

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**January 2, 2024
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. Dustin Dabbs

ROLL CALL

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 Garth to approve the proposed Minutes dated **December 19, 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 **January 2, 2024**. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the Critical Communications Messaging System offered by ONSOLVE, 62340 Avalon Blvd., Alpharetta, Georgia in the amount of \$11,197.68 (\$3,732.56 times 3) every three years, plus a one-time Non-Recurring Service Fee in the amount of \$425.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve for citizens to receive surveys by ONSOLVE Communication Messaging System in deciding if they would like to have access to Natural Gas in their home. 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 Melissa Moore to attend the Certified Municipal Clerks Training, Oxford, MS / February 21-23, 2024 / Registration fee: \$300.00. 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 Devonshae Young to attend the Certified Municipal Clerks Training, Oxford, MS / February 21-23, 2024 / Registration fee: \$300.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the City of Aberdeen Primary Election Qualifying Dates: January 2, 2024 thru February 2, 2024 @ 5:00 PM. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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Mayor Report: Mayor Scott invited Mr. Dustin Dabbs to the Board Meeting to update the Board on Projects and Plans for the City of Aberdeen. Mr. Dabbs stated the MDOT LPA Program has been submitted, and waiting on the approval of the Materials Binder. Mr. Dabbs stated they're working on the Comprehensive Plan and hoping to have it ready by the month of July. Mr. Dabbs updated the Board on the status of the Magnolia's Project.

Mayor Scott asked Ms. Tina Robbins to update the Board on events and plans for the City of Aberdeen and the Magnolia's Project. Ms. Robbins informed the Board that the heating unit in the basement at the Magnolia's is no longer working. Ms. Robbins has two quotes for a new heating and cooling unit that's waiting to be approved by DFA. Ms. Robbins shared the upcoming events:

1. Aberdeen/Monroe County NAACP Gun Violence March & Workshop: January 6, 2024
Unity/Scholarship Banquet: January 12, 2024/ Motorcade/ Memorial Service for Aberdeen: January 15, 2024
2. Elkin Theatre Movies: Wonka on January 12-13, 2024 & The Color Purple on January 26-27, 2024
3. Mardi Gras Celebration / Parade / Mardi Gras Ball: February 9-11, 2024
4. Aberdeen Pilgrimage: April 5-6, 2024

Mayor Scott asked General Manager of Aberdeen Public Utilities to share information with the Board about a Communication System being offered by ONSOLVE. The amount for this system is \$11,197.68 (\$3,732.56 times 3) every three (3) years, and a one-time Non-Recurring Fee of \$425.00. Aberdeen Public Utilities and the Water Department will share the expense of Critical Communications.

Mayor Scott invited Mr. Chris Holloway, ESG to the Board meeting to update the Board on the status of the City of Aberdeen Water and Waste Water. Mr. Holloway stated it takes six months to get all the Metals done, and once completed they'll be submitted to MDEQ in March. Mr. Holloway stated one of the Toxicity Test looks good and awaiting the results on three more. Several repairs have been done on the Lift Stations. Mr. Holloway stated they failed to put the Chlorine Residual on the paperwork before submitting, and received an error. Customers will receive a notification. Mr. Holloway stated that overall the Water and Wastewater looks good. Mr. Holloway shared with the Board there is water testing scheduled for the City of Aberdeen in March or April 2025 that's mandated by the Federal Government. Any lead pipe within the corporate limits of the City of Aberdeen will have to be replaced, and this expense is the responsibility of the City.

Mayor Scott informed the Board that WATCO Transloading, LLC will be present at the next Board Meeting. Mayor Scott shared with the Board that WATCO Transloading, LLC will brief the Board on the work they've done at the Port, and all other work being done. Mayor Scott stated he has coordinated with another Auction Company (GovDeals) on the equipment, metal buildings and scrap material located on City property by the Port will be auctioned and sold, and all money collected will benefit the City. The purchaser will be responsible for the removal of the items. Mayor Scott shared information about the dredging, rail connection and the MARAD Grant with the Board.

Mayor Scott presented Certificates of Appreciation to the following Retirees for their hard work and dedication to the City of Aberdeen: Mr. Dale Daniel and Mrs. Karen McMillian.

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Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday stated the City of Aberdeen is looking forward to some good things happening with infrastructure, property, and taxable income. Alderman Holliday is looking forward to working with the Board Members this year.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth would like to discuss a personnel matter with Chief Shumpert in Executive Session. Alderwoman Garth asked Comptroller Karen Crump why the Police Department doesn't have timesheets. Ms. Crump explained the process of who completes the timesheets for the officers and how it's done. Alderwoman Garth stated that no department head / supervisor should be signing their own timecard. Ms. Crump stated that each department head / supervisor knows that Mayor Scott should be signing their timesheet. Alderwoman Garth asked Ms. Crump to check those timesheets for accuracy, and she'll come by the office on Friday.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes thanked everyone for telephone calls, text messages and visits during his time of recovery from hip surgery. Alderman Haynes stated he has a complaint from a resident complaining about the trash / garbage on Franklin Alley not being picked up before or after Christmas, nor was it picked up today.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom stated the City of Aberdeen has a lot of things going on, and she would like for it to continue. Alderwoman Odom hopes that 2024 is a really, really productive year for the City of Aberdeen. Alderwoman Odom wishes everyone a wonderful 2024.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain wishes everyone a Happy New Year. Alderman Cain stated there are a lot of good things happening in the City of Aberdeen and a lot of good things to come. Alderman Cain spoke with the Lions Club today, and it's very well noted that we get the information out to the citizens of Aberdeen. Alderman Cain asked City Attorney Zinn, Jr. about the Garbage Ordinance. Alderman Cain would like to ask the Mayor and Board Members about the City sending out surveys asking citizens if they would like to have access to Natural Gas in their home. Alderman Cain stated he received several calls in his Ward about the garbage not being picked up, and leaving the garbage cans turned over, left in the middle of the streets and in ditches. Alderman Cain stated that Poll Workers have been contacted by several people saying the State of Mississippi has Mandate that Poll Workers gets paid \$200.00 per day. Mayor Scott stated an increase was given to the Poll Workers by the State, and the County decided to give the additional pay. Mayor Scott stated there's no Mandate given by the State of Mississippi, but an option was given to the City and County to increase the pay for Poll Workers.

Alderman Cain asked where the City stands on providing the Redistricting information to Circuit Clerk Dana Sloan so voter's information can be updated in every Ward. Mayor Scott stated he communicated with Three Rivers and the County on the best way in getting this process done. Mayor Scott stated we'll be pooling a group of people together including the Democratic Committee in making sure all the streets are correct. Alderman Cain wanted to know the process of how City employees are selected for Random Screening. City Clerk Melissa Moore explained the process of Random Drug Testing for City employees to the Board. Alderman Cain wanted to know why the camper hasn't been moved, and why the City has Ordinances and Laws if we're not going to use them.

Citizen's Input:

Mr. Albert Barker thanked Alderman Haynes for doing a good job in Ward Three.

Mr. Coy Flynn asked if the Qualifying Dates for the 2024 City of Aberdeen Primary Election has been voted on an approved.

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth to enter in 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 possible Litigations involving Barry McMillian and Louisiana Attorney Tom Withers, Ethics Complaint, and Chief Shumpert on a personnel issue involving a police officer. 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 possible Litigations involving Barry McMillian and Louisiana Attorney Tom Withers, Ethics Complaint, and Chief Shumpert on a personnel issue involving a police officer.

Alderwoman Garth exited Executive Session @ 6:47 PM due to conflict of interest in discussing Barry McMillian's Litigation.

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 Odom, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Alderwoman Garth wasn't present at the time to vote.

Alderwoman Garth re-entered the Board Meeting @ 6:57 PM during Regular Open Meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve and authorize to hire outside counsel to represent the City of Aberdeen and/or Louisiana and give permission for City Attorney Zinn, Jr. to seek counsel. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday seconded by Alderwoman Odom to hire Daniel J. Lucas as a cashier for Aberdeen Public Utilities at a rate of pay of \$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 a 10% increase in pay for City employee Tyler Nelson based on his job performance as a Transformer. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Alderwoman Garth shared with the Board that the Aberdeen Police and Fire Department are disenchanting with Dispatcher Annea Vance due to the fact of her calling 911 before calling a police officer and/or fireman in emergency situations. Chief Shumpert was asked to have a talk with Mrs. Vance about this matter.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday seconded by Alderwoman Garth to adjourn until the January 16, 2024 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk


Charles Scott, Mayor