

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

September 19, 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 CITY ATTORNEY WALTER H. ZINN, JR.

Invocation: Mayor Scott.

Roll Call

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the proposed Minutes dated September 5, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Holliday to Table all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated September 19, 2023 to discuss in Closed Determination On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the Public Hearing to re-zone PPIN: 32763 / PARCEL ID: 3740-14-000-012.50 from a C-2 to an R-1 on October 16, 2023 @ 6:00 PM. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the SIMS Tank Inspection, Chelsea, Alabama in the amount of \$4,100.00. 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 Roy Haynes to attend the Building Officials Association of Mississippi (BOAM) 2023 Winter Conference, Natchez, MS / November 29-December 1, 2023 / Registration Fee: \$250.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the Resolution to ADOPT THE INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL (ICC) 2018 CODES in the capacity in which they're written in the Resolution. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept the deletions of the INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL (ICC) 2018 CODES in the following capacities as stated in Appendix A with an effective date October 1, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the Emergency Water Repair on Chestnut and Meridian Streets with a base rate in the amount of \$11,000.00, and a cost estimate on Matubba Street. 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 the Aberdeen High School to have a Homecoming Parade on Main Street using the same route from October 19, 2023. 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 a Planning Meeting on September 25, 2023 @ 9:00 AM, and the Special Called Meeting on September 25, 2023 @ 1:00 PM to discuss and vote on the Water, Common City, Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau, and Magnolia's FY 2024 Budget and FY 2024 Millage Rate. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the Aberdeen Public Utilities FY 2024 Budget and Salary with an effective date of 10/12023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday to approve and move forward with getting the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Transit-X signed, and evaluate the Holley Performance Building with an effective date 10/1/2023. No second was given. Motion Failed.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to Table the discussion of approving 6-mth period for Transit-X to evaluate the Holley Building for Manufacturing of PODS with an effective date 10/1/2023. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay". Alderman Haynes voted "Pass".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to appoint Jackie Benson as Board Member for the Aberdeen Housing Authority Board. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to appoint LueElla Hoskins-Stephens as Board Member for the Aberdeen Housing Authority Board. 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 approve the hiring of Johnny McMillian as firefighter for the Aberdeen Fire Department at a rate of pay at \$10.00 per hour. 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 Odom to approve the hiring of Johnny Tyler Smith and Michael Crawford as police officers for the Aberdeen Police Department at a rate of pay at \$14.00 per hour. 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 approve the 4-hours overtime for the Street Department on September 23, 2023 from 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM to clean up Evergreen Drive and Dr. Martin Luther King Street. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve that Mrs. Devonshae Young shouldn't attend any more Board Meetings unless City Clerk Ms. Moore is absent. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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Mayor Report: Mayor Scott invited Ms. Tina Robbins to the Board to share the exciting events going on in the City of Aberdeen. Ms. Robbins shared ads that will be appearing in the Oxford American Magazine and the 25th Anniversary Issue that will be published in January 2024. Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau ad will be appearing in the Fall issue of Food Network and Good Housekeeping Magazine. The following events are coming up:

1. Newcomers Picnic – September 21, 2023
2. Fall in Paradise Alley – September 28, 2023
3. Aberdeen High School Homecoming Parade – October 19, 2023
4. Bukka White Blues Festival – October 7, 2023

Mayor Scott invited Mr. Dustin Dabbs to the Board Meeting to provide an update on the Resolution for the City Building Codes, Comprehensive Plan, and the Magnolia's Project.

Mayor Scott invited Mr. Stanley Spradling to the Board meeting to share a brief update on the ARPA Project. Mr. Spradling stated he can move forward with contracts because of the Procurement stage. The first part of project will be to survey the Prairie Lot and do a soil investigation, and we'll be going to every Well in the City of Aberdeen and Prairie getting all the information needed for the Renovation Project. Mr. Spradling stated if there's enough money, new generators will be installed in this project. The money has to be obligated by June 2024, and completed by 2026.

Mayor Scott shared with the Board the letter from Mississippi Department of Archives and History stating that the Mississippi National Register Review Board approved the nomination of the Baptist Ville Historic District, Aberdeen, Monroe County to the National Register of Historic Places on July 13, 2023.

Mayor Scott invited City Inspector Roy Haynes to the Board to share the information about PPIN: 32763 / PARCEL ID: 3740-14-000-012.50 and the need to sub-divide and build homes on this property. Walking by Faith Ministries, Inc, Moundville, AL completed an application with the Zoning Administrator on 9/6/2023 asking to re-zone property from a C-2 to R-1. Inspector Haynes asked the Board to approve a Public Hearing to re-zone and subdivide the property. The Board agreed for the hearing to be held on October 16, 2023 @ 6:00 PM.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday asked Mayor Scott to check out an issue on Lowndes Street. Alderman Holliday stated the Street Department did some cleanup / work on some driveways and drainage issues on Martin Luther King Street. Alderman Holliday asked for the Board permission to approve 4 hours of overtime for the Street Department to clean gutters and edge up the side of the street on MLK, Jr. Streets and Evergreen Drive. Alderman Holliday thanked the Street Department for the clean-up in Ward One.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth stated she's still receiving complaints about the smells from the water. Mayor Scott asked Alderwoman Garth did she have the names of the people, so he can stop by and ask about their water. Alderwoman replied, "It's everyone on my street". Alderwoman Garth stated that everything else she has will be discussed in Executive Session.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes stated last week he seen an abundant amount of posts on Facebook, text and picture messages and telephone calls about trash being left in the front of a home. Alderman Haynes stated the City have yellow cards that needs to be placed on every door in the City of Aberdeen. The Street Department doesn't pick up couches, chairs, mattresses, old tires, furniture nor commodes. Alderman Haynes stated that it's the responsibility of the homeowners to haul away the trash left in front of the homes. Alderman Haynes stated that the Code Enforcer will be enforcing the Ordinance beginning 10/1/2023.

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Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom stated the trash from Highway 145 by-pass to the American Legion Hut is ridiculous. Alderwoman Odom asked Mayor Scott and Mr. Boone if they had any contact with Mr. Cody Taylor at Monroe Kut. Mayor Scott said he talked with Mr. Taylor last Friday. Alderwoman Odom wanted to know how long we're going to train Mrs. Young, and I think 1 ½ years should be enough, and the City is paying her overtime for the three hour sessions. Alderwoman Odom stated the only time Mrs. Young should attend the Board Meeting is when Ms. Moore is absent.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated that he drove around the City yesterday and had a conversation with Alderman Haynes. Alderman Cain informed the citizens that complaint forms are in the City Clerk's Office, and welcome them to complete the form with complaints they may have and give to Ms. Moore. Alderman Cain stated that the form doesn't have to be signed and no one should be fearful about their neighbor saying anything to them. Alderman Cain encourages everyone to please complete the form. Alderman Cain stated that Mr. Roy Haynes is the City Code Enforcer, and he will be encouraging Mr. Haynes to write as many tickets as he can. Alderman Cain is getting quotes for Monroe, Columbus, Franklin and West Commerce Streets, and Mayor Scott had work done on Main Street that looks much better. Alderman Cain stated that he talked with General Manager of Aberdeen Public Utilities LaMarcus Thompson about funds his department has to help with the repair of the streets once the bids come in. Alderman Cain thanked Mr. Boone for the work the department did on Gordon Drive.

Citizen's Input:

Mrs. Mary Ann Butler asked Ms. Moore if I received her application for the Aberdeen Housing Authority Board. Ms. Moore replied yes, it was in the packet. Mrs. Butler stated the Water Department did some work on Quincy Street about a month ago and left a pile of debris and wanted to know when it will be picked up. Mrs. Butler said the work was done on August 19, 2023. Mayor Scott stated the City is catching up on the jobs that have been one throughout the City. Mrs. Butler stated there is an extensive amount of potholes on the corner of Quincy and Orange Streets, and the repair that was done in front of the Aberdeen Resource Center.

Ms. Tohona Larthridge stated that she would appreciate it if the citizens would call her or Mr. Boone with their complaints instead of coming to Board with the complaints. Ms. Larthridge provided her cell number: 662-813-3094 and Mr. Boone cell number is 662-319-1640.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday to enter into a 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 matters concerning Public Works employee Richard Boone and Germarko Shaw, Water Department Barry McMillian complaint with EEOC, Markus Strong, Mayor Scott, Attorney Zinn, Jr. invoices, and Affluent (Transit-X). 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 a personnel matter concerning Public Works employee Richard Boone and Germarko Shaw, Water Department Barry McMillian complaint with EEOC, Markus Strong, Mayor Scott, Attorney Zinn, Jr. invoices, and Affluent (Transit-X).

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth 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".

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Terry Morgan to attend the NRPA Annual Conference, Dallas. Texas / October 10-12, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Cain to terminate City employee Ronald Mobley. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Scott shared with the Board the dates and times of the Tennessee – Tombigbee Waterway Familiarization Tour, Columbus, MS / October 5-6, 2023. If any Board Member would like to attend you have to RSVP for dinner and tour, and you're responsible for your own transportation. Mayor Scott stated this would benefit the City of Aberdeen. Mayor Scott stated the objective is to get a tour boat to come to Aberdeen Port and down to Columbus and Amory, MS Port.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated September 19, 2023 including City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. invoices. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye".

Alderman Holliday asked that Mayor Scott have a meeting with Mr. Walker and Mr. Strong explaining what happened with the job titles. Alderwoman Garth stated that notifications need to come from the attorney. Attorney Zinn, Jr. stated no motion is needed because it's an Administrative duty, and no vote is needed on the communication but the move.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve to complete the application for the opening of a charge account for the City of Aberdeen with Carl Hogan Automotive, Columbus, MS. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve 6-month period for Transit-X to evaluate the Holley Building for Manufacturing PODS with the City of Aberdeen having options to see other suitors. No vote was done due to Alderman Holliday and Alderman Haynes Rescinding their Motion.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to end any and all interest with Transit-X with the City of Aberdeen. No vote given. Motion Failed.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve 6-month period for Transit-X to evaluate the Holley Building for Manufacturing PODS with the City of Aberdeen having options to see other suitors. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to end the Solar Facility Deal and Letter of Intent with Renewvia, effective immediately, and either Mayor Scott or Mr. Thompson contact TVA to get Renewvia information and let TVA solicit competition for the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to adjourn until the October 3, 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