

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM

September 6, 2022
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 AND ROBERT FAULKS, CITY ATTORNEY.

Attended meeting by telephone: Robert Faulks, City Attorney.

Invocation: Chief Fred Hodges.

ROLL CALL:

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the proposed Minutes dated August 16, 2022. 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 Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen voted to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated September 6, 2022. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve a Contract Change Order for the Bulldog Blvd. Emergency Drainage Repairs project in the amount of \$6,030.00. The written change order was recommended by Project Engineer William Sanford. The contractor for this project is Ausbern Construction Company, Inc. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve a Pay Request submitted by Ausbern Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$214,852.25, the third pay request for the Port of Aberdeen - Dock Facility Upgrade Project. 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 Alderwoman Garth to approve payment to Cook Development, LLC for the project work done at the Aberdeen Electric Department building in the amount of \$102,759.75. The funds will be paid from the Electric Department General Fund. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull giving permission to Comptroller Karen Crump to close the six accounts affiliated with the 2003 Bond Issue and move the \$280,335.02 to the Electric Department General Fund. The Bond indebtedness has been paid in full. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize a pay increase to Devonshae Young of \$1.00 per hour for completing her 90-day probationary period. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept City employee Cruz Jimenez's resignation and to post / advertise for persons interested in being employed as a fireman. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to cancel two MaxxSouth Broadband Contracts (Internet service). The two accounts and monthly amounts are # 8585410970155142 / \$78.35 and # 8282410970148055 / \$78.35. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize an increase of the fees charged for City Cemetery plots and grave markers in the amount of \$500.00 (\$460.00 for the Cemetery plot and \$40.00 for the grave marker) at Oddfellows Rest and Oaklawn Cemeteries. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize Kathy Seymour to draft and submit an application for the Community Heritage Grant in the amount of \$336,000.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to employ Justin Posey and Alyssa Bailey as police officers in the Aberdeen Police Department at \$14.00 per hour and after completion of the Police Academy training their wage will increase to \$15.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to employ Michael Britt in the Aberdeen Public Works Department initially at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour and after completion of a 90-day probation evaluation an increase in pay to \$13.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Nay". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Motion failed.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Haynes to adopt certain Rules and Regulations for the Aberdeen Public Utilities. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize the annual Software Maintenance Agreement with Southern Automated Systems, Inc. in the amount of \$5,179.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize a refund deposit of \$100.00 paid by Akyra McNairy for the rental of the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Building. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Recusal".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize travel by and to pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Quinell Shumpert to attend the Mississippi Crime Stoppers Annual Training Conference, Biloxi, MS / October 18-21, 2022. Registration Fee: \$200 / Hotel Fee: \$380.94. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize to City employee Jovoni Jones a forty day leave of absence that will start August 29, 2022, and a return to work with the City upon completion of training. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize the Memorandum of Understanding with the Mississippi Department of Finance and Administration, concerning Appropriated Funds in the amount of \$150,000.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize opening a new checking account for the 2022 Local Improvement Project Fund Magnolia, with a deposit amount of \$150,000.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize an Agreement with Municipal Intercept Company to collect delinquent municipal debts owed to the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize an Agreement for the provision of School Resource Officers to the Aberdeen School District. This Agreement includes three (3) School Resource Officers at an annual charge of \$187,042.28. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaul to authorize an Intergovernmental Contract to Provide Emergency Services and Ambulance Subsidy with MedStat EMS, Inc. for the City of Aberdeen, the City of Amory, and Monroe County, MS. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaul to approve the RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MONROE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, AUTHORIZING MONROE COUNTY TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONTRACT TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY SERVICES AND AMBULANCE SUBSIDY WITH THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, AND THE CITY OF AMORY, MISSISSIPPI, AS WELL AS, TO ENTER INTO A RELATED CONTRACT FOR AMBULANCE SERVICE SUBSIDY WITH MEDSTAT EMS, INC. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaul, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept the resignation of City employee Dewayne Ealy as a full-time Police Department Investigator with an ending date of September 6, 2022 and to transfer Ealy to a part-time police officer employed at a rate of pay at \$15.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott asked Tina Robbins of the Aberdeen Visitors Bureau to provide an update. Robbins discussed the following events for the month of September:

1. 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony – September 9, 2022 @ 11:00 a.m.
2. Elkin Theatre Movie – Where the Crawdads Sing - September 9-10, 2022
3. Rosemont Suites Open House – September 12, 2022
4. Public Commissioner Brandon Presley Town Hall – September 13, 2022
5. Constitution Day Bell Ringing – September 19, 2022 @ 3:00 p.m.
6. Elkin Theatre Movie – Thor Love & Thunder on September 22-23, 2022
7. Elkin Theatre Movie – Spoken Word on September 29, 2022

Robbins reported that the Aberdeen Visitors Bureau did receive bids from the Advertising Agency, and awarded a contract to Rayborn Media. The first conference call is September 7, 2022 to work on the Marketing Plans as we move forward with the ARPA Funds for the Aberdeen Visitors Bureau. Robbins stated they are waiting on the application portal to open and secure the funds to begin working on the plans.

Robbins shared that a \$15,000.00 Community Care Fund was received from Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) which will be used for community projects and Christmas activities.

Mayor Scott asked William Sanford, P.E. / Project Manager (Neel-Schaffer, Inc) to provide an update regarding the Bulldog Blvd. Emergency Drainage Project and the Port of Aberdeen – Dock Facility Upgrade Project. Sanford stated the Bulldog Blvd. Drainage Project had progressed generally according to plan and completed in a timely manner, and asked the Board to approve a Contract Change Order in the amount of \$6,030.00. Sanford also asked the Board to approve payments of invoices submitted for completed work by Ausbern Contracting Company, Inc. in the amount of \$214,852.25.

Mayor Scott asked Dustin Dabbs to report on the status of the Aberdeen Electric Department building project. Dabbs reported the contractors continue to make progress on the interior of the building, according to schedule. The contractors have also commenced some of the exterior work that includes the drive-thru. The next step will be to pour the concrete, install pole structures, and install the fence.

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Dabbs stated that the Highway 8 and South Matubba Street road work has been completed, and South Meridian Street will be the third street scheduled for road work. It will be coordinated in conjunction with the parking lot improvements that will be done at the Aberdeen Electric Department building site. Dabbs discussed the opening of the Portal for the DQ Water / Waste Water Drainage Project. Dabbs recommended the City prepare a list of the projects the City would like to submit under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). If the City has less than one million dollars of the ARPA Funds, it can be matched at twice the amount of money. The deadline date is September 30, 2022.

Mayor Scott reported the date and time the Monroe County Health Department will be administering COVID19 Booster Vaccines: September 12, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. If you have any questions regarding the Booster Vaccines, please call 877-978-6453.

Comptroller Karen Crump asked the Board to pay Cook Development, LLC for work completed on the Aberdeen Electric Department building project in the amount of \$102,759.75.

Crump stated that the Aberdeen Electric Department had a Bond issue in 2003, but as of today that Bond indebtedness has been satisfied. At the time the Bond was set up there were six (6) different accounts established as Reserve Funds. Crump asked that the six (6) accounts be closed and the accounts funds be transferred to the Aberdeen Electric Department General Fund.

Kathy Seymour was asked by Mayor Scott to discuss the Community Heritage Grant. Seymour has spoken with the Department of Archives and History and was asked to re-apply for another Community Heritage Grant. It is an 80 / 20 grant / match program, and they are applying for \$336,000.00, and asked the Board for approval to apply for this grant. Seymour also stated they applied for a grant last October to include Baptist Ville (north side of town) on the National Register. It has been approved per an agreement signed with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, and the contractor will commence work in October. Seymour stated this will be the First Black National Register District in Aberdeen.

Aberdeen Chief of Police Chief Quinell Shumpert asked the Board to hire Justin Posey and Alyssa Bailey as police officers at \$14.00 per hour and, after completion of the Police Academy training their pay will increase to \$15.00 per hour.

Public Works Director Richard Boone asked the Board to hire Michael Britt for the Public Works Department at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour and, after completion of 90 days work his pay will increase to \$13.00 per hour. Britt has completed his 320 hours with the Work Program.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull Alderman Devaull complimented how well the pavement looks on South Matubba Street. Alderman Devaull stated he rode down Peacock Alley and has seen tires of different sizes being thrown in that area. Alderman Devaull asked citizens to please report names of the individuals seen disposing tires on Peacock Alley. Residents called about the pavement not extending from Peacock Alley to the end of Matubba Street on the South end and also on the north end of Matubba Street. Alderman Devaull discussed this concern with Dustin Dabbs, and is hoping some funds become available soon to complete residents' requests. Alderman Devaull requested that Devonshae Young's salary be increased by \$1.00 an hour following her 90-day completion.

Alderwoman Garth Alderwoman Garth stated that it was her understanding that "the City Clerk and her staff will receive a \$0.36 cents raise (3%), that the Electric Department employees will receive what was due to them, the Water Department employees will receive \$0.36 cents (3%), and the Street Department employees didn't get anything". Alderwoman Garth asked, "Is that how that went?" Mayor Scott answered to Alderwoman Garth that her understanding is wrong. Alderwoman Garth asked, "How did that go?" Mayor Scott stated the Street Department employees will receive a raise. Alderwoman Garth stated "You People indiscriminately threw out something the way you felt about it. City of Aberdeen now you know!"

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Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes stated "politics has a tendency to be a dirty game. You win and lose some battles, take it on the chin and keep going". The Aberdeen School District thanks the Aberdeen Electric Department for the lighting on Bulldog Blvd. Also, ASD is asking the City to assist with lighting on the Home side. Three speed signs on Bulldog Blvd are requested to control speeding. The speed limit: 15 mph. ASD is also asking for culverts from the Drainage Project be removed before the next football game for parking on the visitors' side.

Alderman Haynes asked why the pavement stopped before North Matubba Street. Mayor Scott answered that major work has to be done in the area before the street can be paved, and the City did not want to waste money on pavement until that work was done. Alderman Haynes stated he would've liked to have known this so he could relate this to citizens in Ward Three.

Alderman Haynes added that citizens need to be responsible on how they vote and who they vote for in 2024.

Alderman Odom: Alderman Odom has mentioned earlier that there is a barbershop being operated by one of the City's esteemed police officers in a residential zoned area. "If the City has Ordinances but are not enforcing the Ordinances, then we do not need them". Alderman Odom stated there is a real problem with the plots being sold at Oaklawn Cemetery on Highway 8. Someone does not know that you do not bury an individual facing north and south, and lots are being sold in the wrong configuration. Alderman Odom asked that this issue be taken care of at City Hall and that training be given on how to dig graves. Alderman Odom wanted to make sure the fees charged for the plots and opening/closing are being paid.

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen described a dead tree on City property on the corner of West Commerce and Jett Street; and requested the Aberdeen Electric Department to evaluate and determine whether the Department can remove the dead tree or whether the City will need to retain a commercial tree service to remove the tree. Alderman Allen also stated there are three - four potholes on West Commerce, right before the turnoff to the Aberdeen Country Club roadway, that need some attention.

Citizen's Input:

Em Walters of the Day Commission spoke regarding a grant that was secured for the Magnolias property. Walters and the Commission appreciate the grant, and told the Board, "Thank you". Walters requested the grant funds be deposited into a separate City fund, and that only Day Commission expenses be paid by the City from that fund. Walters also requested that the Day Commission determine which bills are paid from the separate fund. Mayor Scott asked Walters if she was referring to the Magnolia Fund, and Walters responded with a yes. Walters stated the Charter says the Commission shall have all necessary authority to receive and expend funds to maintain and operate the Magnolias property. Walters stated the Commission is agreeable to the City maintaining a separate account for the funds, but the Commission requests that it solely determines what is paid from the account. Mayor Scott stated there are some specific instructions and requirements that must be complied with.

Aberdeen Fire Department Chief Fred Hodges asked the Board to accept the resignation of Cruz Jimenez and to post / advertise for persons interested in being employed as a fireman. Jimenez's last day of work will be September 13, 2022.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen to enter into a Closed Determination to determine whether to go into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Odom to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue regarding Aberdeen Public Works employee Richard Boone. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Garth voted "Nay".

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The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue regarding Aberdeen Public Works Department employee Richard Boone.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen 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 Devaul to reject the two sealed bids of Donald Dahlem in the amount of \$3,020.94 and of Kevin Smiley in the amount of \$1,500.00, due to the appraisal value of the property for certain City property being PPIN # 6998 / Parcel ID #108G-27-024-004.00 and located on the corner of Commerce Street and Hillcrest Drive. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaul, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaul, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept the bid of and renew an annual Cemetery Landscaping Contract with Clean Cut Lawn Care LLC, Aberdeen, MS in the amount of \$70,000.00. This Contract includes property cleanup on the Oddfellows Rest Cemeteries on Whitfield and Poplar Streets and the Oaklawn Cemetery on Highway 8 West, Aberdeen, Mississippi. The Mayor and Board find that Clean Cut Lawn Care LLC has performed the contract satisfactorily and has the required equipment, personnel and insurance coverage required for this service. The current Contract also permits the parties to renew the Contract for a 12-month term. Other bidders included: Willie Middlebrooks and Maurice Barr (\$550.00) / Thomas Lawn Care (\$68,500.00) / Growscapes Landscaping (\$62,000.00) / and A & L's Lawn Care Service (\$65,900.00). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaul to authorize the use of the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department Building for a TVA Energy Right Program on September 19, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaul to transfer Police Officer Chaz Thompson from a part-time police officer to a full-time police officer and employ Thompson at a rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour, subject to mandatory training. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaul, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Allen to terminate the employment of Richard Boone. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaul, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaul, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adjourn until the September 20, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk
Charles Scott, Mayor