of a 2022 John Deere MX10 Pull-Type Center drive Rotary Cutter 540 from Deere & Company, 2000 John Deere Run, Cary, NC 27513, for the Aberdeen Electric Department, in the amount of \$9,205.88, at state contract pricing per State Contract # 8200061319. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaul to authorize a Garbage Pickup Service Contract between the City of Aberdeen, MS and Monroe County, MS, for a five-year term, with an effective date of October 1, 2022. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaul, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaul to post and advertise for persons interested in being employed as Police Officers or as a Dispatcher for the Aberdeen Police Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaul to post and advertise for persons interested in being employed as an Operator Groundman for the Aberdeen Electric Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to advertise for bids for two weeks for persons interested in purchasing the City property located at the corner of Hillcrest Drive and Commerce Street, PPIN: 6998 / Parcel ID: 108G-27-024-004.00. City reserves the right to reject bids, and will reserve mineral rights. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Scott and the Board congratulated Chief Quinell Shumpert for completion of the Executive Management Training for Police Chiefs, 2022 Summer Conference, Biloxi, MS, and for receiving a Certificate of Attendance.

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Mayor Report: Mayor Scott asked Tina Robbins to report about the Taste of Aberdeen Festival. Ms. Robbins stated the events were really nice and she thanked all the sponsors and everyone that played a part in making it all come together. Robbins next discussed some of the remaining events scheduled for the month of July:

1. Yoga for Seniors on Tuesdays
2. Ballroom Fitness on Thursdays
3. Game Night at Park and Recreation
4. Elkin Theater Movie Nights
5. Blue Day at Acker Park

Robbins stated the Visitors Bureau is working on the Marketing Plan (for the three-year plan for TRF2 coming up), and working on their budget.

Mayor Scott stated Tina Robbins was being a little modest, and the Fireworks Show was spectacular. Mayor Scott gave thanks and appreciation to the Aberdeen Electric Department, Aberdeen Fire Department, Aberdeen Police Department, Aberdeen Public Works, and the Masonic Sesostris Lodge #14 for the great job they did in making sure the Fireworks Show was safe and enjoyable for everyone.

Mayor Scott shared with the Board that Heart and Hands House will be a part of the Senior Health Fair on July 20, 2022.

Christine Holliday informed the Board that the Senior Health Fair will be held on July 20, 2022. Mrs. Holliday stated nine vendors will be attending the Health Fair. The menu will consist of finger foods (chicken salad / croissant rolls), fruit, vegetable, and meat trays. Desserts will be provided along with soda and water to drink. Holliday stated that Mayor Scott will work hard on getting transportation to and from the High Street Community Center for the seniors, and that she has provided her van to help with transporting seniors to and from the Community Center. Holliday is grateful to Mayor Scott and Alderman Haynes for their efforts and helping with the program. Holliday has been working with the Seniors Program for about ten years.

Mayor Scott stated that the Mayor's Health Council and Ms. Smith (Mississippi Department of Health) will be working hand-in-hand in making sure this event is a success.

William Sanford, P.E. (Neel-Schaffer, Inc.) provided an update concerning the Bulldog Boulevard Emergency Drainage Repairs project and a summary of the contractor quotes. The lowest bidder was Ausbern Construction Company, Inc., with a bid amount of \$139,559.00. Sanford's recommendation is for the contract to be awarded to Ausbern Construction Company, Inc.

Alderman Haynes asked if someone will please call the Aberdeen High School and verify if they have plans to repave Bulldog Boulevard, so that we will not be doing the emergency repairs again and spending unnecessary money. Alderwoman Garth would like for Haynes' concern to be addressed with the School Superintendent and School Board. Alderman Devaull asked Mayor Scott if he would follow up on this, and his reply was yes.

Project Engineer William Sanford also updated the Board on the Project at the Port. Sanford said everything is proceeding on schedule, and a majority of the handrails on the Dock Wall is being worked on.

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Mayor Scott invited Larry Day and attorney Brad Davis (Watkins & Eager, PLLC) to the Board to provide an update concerning City Bond Resolutions. Trustmark National Bank, Jackson, Mississippi submitted a bid at an interest rate of 4.25 % on the general obligation bonds. Davis asked for approval of a proposed RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, ACKNOWLEDGING AND APPROVING THE SALE AND AWARD OF THE \$1,286,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT BONDS, SERIES 2022, OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES.

Davis and Day also discussed a RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE ENGAGEMENT OF CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS TO ASSIST WITH THE AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE, SALE, VALIDATION, AND DELIVERY OF ELECTRIC SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, IN THE MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000, IN ONE OR MORE FEDERALLY TAXABLE OR TAX-EXEMPT SERIES, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE NECESSARY PURPOSE OF IMPROVING, REPAIRING, AND EXTENDING THE ELECTRIC SYSTEM OF THE MUNICIPALITY; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES, and a RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, DECLARING THE INTENTION TO ISSUE ELECTRIC SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, IN THE MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000, IN ONE OR MORE FEDERALLY TAXABLE OR TAX-EXEMPT SERIES, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING, REPAIRING, AND EXTENDING THE EXISTING ELECTRIC SYSTEM OF THE MUNICIPALITY; DIRECTING PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF SUCH INTENTION; AND RELATED PURPOSES. Day and Davis provided ten (10) and fifteen (15) year Bond Debit Service Schedules.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull Alderman Devaull stated he was approached by a young man who reported of two occasions involving drivers traveling north and south and not obeying the red light at the intersection of Highway 25 and Columbus Street. MDOT should install a Caution Light to slow the drivers down.

Alderman Devaull stated he has talked with Dustin Dabbs about the Outfall waters flowing to the river. These last few days we have had 30-minute rains, and the City Ditch swelled up by Evergreen Drive and the water got out within seconds. If we do not do something to that Outfall so the water can continue to travel and go to the river, everyone in town will be flooded out by the time the rainy season hits. Alderman Devaull asked Mayor Scott to please check with Dustin Dabbs for a status update. Mayor Scott stated we will discuss this with Tombigbee because they are supposed to evaluate this problem.

Alderwoman Garth Alderwoman Garth thanked and expressed appreciation to the City of Aberdeen for allowing her to attend the MML 91st Annual Conference, Biloxi, MS, where she received a graduation certificate.

Alderwoman Garth suggested that Laws have changed as it pertains to private property. Alderman Garth stated you cannot go on private property regardless of what your local government says, unless with the consent of the homeowner.

Alderwoman Garth stated that City Employees are still asking if they are going to receive any pay from ARPA Funds. Alderwoman Garth asked Mayor Scott if he had checked with Columbus, MS and determined whether that City was using those funds to pay their employees something. Mayor Scott responded by saying, "Not at this point because it's still under the AG's Opinion".

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Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes stated there are several streets in Ward Three with drainage issues because the rain has washed leaves, limbs and trash to the drains and they are clogged up. Alderman Haynes asked Manager Thompson to check out the residence at 405 Canal Street, Aberdeen, MS, and remove the tree limbs that fell out of the tree, and trim the limbs that are rotten. There is a home at Jefferson and Maple Street that has tree limbs overgrown onto the neighbor's yard, and asking that someone please check on that and the drains. Alderman Haynes questioned why there is no handicap ramp in Newberger Park. There are children and adults that utilize wheelchairs and have difficult times getting in and out of the park without assistance. Alderman Haynes asked Mayor Scott to please take a look at it and try to get something done. Citizens are asking about another grocery store opening up in Aberdeen, and how inconvenient it is for some of the senior citizens and other residents without transportation to get to Food Giant. Alderman Haynes thanked the City of Aberdeen for allowing him to attend the MML 91st Annual Conference, Biloxi, MS. It was very educational and I learned a lot that will help me put what I learned in use on a day-to-day basis, and see if we can do things differently, and be more productive for the citizens of Aberdeen.

Alderman Haynes stated he received a message from Aberdeen Main Street. They can receive funds through a program if they meet the criteria and do everything asked of them before the inspector comes to the City. The Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau can receive the same funding if they meet the guidelines. Alderman Haynes shared that a warehouse cannot be in your downtown district, and the business down the hill by the clock has to remove the debris on the sidewalk. It does not meet the ADA Guidelines. The Zoning Board will be addressing these issues at their next meeting.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom thanked the City of Aberdeen for allowing her to attend the MML 91st Annual Conference, Biloxi, MS. I really enjoyed it. Alderwoman Odom stated she received a call from a resident at 403 Meadowlane Drive, Aberdeen, MS who requested installation of a speed bump, because of the children that play in the yard there. Alderwoman Odom stated that Pedro Clay should check with the resident at 304 Meadowlane Drive, Aberdeen, MS about a dog being chained in that yard, and confirm compliance with City Ordinances. I believe it's a pit bull. Alderwoman Odom stated there may be a business at 215 Meadowlane Drive, and that area is not zoned for a business. Zoning Officer Haynes should check it out. Alderwoman Odom requested that the blinds on three windows in the Board Room be changed to climate control shades, so the cold will stay out in the winter time and the heat stay out in the summer time.

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen stated the City ditches on the Northside of West Commerce Street, right at the corner on Thayer Avenue, need attention. The City should trim the bushes and clean the ditches. Alderman Allen requested the Police Department to run Saturation Exercises on the weekends and alternate the exercises in order to deter the cars speeding on Thayer Avenue.

Citizen's Input:

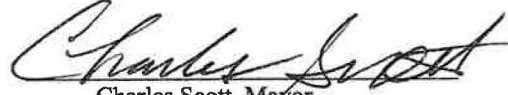
LaMarcus Thompson thanked the Mayor, the Board and the citizens of Aberdeen for allowing Electric Department Office Manager Samona Johnson, Water Department Supervisor Jason Roberson, Comptroller Karen Crump and Thompson to travel to Orange Beach, Alabama to attend the CSA Conference. The conference was very educational, and we will share the information learned to make the day-to-day operations in our Departments run smoother.

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".

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adjourn until the July 19, 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