

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
February 20, 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: Mr. Pedro Clay

Present on the telephone: Ms. Karen Crump

ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth 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, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the proposed Minutes dated February 6, 2024. 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 February 20, 2024. 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 and pay the invoice submitted by Tina Robbins in the amount of \$17,315.05 to Raborn Media, LLC, Madison, MS, and it will be paid from the ARPA Fund Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Aberdeen Public Utilities Pole rental Agreement. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and pay the invoice submitted by Election Systems & Software in the amount of \$13,955.00 for the City of Aberdeen primary Election on April 2, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the lowest quote submitted by Sunbelt Solomon, Temple, Texas on four (4) Single Phase Pole Mounts 50kva @ \$1,820.00 totaling \$7,280.00 for the Aberdeen Electric Department, and this will be paid from the Equipment Fund. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to accept Police Officer Davon Wilder resignation. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve employee enhancement and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Melissa Moore to attend the Spring Municipal Clerk Conference, Meridian, MS / April 3-5, 2024 / Fee: \$175.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the purchase of an Emergency Purchase for the Aberdeen Electric Department on a 2024 Silverado 2500 Crew Cab WT2WD from Carl Hogan GM / CDJR, Columbus, MS in the amount of \$64,203.00, and it will be paid from the Equipment Fund. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and finance for Aberdeen Public Utilities a 2013 International 7400 4x2 Terex HRX-55 Bucket Truck in the amount of \$89,500.00 from Custom Truck One Source, Union Grove, Wisconsin. Cadence Equipment Finance will finance the truck with a lease rate of 5.96% and 36 monthly payments @ \$2,721.14. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the sale of surplus equipment (1988 Ford F-700 / 2015 Dodge Ram 2500) that is no longer needed at the Aberdeen Electric Department on GovDeals, and the highest and best bidder will be responsible for pickup, and will pay the City of Aberdeen through the proper accounts with money-wire transfer prior to pick-up. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the Rental Lease for the Canon Copier Image Runner Advance DX C5860 for the City Clerk's Office at a monthly fee of \$353.71. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the Rental Lease for the Canon Copier Image Runner Advance DX C3930 for Public Works at a monthly fee of \$157.41. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to TABLE the approval of Surplus Equipment at the Aberdeen Port. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to hire Akalin McNairy through TKO staffing as a part-time cashier for Aberdeen Electric Department at \$12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes "Recused" himself from the meeting.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday: the City property that former Attorney Robert Faulks has in his possession should be surrendered to the City immediately. If not, charges will need to be attached to his noncompliance, and he has two weeks to comply. 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 Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Cain giving permission to Attorney Zinn, Jr. to prosecute the outstanding debts on UDAG Loans. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom authorizing to have the NO PARKING signs installed in Highway 145 North, and up and down the thoroughfare. It's a liability problem that needs to be addressed. No vote was taken because Alderman Cain withdrew his motion.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain giving permission to Attorney Zinn, Jr. to respond to Barry McMillian EEOC complaints. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday giving permission and allowing Attorney Zinn, Jr. to answer the lawsuit involving Mr. Kyle Davis. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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Mayor Report: Mayor Scott invited Ms. Tina Robbins to update the Board on events and projects for the City of Aberdeen. Ms. Robbins thanked the Aberdeen Electric Department for hanging the string lights on Meridian Street. Ms. Robbins shared with the Board the Lending Libraries that will be located at Newberger Park and the Park & Recreation Gym.

The events for the month of February:

1. Book Drive – February 19-29, 2024
2. Movies at the Elkin – February 23 & 24, 2024
3. Lenten Brunch (First Presbyterian Church) – February 21 & 28, 2024

Mayor Scott invited Mr. Dustin Dabbs to update the Board on projects and plans for the City of Aberdeen. Mr. Dabbs shared with the Board the Magnolia’s Project is in the finishing stage. Mr. Dabbs stated that LPA is working with him on closing out and finalizing paperwork. Mr. Dabbs stated she had a conference call with Mr. Roy Haynes regarding the Comprehensive Plan Components. Mr. Dabbs shared with the Board the plans to take the top 15-20 projects involving the drainage plan when funds become available.

Mayor Scott invited Mr. William Sanford (Neel-Schaffer) to update the Board on project updates:

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

Mayor Scott shared with the Board the GED Classes sponsored by Itawamba Community College held at Aspire, 110 East Commerce Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730 on Monday & Tuesday from 5pm-8pm. Mrs. Teresa Reid is the business owner.

Mayor Scott invited Ms. Brooklyn Little to the Board to share her Grand Opening of her business “The Catch” on March 1, 2024. Business hours: Monday- Saturday from 7am-5pm. Telephone number: 662-436-2376. Ms. Little asked that everyone please come and support her business.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday commended an appreciated Mr. Boone and the Street Department for the cleanup in Ward One. Alderman Holliday would like to approve Marcus Collins to attend the water class in March 11-14, 2024. Alderman Holliday stated to the Board and citizens if anyone have any issues with their water in Ward One please reach out to the Mayor, Aberdeen Public Utilities or any supervisor including himself. Alderman Holliday contact number is 662-436-6701.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth asked Ms. Karen Crump, “Why did the City of Aberdeen have a \$4,000 bill at Food Giant?” Ms. Crump stated the issue with Food Giant on how they’re invoicing the City of Aberdeen, and some of the tickets go back to 2022. Attorney Zinn, Jr. asked Ms. Crump, how does the City verify the ticket? Ms. Crump stated the City employees have to sign a sheet for the lunches picked up daily and give that count to Ms. White on a daily basis. Alderwoman Garth asked Mr. Boone, what did he find out about 205 Jefferson Street? Mr. Boone stated the problem was in the yard and that’s private property. Alderwoman Garth wants Attorney Robert Faulks to return the City’s property.

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Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes asked the Board Members if they received a copy of the Pepsi Contract. Their reply was no. Alderman Cain stated he talked with Mr. Fernando Davis about the Pepsi contract, and he is okay with cancelling it. Alderman Cain is in agreeance with cancelling the contract if there are no cancellation fees. Alderman Haynes talked about overtime with City employees. Alderman Haynes asked if the City has a complete inventory of all City equipment with serial numbers in case something happens, and if it's up to date. Ms. Crump stated there is a list with the VIN numbers, tag numbers, serial numbers and the department. Ms. Crump stated that the City has a current inventory list of all the City property and equipment. Alderman Haynes asked that Chief Shumpert go into Closed Determination regarding a personnel issue. Alderman Haynes asked that a sign be put on Meridian Street directing people to Animal Control. Alderman Haynes stated the sinkhole on Matubba Street in front of Mr. Griffin house need some more crush and run. Alderman Haynes stated something needs to be done about the people not paying their UDAG Loans.

Attorney Zinn, Jr. explained to the Board the discussion him and Ms. Crump had regarding the UDAG Loans and a letter that was drafted to start the process with the court. Attorney Zinn, Jr. asked the Board permission to enforce the promissory note.

Alderman Haynes stated there are some drainage issues on Washington and Maple Streets, an ask Mayor Scott to have the Water Department to take a look at it.

Alderman Odom: Alderwoman Odom made the correction on Mrs. Patricia Brown address (510 Big John Road). Alderwoman Odom would like the ditches cleaned out. Alderwoman Odom stated she received several calls from residents on high electric bills. Ms. Annie Doss, 305 Meadowlane Drive, Aberdeen, MS would like a call from General Manager LaMarcus Thompson. Alderwoman Odom stated there are holes all over the City, and the department is digging up the holes, fixing the problem and walking off and leaving them wide open. Alderwoman Odom stated that Mr. Harvey needs someone to come back and finish up the issue he's having at his business. Mayor Scott stated he talked with Mr. Harvey this afternoon, and informed him that Mr. Collins will be at his place today. Alderwoman Odom asked that the departments need to stick with one thing and complete it before moving on to another project. Alderwoman Odom asked Mr. Boone to check on the potholes on Highway 8 by the Country Club.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated he received a message at 2am in the morning from the Police Department concerning Henry's Place, and No Parking signs need to be put up. Alderman Cain asked Mayor Scott and Mr. Boone to contact MDOT about the NO PARKING signs. Alderman Cain stated the water leak at Tiffany and Lamar Pruitt's home at 10296 Binford Road is leaking again. Alderman Cain thanked Mr. Boone, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Collins for the hard work their doing within the City. Alderman Cain asked Attorney Zinn, Jr. to address the issue of the Big Star building, and provide an update on the cemetery. Alderman Cain stated Transient Vendors was set up within the City on Valentine's Day and no permits was issued, an asked Mayor Scott to discuss this with Mr. Roy Haynes. Alderman Cain asked Attorney Zinn, Jr. to research the Noise Ordinance regarding animal noise and cleanliness. Alderman Cain would like to talk with Mayor Scott and Mr. Collins regarding a concern that Ms. Gail Carlock is having with her sewer. Alderman Cain asked Mayor Scott if the fire chief has given any information on the house that was a total fire loss belonging to Mr. Jackie Jetton on Davis Street. The fire happened in September 2023. Mayor Scott said yes.

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Attorney Zinn, Jr. addressed the following issues:

1. Pepsi Contract may be on automatic renewal ---- 90 day notice
2. Barry McMillian EEOC Complaint ---- asking permission to respond to this complaint
3. SKL asking for a deed ----- DLC sent a notice stating a purchase made through the State of Mississippi through a Tax Land Patent Sale.
4. NST Law Firm suing Mr. Kyle Davis (Aberdeen School District)
5. DOWNTOWN Rental Ordinance

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, second by Alderman Cain 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 Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues with Chief Quinell Shumpert regarding Police Officers Tori Ray and Tyler Smith; Public works Director Richard Boone and Street Department employee Jacquavious Brown; Robert Devaull residency. 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.

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, second by Alderman Cain to hire Derrick Hogan through TKO Staffing as a Laborer for the Water Department at a rate of pay of \$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 Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to adopt the Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) in its entirety, and this will be the copy given to U.S. Wage and Labor. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, second by Alderman Cain to allow Jacquavious Brown to re-take the random drug screen at no cost to the City. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

Mayor Scott shared with the Board the fire report from the Deputy State Fire Marshall Rusty McCoy determining the investigation of the Big Star Building. Deputy state Fire Marshall, Rusty McCoy notated that based on the fire scene investigation, evidence was found to indicate the fire was intentionally set **and the cause has been ruled incendiary**.

Deputy Fire Marshall Rusty McCoy did the investigation on Jackie and Lisa Jetton's home: based on the fire scene investigation, no evidence was found to indicate the fire was intentionally set, **and the case was ruled accidental**.

Alderman Cain would like to invite Mr. Jetton and Fire Chief Hodges to the March 5, 2024 Board Meeting. Mr. Jetton would like to express his grievances.

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A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, second by Alderman Holliday to approve to post and advertise for a Laborer for the Street Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Citizen Input (2 minutes)

Mr. Albert Barker thanked Public Works and Alderman Haynes for doing a good job on cleaning up Ward Three.

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