

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

March 5, 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

Present on the telephone: Alderwoman Lady B. Garth

ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom 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 Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the proposed Minutes dated February 20, 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 March 5, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve and pay the invoice for the Port Dock Infrastructure Improvements Phase 2 – Dolphin Rehabilitation – Phillips Contracting Company, Inc. – Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$201,530.63. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and accept the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in the amount of \$733,934.80 approved by the Mississippi Development Authority. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve employee enhancement and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Ms. Tamanda Griffin to attend the North Alabama Power Accountants Association 2024 Joint Accounting Conference, Franklin, TN / April 24-26, 2024 / Registration Fee: \$200 / Hotel cost: \$353.25. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve a Sewer Tap refund purchased by Ms. Gayle Carlock on February 12, 2024 in the amount of \$610.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the hiring of Mr. Lazarus D'Marcus Haynes as a firefighter for the Aberdeen Fire Department at a rate of pay of \$10.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes Recused himself.

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the hiring of Mr. Dominique Bolden through TKO Staffing as a Laborer for Aberdeen Public Works at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the hiring of TKO Staffing Employee Mr. Renth Randle on becoming a City Employee as a CDL Driver at a rate of pay of \$14.00 per hour with and effective start date: March 6, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve to TABLE the CINTAS Standard Rental Service Agreement until next Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve to TABLE the Surplus Equipment and Building for the Aberdeen Port. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve to TABLE Westlake Chemicals & Vinyls, LLC Aberdeen Plant Application for Ad Valorem Tax Exemption in the amount of \$9,641,283 for ten years. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom approved the **MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI AND WESTLAKE CHEMICALS & VINYLs, LLC** for a period of ten years with an effective day of March 5, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and accept the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$10,350.00 for the Aberdeen Police Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the purchase of nine (9) Body Armor Systems in the amount of \$10,643.67 from Mid South Uniform & Supply, Inc., Jackson, MS 39204. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve Leave Time for Ms. Tashanda White to travel with the Mayor's Youth Council / March 13-16, 2024 to Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the additional estimate in the amount of \$14,994.36 made payable to E3 Environmental for the Mercaptan Spill that occurred on January 31., 2024. 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 Alderman Haynes, no second was given to approve an Ice Machine for Aberdeen Public Works from the lowest Bid in the amount of \$4,660.00 from Rowe Heating and Cooling. No vote done.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve employee enhancement and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Mr. Pedro Clay to attend MACE Educational Conference, Biloxi, MS / August 14-16, 2024 / Registration Fee: \$175.00 / Annual Membership Fee: \$125.00 (March 1, 2024 – February 28, 2025). 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 a four member crew from Aberdeen Public Utilities to trim the Crepe Myrtles. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott invited Mr. Chris Cunningham (Advisor of the Mayor’s Youth Council) to the Board Meeting to give an update to the Board on the wonderful things and projects involving the Mayor’s Youth Council. Mr. Cunningham stated the students are excited and grateful of the opportunity given to them by the Mayor’s Youth Council.

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 Lending Libraries that will be located at Newberger Park, Park & Recreation Gymnasium, General Young Park and Paradise Alley.

The events for the City of Aberdeen:

1. Aberdeen Pilgrimage --- April 5-6, 2024
2. Mayoral Debate – March 7, 2024
3. Movies at the Elkin
4. The Book Lunch at Evans Memorial Library
5. The Cross of Christ

Mayor Scott invited Ms. Tonya Rhea Murphree and Ms. Donna Zampella from Northeast MS Intermodal Transmit Association (NITA) to share information with the Board on the topics of Public Transportation, and how it will benefit the City of Aberdeen.

Mayor Scott shared the information provided by 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 invited Ms. Cristen Bland to the Board Meeting to update the Board on the status of the Lagoon Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Project. Mayor Scott thanked Ms. Bland and Three Rivers Planning and Development District for all of their hard work they’ve done for the City of Aberdeen.

Mayor Scott shared with the Board the following event:

The City of Aberdeen
2024 State of the City Address
March 21, 2024 – 5:00 PM – 7:30 PM
Aberdeen City Hall Court Room

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Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday thanked Mr. Boone and the Street Department for the clean-up in Ward One. Alderman Holliday thanked Mr. Thompson and Aberdeen Public Utilities for working in a timely manner in restoring electricity to the citizens of Aberdeen. Alderman Holliday encouraged everyone to please get out and vote on April 2, 2024.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth shared with Board that the Democratic Executive Committee Members didn't qualify by February 2, 2024 to certify the candidates for the City of Aberdeen Primary Election that will be held on April 2, 2024. Alderwoman Garth shared with the Board the case heard in Monroe County Justice Court, Amory, MS against her and Mr. Boone were thrown out. Alderwoman Garth reiterated that Attorney Robert Faulks surrender the City property he has to the City immediately or actions will be taken.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes stated he received a call from a resident in Ward Three wanting to know why Columbus Street hasn't been paved. Alderman Haynes stated he shared with the resident the street was listed to be paved but due to funding it has been put on hold. Alderman Haynes stated Public Works needs an ice machine and Mr. Boone provided two quotes. The quotes are from Dahlem Sales & Service, Inc., Aberdeen, MS in the amount of \$4756.41, and Rowe Heating and Cooling, Aberdeen, MS in the amount of \$4,660.00.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom didn't have anything to report at this time.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain commended Superintendent Dr. Andrea Pastchal-Smith on the great job she's doing with the Aberdeen School District. Alderman Cain stated the Crepe Myrtles located at Evans Memorial Library needs to be trimmed. Alderman Cain gave a hearty thanks to Mr. Boone, Mr. Collins and Mr. Thompson and their crew for the work they've done in the City.

Citizen Input (2 minutes)

No citizen input given at this time.

A motion was made 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, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes and Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth 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 Haynes to enter into a closed determination to ascertain whether or not if we need to go into Executive Session to discuss an EEOC claim involving previous City employer Mr. Barry McMillian and a personnel issue involving Public Works employee Mr. Lamardezz Ward. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain 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 Cain to enter back into Regular Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, second by Alderman Haynes to terminate City employee Mr. Lamardezz Ward due to job abandonment. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Cain to employ Mr. Malik Holliday through TKO Staffing as a CDL Driver and Laborer for Public Works at a rate of pay of \$14.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday Recused himself.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn until the March 19, 2024 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk



Charles Scott, Mayor