

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**September 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, ALDERMAN EDWARD HAYNES, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM, ALDERMAN JOHN CAIN, MELISSA MOORE, CITY CLERK AND WALTER H. ZINN, JR., CITY ATTORNEY.

Invocation: Mr. Jim Edwards

Present on the Telephone: Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr.

ROLL CALL:

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the proposed Minutes dated August 15, 2023. 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 September 5, 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 Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Ms. Tina Robbins 2023 Travel Request Dates: October 4-6, 2023 – Governor’s Tourism Conference, Meridian, MS / \$450.00; October 23-25, 2023 – Rural Tourism Conference, Cleveland, MS; November 8-10, 2023; Welcome Home Directors Fall Retreat, Hattiesburg, MS / \$107.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve Neel -Schaffer as the engineer and provide engineering services for a project funded by the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) American Rescue Plan Act: Mississippi Municipality and County Water Infrastructure Grant (MMWAIG) Project. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Mr. Fernando Davis to attend the National Recreation and park Association (NRPA) Annual Conference, Dallas, Texas / October 10-12, 2023 / Registration Fee: \$815.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the advertisement for PORT OF ABERDEEN – DOCK INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS-PHASE II DOLPHIN REHABILITATION BIDS. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 5, 2023
Page: 2

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve request for Unmarked License Plates and/or Decals for Aberdeen Police Department vehicles. The renewal amount is \$14.75, and new tags are \$16.00. This is governed by the State of Mississippi Department of Revenue, Motor Vehicle Licensing Bureau. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Ms. Karen Crump to attend the TVPPA Conference, Franklin, TN / October 17-20, 2023. Registration fee: \$499.00 On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the sale of the 2013 Dodge Charger by Aberdeen Public Utilities and allow Aberdeen Police Department to purchase for \$2,000.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve for Mayor Charles Scott to be Applicant Agent for DR4697 / MEMA for the City of Aberdeen. 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 to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Ms. Melissa Moore to attend the Fall Municipal Clerk Conference, Tupelo, MS / October 18-20, 2023. Registration Fee: \$175.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the highest bid given by Mr. James Edwards in the amount of \$7,654.32 for PPIN: 6998 / PARCEL ID: 108G-27-024-004.00. The other bids: Mr. Donald Dahlem (\$4,300.00); Mrs. Laleta Stone (\$6,500.00); Pastor Joseph Stone (\$3,500.00). 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 Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the hiring of Davon Ross Wilder as a full-time police officer for the Aberdeen Police Department at a rate of pay of \$14.00 per hour, with the exception of completing the Police Academy in twelve months. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve Renewvia Energy Solar Development Project Letter of Intent Solar Energy Project, Stinson Industrial Park. 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 TABLE the vote for Aberdeen Housing Authority Board Member, and re-advertise the position adding the applicant must live within five miles of Aberdeen Housing Authority. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes and Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve a completion of the water line on Acker Alley that will run all the way to Hickory Street. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

September 5, 2023

Page: 3

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and repair the water issues that Mrs. Jones is having that tie into Meridian Street. On a roll vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the repair of the fountain at the bottom of town by purchasing a pump and a spot light. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve to review some of the deadly and dangerous trees in the City right-of-ways, and try to find funds and have the trees cut down by a professional company that's bonded and insured, if Aberdeen Public Utilities cannot cut down the trees. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the purchase of charcoal filters as needed for the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and accept the resignation of Jamichael Henderson. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the hiring of Brady Slupik as a Groundsman for Aberdeen Public Utilities at a rate of pay at \$15.50 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the hiring of Whitney Howell as a Cashier for Aberdeen Public Utilities at a rate of pay at \$14.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the hiring of Markus Strong at a rate of pay at \$12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott asked City Inspector Roy Haynes to address the Board about the Resolution that Mr. Dustin Dabbs prepared for the Board's approval regarding the Building Codes. Mr. Haynes reviewed the Resolution and seen Building Code that needs to be removed from the Resolution before the Board approves it.

Mayor Scott asked Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau director Tina Robbins to share with the Board the events / activities taking place within the City of Aberdeen:

1. The Realtor Workshop on September 6, 2023 from 1:00-3:00 PM
2. 9 / 11 Remembrance Ceremony on September 11, 2023 @ 11:00 AM
3. Movies at the Elkin Theatre: Teenage Mutant Turtle – September 8-9, 2023 & Blue Beetle – September 22-23, 2023
4. Free Yoga at Aberdeen Park & Recreation Gymnasium
5. Bells Across America (Constitution Week) – September 18, 2023 @ 3:00 PM
6. Newcomer Picnic, Paradise Alley Event, CO-ED Volleyball, AHS Volleyball, Football Season
7. Bukka White Blues Festival – October 7, 2023
8. November 8-10, 2023 – Welcome Home Directors Fall Retreat, Hattiesburg, MS / \$107

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 5, 2023
Page: 4

Ms. Robbins shared with the Board an update on the ARPA Funds. Ms. Robbins stated the Promotional Wrap Cards were approved by the Welcome Center, and a Wrap Card will be done and featured as Christmas in Aberdeen, Mardi Gras and the Pilgrimage. Ms. Robbins stated they have been working diligently on the website, and making great strides.

Ms. Robbins shared with the Board her 2023 Travel Request Dates:

1. October 4-6, 2023 – Governor’s Tourism Conference, Meridian, MS / \$450.00
2. October 23-25, 2023 – Rural Tourism Conference, Cleveland, MS / \$95.00
3. November 8-10, 2023 – Welcome Home Directors Fall Retreat, Hattiesburg, MS / \$107

Mayor Scott shared with the Board that Mr. William Sanford (Neel-Schaffer) will attend the Board Meeting by telephone to discuss the drainage issues on Walters Drive and the floor plan for the Old Public Utilities Building. Mr. Sanford requested the blueprints for the building to review and determine the next phase.

Mayor Scott stated the Public Hearing for the 2023-2024 Fiscal Year Budget is September 7, 2023 @ 5:00 PM, and the College Career Showcase Day is being sponsored by Monroe County Chamber on October 19, 2023 from 8:00 AM-1:00 PM.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday asked City Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr. if he had the chance to read over the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Aberdeen Pod-way given by Transit X, LLC. Attorney Zinn, Jr. stated he read over it thoroughly, and the MOU had too much in it. Attorney Zinn, Jr. stated he made several changes and City is far too premature in this process to make any commitments or obligations. Alderman Holliday asked Mr. Boone to share with the Board an update on the status of the projects on Martin Luther King and Randle Streets. Mr. Boone stated that Mr. John Hanna (Hanna Construction) came to the Work Session to let the Board know what needs to be done and the cost for these two projects.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth stated that on Alley Acker Street running into Hickory Street, Ms. Maxine Eichelberger has complaints about her water. Ms. Eichelberger stated that a gentleman from Jackson, MS informed her that the only way to alleviate her problem is to run the water line all the way to Hickory Street. Alderwoman Garth stated she is the Vice-Mayor for the City of Aberdeen, and wants to know why Mayor Scott isn’t signing Attorney Zinn, Jr. check. Mayor Scott stated we can discuss that concern in Executive Session.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes stated that he will discuss his issues / concerns in Executive Session with all Department Heads.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom asked about the letter that’s in the packet regarding Mrs. Patricia Howell asking to remain on the Aberdeen Housing Authority Board. Alderwoman Odom reminded everyone about 9/11, and asked to please show up at City Hall. It’s a remembrance that needs to be made.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated that Mrs. Ann Tackett received a check in the amount of \$100,000.00 from the State of Mississippi to improve Aberdeen Main Street. Alderman Cain stated that Mrs. Tackett had several requests: the camper needs to be removed from the old service station at the bottom of the hill, and the awnings on Main Street. City Inspector Roy Haynes shared with the Board he contacted Mr. Schrock about the awnings on Main Street. Mr. Schrock was out-of-town, and soon as he return they will discuss the repairing of the awnings.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 5, 2023
Page: 5

Alderman Cain stated that Mr. Roy Haynes and Mr. LaMarcus Thompson made several requests about the trees in the City. Alderman Cain stated that a tree fell on Johnnie and Mae Martin's house over the weekend. Alderman Cain wants the marked trees cut down. Alderman Cain would like for the City to purchase a trailer truck of charcoal filters to help fix the water issues in the City of Aberdeen.

Citizen's Input:

Mr. Albert Barker, 109 Marshall Street, Aberdeen, MS would like for someone to take a look at the tires that's being dumped all over the City of Aberdeen. It's making the Wards look bad. Alderman Haynes stated he will take a look at it.

Mrs. Mary Butler wanted to know why the sewer taps that she purchased hasn't been done yet. One location is the white house behind Renasant Bank, and the other location is 943 West Commerce Street. Mr. Marcus Collins stated the Water Department has been very busy handling other jobs, but he will make sure the sewer taps are installed at the locations provided by Mrs. Butler.

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 all department heads / directors of the City of Aberdeen regarding City Policies, Calvin Parker's employment status, Cemetery Bids, and a project concerning Aberdeen Public Utilities. 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 all department heads / directors of the City of Aberdeen regarding City Policies, Calvin Parker's employment status, Cemetery Bids, and a project concerning Aberdeen Public Utilities.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the Summary of Projects included in the TVA GRIP Project Intake Forms and complete the NEXT STEPS. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to terminate City employee Calvin Parker. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the Bid for the Cemetery Contract (Oddfellow Rest and Oaklawn) an award the Bid to Mr. Richard Caradine of Clean Cut Lawn Care, LLC in the amount of \$100,000.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
September 5, 2023
Page: 6

Alderman Cain addressed the concerns he received from some business owners in the City regarding their Privilege License and Exempt status. Alderman Cain stated he contacted the Attorney General's Office about the Privilege License. Alderman Cain stated everyone will be treated with dignity and respect and write-ups will be given for non-compliance.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to adjourn until the September 19, 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