

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

November 21, 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: Chief Fred Hodges

ROLL CALL

Present on the telephone: Alderman Edward Haynes

A motion was made by Alderman Cain seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the Agenda. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted “Nay”. Alderman Cain and Alderwoman Odom voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the proposed Minutes dated November 7, 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 November 21, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve for Perma Corp to do the emergency and exploratory work on the Matubba Street Sink Hole in the amount of \$6,500.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Chief Fred Hodges to attend the 2024 Mid-Winter Mississippi Fire Chiefs Conference, Ridgeland, MS / January 30-February 1, 2024 / Registration Fee: \$100.00 / Hotel: \$318.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the CDBG Section 504 American with Disabilities Act Letter adopted November 16, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the CDBG Section 3 Plan Resolution adopted November 16, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the CDBG Applicant / Recipient Disclosure / Update report adopted November 16, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 21, 2023
Page 2

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the CDBG Site Inspection Acknowledgement adopted November 16, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the CDBG Resolution to assist Sewer Lagoon Enhancements adopted November 16, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the CDBG Section 3 Plan Acknowledgement adopted November 16, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the CDBG Applicant System and Maintenance Information for the Projects adopted November 16, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the \$1.00 raise for Officer Hunter Sullivan for completing the Police Academy. 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 Haynes to approve for American Family Home Insurance Company, Princeton, NJ to be the insurance carrier for the City Property belonging to the City of Aberdeen in the amount of \$89,296.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve for the City of Aberdeen to purchase a pump for the fountain at the bottom of the hill on Commerce Street. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve for the removal of the garbage cans at Fairfield Apartments immediately and replaced with a dumpster. The extra expense will be assessed to the owner and residents. No vote was given on this motion due to the fact of Alderman Cain withdrawing his motion.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve for the City of Aberdeen to purchase the guardrails located at the foot of the hill on Commerce that was repaired by Walter Lann at a cost no more than \$457.22. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the **RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT** giving Trey Collum permission to tear down a building at Oddfellows Rest Cemetery. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the purchase of a 2022 Chevrolet 6500 4x2 14' Chipper Truck for Aberdeen Public Utilities in the amount of \$93,400.00 that will be financed with Cadence Bank with a lease rate of 5.96% and 36 monthly payments @ \$2,839.72. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

November 21, 2023

Page 3

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Richard Boone and Tohona Lartridge to attend the Public Works Officials Executive Management Certificate Program Conference, Athens, Georgia / January 23-26, 2024 / Registration Fee: \$590.00 each. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to accept the resignation of City employee Whitney Howell with an effective date: November 22, 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 for a cashier at Aberdeen Public Utilities for two weeks. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott asked Ms. Tina Robbins to provide the Board with updates and events going on in the City of Aberdeen. Ms. Robbins asked the Mayor, Board of Aldermen / Alderwomen, City Attorney and City Clerk to RSVP with her if they’re planning to be in the Christmas Parade.

Ms. Robbins shared with everyone the following events for November and December:

1. Thanksgiving Stroll – November 23-26, 2023
2. Christmas Parade – December 5, 2023
3. Holiday Home Tour – December 10, 2023
4. Jingle & Mingle / Shopping – December 14, 2023
5. Memory Lane – December 15, 2023
6. It’s a Wonderful Life – December 16, 2023
7. Polar Express – December 22, 2023
8. Christmas Market Tinsel at the Tracks – December 30, 2023

Ms. Robbins shared with the Board she is waiting to meet with Mr. Dabbs and Mr. Cook regarding the Magnolia’s Project.

Mayor Scott shared the following events with everyone:

1. YUM! All Ministers and Veterans are invited to attend – December 16, 2023
2. Aberdeen Mayor’s Town-Hall Meeting Schedule:
 - a. Ward One – December 11, 2023 / 6:00pm-7:30pm / Aberdeen Housing Authority
 - b. Ward 2 & 3 – December 12, 2023 / 6:00pm-7:30pm / Aberdeen City Hall
 - c. Ward 4 & 5 – December 13, 2023 / 6:00pm-7:30pm / High Street Community Center

Mayor Scott shared with the Board the following project update summary from Neel-Schaffer, Inc.:

1. Port Rail Spur (MARAD Grant): Environmental approval granted by MARAD. Waiting for the final grant agreement from MARAD for execution.
2. Port Dock Infrastructure Improvements: Dolphin Rehabilitation and Site Improvements
3. Drainage Improvements Project (Short, James and South Hickory Streets): Bid advertisement ran November 8th and 15th. Bid date set for December 12, 2023
4. Walters Drive and Chestnut / Park Drainage Repairs: waiting for quotes to come on. I plan on having quotes for consideration at December 5, 2023 Board Meeting.
5. Matubba Street Sink Hole: Perma Corp to send a crew with mini excavator to investigate; Estimate cost of \$6,500.00 for a full day of excavation and haul off of materials and one load (15 tons) of crushed stone; Evaluation to be made on scope of needed repairs and costs determined prior to proceeding any significant work

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 21, 2023
Page 4

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday thanked Mr. Stephens, Mr. Terry, Provias, Lann Hardware and Aberdeen Main Street for donating to the High Street Community Center Project. Alderman Holliday stated the 2024 Aberdeen High School Seniors will be having a raffle, and Mayor Scott will be in charge of getting the gift for the raffle. All proceeds will go toward the Senior Prom. Mayor Scott presented the AHS Seniors with a check in the amount of \$500.00 to help purchase the gift for the raffle. Alderman Holliday thanked Aberdeen Park & Recreation Supervisor Fernando Davis and his crew for the renovations of Aberdeen Park & Recreation Gymnasium.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth thanked Alderman Cain, Ms. Moore and Alderman Haynes for checking on her husband (Mr. Garth, Sr.) and providing the love gift.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes asked Mayor Scott if he did the follow-up on the handicap sidewalk on Franklin and Jefferson Street. Mayor Scott replied with a yes. Alderman Haynes stated there is a water leak about five feet away from the sidewalk. Alderman Haynes asked about the follow-up on the repairs of a pothole on West Vine Street near Walgreens. Alderman Haynes had a conversation with Comptroller Karen Crump on putting tabs on the Finance Report. Alderman Haynes asked that Public Works don't forget this is pruning season for trees and limbs. Alderman Haynes stated LaMarcus Thompson is wanting to purchase a Chipper Truck for Aberdeen Public Utilities in the amount of \$93,400.00.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom stated she would like for the Public Hearings to be re-scheduled as soon as possible. Mayor Scott asked if Monday, December 4, 2023 at 5:00pm and 6:00pm will be good for everyone. Alderwoman Odom wants to make sure that someone goes out to Highway 145, right passed the Friendship Baptist Church an attend to the house on the right that have yard sales monthly. The yard needs to be cleaned as well as the business at the bottom of the hill and Monroe Street. Alderwoman Odom stated the City of Aberdeen have several historic homes and registries, and there is no reason why everyone can't help keep the City clean.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain asked that the City purchase a pump for the fountain at the bottom of the hill on Main Street. Alderman Cain asked that the garbage cans at Fairfield Apartments be picked up immediately, and a dumpster be put in that area. City Attorney Zinn, Jr. shared with Alderman Cain and the Board that he has some concerns about isolating one apartment complex and not the others. Alderman Cain stated to Attorney Zinn, Jr. that he want the garbage cans removed from the street by the end of this year. Attorney Zinn, Jr. asked Alderman Cain if he would be willing to withdraw his motion. Alderman Cain agreed. Alderman Cain would like for the City to buy the rails from Walter Lann that was repaired at the foot of the hill on Commerce Street at a cost of \$457.22. Alderman Cain would like for the camper at the foot of the hill on Commerce Street to be moved as soon as possible. Alderman Cain stated the Jones Family on the corner of Meridian and Canal Street is still having sewer issues. Alderman Cain gave a big thanks to Mr. Richard Caradine for volunteering and cleaning up the east Side of Oddfellows Rest Cemetery.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
November 21, 2023
Page 5

Citizen's Input:

Mr. Richard Boone would like to hire two people for Public Works.
Mr. LaMarcus Thompson asked the Board to accept Whitney Howell resignation

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth to enter into a closed determination to determine whether to go into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues concerning City employees Angela Fears, Tammy Johnson, Contrina Garth, Samona Johnson and Kimberly Payne concerning Workplace Behavior involving General Manager LaMarcus Thompson. 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 City employees Angela Fears, Tammy Johnson, Contrina Garth, Samona Johnson and Kimberly Payne concerning Workplace Behavior involving General Manager LaMarcus Thompson.

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 to accept the resignation of City employee Sophia Jones. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve and pay the invoice submitted by City Attorney Zinn, Jr. in the amount of \$2,250.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve hiring of TKO Staffing employee Earvin Thompson as a CDL Driver for City of Aberdeen Public Works at a rate of pay of \$14.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Abstain".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Cain to Table the discussion of hiring Clyde Cummings as a Laborer for Aberdeen Public Works. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to retain TKO Staffing, and provide the Board with all applicants being considered for hire with the City of Aberdeen for final approval. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn until the December 5, 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