

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**July 5, 2023
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 NICHOLAS HOLLIDAY, ALDERWOMAN LADY B. GARTH, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM, ALDERMAN JOHN CAIN, DEVONSHA YOUNG, DEPUTY CITY CLERK, AND WALTER H. ZINN, JR., CITY ATTORNEY.

**ON THE TELEPHONE: ALDERMAN EDWARD HAYNES
ABSENT: CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE**

Invocation: Mr. Richard Boone

Roll Call

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the proposed June 20, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Cain voted “Aye” and Alderwoman Garth voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the proposed Special Called Board Minutes on June 23, 2023. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Cain voted “Aye” and Alderwoman Garth voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated July 5, 2023. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Cain voted “Aye” and Alderwoman Garth voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve Heidi Clennan resignation as a full-time Dispatcher with the Aberdeen Police Department with an effective date: July 2, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the re-hire of Heidi Clennan as part-time Dispatcher with the Aberdeen Police Department with the approval of Chief Quinell Shumpert. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to revert the Release of City of Aberdeen Easement Rights Lakewood Subdivision in Section 29, Township 14, South, Range 7, East, back to the originals owners so the land can be sold. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve for Lease-Purchase financing on Two 2023 4X4 Ford Police Interceptor Utility Vehicles priced at \$50,115.00 and \$55,530.00, totaling \$105,645.00. Cadence Bank Lease Payments will be 60 monthly payments @ \$2,031.62 every month with a 5.78% Lease Rate. These vehicles will be purchased for the Aberdeen Police Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve for Lease-Purchase financing on Two 2024 Chevrolet 2500HD Silverado trucks priced at \$54,105.00 times two, totaling \$108,210.00. Cadence Bank Lease Payments will be 60 monthly payments @ \$2,080.95 every month with a 5.78% Lease Rate. These vehicles will be purchased for Aberdeen Public Works. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employment Enhancement and pay necessary charges according to state guidelines for Tashanda White and Melissa Moore to attend the 11th Annual Statewide Summit 2023, Jackson, MS/ July 19-20, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employment Enhancement and pay necessary charges according to state guidelines for Roy Haynes to attend the MACE Educational Conference, Biloxi, MS/ August 16-18, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to accept the resignation of City Employee Brady Slupik with the Aberdeen Public Utilities with an effective date: July 19, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to post and advertise for a Groundsman at Aberdeen Public Utilities. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to post and advertise for a part-time Mechanic at Aberdeen Public Utilities. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Cain to post an advertise for a Cashier at Aberdeen Public Utilities. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Scott asked Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau Ms. Tina Robbins to share with the Board upcoming events for the month of July and other festivities within the City of Aberdeen:

1. Kick-off event for Paradise Alley went great! The vendors and Jim Jin Chinese Restaurant received a lot of business from this event. The next event at Paradise Alley will be held in September.
2. Christmas in July event through Aberdeen Main Street
3. Mayor's Youth Council Blue Carpet Ball Fundraiser will be held July 28, 2023
4. Mrs. Flora Outlaw was recognized as Mississippi Main Street Merchant of the Year.
5. Mr. Dwight Stephens received recognition as Mississippi Main Street Hero Award
6. The Taste of Aberdeen had three great days of events.
7. Realtors Event

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Mayor Scott invited Mozingo & Quarles PLLC, Attorneys and Counselors at Law to share the following information with the Board:

1. The Litigation v. City of Aberdeen filled by Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. was dismissed with prejudice in Monroe County Circuit Court.
2. The City of Aberdeen has thirty (30) days to appeal in rules of Attorney Zinn, Jr. settlement if needed.
3. James R. Mozingo stated he is done with this case.

Mayor Scott shared the following information with the Board and citizens within the City of Aberdeen:

1. The City of Aberdeen failed to do water samples for the month of May. The results of the water samples for the month of June passed.
2. The City of Aberdeen hired ESG to service our water samples and evaluate our samples by working with the state standards.
3. ESG is a Certified Company when it comes to handling the water samples for the City of Aberdeen.
4. ESG will locate every lead pipe throughout the City and ensure the City of Aberdeen the location of each pipe
5. ESG is a trained professional company that will make the water better for the City of Aberdeen and a locate each pipe by using a GPS locator.
6. Mayor stated that a \$4 million dollar grant was approved to upgrade our water cycle and that includes one water tank, and fourteen water wells.

Mayor Scott invited some of the Mayor's Youth Council and Mentors to the Board Meeting to share the upcoming fundraiser this month. The Mayor's Youth Council and the Advisors must attend Board Meetings during this next year.

Mayor's Youth Council is having a Blue Carpet Ball. The ticket prices are \$25.00 each. The fundraiser will help the students plan a travel trip in the Spring of 2024. Mayor Scott shared with the Board and residents that the Mayor's Youth Council has assisted with Paradise Alley, Aberdeen Loaves and Fishes, cleaning the cemetery and picking up paper with Let's Get Clean Aberdeen. Mayor Scott asked that everyone please support them by purchasing a ticket. All donations will go to the Mayor's Youth Council.

Mayor's Youth Council will be traveling to Nashville, TN, and visiting with Dr. Johnson. Dr. Johnson graduated from Aberdeen High School. Also, the Mayor's Youth Council will visit the College of Vanderbilt and be welcomed by Alumni's of Aberdeen High School.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday allowed Albert Barker to speak on changing the date for Transit-X to speak to the Board from July 12, 2023 to July 25, 2023 @ 5:00 PM. Alderman Holliday spoke on how we can eliminate the accidents that's happening with the Aberdeen Police Department. Alderman Holliday stated we must take charge of our lives when driving a motor vehicle and this town is too small for high-speed chases. Alderman Holliday is afraid of someone getting hurt.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth had nothing to say at this time.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes wanted to know the update on the T-12 truck for Public Works. Alderman Haynes stated four families did a tour of the Black History Trail. Alderman Haynes has few items to discuss in Closed Determination involving personnel issues. Alderman Haynes graduated with his certification from MML, Biloxi, MS

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom thanked the citizens of Aberdeen for allowing her an opportunity to attend the MML Conference in Biloxi, MS. Alderwoman Odom thanked Public Works for doing a good job cleaning up Big John Road and other areas in her Ward. Alderwoman Odom stated that Church Street needs repairing.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain thanked the Mayor, Board, and City Clerk Melissa Moore for making his first trip as Alderman to MML Conference in Biloxi, MS very worthwhile. Alderman Cain stated the City needs to know where they are at all times as it pertains to the zoning and other issues of the City.

Citizen's Input:

Realtor Dustin Clardy addressed the issues concerning the City of Aberdeen on the Easement Rights at Lakewood Subdivision. Mr. Clardy stated the City of Aberdeen reclosed the deed with the lots in the subdivision.

Public Utilities General Manager, LaMarcus Thompson asked the Board to approve the following:

1. Accept the resignation of City employee Brady Slupik.
2. Advertise for a Groundsman for two weeks
3. Advertise for a part-time Mechanic at Aberdeen Public Utilities
4. Advertise for a Cashier at Aberdeen Public Utilities

Ms. Tina Robbins asked the Board to please use your microphones when speaking, so that everyone could hear what you're saying on Facebook Live.

Mrs. Teresa Baker-Young came before the Board to speak on behalf of the Big Star Building, 118 North Meridian Street, Aberdeen, MS. Mrs. Young is concerned about the trucks and tractors parking on the private property and destroying it. Mrs. Young would like to know if the City of Aberdeen would help in repairing the parking lot. Mrs. Young asked that it stops immediately. Alderman Holliday asked Mrs. Young what's her plans for the empty building? Mrs. Young plans on opening a gym, spa and entertainment for children.

Closed Determination;

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday to enter into a closed determination to determine whether to go into Executive Session

Executive Session:

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Cain to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters involving City employees Robert Hale and Willie Sykes, and Mayor Scott's Litigation. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters involving City employees Robert Hale and Willie Sykes, and Mayor Scott's Litigation. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to come out of executive session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to terminate City employee Robert Hale with Aberdeen Public Works. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to suspend City employee Willie Sykes for three days without pay and cannot have any infractions within the 30-day probationary period or he will be terminated. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, and Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to terminate City employee Willie Sykes effective immediately. On a roll call vote, Alderman Haynes, and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, and Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to move forward to pay City Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr. attorney fees in the amount of \$5,200.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to contact TKO Staffing to inform them that Quentin Doss no longer employed with the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to pay Mozingo & Quarles, PLLC attorney fees in the amount of \$10,000.00 involving the litigation of Attorney Walter H. Zinn Jr. v. City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to move forward to award the sealed Bid from Cook Development, LLC for 'THE MAGNOLIAS OF ABERDEEN SITE IMPROVEMENTS' in the amount of \$125,000.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth didn't vote due to exiting the meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn the Board Meeting until the July 18, 2023 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Alderwoman Garth didn't vote due to exiting the meeting".

Attest:


Devonsha Young, Deputy City Clerk


Charles Scott, Mayor