

MINUTES, BOARD OF ALDERMEN, BOOK NO. 19

DEMINT-MERIDIAN 61-2884

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOMSeptember 20, 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 CAROLYN ODOM, ALDERMAN JOHN ALLEN, MELISSA MOORE, CITY CLERK AND ROBERT FAULKS, CITY ATTORNEY

Invocation: LaMarcus Thompson.

ROLL CALL: Not present for the Meeting - Alderwoman Lady B. Garth and Alderman Edward Haynes exited the Boardroom before the Roll Call.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed Minutes dated September 6, 2022. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated September 20, 2022. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize a contract with Hancel Berryman Construction for Transformer Pads in the amount of \$12,500.00 and for Pole Supports in the amount of \$4,000.00 to be installed at the Aberdeen Electric Department Meridian Street site. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize a contract with Hancel Berryman Construction for a 15x20 Concrete Pad and Concrete Flat Bottom Ditch to be installed at the Aberdeen Electric Department Meridian Street site. Hancel Berryman Construction submitted the lowest quote in the amount of \$4,950.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize a contract with Gregory Company, LLC d/b/a Murphree Paving for the parking lot, drive-thru paving and striping to be installed at the Aberdeen Electric Department Meridian Street site. Murphree Paving submitted the lowest quote in the amount of \$37,960.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize a contract with Columbus Fence Company, LLC for the fence to be installed at the Aberdeen Electric Department Meridian Street site. Columbus Fence Company submitted the lowest quote in the amount of \$23,400.00. Ivy Fence Company also submitted a quote in the amount of \$31,241.93. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize a contract with Dabbs Corporation for the 40x80 metal building shed to be installed at the Aberdeen Electric Department Meridian Street site. Dabbs submitted the lowest quote in the amount of \$72,900.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Jarvis Dearing to attend the Mississippi State Fire Academy Fire Fighter 1001-1-11, Jackson, MS / October 24 - December 15, 2022. Cost: \$840.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to authorize Visitors Bureau Director Tina Robbins to complete and submit a Premium Pay Resolution Application (Mississippi House Bills 1427 and 1542) for eligible City law enforcement officers and firefighters. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to accept City police officer Santana Scales' resignation and to employ Scales with the Aberdeen Police Department as a part-time officer with part-time pay. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to amend a previous motion and to authorize travel and to pay all necessary expenses for Janel Davidson and Melissa Moore to attend the MML Debt Setoff Training Session, Ridgeland, MS / October 6, 2022 / 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the proposed FY 2022-2023 **Common City Budget**.

Administration and Finance	\$1,378,709
City Clerk	\$179,676
City Council and legal	\$86,941
Court Clerk	\$76,741
Fire Department	\$751,602
Inspection Department	\$105,210
Mayor's Office	\$98,625
Mechanic Department	\$106,866
Parks and Recreation Department	\$251,160
Police Department	\$1,402,829
Public Works	\$1,618,700

TOTAL DEPT. BUDGETS **\$6,057,059**

REVENUES

\$6,057,059

On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devault to approve the proposed FY 2022-2023 **Tax Millage Schedule** with a total levy millage rate of \$133.52 (City and School).

CITY OF ABERDEEN**FINAL MILLAGE SCHEDULE****FY-2023 (TAX YEAR 2022)**

	FY-2022	FY-2023
Common City General Fund	61.16	63.51
Std. Industrial Park Maintenance Fund 44	0.49	0.48
Street Paving B&I Fund 76	3.89	4.05
Evans Memorial Library Maint. Fund	1.35	1.35
"Magnolia's" Maintenance Fund	1.00	1.00
2018 Street Paving B&I Fund 45	3.58	3.55
School District Maintenance #81	53.66	55.00
School B&I 2022 -3 Mill Note	0.00	0.91
School B&I 2019 -3 Mill Note	0.50	0.00
School B&I 2016 -3 Mill Note	1.13	1.66
School B&I 2011 QSCB 3 Mill Note	1.11	1.02
School Shortfall Loan -2018	0.14	0.00
School Shortfall Loan -2019	0.18	0.17
School Shortfall Loan -2020	0.33	0.30
School Shortfall Loan -2022	0.00	0.52
CITY LEVY	71.47	73.94
SCHOOL LEVY	57.05	59.58
TOTAL LEVY	128.52	133.52

On a roll call vote, Alderman Devault, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devault to approve the proposed FY 2022-2023 **Aberdeen Water Department Budget**:

OPERATING REVENUES

Water Sales (Schedule A)	\$1,499,628
Sewer Sales	\$626,690
Water and Sewer Taps	\$25,500
Westlake Income	\$275,000
Nanacor Income	\$10,000
Other Service Revenue (Schedule B)	\$40,700
Other Income	\$26,500
TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$2,504,018

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Distribution Expense (Schedule C)	\$475,600
Customer Accounts & Records (Schedule D)	\$225,539
Administration & General Exp. (Schedule E)	\$267,700
Maintenance of System (Schedule F)	\$340,600
TOTAL OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSE	\$1,309,439

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OTHER OPERATING EXPENSE

Depreciation	\$722,400
Taxes	\$344,700
Lease-Capital Expenditures	\$0.00
Capital Expenditures	\$0.00
Equipment Maintenance Fund	\$60,000

DEBT EXPENSE

Interest on Long Term Debt	\$44,745
TOTAL ALL EXPENSE	\$2,481,284
NET INCOME (LOSS)	\$22,734

On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to amend the FY 2022-2023 **Aberdeen Public Utilities Budget**, as proposed. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the proposed FY 2022-2023 **Aberdeen Visitors Bureau Budget**.

INCOME

1% Specialty Tax	\$77,836
Emergency Reserve	\$0.00
Grants (received)	\$5,000
INCOME TOTAL	\$82,836

EXPENSES

Office Expenses	\$14,500
Personnel Expenses	\$55,096
Marketing Expenses	\$13,240
EXPENSE TOTAL	\$82,836

On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve the proposed FY 2022-2023 **Aberdeen Magnolia's Budget**:

REVENUES

City of Aberdeen (1 mill)	\$35,000
Rental, Miscellaneous	\$10,000
TOTAL INCOME	\$45,000

EXPENSES

Telephone / Internet	\$2,100
Utilities	\$2,800
Advertising	\$1,000
Housekeeping	\$1,500
Repair and Upkeep	\$14,000

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Manager	\$11,000
Landscape Maintenance	\$9,000
Pest Control	\$600
Security	\$1,000
Misc. Supplies, Exp.	\$2,000
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$45,000

On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to approve "RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE, SALE, VALIDATION, AND DELIVERY OF ELECTRIC SYSTEM REVENUE BONDS, SERIES 2022, OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, IN THE MAXIMUM AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$1,500,000, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING, REPAIRING, AND EXTENDING THE ELECTRIC SYSTEM OF THE MUNICIPALITY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO RENOVATION AND EQUIPPING OF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND OPERATIONS FACILITIES OF THE SYSTEM; AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES". On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to post and advertise for persons interested in being employed as the Aberdeen Public Works Department Supervisor. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott discussed the Judgment issued in the Holliday v. Devaull Supreme Court case, and a possible motion for rehearing, and awaiting the issuance of a Mandate. Mayor Scott stated we will stay in order and we will not do anything improper according to the Law.

Mayor Scott asked Tina Robbins to provide an update concerning business plans and activities in the City of Aberdeen. Robbins discussed the following events in September and October 2022:

1. Yoga Classes for Senior Citizens on September 27, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
2. Fall Youth League T-Ball registration deadline date.
3. Community Clean Up Day on October 22, 2022 from 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
4. Volunteer Day for Paradise Alley on September 17, 2022 from 7:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
5. Bukka White Blues Festival on October 8, 2022 from 12:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Robbins challenges everyone to please visit the local restaurants after the home football games. The restaurants have graciously agreed to extend their hours to accompany everyone after the games.

Mayor Scott invited TVA representatives to discuss the TVA Energy Right Program and how the program can help residents save on energy costs in their homes. TVA Representative Josh Wooten presented flyers with helpful information for residential and commercial customers to achieve their energy goals. Jim Coggins, David Sparks and Ellis Ward of TVA were responsible for the Program presentation. Customers may call 855-237-2673 and speak with an Energy Advisor and schedule an appointment for a free Home Energy Evaluation.

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TVA is offering a free home report and an energy kit with a Home Depot \$10.00 gift card. Customers are asked to contact the local Electric Department and ask for a free home energy report and a return in the postage paid envelope, and an energy kit will be mailed to you. The Program was summarized as:

Residential Update:

- Self-Audit
- Free In-Home Audit
- Workshops

Business & Industry Update:

- Business Incentives
- School Uplift Pilot

Mayor Scott invited Dustin Dabbs to give an update regarding Public Utilities and Street Improvement Projects. Dabbs reminded the Mayor and Board that the site work costs was not to exceed the total cost of \$200,000.00. Dabbs provided the following quotes received for the Transformer Pads and Pole Supports:

1. Hancel Berryman Construction quotes for Transformer Pads: \$12,500.00 and Pole Supports: \$4,000.00.
2. Slayton's Concrete Construction, LLC quote for Transformer Pads: \$12,750.00 and Pole Supports: \$4,750.00.

Dabbs shared with the Board that Manager LaMarcus Thompson is requesting a 15x20 concrete pad and concrete flat bottom ditch. Dabbs presented one quote for this project, also by Hancel Berryman Construction in the amount of \$4,950.00.

Dustin Dabbs provided one quote for the paving of the parking lot and drive-thru for the Aberdeen Electric Department Meridian site, from Gregory Company, LLC d/b/a Murphree Paving in the amount of \$37,960.00. Dabbs stated that he could not find a second quote from APAC in the low \$40k's, but will ask his office personnel to provide a copy to the City Clerk and the Board.

Dabbs provided a quote from Ivy Fence Company, Inc in the amount of \$31,241.93, for the purchase of the fencing to be installed at the Aberdeen Electric Department site on Meridian Street.

Dabbs provided the following quotes on a 40x80 Metal Building Shed for the Aberdeen Electric Department site on Meridian Street:

1. Dabbs Corporation quote: \$72,900.00;
2. M&N Construction quote: \$84,969.00.

Dabbs will confer with Mayor Scott this week concerning the Parkway Project and to determine whether there will be available ARPA funds to complete this project.

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Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull: Alderman Devaull inquired about a pothole on Meridian Street, next to the Texaco Food Mart parking lot. Devaull commented there are abandoned tires on both sides of Peacock Alley, blocking a residential driveway. Devaull also inquired whether a section of Peacock Alley that may be paved, if funding is available.

Alderman Devaull stated that everyone must abide by the laws of the State. Some cases you win, and some you lose, but you are given a chance to appeal, and await Due Process. Alderman Devaull added that if the Court orders him to leave his position, he will do so gracefully; and apologized to the public for what just happened in the Boardroom at the beginning of the Meeting. Alderman Devaull thanked the citizens of Aberdeen for all they have done for the City of Aberdeen.

Alderman Devaull asked Manager LaMarcus Thompson if notices will be placed in the utility service bill envelopes to notify the public when TVA representatives will return to Aberdeen for another workshop. Thompson answered that no notice will be included with the utility bill, but a notice will be published in the local newspaper.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth was not present.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes was not present.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom suggested that all mowers to please turn their lawn mowers and expel grass clippings away from the streets. This will create less work for the City departments to clean the streets and City drains, and will help the City of Aberdeen.

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen thanked Manager LaMarcus Thompson and the Utilities Department staff for doing a great job setting up the TVA Workshop. It was good seeing the participation of the Aberdeen Electric Department staff, and this allowed citizens present at the TVA Workshop to see them. Alderman Allen looks forward to seeing them again. Alderman Allen stated there were 80+ people who attended the TVA Workshop in Aberdeen. There was reportedly more participation from citizens at the TVA Workshop in Aberdeen versus the TVA Workshop in Nashville.

Alderman Allen asked whether there will be any notifications referencing the garbage contract with Monroe County that will begin October 1, 2022. Mayor Scott stated there will be mail outs with this information, and also notifications concerning the Rental Agreement Registration and "Get Clean Aberdeen". City Clerk Melissa Moore advised there will be a notice in this week's newspaper about the garbage pickup and the collection regulations by the Monroe County Solid Waste Department.

Alderman Allen asked whether the Federal Building utilities service is metered. Manager LaMarcus Thompson stated the meter operated is on 480 volts, and the units around the building come back to one unit, and the trailers have two meters.

Alderman Allen asked whether filling potholes and resetting tomb stones in the City Cemetery was the responsibility of the City. Attorney Faulks stated the plots are privately owned, but if the City territory around the plot causes the collapse then this may be the responsibility of the City. Mayor Scott stated it can also depend on how the grave was dug and that the flow of water can also cause this to happen.

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Citizen's Input:

Joyce Vasser came before the Board asking for donations and participation in the 5th Annual Bowl-a-thon for St. Jude that will be held on November 5, 2022 from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. It will be held at the Endzone Bowling Alley, Tupelo, MS. There will be a raffle on a 50-inch television. All proceeds raised will benefit St. Jude Hospital. Vasser stated they raised \$3,105.00. Vasser asked whether citizens will receive a garbage bill from both Aberdeen Electric and Monroe County. Manager Thompson said there will be no extra fees.

Elisha Sacus asked whether Bluejay Drive could be added to the Streets Improvement list because that street is full of potholes. Sacus wanted to know who owns the section of the cemetery on the front with high grass. It makes the whole cemetery look bad. Mayor Scott stated that the property is currently in probate, and nothing can be done at this time. The owner of that part of the cemetery needs to maintain it or sell it to someone that will maintain it. Mayor Scott announced that the Mayor's Youth Council will be doing a clean-up at the cemetery on October 22, 2022, and asking for all volunteers and family members that have loved ones buried at Oddfellows Rest Cemetery to please come and help clean it up.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaul, to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding Aberdeen Public Works Supervisor position. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaul, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding the Aberdeen Public Works Supervisor position. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaul, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaul, seconded by Alderman Allen to come out of Executive Session. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaul, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaul, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to employ Imogene Dancy as a full-time Interim Public Works Supervisor at \$23.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaul and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Allen "abstained".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaul, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve Police Officers Nathaniel Wilson and Bobby McFarland's status change from Auxiliary Officers to Part-Time Police Officers at a rate of pay at \$15.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaul, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaul, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adjourn until the October 6, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Attest:



Charles Scott, Mayor

Melissa Moore, City Clerk