

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**June 3, 2025
5:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMAN MET IN THE ABERDEEN CITY HALL BOARD ROOM WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS PRESENT:

MAYOR JOHNNY D. STEVENS, ALDERMAN NICHOLAS HOLLIDAY, ALDERWOMAN RHONDA MOORE, ALDERMAN JAMES IVORY, ALDERMAN JEREMY BELLE, ALDERMAN JOHN CAIN, CITY CLERK MELISSA MOORE, and CITY ATTORNEY WALTER H. ZINN, JR.

Invocation: Alderman Jeremy Belle

Present on the telephone: Alderwoman Rhonda Moore (5:00pm-5:26pm) / Alderman Nicholas Holliday (5:14pm-6:10pm)

ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory 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 at that time. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the Board Minutes dated May 20, 2025, with the necessary changes. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve Mr. Richard Boone and Mr. LaMarcus Thompson to honor the request from Superintendent of the Aberdeen School District, Dr. Andrea Pastchal-Smith on trimming a tree limb located at the intersection of Franklin Street and West Commerce Street that's overhanging on private property and by doing this school buses will be able to navigate safely. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to TABLE Line Item 3b on the agenda regarding the discussion of UDAG Accounts. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to authorize City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. to move forward with judgements and seizures of collateral against all delinquent UDAG Loan recipients. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve Elected Officials Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Johnny Stevens, Nicholas Holliday, Rhonda Moore, James Ivory, Jeremy Belle and John Cain to attend the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Conference, Point Clear, AL / August 13-15, 2025 / Registration Fee: \$595.00 per person. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the hiring of Mr. Tommy Ewards as a full-time police officer for the Aberdeen Police Department at a rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the hiring of Mr. Patrick Ghoston as a part-time police officer for the Aberdeen Police Department at a rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Holliday voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the hiring of Mr. Dezmund Bailey as a full-time police officer for the Aberdeen Police Department at a rate of pay of \$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 TABLE Line Item #8 on the agenda to hire Gary Sacus as CDL Driver for the Street Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the **2024 CDBG WASTEWATER LAGOON IMPROVEMENTS PACE EXCAVATING, LLC – PAY REQUEST NO. 5 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$84,935.54**. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the **REQUEST FOR CASH (RFC) for DBG LAGOON PROJECT / Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) for \$60,482.31**. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the Meal Expense in the amount of \$2,142.00 for Fireman Dontavious Lyons while training at the Mississippi State Fire Academy, Jackson, MS / June 8-July 31, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Melissa Moore to attend the 2025 Municipal Tax Collection Workshop, Starkville, MS / August 21, 2025/ Registration Fee: \$50.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the AT&T Pricing Schedule Contract and Master Agreement. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to TABLE Line Item #15 to approve the Agreement for Provision of School Resource Officers to the Aberdeen School District to be discussed at the Work Session on June 9, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to authorize General Manager of Aberdeen Public Utilities, LaMarcus Thompson to coordinate with Water Department Leadman Marcus Collins on every hour worked during normal business hours and through overtime for public utilities. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Holliday voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Ivory, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to authorize Public Works Director Richard Boone to collect tires twice a month and take to Saltillo, MS Landfill to recycle. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to authorize Mayor Johnny D. Stevens to sign all contracts for the Aberdeen Blue & White Festival. No vote was taken. Alderman Belle rescinded his motion and Alderwoman Moore rescinded the second.

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to authorize General Manager of Aberdeen Public Utilities, LaMarcus Thompson to install an electrical box with a timer at the Gazebo on Main Street. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Ivory to approve for B’s Snowballs, 119 South Meridian Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730 to celebrate their one-year anniversary on Saturday, June 7, 2025, from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM, and the following streets will be blocked off: Meridian Street, Washington Street, and Hickory Street. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated June 3, 2025, **EXCLUDING** any expenses paid by Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated June 3, 2025, **INCLUDING** any expenses paid by Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Belle “Recused” from meeting at 6:33pm and returned at 6:34pm.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. Invoice in the amount of \$2,597.50. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Food Giant, 105 Highway 145 North, Aberdeen, MS 39730 invoice in the amount of \$578.43. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the Rental Refund for the Aberdeen Community Center in the amount of \$200.00 to Ms. Elantra Jackson. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve and pay **THREE RIVERS PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT INVOICE** in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the CDBG Program Contract for Professional Services. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board that a Department Head Meeting is schedule for June 5, 2025 @ 10:00 AM.

Mayor Stevens asked Board Members to attend the Aberdeen Electric Department Budget Workshop on June 9, 2025 @ 5:00 PM.

Mayor Stevens shared with Board Members the email received from Superintendent Dr. Smith regarding trees that need to be trimmed and pruned, and 15 mph speed limit signs for Bulldog Boulevard. Mayor Stevens asked Public Works Director Richard Boone to take care of these requests.

Mayor Stevens invited Ms. Tina Robbins to the Board Meeting to share any updates with Aberdeen Visitor’s Bureau and events going on in the city.

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Mayor Stevens invited Dabbs Corporation Engineer, Dustin Dabbs to the Board Meeting to update projects in the City of Aberdeen. Mr. Dabbs stated that quotes will be shared at the next Board Meeting for paving a section of Canal Street that's been closed for infrastructure repair. Mr. Dabbs shared information with the Board about Pecan, Forrest, Jefferson and Vine Streets.

Aldermen/Alderwoman Input

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday commended the Board Members and all who attended the Project Volunteer Meeting at City Hall. Alderman Holliday asks everyone to please watch out for the youth and elderly of the community, and if anyone see a need for help, please reach out and call him, the mayor, and board members. Alderman Holliday stated the Street Department is working hard in Ward One, and if a resident sees anything that needs attention, please give him a call.

Alderwoman Moore: Alderwoman Moore wanted to know who the point of contact is to discuss putting signs on Highway 25 to warn drivers they're approaching a traffic signal light at the intersection of Highway 25 South and Meridian Street. Alderwoman Moore inquired about the amount of overtime recorded on the docket of claims by departments, and if every department is clocking in and out.

Alderman Ivory: Alderman Ivory stated the Board is working together and moving in a good direction. Alderman Ivory complimented departments that are understaffed but still working hard and getting the work completed.

Alderman Belle: Alderman Belle shared with the Board about tire dumping in Ward Four, especially on Pullen Lake Road. Alderman Belle talked about the need for street improvements throughout the city, particularly on Stinson Road. Alderman Belle stated that Pullen Lake Road, Glen Iris, and Frontage Road have pothole that needs some attention. Alderman Belle inquired about the Blue and White Festival Contracts that needs to be signed by the mayor.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain discussed having an electrical box with a timer to be put at the Gazebo on Main Street. Alderman Cain asked the mayor to have the money from the Bond payment be withdrawn from the Magnolia's Account and deposited in the correct account. Alderman Cain mentioned to the Board that B's Nutrition would like to celebrate their one-year anniversary and would like for a few streets to be blocked off from 9am-2pm. Alderman Cain asked Attorney Zinn, Jr. and Comptroller Karen Crump where the city stands on collecting old fines. Alderman Cain stated he asked William Sanford with Neel Schaffer to address a drainage issue on Cheryl Drive, and Mr. Kenny Tisdale has a problem with the city ditch and old sewer pipes. Alderman Cain stated the Code Enforcement Officer needs to make the delinquent property owners and landlords register their property at City Hall and give citations to the Slum Lords.

Citizen Input (2 minutes)

Mr. Larry Coutlee expressed his concern about the conditions of apartment complexes within the city that need to be inspected by the city inspector. Mr. Coutlee commended Mr. Boone and his department on the good job they're doing in the city.

Ms. Sarah Sims inquired about the 18-wheeler trucks parked on the old Big Star parking lot, and she asked her alderman to clean up Ward Three.

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Citizen Input (2 minutes)

Mr. Larry Coutlee expressed his concern about the conditions of apartment complexes within the city that need to be inspected by the city inspector. Mr. Coutlee commended Mr. Boone and his department on the good job they're doing in the city.

Ms. Sarah Sims inquired about the 18-wheeler trucks parked on the old Big Star parking lot, and she asked her alderman to clean up Ward Three.

Ms. Tohona Larthridge stated there are so many streets in need of paving and putting rocks in potholes and using the city's hotbox are not lasting. Ms. Larthridge stated the department is working hard trying to keep up and get everything done. Ms. Larthridge stated if Public Works Department Heads must clock in and out, all department heads in the city should have to clock in and out.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to go in Closed Determination to ascertain 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 Belle 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 Ivory to approve for Pace Excavating, LLC Invoice in the amount of \$153,446.40 be paid from the Water Department General Fund instead of the Sewer Rehab Fund Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the hiring of Gary Sacus as a full-time CDL Driver for the Street Department 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 Ivory to approve and pay 4-County EPA MS Invoice in the amount of \$5,951.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to terminate City Employee Larry Darty (Aberdeen Park & Recreation) with an effective date, immediately. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to terminate the TT Hodges Transportation, LLC UDAG Loan in the amount of \$30,000.00. (Approved on May 20, 2025, Board Meeting). On a roll call vote, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Moore and Alderman Belle voted "Nay". Due to a tie vote of 2-2, Mayor Stevens had to vote to break the tie. Mayor Stevens voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay the final payment to L.J. Echols (R&B Singer) \$5,000.00 for the Aberdeen Blue & White Festival and it will be paid from the Aberdeen Blue & White Festival Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay P.C. Band (R&B Singer) \$3,100.00 for the Aberdeen Blue & White Festival and it will be paid from the Aberdeen Blue & White Festival Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay KBN (Kingdom Broadcasting Network) 94.7 FM Radio \$125.00 for the Aberdeen Blue & White Festival, and it will be paid from the Aberdeen Blue & White Festival Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay Blue Spring Safari. Guntown, MS \$1,200.00 for the Aberdeen Blue & White Festival and it will be paid from the Aberdeen Blue & White Festival Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay Zoo Crew Promotions, Aberdeen, MS \$148.00 for t-shirts for the Aberdeen Blue & White Festival and it will be paid from the Aberdeen Blue & White Festival Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to adjourn until the June 17, 2025, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk



Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor