

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**February 6, 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, CITY CLERK MELISSA MOORE, AND CITY ATTORNEY WALTER H. ZINN, JR.

Invocation: Mayor Charles Scott.

ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the Agenda in its form, but if any new business came before the Board we're allowed to discuss it in detail and amend the Agenda at that time. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the proposed Minutes dated January 18, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to adjourn the Special Called Board Meeting dated January 23, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated February 6, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay the Purchase Requisition submitted by Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau Director Tina Robbins in the amount of \$215.20 for items purchased with the Cadence Bank Business Card for the website. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve and pay the Purchase Requisition submitted by Tina Robbins in the amount of \$25,672.84 for items purchased from Raborn Media, LLC, and to be paid from the ARPA Tourism Relief Fund. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Garth to approve and pay the Purchase Requisition submitted by Tina Robbins in the amount of \$27,575.00 to Cook Development, LLC for labor, materials, and contract costs for the Magnolia's, and to be paid from the Local Improvement Magnolia's Project Fund. 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 Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to authorize and approve the agreement between United States Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD) and the City of Aberdeen for the Rail Spur Grant in the amount of \$4,000,000.00, (Grant No. 693JF72245025). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 6, 2024

Page 2

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Cain to authorize and approve the purchase of Kenwood Viking Radios, chargers, and programming (MSWIN) in the amount of \$22,488.00 from Precision Communications, Amory, MS, and to be paid from the Police Narcotic Fund. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve to advertise for a full-time fireman for the Aberdeen Fire Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and change the dates for the 2024 Spring Certified Municipal Clerk Program for Devonshae Young to attend training on February 21-23, 2024 / Oxford, MS and Melissa Moore to attend training April 24-26, 2024 / Ridgeland, MS. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to TABLE to accept the Aberdeen Public Utilities Rental Pole Agreement. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and pay the Northeast Mississippi Building Official Association Membership dues for Roy Haynes in the amount of \$75.00 for one year. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve employee enhancement and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Roy Haynes to attend the ADA Compliance Workshop, Olive Branch, MS / March 27-28, 2024. Registration Fee: \$200.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve elected officials training and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Charles Scott, Nicholas Holliday, Lady B. Garth, Carolyn Odom and John Cain to attend the CMO Elective Evening Classes, Oxford, MS / February 22, 2024. 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 expenses according to state guidelines for Devonshae Young and Janet Parks to attend the 2024 Spring Advanced Municipal Liability & Workers' Compensation Workshop, Starkville, MS / April 18, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the purchase of a New Sub-site Utiliguard 2 Classic & TS Transmitter Kit, Stock Number U332 from UCG Underground Supplies, LLC, Clearwater, FL for Aberdeen Public Utilities in the amount of \$8,844.00 being paid from the Equipment Maintenance Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve Purchase Requisition made payable to D & S Truck Repair, Aberdeen, MS in the amount of \$8,395.98 to overhaul engine in Unit #40 Bucket Truck belonging to Aberdeen Public Utilities, and will be paid from the Equipment Maintenance Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
February 6, 2024
Page 3

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve hiring of Steve M. Boyd as a full-time police officer for the Aberdeen Police Department at a rate of pay at \$15.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve hiring of Justin A. Sheely as a full-time police officer 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 Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve employee enhancement and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Brady Slupik and Razell Taylor to attend the Lineman Apprenticeship Pre-Apprentice Assessment Workshop, Huntsville, Alabama / February 19-24, 2024 / Fee: \$1,248.67. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve hiring of TKO employee Daniel Fleming as Head Mechanics at Aberdeen Public Works at a rate of pay at \$24.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve hiring of Jacquavious Brown as a Laborer for the Street Department at a rate of pay at \$12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Holliday to void the Pepsi Contract. No vote was given due to Alderman Haynes withdrawing his motion and Alderman Holliday withdrew his second.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve for Mayor Charles Scott and Mr. Marcus Collins contact with Mr. Dustin Dabbs and find out what the problem is with filtration system installed by the City of Aberdeen at Steve and Geneva Coker’s home. {It was noted by Mayor Scott that Mr. Dabbs isn’t the City of Aberdeen Water Engineer, and he will select one}. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize and appoint Commissioners for the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Nicholas Holliday: Water Department; Alderwoman Lady B. Garth: Police Department; Alderman Edward Haynes: Public Works; Alderwoman Carolyn Odom: Park & Recreation; and Alderman John Cain: Electric Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize all call-out sheets be privy to Mr. LaMarcus Thompson, and each supervisor will sign off on overtime in their departments. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Mayor, Board of Aldermen, City Clerk, Attorney, and Court Clerk -- MML 93rd Annual Conference, Biloxi, MS / June 24-26, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 6, 2024

Page 4

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott invited Ms. Tina Robbins to update the Board on events and projects for the City of Aberdeen. Ms. Robbins shared with the Board the new website for Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau launched today. The events for the month of February:

1. Mardi Gras Ball – February 9, 2024
2. Mardi Gras Parade – February 10, 2024
3. Valentines Lunch (Aberdeen Garden Club) – February 14, 2024
4. Movies at the Elkin – February 16,17,23,24, 2024
5. Lenten Brunch (First Presbyterian Church) – February 21, 2024
6. NAACP Unity 3K Run/Walk – February 28, 2024

Mayor Scott shared with the Board the Project Updates provided by Stanley Spradling, P.E., PLS (Neel-Schaffer):

1. Port Rail Spur (MARAD Grant)
2. Port Dock Infrastructure Improvements
3. Drainage Improvements Project (Short, So. James, & So Hickory Streets)
4. Walters Drive and Chestnut / Park Drainage Repairs
5. Port Dredging
6. ARPA New Tank and Well Sites

Mayor Scott also shared with the Board the work being done on the Water Supply Improvements Project given by Stanley Spradling.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday is asking everyone in the community to please support Mr. Fernando Davis and the Aberdeen Park & Recreation Department as they host tournaments and other recreational activities at the gym. Alderman Holliday is hoping the City of Aberdeen can find funds to help the recreational activities for the children in our community.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth stated that Ms. Julie Cooper called her regarding the home she purchased in the City of Aberdeen. Ms. Cooper wanted to know if the City can do anything about the water that pools in the street and her backyard. Ms. Cooper address is 205 W. Jefferson Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730. Alderwoman Garth stated that the home next to 304 Burnett Street is having issues with sewage backing up in her yard. Alderwoman Garth would like to have Dustin Dabbs take a look at the sewage drain.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes stated he questioned the Pepsi Agreement at the last Board Meeting, and also received facts from the Comptroller (Karen Crump) regarding a bill the City paid from Pepsi. Alderman Haynes stated Pepsi is getting paid on the front end, and the City isn't getting a good return on the investment. Alderman Haynes stated the City can purchase the drinks and make more money by doing so. Alderman Haynes would like for the City to void the Pepsi Contract. Mayor Scott asked Alderman Haynes to have a discussion about the contract. Mayor Scott asked the Board to give Mr. Fernando Davis the opportunity to work the program at the Sports Complex. Alderman Cain asked Alderman Haynes to allow one more Board Meeting so he can review the contract.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 6, 2024

Page 5

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom stated she received a call from a lady that lives on Pullen Drive regarding the potholes. Alderwoman Odom stated Tohona Larthridge told her she would take care of the issue with the potholes, and asked if it had been done. Mr. Boone shared with the Board that it's one of the items on his list, but it will be taken care of. Alderwoman Odom stated that a resident that lives at 205 Big John Road called about overgrown ditches and clogged culverts. Alderwoman Odom asked if the ditches can be cleaned so the water can flow and not backed up in the residents' yard. Alderwoman Odom asked Mr. Boone about the culvert being put down at Monroe Kut. Mr. Boone stated it hasn't been confirmed, and no one has talked with him. Alderwoman Odom stated she will call Cody Taylor and see if Fulton Ware brought the two culverts.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated that speed bumps are needed on Burnett Street by the Church of Aberdeen due to a lot of speeding and erratic driving, and asked Mr. Boone and Mayor Scott to look into it. Alderman Cain asked Mayor Scott for an update about the special work to be done at the Jones resident on the corner of Canal and Meridian Street. Mayor Scott stated the company at Eutaw will be doing the work, and he will check on the scope of work. Alderman Cain shared with the Board about the sewer back up on Club Park Drive that caused damage to the Tisdale home. The insurance company denied the claim, and a city employee stated it was the fault of the city. Alderman Cain stated the water at Steve and Geneva Coker resident (110052 Gallop Road) is worse than terrible, and would like for Mayor Scott and Mr. Collins meet with Mr. Dabbs and find out what the problem and answer is. Alderman Cain stated the City of Aberdeen filtration system isn't operating purely, and the filters are full of mud. Alderman Cain shared with the Board how helpful Mr. Boone and Mr. Fulton Ware in taking a look at the handicap parking lot at Aberdeen Loaves and Fish Food Pantry, and Mr. Marcus Collins for looking at the water lines. Alderman Cain stated he received calls about potholes within the City of Aberdeen, and asking everyone to please be patient because there's a lot to do. Alderman Cain stated he talked with the Board and Attorney Zinn, Jr. about Commissioners for the City of Aberdeen.

Mayor Scott asked Attorney Zinn, Jr. which part of the statue he would like to explain to the Board regarding the Commissioners. Attorney Zinn, Jr. stated to his understanding that a statue isn't necessary to explain because the City is yielding to the language from the Special Charter. The power and duties of the Board, amongst them; they can appoint or create an authority over the subordinate offices. Alderman Cain asked Attorney Zinn, Jr. if he has the right as an elected official to make the motion. Attorney Zinn, Jr. replied, "Not for the City of Aberdeen because the City is operating under a Special Charter". Mayor Scott stated since the City is operating under a Special Charter, and it doesn't supercede the statue in the form of government based on the fact that Aldermen are not to give directives to subordinates in the day time, and that duty resides with the Mayor. Alderman Haynes asked if the Board can get an Attorney General ruling about Aldermen being Commissioners. Attorney Zinn, Jr. stated the Board doesn't need one.

Alderman Cain stated he would like for Mr. LaMarcus Thompson to be privy to call-out sheets, and all supervisors must sign overtime sheets in their departments. Alderman Cain asked Mayor Scott if he sent a letter to the gentleman living in the camper. Mayor Scott said no. Alderman Cain asked Attorney Zinn, Jr. to send a letter by certified mail with return receipt to the gentleman that owns the camper, and 30 days should be enough being that he's been there three years. Alderman Cain state the garbage cans are still causing problems at Thayer Avenue and Mobile Street. Alderman Cain asked Chief Shumpert if he wants the job of knocking on doors and handing out letters to the people living in the apartments. Chief Shumpert stated the issue is we don't know who the garbage cans belongs to. General Manager LaMarcus Thompson stated the situation has been taken care of and we're awaiting a dumpster. Mr. Thompson stated that Mr. Lane will be charged a sanitation rate because it's a commercial property.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 6, 2024

Page 6

Citizen's Input:

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth to enter into a closed determination to ascertain whether or not if we need to go into Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to come out of closed determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to enter into a closed determination to ascertain whether or not if we need to go into Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to come out of closed determination. 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 go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding Police Officers Tori Ray and Tyler Smith and Street Department employee Ronald Mobley, and the City of Aberdeen Litigations and Appeals. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session.

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 did not cast a vote due to serving in the capacity of Mayor Pro-Temp.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the hiring of Ronald Mobley as Laborer for the Street Department at a rate of pay at \$12.00 per hour. 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 Haynes, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the write-up for Police Officers Tori Ray and Tyler Smith for violating the camera policy receive a letter and counseling by their supervisor to be placed in their personnel file, and make a formal apology to Mrs. McKinney. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes authorize Attorney Zinn, Jr. to notify the Mississippi Secretary of State Michael Watson, State Auditor Shad White, and Attorney General Lynn Fitch as to the events of the City of Aberdeen property concerning two transformers and a two thousand gallon liquid petroleum tank that was stolen from the City of Aberdeen Port, and we will await the response from each appropriate offices. At which time those results be made public as to the amount that can be to the City of Aberdeen and citizens. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

February 6, 2024

Page 7

Alderman Cain stated that he will state this for the record that his comments at the Special Call Meeting from the Board Room on January 23, 2024 at 4:00 PM, the minutes do not reflect what he said at that meeting. Alderman Cain stated he made several comments, and for the main reason he was dumb founded on what had taken place, and no one was at the table other than Mayor Scott, City Comptroller, and the City Clerk. Alderman Cain stated that five people didn't know, and nothing was put in his statement that he will not be able to go along with agenda item. Alderman Cain stated that Alderman Haynes and Alderwoman Odom were present, and the minutes are not true and correct and he will not vote to approve them. Alderman Haynes asked Alderman Cain what needs to change in the minutes, because at some point the Board will have to approve them.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Cain to accept the Special Call Board Meeting Minutes dated January 23, 2024 with necessary corrections: stating the fact that Alderman Cain wouldn't approve the sale of buildings at Port Site because he had no knowledge of it nor did anyone else at the table, and this is why I told the Mayor I cannot support this, and this would make these minutes true and correct and striking what Mayor Scott added because it didn't take place. On a roll call vote, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye" with the necessary corrections.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn until the February 20, 2024 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".



Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk