# REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**July 18, 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, ALDERMAN EDWARD HAYNES, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM, ALDERMAN JOHN CAIN, AND DEVONSHA YOUNG, DEPUTY CITY CLERK.**

**ON THE TELEPHONE: WALTER H. ZINN, JR., CITY ATTORNEY.**

**ABSENT: CITY CLERK, MELISSA MOORE**

**Invocation**: **LaMarcus Thompson**

**Roll Call**

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the proposed July 5, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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 18, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth 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, 2023, and the group policy will include a $500 deductible per employee. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Cain to Table the hiring of a Probation Monitoring Company until next Board Meeting August 1, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve and proceed further on the SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT #1 / CITY DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FINAL DESIGN, BIDDING, AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the Phase 2 of the Port Infrastructure Improvement of the Dock for $68,000.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve Phase 2 of the Infrastructure Improvement with the Port. On a roll of call vote, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Cain, voted “Aye”, and Alderman Holliday, and Alderwoman Garth, voted “Nay”.

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employment Enhancement for City Officials and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Mayor Charles Scott and Alderwoman Carolyn Odom to attend the Tenn-Tom Waterway Conference, Clear Pointe, AL / August 9-11, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Public Notice for Rezoning Hearing to change property PPIN: 5508 / PARCEL ID: 105N-21-001-020.00 from an A1 to R3 on July 27, 2023 at 6:00 PM. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Public Hearing Notice for Redistricting Hearing on July 25, 2023 at 6:00 PM. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Terrell Johnson to attend the Fire Academy on July 31- August 11, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve to post and advertise the contract for Oddfellows Rest and Oaklawn Cemeteries. The sealed bids will be taken from July 26- August 11, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to Table the WATCO Port Operation Agreement until the next Board Meeting on August 1, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made to approve Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employee Enhancement for City Officials and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth to attend the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, Biloxi, MS / August 10-13, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the quote given by United Systems & Software, 205 Ash Street, Benton, KY 42025 to Aberdeen Public Utilities to purchase Temetra software and handhelds for Aberdeen Public Utilities and Aberdeen Water Department in the amount of $28,297.77. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to withdrawal the advertising for Cashier at Public Utilities and re-advertise for an Office Assistant for Aberdeen Public Utilities. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Cain to Table the duties and responsibilities of the part-time Mechanic. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to hire TKO Staffing Employee Ronald Mobley as a full-time laborer for Public Works at $12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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**Mayor’s Report:**

Mayor Scott thanked the Mayor’s Youth Council for attending the City of Aberdeen Board Meetings.

Mayor Scott invited W. Homer Braylock, Jr., Chairman / Broker Marketing Group of MS, LLC to propose insurance products including Medical, Gap Plan, Wellness Benefits, Deductible, Rates and other benefits the agency offers. Mr. Braylock stated no changes on the insurance the premiums will stay the same. The rates of the medical insurance will reduce beginning the new renewal date of September 1, 2023. Mr. Braylock asked the City to please try and keep the claims low. The City needs to make sure they enforce men and women in getting their Wellness Exam. Mr. Braylock stated the City needs to be proactive when it comes to their health.

North Central Probation Services - Mr. C. L. Hoyle came before the Board to update them about his probation company and the services it offers. Mr. Hoyle proceeded to hand out paperwork while speaking on his services for the City of Aberdeen.

South Central Probation Service – Mr. Matthew Lewis came before the Board to share with them that he has been serving in the capacity as Probation Officer for the City of Aberdeen since 2016, and he would like to continue to serve the City of Aberdeen. Mr. Lewis is branching out into his own company an all the probation services will remain the same.

SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT 1 / CITY DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FINAL DESIGN, BIDDING, AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING SERVICES - Mr. William Sanford came before the Board to provide an update on the status of Aberdeen Port. Mr. Sanford asked the Board to move forward with Phase 2 with the Infrastructure and that MDA granted the City of Aberdeen $800,000.

**Mayor Scott shared with the Board the dates and time of the upcoming Town hall Meeting:**

1. **Wards 2 & 3 – July 25, 2023 @ 6:00 PM at Aberdeen City Hall**
2. **Ward 1 – July 26, 2023 @ 6:00 PM at Aberdeen City Hall**
3. **Ward 5 – July 27, 2023 @ 6:00 PM at Aberdeen City Hall**

Mayor Scott shared with the Board the grant received for the Port Improvement in the amount of $803,000.00, and the Multi-Modal Grant in the amount of $538,000.00. Mayor Scott stated that WATCO will be the operator for the Port. The funding from the MARAD Grant will be getting released soon, and at that time the City will proceed with the $4,000,000.00 project. Mayor Scott stated there’s a lot of good work going on in the city, and he appreciate the hard work from everyone.

**Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:**

**Alderman Holliday:** Alderman Holliday asked the Board about looking into getting a second arm truck (T-12) for Public Works. Alderman Holliday congratulated Public Utilities General Manager LaMarcus Thompson and the Water Department on doing a great job in their department, and keep up the good work! Alderman Holliday made a motion for him and Alderwoman Garth to attend the Mississippi National Black Caucus of State Legislatures in Biloxi, MS.

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**Alderwoman Garth:** Alderwoman Garth stated there was a stack of debris across from the Post Office, on Franklin Street, Monroe Street and Acker Alley that needs to be picked up. Alderwoman Garth yield the floor for Aberdeen Fire Chief Fred Hodges to address the Board on the concerns of not having the proper equipment to communicate with his crew and other emergency First Responders in an emergency situation. Alderwoman Garth stated the funds for the equipment and generators needed for the Fire Department should be listed as a Government Revenue Loss.

**Alderman Haynes:** Alderman Haynes addressed the Mayor’s Youth Council on their attendance to the Board Meetings, and listening to projects and ideas that’s going on in the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Haynes shared with the Mayor’s Youth Council on how everything they see and hear will be beneficial to them as they get older, and to not take this opportunity for granted, but use it to grow. Alderman Haynes stated there is a lot of work that needs to be done within the City limits of Aberdeen, especially on our streets. There need to be an everyday plan in getting things done throughout the City of Aberdeen, and this will make things easier for the City employees. Alderman Haynes stated the Mechanic Department falls up under Public Works, but if policy needs to implemented, the time is now to make the change. Alderman Haynes stated it’s time for the Board to hire a Code Enforcer to help with cleaning up the City and making those accountable for their actions. Alderman Haynes stated he had personnel issues to discuss in Executive Session.

**Alderwoman Odom:** Alderwoman Odom had nothing to share at this time.

**Alderman Cain:** Alderman Cain thanked the City for having the opportunity to visit Westlake. It was a good visit. Alderman Cain stated the Board needs to rewrite some old rules pertaining to the trash for the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Cain stated the only thorn in his side is Oddfellow Rest Cemetery on the East side, and how it’s being neglected. Alderman Cain said there is a way for the City to take the East side of the cemetery and make it what it’s supposed to be, and the loved ones buried their deserves the very best.

**Citizen’s Input:**

Public Utilities General Manager Lamarcus Thompson

1. Lamarcus Thompson asked the board to give him permission to upgrade the system from United System for Aberdeen Electricity and Aberdeen Water.
2. Lamarcus Thompson asked the board to give him permission to post and advertise for a painter to paint three buildings.
3. Lamarcus Thompson asked to withdraw the advertisement for Cashier at Aberdeen Public Utilities and re-advertise for an Office Assistant
4. Lamarcus Thompson asked to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter regarding the Mechanic position.

Ms. Joyce Vasser asked the Board once the Cemetery contract has been approved will it be for the entire cemetery or just part of the cemetery on the East side. Ms. Vasser would appreciate if the City would do something about the East side of the cemetery because those loved ones paid their money just like everyone else.

**Closed Determination:**

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

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**Closed Determination:**

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

**Executive Session:**

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters involving City employees Roderick Pargo, Vernon Rogers, and Willie Sykes. 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 personnel matters involving City employees Roderick Pargo, Vernon Rogers, and Willie Sykes.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to come out of Executive Session. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted ”Aye”. Alderman Haynes voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain not to approve anymore light duties for City employee Terry Cunningham. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to issue a thirty (30) day notice to terminate the cleaning service contract to Robinson Janitorial Specialist, Inc. with an effective date of July 18, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to post and advertise for a Painter at Aberdeen Public Utilities on three 80 x 45 buildings on the outside. The Bids must be sealed. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Holliday to post and advertise for sealed bids for the Janitorial Cleaning Service for City Hall. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Haynes to terminate City employee Willie Sykes with Aberdeen Public Works. On a roll call vote, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderwoman Garth voted “Nay”. Alderman Holliday voted “Recuse”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to terminate City employee Roderick Pargo with Aberdeen Public Works. 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 Haynes, seconded by Alderman Holliday to suspend City employee Vernon Rogers for three days without pay effective July 19- July 21, 2023. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”, and Alderwoman Garth voted “Nay”.

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to terminate Public Works Director Mr. Richard Boone. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, and Alderwoman Odom, voted “Aye”. Alderman Haynes and Alderman Cain voted “Nay”. Alderman Holliday voted “Recuse”. Due to a tie vote of 2 -2, Mayor Scott voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn the Board Meeting until the August 1, 2023. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted ”Aye”. Alderman Haynes voted “Nay”.

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 Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:

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Devonsha Young, Deputy City Clerk