

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

August 16, 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, ALDERMAN EDWARD HAYNES, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM, ALDERMAN JOHN ALLEN, MELISSA MOORE, CITY CLERK, AND ROBERT FAULKS, CITY ATTORNEY.**

**Invocation:** Mayor Charles Scott.

**Roll Call:**

Attended by telephone/ video conferencing: Alderman John Allen.

Not Present for the Meeting: Alderwoman Lady B. Garth.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes dated August 2, 2022. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated August 16, 2022. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adopt the "RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ISSUANCE OF ELECTRIC SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2022, OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, IN THE MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$1,250,000, IN ONE OR MORE FEDERALLY TAXABLE OR TAX-EXEMPT SERIES, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING, REPAIRING, AND EXTENDING THE ELECTRIC SYSTEM OF THE MUNICIPALITY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO RENOVATION AND EQUIPPING OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND OPERATIONS FACILITIES OF THE SYSTEM; PRESCRIBING THE FORM AND INCIDENTS OF THE BONDS; AND PROVIDING FOR THE COLLECTION, SEGREGATION, AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE REVENUES TO BE DERIVED FROM THE OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM IN AMOUNTS SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE COST OF THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE THEREOF AND TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS; MAKING PROVISION FOR A BOND AND INTEREST FUND, A DEPRECIATION FUND, A CONTINGENT FUND, AN IMPROVEMENT FUND, AN OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE FUND, AND A REVENUE FUND; MAKING PROVISION FOR MAINTAINING THE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS OF THE BONDS; AUTHORIZING BOND INSURANCE; AUTHORIZING A BOND RATING; AUTHORIZING A RESERVE FUND SURETY BOND; OFFERING THE BONDS FOR SALE; APPROVING AND AUTHORIZING THE DISTRIBUTION OF A PRELIMINARY OFFICIAL STATEMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT PERTAINING TO THE SALE OF THE BONDS; ACKNOWLEDGING AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF POST ISSUANCE COMPLIANCE PROCEDURES; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTINUING DISCLOSURE AGREEMENT PERTAINING TO THE BONDS; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES" presented by Bond Attorney Brad Davis, Watkins & Eager, PLLC. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to renew the City employees' group health insurance policy through Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi and agent Marketing Group of MS, LLC / W. Homer Braylock, Jr. The renewal date is September 1, and the group policy will include a \$500.00 deductible per employee. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Alderman Allen "Abstained". Mayor Scott declared the vote count consists of two voting "Aye", one voting "Nay", and one abstention which will go with the "Ayes". Motion passed.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to re-advertise for competitive quotes from persons interested in purchasing the City property located at the corner of Commerce Street and Hillcrest Drive, being Parcel ID: 108G-27-024-004.00 / PPIN: 6998. On a roll call vote, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Devaull voted "Nay".

**Mayor Report:** Mayor Scott thanked the citizens of Aberdeen for allowing him to attend the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Conference, Clearpoint, Alabama. Mayor Scott had several conversations with others that attended the conference, concerning port operations. The Corps of Engineers Commander will be visiting the City of Aberdeen Port.

Mayor Scott asked Tina Robbins to provide the Board with an update regarding business plans and activities. Robbins provided an ARPA grant funds update: The Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau submitted their Bid Solicitation Proposal today to three advertising agencies, Advance Travel and Tourism, Rayborn Media and Vitality South. Robbins stated the eligibility requirements have been completed and we are awaiting the login credentials to apply for the Grant.

Robbins discussed the Newcomer's Picnic that is partnered with Aberdeen Main Street. There are twenty new families that have moved to Aberdeen in the month of July. This was a successful event. The Elvis Movie was a huge hit at the Elkins Theatre. On Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, two-hundred and sixty-six attended the movie, and on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> two-hundred and twenty attended the movie. The Angel Wing Mural has been completed on the side of the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Building. It was funded by a Grant from the South Monroe County Community Fund.

Mayor Scott next asked Dustin Dabbs to provide the Board with an update concerning City projects. Dabbs reported good progress is being made with the construction at the Aberdeen Public Utilities office building. Hanna Construction has stripped the old entrances and will begin doing excavations this week. Dabbs stated paving will begin in the next two weeks. Competitive bids for the Parkway Drainage Project Bids will be received next week. Mayor Scott asked Dabbs to explain how the milling from the residue will be used. Dabbs stated the asphalt company is able to recycle the old asphalt into new product and used in other projects.

Mayor Scott invited Bond Attorney Brad Davis, Watkins & Eager PLLC, Jackson, MS to discuss the proposed Resolution directing issuance of the Electric System Revenue Bonds in the sum of \$1,250,000.00.

Mayor Scott invited Andrew Nowlin, President and Nick Boone, Public Relations, of Affordable Employee Benefits to propose insurance products including Medical, Gap Plan, Wellness Benefits, Dental, Vision, Deductible, Rates and other benefits the agency offers to their municipal and county government clients.

Mayor Scott next invited Homer Braylock, Jr., Chairman/Broker Marketing Group of MS, LLC to propose insurance products including Medical, Gap Plan, Wellness Benefits, Dental, Vision, Deductible, Rates and other benefits the agency offers.

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Mayor Scott provided the scheduled dates and times of the following Mayor's Town hall Meetings:

- August 29, 2022 / Wards 2 & 5 / High Street Community Center @ 6:00 p.m.
- August 31, 2022 / Ward 3 / City Hall @ 6:00 p.m.
- September 1, 2022 / Wards 1 & 4 / Park and Recreation Building @ 6:00 p.m.

**Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:**

**Alderman Devaull** Alderman Devaull stated several citizens from Ward One and other Wards are asking when trash piles and limbs will be picked up in their neighborhoods. Alderman Devaull expressed the need of the City for a CDL Driver, and stated if anyone knows of a CDL Driver that needs a job, please ask them to come to City Hall and submit an application.

**Alderwoman Garth** Alderwoman Garth was not present for the Meeting,

**Alderman Haynes:** Alderman Haynes stated he has some plans and new ideas for Ward Three in the second half of his term as an Alderman, and they will be shared at a later date. Alderman Haynes asked that everyone please continue to be safe and wear your mask, because COVID19 is not gone and people are still being affected by the disease. Alderman Haynes asked Attorney Faulks where we stand on bids from persons interested in purchasing the City property at the corner of Commerce Street and Hillcrest Drive, and will we be able to handle this issue tonight? Attorney Faulks stated that he had completed a title search on the property, and had circulated that. Attorney Faulks stated the Clerk's Notice did not contain an address or location for the property, and also contained an incomplete parcel number in the newspaper ad, and the general public may not have had enough information to submit bid. The Notice did contain a correct PPIN. Mayor Scott suggested that the ad be re-published in the local newspaper.

**Alderwoman Odom:** Alderwoman Odom commended Visitors Bureau Director Tina Robbins and the young artist, Andrew Parker for the beautiful Mural painting on the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Building. Alderwoman Odom requested for Mr. Boone, Ms. Tohona or Mayor Scott to please attend to the potholes on Goodgame Lane, and the south end of Big John Road. Alderwoman Odom stated that a visitor to Aberdeen complained about the potholes.

**Alderman Allen:** Alderman Allen stated there is a lot of trash on South Thayer that needs to be picked up. Alderman Allen received two telephone calls about the dead tree on the lot located at Hillcrest Drive and West Commerce Street. Alderman Allen expressed concerns of the City trying to sell the lot and knowing the dead tree being there is a hazard. Alderman Allen echoed the comments made by Alderman Haynes about COVID19 and staying safe. Alderman Allen stressed the importance of getting your COVID19 Vaccines, and how it will make you feel if you have COVID19. Please be careful!

**Citizen's Input:**

Tina Robbins reminded everyone about the 60's and 70's Senior Dance on Saturday, August 20, 2022 from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Building. The Volleyball Tournament is being played every Tuesday in the months of September and October from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Building. On Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Elkins Theater, the Aberdeen Rotary Club will be sponsoring Rotary Night and free popcorn for everyone attending to see the Minions movie. The Aberdeen High School Football 2022 Schedule is available, so please mark your calendars and support the Bulldogs. The Merchants Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. It will held at the Main Street Depot, and all merchants are asked to please attend.

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A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Janel Davidson to attend the Municipal Court Clerk Conference / September 21-23, 2022 / Oxford, MS / No charge. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to accept the resignation of Police Officer Kenneth Vaxter, Jr. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to employ Tony Pulliam as a Police Officer in the Aberdeen Police Department at a rate of pay of \$14.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes "abstained".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to employ Triron Brown as a Laborer in the Aberdeen Water 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 Odom to employ Vernon Rogers and Tyrone Walker as Laborers in the Aberdeen Public Works 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 Alderwoman Odom to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Devonshae Young to attend the Certified Municipal Clerk Program Session / October 19-21, 2022 / Oxford, MS / Fee: \$408.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Melissa Moore to attend the Certified Municipal Clerk Program Session / October 26-28, 2022 / Hattiesburg, MS / Fee: \$430.00.. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

There was no motion to approve the City of Aberdeen Subdivision Regulations and Development Guidelines. City Attorney Faulks will review the proposed Subdivision Regulations and the existing City Subdivision Ordinance. This was "tabled" for a later date to be determined.

There was no motion to authorize the purchase of surveillance system equipment to be installed at the front parking lot of the City property formerly occupied by Holley's. This was "tabled" for a later date to be determined.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes to enter into a Closed Determination to determine whether to go into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue regarding Aberdeen Public Works employee Willie Sykes, and an EEOC litigation matter regarding Water Department employee Barry McMillian. 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 a personnel issue regarding Aberdeen Public Works employee Willie Sykes, and an EEOC litigation matter regarding Water Department employee Barry McMillian. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to come out of Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Devaul to authorize a contract with J D's Garbage Door & Repair, LLC, 40539 Wolfe Road, Caledonia, MS 39740 for installation labor cost and purchase of a White Drum door in the amount of \$3,786.31, for the Aberdeen Public Utilities building. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaul, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adopt the "Resolution of the Board of Aldermen of Aberdeen, Mississippi Adopting Redistricting Criteria for the Redistricting of the Municipality's Ward Lines following the 2020 Census, and for Related Purposes". On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaul, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize City Attorney Faulks to contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) to decline a settlement offer proposed by City employee Barry McMillian. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaul, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve a \$1.00 per hour pay raise to Police Officer Kevin Smiley who has completed the training at the Law Enforcement Police Academy. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaul to authorize the City Clerk and Court Clerk to supply public records including a list of names of individuals with unpaid fines to the local newspaper to be published without charge to the City and as a public service. This would be an effort to offer individuals an opportunity to make arrangements on the fines, without the imposition of any contempt fines. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaul, Alderman Haynes and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Allen voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to terminate the employment of City employee Willie Sykes. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaul, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaul, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adjourn until the September 6, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaul, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk



Charles Scott, Mayor