

## MINUTES, BOARD OF ALDERMEN, BOOK NO. 19

DEMENT-MERIDIAN 61-2994

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM****July 19, 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, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM, ALDERMAN JOHN ALLEN, MELISSA MOORE, CITY CLERK, AND ROBERT FAULKS, CITY ATTORNEY.**

**Not Present for the Meeting:** Alderman Edward Haynes.

**Invocation:** LaMarcus Thompson.

**ROLL CALL:**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes dated July 5, 2022. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, 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 19, 2022. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize City Clerk Moore and Dustin Dabbs /Dabbs Corporation to advertise for competitive quotes from contractors for the Parkway drainage repairs/ improvements project, per project specifications and cost estimate by Dabbs. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to award the contract for the Site Excavation and Grading component of the Aberdeen Public Utilities building improvements project on N. Meridian Street to Hanna Construction Company, which submitted the lowest and best bid/ quote of \$26,590.00. This action was recommended by the project engineer Dabbs. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize a Change Order with the additional expense of \$9,500.00 to complete the General Young Park renovations project. This expense will be paid from the Maintenance Parks and Grounds item listed in the Aberdeen Parks and Recreation Department Budget. This additional work was described by and the Change Order was recommended by the project engineer Dabbs. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize the purchase of 5 REMAN 15 KVA transformers, 2 REMAN 15 KVA transformers, 5 REMAN 25 KVA transformers, 1 REMAN 37.5 KVA transformer, and 5 REMAN 50 KVA transformers, for the Aberdeen Electric Department, from Sunbelt Solomon, 1922 S. MLK Jr. Drive, Temple, TX 76504, which submitted the lowest quote in the amount of \$30,770.00. The other quote was from MSTN Transformers, Inc. in the amount of \$43,248.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize an Open-House Tour of the new Aberdeen Electric Department Building on N. Meridian Street, upon completion of the construction. 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 authorize the Aberdeen Visitors Bureau to retain a professional artist to paint an Angel Wings Mural on the middle panel to the right of the roll up door of the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department Building. Aberdeen Visitors Bureau Director Tina Robbins circulated a drawing of the proposed Mural. The Angel Wings Mural will be approximately 4' tall by 9' wide on a wall that is 12' tall by 18' wide. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

**Mayor Report:** Mayor Scott invited Chelsea Baulch, Executive Director of the Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, to provide an annual update to the Board. Baulch discussed grants the Chamber has assisted with. Ms. Baulch also discussed information provided on the following websites: Monroe County Chamber of Commerce, MDA and TVA.

Mayor Scott invited newly-employed Aberdeen School District Superintendent, Dr. Andrea Pastchal-Smith to the City Board to share her ideas and plans for the upcoming school year. Dr. Smith discussed the Superintendent's entry 90-day plan with goals for the Aberdeen School District. Dr. Smith stated that everyone has to be a team player in order for these goals to be reached and for students to be successful. The Aberdeen School District "Elements of Success" include:

1. Mission Statement: The mission of the Aberdeen School District is to inspire ALL students to become problem-solvers, lifelong learners, and productive members of society.
2. Vision Statement: Student centered, Student focused, Student driven.
3. District Motto: The Right Way... Every Day... The Bulldog Way!
4. Theme: Never Stop Growing... Be the Change you want to see in ASD!

Dr. Smith stated the Aberdeen School District is building a culture of high expectations for all.

Alderman Devaull asked Dr. Smith to comment about issues with the A/C units in the schools, especially at the high school. Dr. Smith stated she is aware of and has a plan in place to take care of this issue. The first day of school is August 5, 2022. Mayor Scott asked everyone to please show your support on Thursday, July 21, 2022 @ 5:00 p.m. at the Depot to meet Dr. Smith and her staff.

Dustin Dabbs introduced himself to Dr. Smith and gave her a welcome.

Dabbs reported to the Board the updates he is working on in the City:

1. Advertise the Drainage Project on Parkway
2. Aberdeen Public Utilities Building Project
3. Site Improvements Quotes for Excavation
  - a. Hanna Construction - \$26,590.00
  - b. Hodges Construction - \$34,966.50
4. A Pole Barn for the equipment
5. Mill & Overlay Contracts have been executed with Murphy's Contracting (Highway 8/ South Meridian Street/ South Matubba Street)
6. The completion of the General Young Park renovations and improvements
7. Comprehensive Plan-Component Project
8. The Drainage Field Works.

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LaMarcus Thompson, Public Utilities Department General Manager, introduced himself to Dr. Smith, and offered his help and assistance to the local Schools.

Manager Thompson requested authority to purchase transformers for the Aberdeen Electric Department and presented the following quotes:

1. MSTN Transformers, Inc., Greenwood, MS. - \$43,248.00
2. Sunbelt Solomon, Temple, TX - \$30,770.00

Thompson stated there will be a 15-24 week wait for delivery of the transformers.

Manager Thompson also asked the Board to authorize an Open-House Tour for the new Aberdeen Electric Department Building, upon completion of the construction.

Aberdeen Visitors Bureau Director Tina Robbins reported that City Clerk Moore and Robbins met with the web site developer who is designing the new website for the City of Aberdeen. The website will be auto-mobile responsive on any device. It was a great meeting. Alderman Allen asked whether the City will have the ability to add to or delete items from the website. Robbins stated the City will be able to too change some items on the City website

Robbins reported that the Aberdeen Visitors Bureau is administering three grants:

1. The Mississippi Hills Grant: the Cultural Heritage Mural;
2. The Digital Grant: upgrade Logos and Templates on Social Media; and
3. The South Monroe County Create Grant: Two New Murals

Robbins asked the Board for permission to have an Angel Wings Mural painted on a wall of the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department Building by a professional artist.

Robbins listed events scheduled this month in the City of Aberdeen:

1. Health and Wellness Fair / July 20, 2022 at the High Street Community Center / 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
2. Welcome Reception for Dr. Smith / July 21, 2022 / Aberdeen Depot / 5:00 p.m.
3. Movie at the Elkin Theater / July 22-23, 2022
4. Aberdeen Loaves and Fishes Distribution / July 23, 2022
5. General Young Park Ribbon Cutting / July 23, 2022 / General Young Park / 1:00 p.m.
6. Praise in the Park / General Young Park / 2:00 p.m.
7. Big Hen Playday Basketball Tournament / July 23, 2022 / General Young Park / 4:00 p.m.
8. Free Golf Clinic / July 23, 2022 / Aberdeen Sportsplex / 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.
9. Wrestling / July 30, 2022 / Aberdeen Park and Recreation / 5:45 p.m.

Alderman Devaull asked Robbins if she had re-visited with owners of restaurants and businesses and discussed the contractors and crews that will be doing the construction work at the Aberdeen Federal Courthouse Building. Robbins and the restaurant owners are discussing days and hours of operation. Mayor Scott has asked Robbins and the Visitors Bureau to contact Restaurant Consultants for information.

Mayor Scott invited Gadies Davis, Office Manager with the WIN Job Center, Amory, MS to discuss their programs "on getting jobs and getting our communities back to work". Ms. Davis explained the different services for job seekers. Davis also provided information regarding the Fidelity Bonding Program. This program is designed to help anyone that may be coming out of a rehabilitated life and needs a second chance. For more information on Fidelity Bonding, Davis recommended contacting Howard Stagg in the Jackson, MS WIN Office. Ms. Davis added that MDES has a massive data base of people who want to be employed. Mayor Scott thanked Ms. Davis for coming and sharing the information with the Board and the Aberdeen Community.

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**Alderman Devaull** Alderman Devaull asked for Ward One residents to please be patient with the Sanitation Department and the delays picking up garbage. Alderman Devaull stated potholes in Ward One are slowly disappearing, and streets are looking much better throughout the City. Alderman Devaull thanked School Superintendent Dr. Smith for attending and speaking at the City Board Meeting, and wanted her to know if he can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact him.

**Alderwoman Garth** Alderwoman Garth stated she had given Mr. Boone a list and asked him to please handle it for her. Alderwoman Garth commented to citizens who do not know why the garbage has not been picked up at their residences. The Aberdeen Sanitation trucks have been up and down. If anyone has questions about their garbage being picked up, please call City Hall and let them know. Alderwoman Garth thanked employee Johnson for doing a good job with the Hot Box equipment and filling street potholes, and expressed a thank you to Mr. Boone and Ms. Larthridge for what they are doing and kudos to their crew.

**Alderman Haynes:** Alderman Haynes was not present for the Board Meeting.

**Alderwoman Odom:** Alderwoman Odom welcomed School Superintendent Dr. Smith to Aberdeen.

**Alderman Allen:** Alderman Allen said this is the first time I can remember a School Superintendent coming to talk with the Board, and he really appreciated it. Alderman Allen stated we have an open-door and we will do whatever we can to help the Aberdeen School District because it's our future.

Alderman Allen thanked Boone and Tohona Larthridge for the work their Department has done to repair potholes in his Ward. Alderman Allen said 99% of the potholes in his Ward have been repaired, with just a few left, but the Ward streets look much better, and he appreciated it. Alderman Allen asked about a dead tree in front of the Federal Building. Mayor Scott stated he had talked with the General Manager of the Federal Building, and they are working on cutting down the trees along that line.

**Citizen's Input:**

Mary Ann Butler asked Mayor Scott whether Water Department Supervisor Jason Roberson had inspected "the hole in her yard". Mayor Scott answered that he and Jason had inspected and evaluated the matter, and that the City will be working on a repair. Mrs. Butler asked about a timeline or plan. Mayor Scott answered that the City repairs are in line with some other jobs. Mrs. Butler asked if the issue has been "figured out". Mayor Scott said there are three different issues going on with that location. We walked not only in front of your home, but down to where previous work had been done. Mayor Scott stated the City Engineer Dabbs will also be involved with a final evaluation, so that everything will be done right. Mrs. Butler thanked Mayor Scott.

Mr. Travis Jones came before the Board with concerns about the Pitbull Dog Ordinance and truck drivers. Jones asked if the City has a parking plan in place for truck drivers. Mayor Scott stated he had a truck driver go to the Holley Building today, and park his truck to determine whether the site will support 18-wheeler parking. This will be discussed with the Board. Jones gave his opinions concerning the old and new Dog Ordinances, and noted the new Dog Ordinance does not pin point a certain breed of dog. The Pit Bull Ordinance went into effect on November 17, 2009, and since he has had his dogs in Aberdeen the Pit Bull Ordinance has never been enforced. Mayor Scott commented to Jones that the new Dog Ordinance did not supersede the Pit Bull Ordinance, and the Pit Bull Dog Ordinance is still in effect. Mayor Scott stated that he supports Animal Control Officers in making sure the City is enforcing the rules on the book to keeping citizens safe from dangerous dogs.

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City employees Willie Sykes, Brandon Blanchard and Derrick Hogan expressed concerns that they were being double-worked and underpaid, for helping to maintain the garbage pickup service while also working their additional assigned duties as employees of the Street Department. Sykes asked the Board: if we are doing double work, why can't we be compensated for double work? Mayor Scott stated that under this emergency situation we have asked you to do different work. Mayor Scott stated the City is operating under extenuating circumstances that we are not presently in control of. Vehicles had to be borrowed from the County and West Point governments due to our own vehicles being down. Mayor Scott said this matter may be addressed in Executive Session, and expressed to the City employees that they have been doing an excellent job. Mayor Scott also told the Street Department employees that he appreciates the work they have been doing, and we will do what is right.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to agree to and authorize a Memorandum of Understanding with the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) concerning the local project specified in Mississippi House Bill 1353 (2022) and receipt of and specific use of Local Improvements Project Funds not to exceed the amount of \$150,000.00; and authorize the Letter Requesting the Transfer of Funds, the IRS Form W-9, the Contact Information Form and the Verification Form; and to maintain a separate bank account for the funds. The Project Fund Name is the Magnolia Project. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the following closure of the Morgan's Landing Public Use Area for RV's as required by the Department of the Army, Mobile District, Corps of Engineers: "All campers currently residing in the campground area should be removed and the campground closed on or before July 19, 2022. The boat ramp and picnic pavilion may remain open. Visitors should be kept a safe distance from a dangerous hanging treetop near the designated boat ramp parking area". The Corp shall be contacted to conduct a follow-up inspection prior to reopening of the park. The condition of the park area is due to the March 22, 2022 storm damage. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to conditionally authorize dredging of the Aberdeen Port area by the same contractor engaged by the Corps of Engineers and Enterprise, without the delays associated with advertisement for competitive quotes. The City is informed that the mobilization costs of any contractor doing the dredging would actually exceed the costs of the dredging and the Corp has scheduled the dredging to occur before the advertisements and receipts of quotes would otherwise occur. Mayor Scott is requested to obtain specific costs and other terms for the Board to consider. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to form an advisory Aberdeen Cemetery Committee with an effective date of July 19, 2022. On a roll call vote Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to terminate the employment of Jamerius Hayden with an effective date of July 7, 2022. 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 Dalton Dahlem with an effective date of July 11, 2022. 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 schedule a Hearing concerning 18-Wheeler Trucks and Trailers parking issues on August 8, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to employ Brenda Watson as a full-time Dispatcher in the Aberdeen Police 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 Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to employ Rodreck Pargo as a full-time Laborer 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 Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to employ Devontae Ray as a full-time Laborer 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 Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to employ Warren Myles as a full-time Assistant Mechanic in the Aberdeen Public Works Department at a rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to transfer City employee Jerry Wells from the Aberdeen Public Works Department to the Aberdeen Public Utilities Department, and employ him as a Groundsman Operator at a rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour, effective August 3, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to adjourn until the August 2, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

  
Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:

  
Melissa Moore, City Clerk