

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
JULY 16, 2019
5:00 P.M.**

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

MAYOR MAURICE HOWARD, ALDERMAN ALONZO SYKES, DOUG STONE, ALDERMAN DAVID EWING, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM AND ALDERMAN JIM BUFFINGTON; AND JACKIE BENSON, CITY CLERK; AND ROBERT FAULKS, CITY ATTORNEY.

MAYOR MAURICE HOWARD ATTENDED BY PHONE.

INVOCATION: Alderman Jim Buffington.

Monroe County Sheriff Cecil Cantrell appeared before the Board of Aldermen and the audience, discussed his record and accomplishments as Sheriff, his qualifications and stance on various issues, and asked those in attendance for support in his candidacy for the Office of Monroe County Sheriff.

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to approve the proposed Minutes dated July 2, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Sykes to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated July 16, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to issue an Annual Beer Retailer's Permit to El Jefe Restaurant (and with the State of Mississippi approval to El Jefe Restaurant to sell mixed drinks on premises). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye", except Alderman Sykes who "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Stone, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to employ Michael Hodges as the part time Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department Gym Supervisor, at the wage of \$9.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to authorize the following City employees/officials to attend the following meetings or classes, and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines: Brian Sanders - TVA Rate Review August 5-6, 2019 - Murfreesboro, TN; Roy Haynes - Building Code Seminar, Sept. 17-20, 2019 - Pearl, MS and MACE Ed Conference - August 13-16, 2019. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Alderman Buffington departed from the Board room.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Sykes to authorize two appraisals of certain City property located along Matubba Street, PPIN #'s 8974 and 8973 for the possible sale to Westlake Company (Buyer will pay 1/2 of the appraisal cost per Mississippi Code Section 21-7-1). The Board finds that the property is not needed for municipal purposes, that the sale of the property in the manner otherwise provided by law is not necessary, and that the proposed use of the property will promote development and improvement of the community. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye", except Alderman Buffington who was not present during discussion or the vote and had recused himself.

Alderman Buffington returned to the Board room.

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to increase the gas inspection fee to be collected by the Building Code Officer from \$10.00 to \$25.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Sykes, seconded by Alderman Stone to remove Reserve Aberdeen Police Officer Charlotte Reiland off of the Aberdeen Police Department roster. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Sykes to increase the wage of Matthew Wade for his successful completion of the program and graduation from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Academy to \$13.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Citizens appearing before the Board of Aldermen and not on the printed Agenda included:

- Save Aberdeen Landmarks representative Dwight Stevens spoke to the Board regarding the former Phoenix Drugstore building, which is owned by the nonprofit. His purpose was to voice his side of a matter regarding the contention of the Hammocks that the Save Aberdeen Landmarks building was causing problems to the adjacent Hammock property. Stevens presented photos and stated that the Hammock building required a new roof. He said there's a 24-inch wall between the former drugstore building and the Hammacks' business, Henry's, and that the Hammacks should stop blaming their building issues on Stevens and Save Aberdeen Landmarks.
- Ann Tackett invited the Board and the public to see the Aberdeen Main Street Depot at the open house scheduled Friday, August 2, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. The Aberdeen Depot is located adjacent to Chestnut Street. There will be a ribbon cutting, and Tackett said Sheriff Cecil Cantrell and the inmate work program will be recognized. The farmers market will also be going on the day of the open house.
- Annice Riddle thanked Charles Scott for holding the Taste of Aberdeen Family Reunion in Aberdeen, and said the Reunion event was very nice.

Mayor Howard disconnected his phone, and exited from further participation in the Board Meeting.

Vice Mayor Alonzo Sykes chaired the duration of the Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Stone to allow Anna Dobbs, Executive Director of Legal Shield / ID Shield to contact City employees and determine whether City employees would be interested in participating in a voluntary self-pay identity theft protection plan through open enrollment and payroll deduction. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Alderman Ewing also thanked Charles Scott for holding his family reunion in Aberdeen.

Alderwoman Odom also thanked Charles Scott for holding the Taste of Aberdeen Family Reunion in Aberdeen and for proposing other recreational functions in Aberdeen.

A motion was made by Alderman Buffington, seconded by Alderman Ewing to adjourn until the August 6, 2019 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Maurice Howard, Mayor

ATTEST:


Jackie Benson, City Clerk