

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
February 17, 2026
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 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 John Cain

Present on the telephone: City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr.

ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the Agenda in its form. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the proposed Minutes dated February 3, 2026, with the necessary corrections. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the Special Called Minutes dated February 6, 2026. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted “Aye”. Alderman Cain voted “Abstain”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve and pay the Monroe County Inmate Housing Invoices dated October 1, 2025, thru January 31, 2026, in the amount of \$8,425.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by no one to have Deputy Clerk Devonshae Young and anyone else in the City Clerk’s Office to find out how many people the City is financing cemetery lots and the last time a payment was made, that a letter be sent by City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. to help get their payments caught up or they go back in service for the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Cain Retracted his Motion.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to TABLE Line Item #4f on the agenda. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to TABLE Line Item #4h on the agenda. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve to post and advertise for a part-time Police Dispatcher for the Aberdeen Police Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Cain to authorize for Water Department Lead Lineman Marcus Collins to have a city cellphone that will be billed to the city monthly in the amount of \$52.18. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to TABLE Line Item #7 on the agenda and discuss at the Work Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to TABLE Line Item #8 on the agenda to be discussed further in Closed Determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to TABLE Line Item #9 on the agenda to be discussed further in Closed Determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve hiring of Marcus Hall as a full-time Firefighter for the Aberdeen Fire Department at a rate of pay of \$13.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve and pay the 2026 Building Officials Association of Mississippi Membership Application fee for Fire Chief Norris James in the amount of \$125.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all charges according to state guidelines for Fire Chief Norris James to attend the 2026 Building Officials of Mississippi Conference, Gulfport, MS / June 8-12, 2026, and the registration fee in the amount of \$275.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve and pay the 2026 Building Officials Association of Mississippi Membership Application fee for City Inspector Roy Haynes in the amount of \$125.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted “Aye”. Alderman Cain voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all charges according to state guidelines for City Inspector Roy Haynes to attend the 2026 Building Officials of Mississippi Conference, Gulfport, MS / June 8-12, 2026, and the registration fee in the amount of \$275.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted “Aye”. Alderman Cain voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to post and advertise for a Certified Water and Sewer Superintendent for the Aberdeen Water Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Cain to authorize Mayor Johnny Stevens to spend money from his Budget to honor the City of Aberdeen employees and citizens with Proclamations and/or Acknowledgements. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Holliday to authorize the change of Animal Control employee Mr. Larry Jackson status from a full-time employee to a part-time employee. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve to post and advertise for the Aberdeen Housing Authority Board vacancy. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to TABLE Line Items #17 & #18 on the agenda until after Executive Session. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Belle voted “Aye”. Alderman Cain voted “Nay”.

Mayor Report: Mayor Stevens

Mayor Stevens invited Aberdeen Visitor’s Bureau Director, Ms. Tina Robbins, to the Board Meeting to share events in the City of Aberdeen and any updates. Ms. Robbins stated the Mardi Gras Parade was enjoyed by everyone. The next big things taking place within the City of Aberdeen: Easter, Spring Open House in March with Main Street, Aberdeen Pilgrimage, Graduation, Blue and White Festival and the Bukka White Festival. Ms. Robbins shared with everyone that corn is still being collected at City Hall, Fire and Electric Department.

Mayor Stevens provided the Board with an update on the proposed truck stop. Prince Oil Company stated they are still hopeful of moving forward with this project. Mr. Eric B. Prince stated due to a delay in obtaining the Phase 2 Environmental Site Analysis the company hasn’t been able to move forward.

Mayor Stevens mentioned the Monroe County Inmate Contract to Board Members and City Attorney Zinn; Jr. Mayor Stevens would like to resolve this sooner than later. Alderman Holliday and Alderman Cain asked for more information from Comptroller Karen Crump and Municipal Court Clerk Shelia James about the balances of the Inmate invoices.

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board that a part-time janitor is needed for City Hall. Board Members advised Mayor Stevens to ask TKO Staffing Pros to recommend a part-time janitor.

Mayor Stevens asked City Clerk Melissa Moore to share the concern of the cemetery plots with the Board. City Clerk Melissa Moore reminded the Board about the discussion of cemetery plots that have been put on lay-a-way, and no monies have been paid. Alderman Cain stated he had a telephone conversation with Deputy City Clerk Devonshae Young when an incident took place the other day in the cemetery and informed her to do her job as it is prescribed and do not take any directions from anyone other than what she knows to do. Alderman Cain stated he had a conversation with Mr. Chuck Moffett of Tisdale Lann and was told if we (Board) don’t get a hold of the cemeteries we’re going to be in bad shape.

Mayor Stevens reminded the Board about the Port of Aberdeen Open-House + Stakeholder Alignment Session hosted by State of MS District 22 Representative Justin Crosby on February 18, 2026, beginning at 9:00 AM.

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board the great news from MDOT Ports & Waterways Division regarding the \$700,000.00 SMIF 2026 Port Grants that’s been awarded to the City of Aberdeen.

Mayor Stevens mentioned to the Board about the City of Aberdeen Municipal Water System Policies and the Water System Emergency Response Plan that General Manager Lamarcus Thompson asked the Board to adopt. City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. stated there are some areas in the plans that need to be corrected before adopting for the City of Aberdeen.

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Mayor Stevens invited District 22 Representative Justin Crosby to the Board Meeting to remind Board Members about the Port of Aberdeen Open-House + Stakeholder Alignment Session being held February 18, 2026, beginning at 9:00 AM. District 22 Representative Justin Crosby also shared with the Board the grant opportunities and programs that's available or will be available for Municipalities to apply for in a timely manner.

Mayor Stevens invited everyone to the Open House of the Kimmel Bakery Building on Main Street, on Friday, February 20, 2026, at 5:00 PM.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday stated the City is headed into another season and asking everyone to please be patient with all departments due to them handling issues and concerns throughout the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Holliday stated there is precutting going on in Ward One and other areas of the city, and if you happen to experience any power outages, please know work is being to restore your electricity in a timely manner. Alderman Holliday asked everyone to please be mindful of the elderly and youth in the community, and if you notice anything alarming, please contact him, Aberdeen Police Department, and Mayor's Office.

Alderwoman Moore: Alderwoman Moore shared with everyone that the Mardi Gras Parade was a success, and she had a great time. Alderwoman Moore informed everyone that the City of Aberdeen has a business on Main Street that's offering free GED classes. Please contact Mrs. Teresa Johnson-Reid, The Aspire Group, LLC, 110 East Commerce Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730, 662-813-5043: Monday and Tuesday from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM for more detailed information. Mrs. Reid is accepting donations to help keep this program free and available to everyone.

Alderman Ivory: Alderman Ivory stated he is asking for donations to help with the renovations of Neuberger Park on North Long Street, Aberdeen, MS. Alderman Ivory is working hard and doing all he can in making this dream a reality for the citizens and community in Ward Three. All donations may be deposited at Bank Okolona, 111 West Commerce Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730

Alderman Belle: Alderman Belle stated he noticed a large pothole on the West end of West Commerce that needs to be repaired. Alderman Belle assisted with the help of Chief Shumpert in getting a barrel around the pothole to prevent an accident or damage to vehicles traveling in that direction. Alderman Belle asked Public Works Supervisor to please attend to the pothole. Alderman Belle thanked Public Works crew for cleaning out the ditches on Big John Road. Alderman Belle asked if the city have plaques or certificates to award long-time employees and retirees. Alderman Belle invited Dr. James A Cook to the Board Meeting to share information that's being sponsored by the Aberdeen/Monroe County NAACP.

Dr. Cook shared the following flyers with the Board: Oratorical Contest, April 4, 2026, at 3:00PM / Cash prizes: 1st Place Winner: \$500.00 / 2nd Place Winner: \$300.00 / 3rd Place Winner: \$200.00. (2): Leadership Workshop 2.0 / April 18, 2026, from 10:00AM-2:00PM / High Street Community Center, Aberdeen, MS 39730.

Dr. Cook encourages the Mayor and Board to please have someone from the Clergy to attend the Board Meetings. Dr. Cook asked the Board to allow him to honor the late Rev. Jessie Jackson with a moment of silence. Dr. Cook asked the Board for a street name changed to honor one of our very own, Mr. James Earl Walker. Mr. Walker was affiliated with the Tuskegee Airman. The street's name will change from Scale Street to James Earl Walker Street.

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Alderman Belle asked City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr., to please work on and complete the Port Ordinance. Attorney Zinn, Jr., shared with the Board that more conversation is needed with the Board before the changes is made to the Ordinance. Alderman Cain asked Attorney Zinn, Jr. may this be discussed at the Work Session, and his response was yes.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated that Ward Five will be scheduling a meeting and cleanup in Ward Five. Alderman Cain stated he is disturbed about the amount of trash in Ward Five that people are throwing out in the streets and neighborhoods. The Mayor Youth Council and Men of Vision will be asked to help with the cleanup. Alderman Cain stated he's not happy with the current financial situations in the City of Aberdeen, and due to some employees retiring the city has gotten rid of a lot of dead weight. Alderman Cain stated that some current employees are not fulfilling their duties, and if you're waiting on retirement at your elevated salary, I'm going to make it uncomfortable on you if not get you fired or removed from here. I'm not scared of lawsuits, bring them on – lawyer up! Alderman Cain shared with the Board that effective tonight he isn't voting to pay nothing, and until the Board sits down and review the lie, we're living, the Budget.

Citizen Input (2 minutes)

Mr. Coultrie shared information about the potholes on Columbus Street.
Ms. Devonshae Young asked to go into Closed Determination to discuss a personnel issue
Ms. Joyce Vasser asked about the Park and Recreation Gym being closed on Friday

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, second by Alderwoman Moore to enter in Closed Determination to ascertain whether 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 Alderwoman Moore to come out of Closed Determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding City Clerk Melissa Moore, Deputy City Clerk Devonshae Young, City Inspector Roy Haynes, and City Administrator Teresa Baker-Young. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding City Clerk Melissa Moore, Deputy Clerk Devonshae Young, City Inspector Roy Haynes, and City Administrator Teresa Baker-Young.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to come out of Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated February 17, 2026, EXCLUDING Cadence and any of its subsidiaries. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted "Aye". Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated February 17, 2026, INCLUDING Cadence and al its subsidiaries. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, voted “Aye”. Alderman Cain voted “Nay”. Alderman Belle Recused from the meeting at 8:00 PM and returned at 8:01 PM.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve and pay City Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr. invoice in the amount of \$2,842.50 for dates February 3-16, 2026. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted “Aye”. Alderman Cain voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Purchase Requisition Vendor ESG/Tupelo, Tupelo, MS in the amount of \$5,000.00 for December Contract – monthly operations contract for the Water Department. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted “Aye”. Alderman Cain voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Purchase Requisition Vendor A Huggins, Aberdeen, MS in the amount of \$2,800.00 for parts and labor for Water Department B95 New Holland Tractor. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted “Aye”. Alderman Cain voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Purchase Requisition Vendor Dixie Wholesale Waterworks, Louisville, MS in the amount of \$4,930.99 for supplies for the Aberdeen Water Department. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted “Aye”. Alderman Cain voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Purchase Requisition Vendor Covington Sales & Service, Inc, Denham Springs, LA in the amount of \$4,993.35 for Valve Casing and Valve Kit for the Aberdeen Water Department. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted “Aye”. Alderman Cain voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Purchase Requisition Vendor Badger Meter, Milwaukee, WI in the amount of \$1,351.19 for Hosting and Network Service for the Aberdeen Water Department. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted “Aye”. Alderman Cain voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Purchase Requisition Vendor Consolidated Pipe & Supply Company, Tupelo, MS in the amount of \$4,440.00 for Collar Leak Clamps, Couplings and a Box Wrench for the Aberdeen Water Department. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted “Aye”. Alderman Cain voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the ten percent (10%) increase in pay for Ms. Tohona Larthridge to serve as Interim Public Works Director. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve to post and advertise for a Public Works Director for the City of Aberdeen. 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 to terminate Police Officer Jeremy Harris. No vote was taken. Alderman Holliday Rescinded his Motion and Alderman Cain Rescinded his Seconded.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and pay Purchase Requisition Vendor BGS LLC, Gonzales, LA in the amount of \$8,494.40 for Energy Coat, Fire Dome Helmet, Fire Armor and Boots for the Aberdeen Fire Department. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted "Aye". Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and pay Purchase Requisition Vendor Chris Mitchell Management Consultants, Norris, TN in the amount of \$4,200.00 for July 2026 Retail Rate Request, Long Term Financial Plan and Margin Analysis for the Aberdeen Electric Department. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted "Aye". Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and pay Purchase Requisition Vendor Vermeer Midsouth, Inc., Cordova, TN in the amount of \$2,037.65 for Full-Service Chipper for the Aberdeen Electric Department. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted "Aye". Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, second by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Purchase Requisition Vendor Tri-state Service Center, Tupelo, MS in the amount of \$1,847.76 for Unit #42 Flywheel Plate and Assemble, Parts and Labor for the Aberdeen Electric Department. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle voted "Aye". Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, second by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Purchase Requisition Vendor Hanna Contracting Company, Aberdeen, MS in the amount of \$,129.80 for Loads of Crush and Run for the Aberdeen Electric Department. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle voted "Aye". Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to Strike the Motion on Board Meeting Minutes Dated February 3, 2026, to pay Performing Artist E.J. Jones deposit in the amount of \$2,000.00 from the Aberdeen Blue and White Festival Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to authorize the City of Aberdeen to make a check payable to Mr. Richard "LoveBone" Cousin as the Booking Agent for Performing Artist E.J. Jones in the amount of \$4,250.00 from the Aberdeen Blue and White Festival Account. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Belle voted "Aye". Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

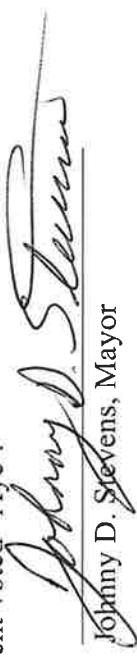
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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to authorize Mayor Johnny Stevens to sign the contract submitted by Tombigbee Contractors for repairs to the M & O Depot in the amount of \$93,000.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn until the March 3, 2026, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Johnny D. Stevens, Mayor

Attest: 
Melissa Moore, Master Municipal Clerk