

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**August 1, 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, MELISSA MOORE, CITY CLERK AND WALTER H. ZINN, JR., CITY ATTORNEY.

Invocation: Alderman Edward Haynes

ROLL CALL:

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the proposed Minutes dated July 18, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Haynes voted to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated August 1, 2023. 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 Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the purchase of the lowest quote for a transformer for Aberdeen Public Utilities from Sunbelt Solomon, Temple, Texas 76504 in the amount of \$23,822.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to Amend the Motion on page one, paragraph 6 of July 5, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes to say the following: **"The Board approves the redirection of this planned street to the current land owners, Frances Treas Almengual, Susan Treas Ewing and Lynn Treas Trust, what was to be "Grove Street" that was intended to be a part of the Lakewood Subdivision in Section 29, Township 14S, Range 7 East located in Aberdeen, Monroe County, MS. This planned road is indicated in the Lakewood Subdivision Plat dated January 24, 1958, and located in Plat Book No. 2, Page 19 in the office of the Chancery Clerk Office of Monroe County, MS."** On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the Rezoning of A-1 to R-3 for PPIN: 5508 / PARCEL ID: 105N-21-001-020.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve Plan #4 of the Redistricting Plans for the City of Aberdeen provided by Three Rivers Planning and Development District. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve South Central Monitoring, LLC, West Point, MS to be the Probation Monitoring Company for the City of Aberdeen Municipal Court. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the refund in the amount of \$50.00 (Basketball Camp) to Mr. Jordan Gillespie. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Mrs. Devonshae Young to attend the Certified Municipal Clerk Training, Oxford, MS / September 27-29, 2023 / Fee: \$300.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Ms. Melissa Moore to attend the Certified Municipal Clerk Training, Ridgeland, MS / October 11-13, 2023 / Fee: \$300.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Mr. Norris James to attend the Fire Academy, Jackson, MS / August 13-17, 2023 / Fee: \$230.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employment Enhancement for Elected Officials and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Mr. Nicholas Holliday and Mr. John Cain to attend the 2023 Board Member Management Training, Columbus, MS / September 12, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve Employment Enhancement for Elected Officials and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Mr. Charles Scott, Mr. Nicholas Holliday, Mrs. Lady B. Garth and Mr. John Cain to attend the 2023 Advanced Board Training, Tupelo, MS / October 26, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Ms. Melissa Moore to attend the 2023 Water Certification & Recertification Classes, Tupelo, MS / October 23-26, 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 for Elected Officials and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Mr. Charles Scott, Mr. Nicholas Holliday, Mrs. Lady B. Garth and Mr. John Cain to attend the CMO Elective Evening Class, Oxford, MS / September 28, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the opening of Henry's Bar & Grill, Highway 145 Alt, Aberdeen, MS, with all the credentials to sell alcohol and food. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve to post and advertise for the Aberdeen Housing Authority Board Member position, and vote at the first Board Meeting in September. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to subdivide PPIN: 8026; PARCEL ID: 108Q-34-002-025.00. No vote was taken, due to matter being Tabled and discussed in Closed Determination.

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain to re-established Commissioners for each department within the City of Aberdeen. No second was given. Motion Died.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize City Attorney Zinn, Jr. to do a Comprehensive Title Search on Oddfellows Rest East Cemetery. 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 Alderwoman Odom to approve L. C. Cook Development, Mr. Curtis Cook to subdivide property PPIN: 7652 / PARCEL ID: 108K-34-003-022.00 to build three homes. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott asked Tina Robbins to report on events and activities in the City of Aberdeen. Ms. Robbins stated they hosted a dinner for Monroe County Sheriff's Academy. There were twenty (20) graduates. This was the largest class they've had to graduate.

Aberdeen Public Utilities General Manager, LaMarcus Thompson came before the Board asking permission to purchase a transformer for Aberdeen Public Utilities. Mr. Thompson provided two quotes: Sunbelt Solomon - \$23,822.00 and MS-TN Transformers - \$43,266.00. Mr. Thompson is accepting the lowest quote.

Mayor Scott invited Mr. Stanley Spradling to the Board to provide an update on the success that the City of Aberdeen have on the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) filing. Mr. Spradling stated the Mississippi-County Water Infrastructure Improvement Program has allowed Monroe County, MS to give the City of Aberdeen \$1,000,000.00, the City of Aberdeen is contributing \$1,000,000.00 of the local ARPA money, and the State of Mississippi granted the City of Aberdeen \$2,000,000.00. The total project is \$4,000,000.00. Mr. Spradling stated the project includes the following: the Elevator Water Tank in the Egypt, MS area, and re-working all the Wells inside the City of Aberdeen and Prairie, MS. There's \$180,000.00 per Well to work all the old Well Houses. Mr. Spradling shared with the Board that Ms. Bonnie Childs from Three Rivers Planning and Developing District will be handling the City's next Procurement, which will be the Professional Services. Mr. Spradling stated that all contracts has to be obligated by June 2024, and he is committed in making that happen.

Mayor Scott invited Mr. William Sanford to update the Board on the Multi-Model Port Project Grant in the amount of \$538,000.00. Mr. Sanford couldn't attend the meeting, so in his absence, Mayor Scott shared with the Board that the grant money would add a Spur to the Spur Base and this would allow another rail car to travel up and down the Rail Spur. This will happen as we move forward with the MARAD Grant. A notification was received July 19, 2023.

Mr. Spradling shared with the Board and Public that the CCR Report was completed, reported and published in the newspaper. Also, copper and lead standards that the EPA is requiring for Municipalities the size of the City of Aberdeen is being looked at to stay in compliance.

Mayor Scott invited the Mayor's Youth Council and Advisors to the Board to thank them for their good works, and know that everything you do count. Mayor Scott told the Mayor's Youth Council they had to write three things that would make the City of Aberdeen a better place. Mayor Scott personally thanked Mr. Caleb Roberson for all the work he does in helping others and the City of Aberdeen.

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Mayor Scott share with the Board that a young man will be visiting the City of Aberdeen and connect with Mr. Caleb Roberson to assist, and give pointers relating to his field of study this Fall at Ole Miss. The young man is seeking to be elected as Mississippi Commissioner of Agriculture & Commerce.

Mayor Scott invited Mr. Brian Atkins, Birdsong Peanuts, Aberdeen, Ms to the Board Meeting to get approval from the Board about the Solar Company he would like to bring to the City of Aberdeen. Mr. Atkins stated that Renewvia Energy Corporation, Atlanta, Georgia would like to enter into a MOU with the City of Aberdeen, and supply 5% of the City of Aberdeen power usage. Tennessee Valley Authority would allow the City of Aberdeen to buy 5% of their total usage from a Green Power Source. Mr. Atkins stated that under TVA guidelines Renewvia can supply the City of Aberdeen 5% power usage that totals 700 kilowatts.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday invited Mr. Henry Danner to the Board to introduce himself and ask permission to open Henry's Bar and Grill, Aberdeen, MS, and sell beer, liquor and food. Alderman Holliday stated he has formed a committee in Ward One with Mrs. Benita Hampton and Mr. Moore that resides on Martin Luther King Street. If the citizens in Ward One have any issues or complaints, they will give them to Mrs. Hampton and Mr. Moore to bring before the Board. Alderman Holliday invited Mr. Joseph Stone to the Board to address his concerns about the property they purchased from Mr. James Bell to build their home. Mr. Stone asked the Board to allow them to run a water pump line that would connect to the City's waterline on Commerce Street.

City Inspector Roy Haynes shared with the Board that Mr. James Bell is the Developer of this property, and has been told that he has to provide the infrastructure before selling any more land. Mr. Stone stated that he wants to build in the City of Aberdeen, and not in the County. Mr. Haynes shared with the Board that if one more house is built in that area, it becomes a subdivision. Mayor Scott asked Mr. Haynes to schedule a meeting with Mr. Bell. Alderman Holliday asked Public Works Director Richard Boone to address the Board about the ditch that needs to be covered before someone gets hurt. The ditch is located in Ward One on 1100 Martin Luther King Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth shared with the Board the telephone calls she received from supervisors asking that Ms. White (Mayor's secretary) to stop trying to disseminate information about their departments. The supervisors are saying the information Ms. White provides to the citizens are incorrect. Alderwoman Garth stated some citizens haven't received their letters regarding the notice of the City's drinking water.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes asked about the wire that's hanging down in front of the Crosby's home on College Place. Alderman Haynes stated that it has been two months and no one has addressed this issue, and the owners are beginning to feel like no one cares about their concerns. Alderman Haynes stated the sidewalk on the corner of Jefferson Street and Franklin Street needs to be repaired and the ramp replaced so the citizens, especially the disabled can have access to it. Alderman Haynes made a motion to post and advertise for the Aberdeen Housing Authority Board Member.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom didn't have anything to report at this time.

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Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated the Board has been back and forth concerning the Holley Building. Alderman Cain would like to move that 1.5 acre lot be subdivided on Matubba Street / PPIN: 8026; PARCEL ID: 108Q-34-002-025.00, and leave the driveway for Holley. Alderman Cain stated the property needs to be put on the tax roll. Alderman Cain stated that Commissioners over the departments in the City needs to be re-established, and he will put a motion on the floor. Alderman Cain stated he's spoken to Mr. Roy Haynes and Mr. Boone about a situation in his Ward, and he's still looking at garbage cans obstructing lanes of traffic. The area from Acker Park down to Blue Bluff needs to be attended to, and he's tired of asking the same thing and nothing getting done. Alderman Cain asked Attorney Zinn, Jr. to do a Comprehensive Title Search on Oddfellows Rest East Cemetery, and publish his opinion to the Board.

Citizen's Input:

City Inspector Roy Haynes shared with the Board that L. C .Cook Development, Mr. Curtis Cook is requesting to subdivide the property located on West Jefferson Street and Jett Street to build three homes. The PPIN: 7656 / PARCEL ID: 108K-34-003-022.00.

City Employees Warren Myles, Tohona Larthridge, Marcus Collins, C.J. Parker and Heidi Clennan asked to go into Closed Determination to discuss personnel issues.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday 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 Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues concerning City Employees Warren Myles, Tohona Larthridge, Marcus Collins, C.J. Parker, and Heidi Clennan. Also, Brian Atkins regarding a Solar Company. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues concerning City Employees Warren Myles, Tohona Larthridge, Marcus Collins, C.J. Parker, and Heidi Clennan, Also, Brian Atkins regarding a Solar Company.

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

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the \$1.00 raise for Officers Justin Posey and Carson Gunn for completing and graduating from the Police Academy. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the vacation days for City employee Tohona Larthridge to be used as she would so diligently say so. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the resignation of City employee Jarvis Dearing, with an effective date August 1, 2023, and post and advertise for a fireman. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the Police Dispatcher position of City employee Heidi Clennan from part-time police dispatcher to a full-time police dispatcher. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve City Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr., retainer fees in the amount of \$750.00, and \$150.00 per hour to handle litigations for the City of Aberdeen with a contract. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Nay". Alderman Haynes voted "Pass". Due to a tie vote of 2-2, Mayor Scott voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to adjourn until the August 15, 2023 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk


Charles Scott, Mayor