

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**August 15, 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: City Clerk Melissa Moore

ROLL CALL:

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the proposed Minutes dated August 1, 2023. On a roll call vote, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Cain voted to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated August 15, 2023. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday wasn't present to vote.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the hiring of an engineer to evaluate the old Aberdeen Public Utilities Building and prepare for the Aberdeen Police Department to relocate in Aberdeen Public Utilities Building. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Ms. Kimberly Payne, Ms. Samona Johnson and Ms. Tammy Johnson to attend the District Associated Members Electrical Society (Dames Day), Jackson, TN / August 24, 2023, from 9:00AM – 2:30PM. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes approve the Aberdeen Public Utilities Application, Procedures, and Requirements for Interconnection and Parallel Operation for Renewable Generation. The application fee: \$300.00 for citizens and \$500.00 for corporations. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the Tampering with Meters or Service Fee in the amount of \$300.00 for Aberdeen Public Utilities to anyone caught tampering with the City of Aberdeen Meters. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the lowest quote given by Sunbelt Solomon, 1922 South MLK, Jr. Drive, Temple, TX in the amount of \$5,760.00 to purchase a Single Phase Pole Mount 37.5 KVA Transformer for Aberdeen Public Utilities. 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 the hiring of Razelle Taylor as Groundsman for Aberdeen Public Utilities at a rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the lowest quote given by Thomasson Company, Philadelphia, MS in the amount of \$6,895.00 for the purchase of thirty (30) Utility Poles (20 – 30ft poles @ \$3,000 / 5 – 40ft poles @ \$1,615 / 5 – 45ft poles @ \$2,280.00) for Aberdeen Public Utilities. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the purchase for a CSA Computer System to align with Software Office Upgrade for Aberdeen Public Utilities in the amount of \$15,035.00, with a 60% (Water Dept) and 40% (Electric Dept) that will be paid from the Equipment Fund. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept Officer Jordan Gillespie resignation. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Officer Jordan Gillespie status from full-time to part-time at a rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept Officer Brandon Brown resignation. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve Officer Santana Scales as new School Resource Officer for the Aberdeen School District. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to Table the Letter of Intent for Renewvia Solar Energy Project. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to Table the Drainage and Sidewalks Repairs. No vote was taken.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve and give permission for TKO Staffing Pros employees to operate City vehicles. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott invited Mr. Dustin Dabbs to the meeting to update the Board on Projects and Plans for the city of Aberdeen. Mr. Dabbs stated the City of Aberdeen International Building Codes need to be updated from the year 2012 to 2018. The International Building Codes for the City should be updated every six years. The Comprehensive Plan for the City of Aberdeen need to be updated as well. The Comprehensive Plan should be updated every twenty years according to State Law. Mr. Dabbs stated that the Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision Regulations are the two the city works with on a daily basis, and need to be updated as soon as possible. Mr. Dabbs would like to identify ten projects, do a cost estimate, prioritize them, and when money is available, he will work in that order. Mr. Dabbs shared with the Board that it's in the best interest of the City to update to the 24 Code Book.

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Mayor Scott invited Chief Shumpert to the Board Meeting to discuss the probable change of location for the Aberdeen Police Department. Chief Shumpert agrees with relocating the police Department to the old Aberdeen Public Utilities Building on Commerce Street. Chief Shumpert stated that several renovations must take place before the Police Department can move in that building. Mayor Scott stated that an engineer will need to come in and take a look at the building and give a report of what needs to be done and the cost.

Mayor Scott asked General Manager of Aberdeen Public Utilities, Lamaricus Thompson to share with the Board his plans and ideas for the City:

1. Mr. Thompson would like for Ms. Kimberly Payne, Ms. Samona Johnson and Ms. Tammy Johnson to attend CSA Training in Jackson, TN.
2. Mr. Thompson asked the Board to approve the Aberdeen Public Utilities Application, Procedures, and Requirements for Interconnection and Parallel Operation for Renewable Generation. The application fee: \$300.00 for citizens and \$500.00 for corporations.
3. Mr. Thompson asked the Board to approve a \$300.00 tampering fee with meters or service to electricians and plumbers that's uncertified.
4. Mr. Thompson asked the Board to read over the document that includes the price to replace the batteries at the District and South Substations, and discuss at next Board Meeting.
5. Mr. Thompson shared with the Board the two quotes for a Single Phase Pole Mount 37.5 KVA that he would like to purchase for the Aberdeen Public Utilities. Quotes: Sunbelt Solomon, Temple, Texas (\$5,760.00), and MS-TN Transformers, Inc., Greenwood, MS (\$9,801.00)
6. Mr. Thompson would like to hire Mr. Razelle Taylor as Groundsman for Aberdeen Public Utilities.
7. Mr. Thompson would like to hire Marcus Strong as a Laborer for the Water Department and a part-time secretary for the water Department.

Mayor Scott shared with the Board about the responsibility of business owners having their Privilege License for the City. Mayor Scott stated fines can be given to the business owners, the Clerks of the City, and the City of Aberdeen if protocol is not being properly enforced. Mayor Scott asked Deputy City Clerk Devonshae Young to share with the Board the responsibility of business owners as it relates to Privilege License Tax and the penalty along with fines that will be given by the State Auditor's Office if they fail to comply with policy. Alderwoman Odom stated that business owners are aware of Privilege License Tax. Alderman Cain told Mrs. Young the Board is proud of her and the City Clerk.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday asked three representatives from Ward One, Mrs. Benita Hampton, Mr. Barry Moore and Ms. Stein Johnson to come before the Board and share the concerns they have about Ward One. Mrs. Hampton would like for the abandon houses, drainage issues, and street repairs to be taken care of; Mr. Moore would like to see Alderpersons checking on their Ward other than when it's time for an Election, clean-up in Ward One, and a City Ordinance; Ms. Johnson stated the grass is growing up on sidewalks and a busted pipe needs to be repaired.

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Alderman Holliday asked Public Works Director Richard Boone to share the estimates for the repairs in Ward One with the Board for the streets of 1100 MLK, Jr., Randle Street, Franklin and Jefferson Streets.

Alderman Holliday invited Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Mr. Albert Barker with Affluent Marketing Company to share with the Board about the Memorandum of Understanding for The Aberdeen Podway (Transit X, LLC). Attorney Zinn, Jr. expounded on the concerns of the MOU the Board may have at this time. Alderman Holliday shared with the Board about the 75.9% (Black or African American) in Ward One that needs jobs.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth stated that Ward Two has received calls with concerns of areas that need attention. Alderwoman Garth stated grass is growing through the steps; grass is covering the steps; grassy City Right-of-Ways, and curbs needs cleaning. Alderwoman Garth stated that curbs and streets are horrible, and paper is everywhere throughout the City, and on the corner of James Street the drains are filled with leaves and ditches are not cleaned. Alderwoman Garth stated the main thoroughfares within the City are not being maintained and cleaned. Alderwoman Garth stated that Long, Franklin, Columbus, and James Streets are not being cleaned and maintained, the Town is filthy.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes stated that Department Heads have to do a better job, because if you do nothing, your crew will do nothing. Alderman Haynes stated the overtime is getting out of hand and needs to be reviewed. The handicap ramp on Jefferson and Franklin Streets was destroyed by the gas company and needs to be repaired. Alderman Haynes stated the grass on the side where the old Tombigbee Hotel used to be needs to be mowed; petition for a handicap ramp in the City of Aberdeen City Parks due to handicap children living in those areas and cannot get access to the parks.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom thanked the City of Aberdeen for allowing her to attend the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Conference in Alabama. She learned a lot and enjoyed the class sessions. Alderwoman Odom shared with the Board that Main Street Director Mrs. Ann Tackett came to the Work Session and voiced her concerns about areas of the City not being cleaned and well kept. Alderwoman Odom stated she wanted to add Ward Five in with the same complaints of nothing being done as it relates to the streets and ditches not being cleaned and grass not being mowed.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated he would like to inform Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth that he took good notes from the visit with Main Street Director Ann Tackett. Alderman Cain stated that Senator Hob Bryan mentioned things on Main Street need to be done; and there is a lot of exciting things happening in the City of Aberdeen. Mrs. Tackett secured another \$100,000.00 more or less to fix the issues on Main Street and other areas of the City. Alderman Cain stated he receive calls about the old Workshop Building at Oddfellows Rest Cemetery that needs repairing. Alderman Cain advised the Board and residents of the City to write down the after hour numbers they need to call for assistance. The after hour for the City is 662-369-2881, and for the Fire Department is 662-369-9552, and if no one answers, please give him a call.

Alderman Cain asked the question about the City employees on notarizing for the public and charging a fee. City Attorney Zinn, Jr. asked since there are laws stating that the City shouldn't be notarizing, would it be an issue to stop it. Mayor Scott stated he would like a Motion in place for the City employees to no longer notarize for the public, but only for the business of the City.

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Citizen's Input:

Mr. Albert Barker wanted to know the Board's position on abandoned tires. Alderman Cain stated you handle disposable tires the same you would with paint and batteries; we're not supposed to touch them. Alderwoman Odom stated that abandoned tires has to taken to a business that handles tires and a fee will be charged to properly dispose them. Mayor Scott stated the City has been picking up the tires, and if they knew the individuals dumping tires all over the City, action will be taken against them.

Mr. Earvin Thompson shared with the Board that if citizens would do their part and help clean up their neighborhoods there would be less trash and debris in and around the City. Mr. Thompson complained about flooding and drainage issues on Canal Street for several years and no one has done anything to fix the problem, and he would like to see more jobs come to the City of Aberdeen.

Mrs. Mary Ann Butler and Mr. Bobby Butler addressed the concerns of the drainage issues on Walters Drive, and want to know when the City will fix the problem. Mayor Scott stated the area has been evaluated by engineers, and it will be fixed as soon as possible. Alderman Cain told Mr. and Mrs. Butler the issue on Walters Drive has been reviewed, and we're working on it.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues concerning the hiring of Marcus Strong for Aberdeen Public Utilities; City Attorney Zinn, Jr. invoices for payment, and Affluent Marketing Consultants regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). 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 issues concerning the hiring of Marcus Strong for Aberdeen Public Utilities; City Attorney Zinn, Jr. invoices for payment, and Affluent Marketing Consultants regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU),

Alderman Holliday exited from Executive Session @ 7:54 PM.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to come out of Executive Session. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Alderman Holliday wasn't present to vote.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve to post and advertise the Request for Bids on property located on the corner of Commerce Street and Hillcrest Drive (PPIN: 6998 / PARCEL ID: 108G-27-024-004.00). On a roll call vote, On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday wasn't present to vote.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employee / Officials Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Mayor Charles Scott, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Cain to attend the 2023 Small Town Conference, Meridian, MS / October 25-26, 2023. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday wasn't present to vote.

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General Manager of Aberdeen Public Utilities came before the Board with two Bids on a lawn mower he would like to purchase for Aberdeen Public Utilities. The two bids: Pace J & E Enterprise, LLC, Aberdeen, MS in the amount of \$12,284.00 / Mississippi Peanut Supply & Equipment Company in the amount of \$11,900.00.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the bid from Pace J & E Enterprises, LLC Aberdeen, MS on a Scag Cheeta Lawnmower in the amount of \$12,284.00 for Aberdeen Public Utilities. The payment will be taken from the Equipment Fund. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday wasn't present to vote.

Mayor Scott opened an announced the two Bids from Painters to paint the three 80x45 Outside Buildings at Aberdeen Public Utilities. The bids are from: Small Jobs Paint and Construction, Aberdeen, MS in the amount of \$17,000.00; Cook Development, LLC in the amount of \$17,500.00.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the Bid given by Cook Development, LLC Caledonia, MS to paint the three 80x45 buildings at Aberdeen Public Utilities in the amount of \$17,500.00. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday wasn't present to vote.

Mayor Scott opened an announced the two Bids from contractors to mow and maintain Oddfellows Rest and Oaklawn Cemeteries. The bids are from: Lee's Home Improvements, Amory, MS in the amount of \$79,992.92; Clean Cut Lawn Care, LLC in the amount of \$120,000.00.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to Table the Bids on the Cemetery Contract for Oddfellows Rest and Oaklawn Cemeteries. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday wasn't present to vote.

Mayor Scott asked the Board permission to post and advertise the part-time Janitorial position instead of opening the two bids the City Hall received from Jade Services, Amory, MS and H&M Janitorial Service, Aberdeen, MS.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve to post and advertise for a part-time janitor for Aberdeen City Hall Building. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Alderman Holliday wasn't present to vote.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn until the September 5, 2023 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Alderman Holliday wasn't present to vote.

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk



Charles Scott, Mayor