

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
DECEMBER 7, 2021
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 ROBERT DEVAULL, ALDERWOMAN LADY B. GARTH, ALDERMAN EDWARD HAYNES, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM, ALDERMAN JOHN ALLEN, MELISSA MOORE, CITY CLERK, BARBARA VASSER, DEPUTY CITY CLERK, AND CITY ATTORNEY ROBERT FAULKS.

Invocation: Mayor Scott.

ROLL CALL.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes dated November 16, 2021. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Special Call Meeting Minutes dated November 22, 2021. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated December 7, 2021, with corrections to the Electric Department Revised Total of \$82,615.15 and the Water Department Revised Total of \$107,909.26, and removing a Park and Recreation Department Line Item: Sports Complex expenses in the amount of \$1,500.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to appoint Alderpersons to act as Commissioners for certain City Departments, with the limited authority "to watch/observe and listen, and to report back to the Board as a whole". The motion proposed that Alderman Haynes would observe the Public Works and Water Department; Alderman Devaull would observe the Electric Department; Alderwoman Garth would observe the Police and Fire Department; and Alderwoman Odom would observe the Park and Recreation Department. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Allen voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize a refund of \$165.66 paid by Dwight Stevens, from the Aberdeen Electric Department Fund for funds he paid to the City of Aberdeen Acker Park - Bukka White Festival Electricity Usage Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to designate City Clerk Melissa Moore to serve as the American Disabilities Act Title VI Coordinator for the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the renewal of the BBI Inc. Annual Software Maintenance Contract for one year, January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to employ Stephen Jones as a Laborer in the Aberdeen Street Department at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour, Jeremain Sacus as a Laborer in the Aberdeen Sanitation Department at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour, and Jessie Eichelberger as a Laborer in the Aberdeen Sanitation Department at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to accept the letter of resignation from City (Sanitation Department) employee Bryant Gardner. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott discussed the Mayor's Youth Council Meeting held on Saturday, December 4, 2021. The Mayor's Youth Council consists of 29 students and 5 advisors. Mayor Scott stated the students are excited about the Mayor's Youth Council, and we're looking forward to working with a group of intelligent and bright members.

Mayor Scott advised that Covid booster vaccinations will be administered in the City Court Room on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull: Alderman Devaull thanked Public Works Department employees for the cleanup on Peacock Alley and generally in Ward One. Alderman Devaull stated there are still some areas in Ward One being littered by individuals who are dumping old tires along the side of the streets.

Alderman Garth: Alderman Garth stated there should be two complaints in the City Clerk's Office. Alderman Garth had asked Barbara Vasser to contact Chief Quinell Shumpert to appear but did not hear anything from him. The complaints concerned Aberdeen policemen activities. Alderman Garth reported that a Ms. Hampton complained about police officer(s) talking to her in a disrespectful way, and the second person complained that police officers burst up in her house and went through her house. The officers entered a bathroom while the complainant's son was on the toilet, and then the officers talked to them in a disrespectful way. The complainant had said, "Mrs. Garth, they didn't have to talk to me that way." The officers had cursed her and told her that she needs to learn how to raise her child. Mayor Scott stated he had reviewed the complaint, and had reviewed a video recording of the alleged incident. Mayor Scott advised Alderman Garth that some of the things conveyed to you were correct, and other parts were incorrect. Mayor Scott asked Alderman Garth to review the video for herself. Alderman Garth agreed to meet Chief Shumpert at the Aberdeen Police Department at 12:00 p.m. the next day.

Alderman Garth stated City employee Terry Morgan is having issues with his Department Supervisor. Morgan has requested to be off from work on the 10th, 17th and other days, but the Department Supervisor said she would not approve it. Stewart will not approve the request because there may be a tournament on the 17th.

Alderman Garth proposed that Alderpersons be designated to counsel City Department Supervisors. Alderman Garth proposed that: Alderman Haynes work with Public Works and the Water Departments; Alderman Devaull work with the Electric Department; Alderman Garth work with the Police Department; Alderman Odom work with the Park and Recreation Department; and Alderman Allen work with the Fire Department. Alderman Allen said "no". Alderman Garth responded that if Allen does not want to work with the Fire Department, she will take it. Attorney Faulks commented regarding the Mississippi Separation of Powers Clause, and Opinions limiting Aldermen authority to observe the work of City employees and report back to the full Board, but not being authorized to supervise or direct the work of City employees.

Alderman Garth stated truckers had approached her Saturday and said Ann Tackett and Doug Stone had told them they could park somewhere in the City for \$100.00, and also said Mayor Scott told them they could park somewhere in the City for \$25.00. Mayor Scott said the City had not adopted any procedures yet and he had not discussed pricing for parking.

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Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes stated Dr. Vaughn sent him a complaint letter about his office parking lot being destroyed by truckers and his trash bin being filled with garbage by truckers. His clientele does not have anywhere to park because of the large holes in the parking lot, and they are fearful of damaging their vehicles. Dr. Vaughn is asking the City for help in monitoring and keeping the truckers off his property and using his garbage bins. Attorney Faulks stated that Dr. Vaughn may prosecute people for trespassing onto his private property, and seek both civil and criminal remedies. Dr. Vaughn should photograph the truck tags and the damages, identifying the people doing this, and pursue his remedies in Court.

Alderman Haynes needs some clarity regarding the Zoning Board Commissioners and the City Zoning Administrator/ Building Inspector. They need some structure as to who is doing what and something in writing clarifying who has the authority to do what needs to be done. A meeting needs to be held regarding the authority of both. Alderman Haynes wants to know where the City stands on the appointments for Zoning Board Commissioners. They can never meet and issue Orders due to not having a quorum. Mayor Scott stated there will be a vote on the appointments of Zoning Board Commissioners at the next Board Meeting.

Alderman Odom: Alderman Odom stated that City properties along Highway 145 never seem to be cleaned up after being mowed. The ditches are so grown up that it does not look like anything is being done to improve the looks. Shrub bushes and pine trees are growing at the end of the culverts; leaves are falling and piling up; and when it rains the water cannot flow through because of the barriers. Alderman Odom enjoyed the Leadership Training Session, and encouraged City Employees to participate in the training sessions.

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen stated that gravel and grading were still required on High Extension and Charles Street, and on rough areas on Woodland Heights.

Citizen's Input:

Officer Christopher Dobbins has a personnel issue to discuss openly or in Executive Session.

Sophia Jones addressed the Board about a magnolia tree in her yard that was cut down by the Aberdeen Electric Department without her permission. The tree had sentimental value and meant a lot to her. Jones said the tree did not have to be cut down because it was not growing into any of the power lines. Manager LaMarcus Thompson shared with the Board that the tree had to be cut down because of the lines and three phase wires that are being set by West Lake due to the voltage being so high. Thompson said the magnolia tree was in the City right of way and had to be cut down. Alderman Haynes asked the Board, "What could we do to make it right for her?" Mayor Scott stated that Jones should have been contacted before the magnolia tree was cut down. Jones stated she wanted to be compensated for the tree being cut down without her permission. Attorney Faulks said Ms. Jones may submit a written Notice of Claim, which should be turned in to the City liability insurance carrier for review.

Chestine Clay addressed the Mayor and Board with questions about the Zoning Board, the Leadership Training sessions for City employees, and issues with the management of Colonial Place Apartments. Clay has submitted a letter to the owners of Colonial Apartments, expressing her concerns about electricity and water problems, and complained that no one has responded. Ms. Clay wants to know what else can be done and whether the City could do anything to help.

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth to enter into a closed determination to determine whether to go into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaul to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue concerning Police officer Christopher Dobbins regarding his rate of pay. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

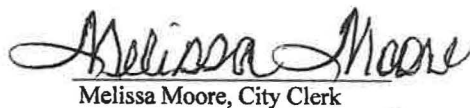
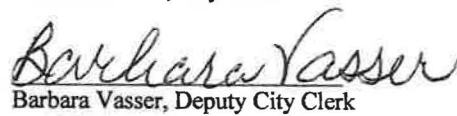
The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue concerning Police officer Christopher Dobbins regarding his rate of pay. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to adjourn until the December 21, 2021 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Charles Scott, Mayor

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk
Barbara Vasser, Deputy City Clerk