

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**December 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 WALTER H. ZINN, JR., CITY ATTORNEY.

Invocation: Chief Fred Hodges

ROLL CALL

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

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated December 19, 2023. . 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 Alderman Holliday to approve the Port Dock Infrastructure Improvements Phase II – Dolphin Rehabilitation by Contractor Phillips Contracting Co., Inc. pay request Number One in the amount of \$200,179.25. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and award the lowest bid for the Aberdeen Drainage Infrastructure Improvements for Short Street, James Street, and South Hickory Street to Cook and Sons, LLC in the amount of \$397,872.57, and the payment will come from the Sewer Rehab Fund. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the **RESOLUTION AND LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN AND ENTERPRISE REFINED PRODUCTS COMPANY, LLC** for a term of 10 years as per the language stated in the documents. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the quote from Paul Smithney Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$26,812.50 to **REMOVE SLUDGE AND CLEAN DISINFECTION CHAMBER FOR MERIDIAN AND CANAL STREETS**. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the quote from Paul Smithney Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$21,321.30 to **REPAIR MERIDIAN AND CANAL STREETS**. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve **LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF ABERDEEN AND WATCO TRANSLADING, LLC** (Let it be known this is WATCO, LLC VOTED AND APPROVED IN MAY 16, 2023 BOARD MINUTES) for our Port Partner for a term of 10 years commencing January 1, 2024, expiring December 31, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the hiring of Curtis David Randle, Jr as a full-time fire fighter for the Aberdeen Fire Department at a rate of pay of \$10.00 per hour. 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 Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve a \$1.00 raise for Firemen Kemar Sims for completing the Mississippi State Academy. 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 Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the hiring of Patrick Earl Ghoston as a full-time police officer at a rate of pay of \$14.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to TABLE the approval of the **RENTAL APARTMENTS IN THE CENTRAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT OF DOWNTOWN (RACCD) ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI ORDINANCE**. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employee Enhancement, and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Roy Haynes to attend the MS Association of Code Enforcement (MACE) Educational Conference, Meridian, MS / February 16, 2024 / Registration Fee: \$75.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve MS Association of Code Enforcement (MACE) membership application for Roy Haynes in the amount of \$125.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to terminate the awarding of Mr. Jesse Barnett to repair the vent panels and trim awnings in the amount of \$7,500.00 at the December 5, 2023, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve an award the lowest bid to Hanna Contracting Company, Aberdeen, MS to repair the awning between Lann Hardware and Buxton. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employee (Elected & Appointed) Officials Enhancement, and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Charles Scott, Nicholas Holliday, Lady Garth, John Cain, and Walter Zinn, Jr. to attend the 2024 MML Mid-Winter Legislative Conference, Jackson, MS / January 9-11, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the removal of Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. from the previous motion to attend the 2024 MML Mid-Winter Legislative Conference, Jackson, MS, an approve Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. to attend the 2024 MMA Winter Conference, Jackson, MS. 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 payment to City of Amory Electric, Amory, MS for the 100 KVA Transformer (\$4,483.00) and 15% Restocking Fee (\$672.45) totaling \$5,155.45 for Aberdeen Electric Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott asked Ms. Tina Robbins to update the Board on events and plans for the City of Aberdeen:

1. The Polar Express
2. The Magic of Christmas (Christmas Parade)

Ms. Robbins stated they have quotes for the lighting project. The project will begin January 2024.

Mayor Scott awarded certificates of appreciation to several individuals who helped with organizing and planning Aberdeen Christmas Parade:

1. Ms. Tashanda White
2. Ms. Tina Robbins
3. Mrs. Toni Reece and Mr. Ernest Reece
4. Mrs. Luellen Childress
5. Mr. James Ivory
6. Mrs. Lucinda Everett
7. Ms. Rhonda Moore

Ms. Robbins thanked the following Rotary Club Members for assisting with the Christmas Parade:

1. Mr. Miller
2. Mr. Bobby Barrett
3. Mr. Bob Seymour
4. Mr. David Hodges
5. Mr. Jonathan Haggar
6. Mr. Ed Mattox

Ms. Robbins stated there were several others who assisted with the Christmas Parade but couldn't attend the meeting.

Mayor Scott invited Mr. Robert Lawrence (Atmos Energy) to the Board Meeting to provide updates on projects they're working on within the City of Aberdeen.

Mayor Scott invited Mr. Jeff Atwell and Mr. Josh Wooten (Tennessee Valley Authority) to share information on the GRIP Deployment Programs for the City of Aberdeen.

Mayor Scott invited William Sanford (Neel-Schaffer) to the Board to provide updates on the following:

1. Aberdeen Port / Dock Infrastructure Improvement Phase II – Dolphin Rehab
2. Walters Dive and Chestnut Street
3. Matubba Street Sinkhole

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Mr. Sanford recommended to the Board that Cook and Sons, LLC be given a bid packet for Walters Drive and Chestnut Street Drainage Project. Alderman Cain stated he will contact Hanna Contracting Company an ask them to contact Mr. Sanford about the Drainage Project.

Mayor Scott invited Attorney Jim Halford (Attorney for Enterprise Refined Products Company, LLC) to the Board to introduce himself and share information regarding the 10-year Resolution and Lease Agreement between the City of Aberdeen and Enterprise Refined Products Company, LLC, and answer any questions.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday thanked the Street and Water Department crew for doing a great job and working hard and doing everything to keep the city moving forward. Alderman Holliday wishes everyone a safe and Merry Christmas.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth thanked Mr. Bobby and Mary Butler, Mr. Edward Haynes, Mr. Nicholas Holliday, Mr. Boone, Mrs. Young, and Mrs. Ulaine Williams. Alderwoman Garth wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes informed everyone that Monroe County Solid Waste will have extra dumpsters during the Christmas Holidays. They will be located at Public Works and behind Topp's BBQ. Alderman Haynes asking everyone to please break down your boxes before putting them in the dumpsters. Garbage pick-up days will remain the same during the holidays. Alderman Haynes wishes everyone a Merry Christmas.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom wishes everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated he received a call from Dr. Leonard Goodgame regarding the property brought into the city limits about 20+ years ago and no development has been put on it. Dr. Goodgame is asking that the property be removed from inside the city limits. Alderman Cain thanked Mr. Boone for going to the Food Pantry and looking at the driveway that needs attention. Alderman Cain thanked Attorney Zinn, Jr, Mayor Scott and Ms. Moore for providing a copy of the garbage contract. Alderman Cain thanked the Board, Mayor, City Clerk and Comptroller for the months he has served in 2023.

Citizen's Input:

Mrs. Provias inquired about the parking in streets and handicap parking being occupied by non-handicap people. Mrs. Provias asked about the parking on Davis Street. The garbage truck cannot pass through because of the parked cars.

Mrs. Childress asked about the sinkhole on Project Street behind Belle Shivers School.

Mrs. Butler stated the city needs to incorporate different ways to alert the citizens when something major may be going on in the City of Aberdeen. (Examples: notice in your electric bill, alerts sent to your cellphone, etc.)

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday to enter in closed determination to determine whether to go into Executive Session.

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to go into Executive Session to discuss a Litigation Matter involving Attorney Tom Withers, State of Louisiana, and Chief Quinell Shumpert on hiring two police officers. 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 Litigation Matter involving Attorney Tom Withers, State of Louisiana, and Chief Quinell Shumpert on hiring two police officers.

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”.

The Board of Aldermen / Alderwomen recommended an interview for the two police officers at a later date and time.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the rental deposit for Aberdeen Park & Recreation Gym in the amount of \$200.00 be refunded to Wille Mae Blanchard. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the City of Aberdeen Election Dates: Primary Election (April 2, 2024), Run-Off Election (April 16, 2024), and General Election (May 7, 2024). On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the invoice from Neel-Schaffer in the amount of \$1,588.94 for Professional Services from November 1, 2023, to December 1, 2023, in determining Westlake Chemical Sewer Rates. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain seconded by Alderman Holliday to adjourn until the January 2, 2024 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Haynes voted “Nay”.

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk



Charles Scott, Mayor