# REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**November 1, 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 ROBERT FAULKS, CITY ATTORNEY.**

**Invocation**: Mayor Charles Scott.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Not present for the Meeting:** City Clerk Melissa Moore.

**Recording for the Meeting:** Deputy City Clerk Devonshae Young.

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the proposed Minutes dated October 25, 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 voted to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated November 1, 2022 (with a correction of adding $3,700.00 payable to Aberdeen Election Commissioners Lee Turnage and Jennifer Rollison). 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 Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to compromise and settle the valid claim of Earnestine Metcalf in the amount of $1,710.00, per authority of Mississippi Code Section 25-1-47 (2), for assisting as an Election Commissioner in several City of Aberdeen Elections and in the Election Contest case per Order of the Circuit Court Judge. 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 Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to award the contract to Hanna Contracting Company for the Parkway Street Drainage Improvement Project. Hanna submitted the lowest bid in the amount of $154,711.00. Contractor payments will be paid from the Infrastructure Modernization Fund. 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 Haynes to authorize a payment to L.C. Cook Contractor in the amount of $240,963.30 for renovations at the Aberdeen Electric Department Meridian Street site, to be paid from the Series 2022 Electric Revenue Bond Fund Account. Project Engineer Dustin Dabbs recommended the payment. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to conditionally approve a project for the pavement of Paradise Alley, pending a determination from Utilities Manager Thompson regarding underground utility lines in the area. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Fire Department employee Jarvis Dearing to attend the State of Mississippi Fire Academy Course (1001-1-11) from 1/9/2023-2/23/2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Police Officer Jordan Gillespie to attend the NASRO Basic SRO Course, West Point, MS / November 14-18, 2022 / Fee: $445.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve and amend Part (9) of the Resolution and the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Aberdeen and Monroe County to provide Plumbing and Electrical Infrastructure Improvements to the Monroe Regional Hospital, specifically that all infrastructure projects shall be completed on or before December 31, 2026, the date that all ARPA Funds must be obligated and expended. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve and amend Part (9) of the Resolution and the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Aberdeen and Monroe County to provide Enhanced Water Services, specifically that all enhanced water services projects shall be completed on or before December 31, 2026, the date that all ARPA Funds must be obligated and expended. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize an agreement concerning Lexis Nexis Law Enforcement Risk Solutions for Background Checks for one user at a cost of $1,440.00 annually. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to employ Heidi Lynn Clennan as a full-time Police 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 Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the status change of Brenda Watson from full-time to part-time Police Dispatcher in the Aberdeen Police Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to employ Christopher Lind as a full-time Aberdeen Police Officer at a rate of pay of $14.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize and increase the City of Aberdeen ACH Payroll authorization to Cadence Bank/ Bancorp from the current $100,000.00 payroll limit to a $125,000.00 payroll limit. 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 post and advertise for persons interested in serving as an Aberdeen School Board Member for the Aberdeen School District. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize the write-off of a Heat Pump Loan account in the amount of $1,665.32 and refer the debt to a collection agency. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

**Mayor Report:** Mayor Scott recognized two Aberdeen students in the Aberdeen School District for their outstanding performance during this school year. Mayor Scott stated that Willie Ware has shown exceptional performance in the Monroe County Vo-Tech Welding Program; and that Jayden Walker has shown exceptional performance in the classroom with a 3.6 GPA, and that Walker was the only high school football player selected from Monroe County to play in the Mississippi North and South All-Star Football Game.

Mayor Scott asked Tina Robbins to report on events and activities in Aberdeen. Robbins stated the Corp of Engineers assisted with updating the Way-Finder Signs located at the beginning and ending of Ben Bender Road and near the Jiffy Lube site. Christmas Open House is Sunday, November 6, 2022, and Tinsel @ the Track, Main Street Depot will be on display from December 1, 2022 thru January 8, 2023. Paradise Alley over-head lighting will be hung in the weeks to come, and an artist will begin work on a mural toward the end of the week. Robbins stated the Visitor’s Bureau is still on hold for ARPA Funds.

Mayor Scott asked Dustin Dabbs to update on projects in Aberdeen. Dabbs provided a Recommendation of Award of Contract Letter for the Parkway Street Drainage Improvements. There were two bids received for this project that included a base bid and Alternates 1-4 for the proposed improvement. The lowest bid was Hanna Contracting Company for the total amount of $154,711.00 (Base bid: $94,906.00 / Alternate 2: $29,805.00 / Alternate 4: $30,000.00).

Dabbs advised that Contractor L.C. Cook was making progress on the Aberdeen Electric Department Renovations project, and the work is being done in a timely manner. Dabbs presented the Board with an invoice from L.C. Cook Contractor in the amount of $240,963.30, and recommended to the Board to approve payment.

Dabbs has spoken with Jason Roberson, Water Department Supervisor, this week about removing debris from the recently purchased site for the City of Aberdeen Water Department. Dabbs proposed to solicit contractor quotes for the debris removal. Dabbs shared with the Board it will cost about $5,000.00 to pave 200 feet West of Maple Street and he will need the Board’s approval to move forward with this project.

Mayor Scott announced that USDA Rural Development Resources and Funding will be at Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department facility, 611 West Commerce Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730 on Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 10:00 a. m., to share ideas with citizens concerning ways they can help build up and fund opportunities for the community.

**Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:**

**Alderman Devaull:** Alderman Devaull did not have anything to report at this time.

**Alderwoman Garth:** Alderwoman Garth stated the Mississippi Supreme Court had reversed and rendered the Circuit Court decision to order a new Alderman Ward 1 Election because the Judge did not have the authority to set a new Election. Alderwoman Garth next told Attorney Faulks that he should have advised Devaull against remaining in the capacity of an Alderman and voting. Attorney Faulks answered that that we have already had a lot of discussion about the Judgment not being the final step, that the Mississippi Supreme Court issued a Judgment on September 15, that Devaull’s attorneys Mozingo and Quarles filed a Motion for Rehearing on September 29, that Mr. Holiday’s attorney did not file a reply to the Motion for Rehearing, and that the Supreme Court had not issued a Mandate. Faulks added that a Mandate could be issued any day, but that the case would not be final until a Mandate was issued and Devaull could lawfully remain.

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**Alderman Haynes:** Alderman Haynes stated at the last Board Meeting he requested a copy of the contract for the paving of Matubba Street, and he never received it. Alderman Haynes would like to know why he did not receive the information he requested. Mayor Scott informed Alderman Haynes that he will get the copy of the contract tomorrow, and that the Board has Planning Meetings where different information is shared with the Board Members. Alderman Haynes asked Mayor Scott, “Are Planning Meetings required?” Mayor Scott stated yes. Alderman Haynes asked Attorney Faulks, “Are Planning Meetings required? Attorney Faulks replied, “No. It’s not required that an Alderman attend a Planning Meeting.”

Alderman Haynes stated an issue with water lines at 707 Vine Street needs to be re-visited and repaired, and it’s a safety hazard for that area.

Alderman Haynes is asking the citizens to please bag your leaves so they will not flow into the drains and clog them up.

**Alderwoman Odom:** Alderwoman Odom stated she has received a number of calls about the trash being picked up, and was under the impression the City was going to pick trash up like they have done in the past. Alderwoman Odom has received calls that garbage has not been picked up in two weeks, and the garbage truck is driven by and keeps on going, and she would like for someone to ride the streets and see what is out there that people are calling and complaining about. Alderwoman Odom asked, “If there’s any specifics that people need to do so that everything is picked up that can be bagged”. Mayor Scott stated that debris and leaves are supposed to be put in a bag. Alderman Devaull stated that Monroe County Solid Waste is supposed to sit three big dumpsters to help with the overflow of garbage.

Alderwoman Odom needs two speed bumps installed on Glen Iris and Bellview Drive.

Alderwoman Odom asked whether Jason has found out anything about the water leak on Highway 8 and Bellview. Mayor Scott said a line check will have to be done so the digging will not be done in the wrong place.

**Alderman Allen:** Alderman Allen did not have anything to report at this time.

**Citizen’s Input:**

Barry McMillian requested a meeting with the Mayor and Board in Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue involving an Aberdeen Police Officer and McMillian’s claim alleging harassment.

Utilities Manager Lamarcus Thompson recommended that Angela Fears receive a 10% raise for completion of her Customer Service Training, and that Kimberly Payne receive $1.00 per hour raise for completion of her 90-day probationary period.

Fire Chief Fred Hodges requested Board authorization for Fire Department employee Jarvis Dearing to attend the State of Mississippi Fire Academy Course (1001-1-11) from 1/9/2023-2/23/2023.

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A motion was made by Alderman Allen to enter into Closed Determination to determine whether to go into Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to come out of Closed Determination. 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 Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to adjourn until the November 15, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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 Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:

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Melissa Moore, City Clerk