

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM

October 4, 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

Present by telephone: Alderman John Allen.

Invocation: Mayor Charles Scott.

ROLL CALL:

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devault to approve the proposed Minutes dated September 20, 2022, with a correction regarding the contract awarded to Columbus Fence Company, LLC for the fence to be installed at the Aberdeen Electric Department Meridian Street site. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devault, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Devault, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated October 4, 2022 (with the exception of certain Election expenses to be considered later). On a roll call vote, Alderman Devault, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Building Inspector Roy Haynes to attend the Building Officials Association of Mississippi, Natchez, MS / November 30, 2022-December 2, 2022 / Registration Fee: \$200.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for City Comptroller Karen Crump to attend the TVPPA Conference, Huntsville, AL / October 19-21, 2022 / Fee: \$479.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devault, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Sheila Stewart to attend the Stress Management Course, Tupelo, MS / October 11, 2022 / Fee: \$150.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devault, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for City Clerk Melissa Moore to attend the 2022 Mississippi Municipal Clerks & Collectors Association & IIMC Region IV Conference, Flowood, MS / December 14-16, 2022 / Fee: \$215.00 / Room: \$433.44. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devault to accept the resignation of Aberdeen Police Officer Davis Hankins, with an effective date of October 11, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Haynes to post and advertise for persons interested in being employed as Police Officers (certification through the Law Enforcement Academy is not a requirement for applicants to apply) for the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to employ Imogene Dancy as the Aberdeen Public Works Supervisor at a rate of pay of \$23.00 per hour. 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 Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to employ City Police Officer Jordan Gillespie to serve in the capacity of Aberdeen School Resource Officer at a rate of pay of \$17.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize travel and pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Calvin Parker to attend the Water Certification Class, Tupelo, MS / October 25-27, 2022 / Fee: \$354.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize Mayor Charles Scott to execute the Independent Registered Municipal Advisor (IRMA) Representation Letter with the Underwriter Duncan Williams, regarding certain disclosures relating to the issuance of the Aberdeen Electric System Revenue Bonds, Series 2022 (the "Bonds"), as required by the Rule G-17 of the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to employ Rashad Pargo as a part-time Event Worker in the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department at a rate of pay of \$10.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to authorize a temporary loan pursuant to Mississippi Code Section 21-33-326 in the amount of \$200,000.00 from the unrestricted Aberdeen Water Department Equipment Fund to an Aberdeen Common City account to pay for the expenses of the renovations at the Aberdeen General Young Park. The City has a confirmed Cap Loan Funds loan from the State of Mississippi, and will repay the temporary loan when the Cap Loan funds are received. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott asked Tina Robbins to provide the Board with an update concerning the following plans and activities for the month of October 2022:

1. Aberdeen Scarecrow Trail / October 7-21, 2022
2. Bukka White Blues Festival will be October 8, 2022 / 12:00 PM. - 10:00 PM
3. DAR Grave Dedication at Oddfellow's Cemetery / October 10, 2022 at 3:00 PM
4. AHS Homecoming Parade / October 12, 2022 at 5:00 PM
5. AHS Homecoming Game / October 13, 2022 at 7:00 PM
6. Volunteer Day for Paradise Alley / September 17, 2022 / 8:00 AM. - 10:00 AM
7. Let's Get Clean Aberdeen / October 22, 2022 / 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM
8. Aberdeen Church of God Fall Fest / October 23, 2022 / 6:30 PM - 9:30 PM
9. JWL Trunk or Treat / October 29, 2022 / 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

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Mayor Scott invited the grandchildren of the late great Bukka White: Ms. Tashanda White, Ms. Donna White, Mrs. Sandra Marble and Mrs. Inger Fort to present them with a Proclamation in honor of Bukka White and naming October 3-8, 2022 as "Bukka White Week". The White Family thanked Mayor Scott and the City of Aberdeen for honoring their grandfather and the White family.

Mayor Scott next invited the Mayor's Youth Council to announce events they have planned for October and December 2022:

1. Let's Get Clean Aberdeen and the Aberdeen Food Pantry (Volunteer) / October 22, 2022
2. Christmas Parade / December 6, 2022 at 6:30PM
3. Breakfast for Veterans / December 17, 2022 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
4. Christmas Play titled "Love Noel, Love Noel" / December 18, 2022 at 6:00 PM

The Mayor's Youth Council members expressed appreciation and thanks for love and support. Ms. Tashanda White shared that the Aberdeen School District has decided to have Homecoming Sweethearts for the different organizations in the School District and the City, and the Sweetheart representing the Mayor's Youth Council is Ms. Caitlyn Morrow.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull: Alderman Devaull expressed appreciation to the Aberdeen Public Works for the cleanup they have done in the City ditches in Ward One. Alderman Devaull reminded Mayor Scott to please look at the main City ditch that runs behind Evergreen Drive that "dumps and goes down to Tisdale and then to the river". It needs to be cleaned out before the City gets a lot of heavy rain. Alderman Devaull thanked Mr. Johnson for fixing the pothole by Texaco Food Mart on Meridian Street.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth did not have anything to report at this time.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes stated that 108 Hillcrest Drive has bushes that have been there for a week and have not been picked up as of today. The corner of Hillcrest Drive and Short Street has tree limbs that need to be picked up. On the corner of Woodruff and Project Street there has been an orange barrel that has been sitting there for seven years sitting in a hole that looks like a sink hole, and if the City does not do anything about it, the hole will continue to spread and cost the City money. Alderman Haynes stated that behind Belle Shivers School on Project Street the road is beginning to cave in, and the crush-in-run is washing away. The street needs to be repaired with asphalt. North Hickory Street has several piles of limbs that need to be picked up. On 606 Canal Street, the homeowner Shirley Polk does not have anywhere to place her garbage can so the County can pick it up. Alderman Haynes suggested that a backhoe operator could do a cut out on the hill in Ms. Polk's yard so she can have a place for her garbage can.

Alderman Haynes has received 26 telephone calls from residents complaining their garbage was not picked up in their neighborhood, and how can the City fix this problem. Alderman Haynes commented that if your trash is not inside of the blue garbage can the County will not pick it up. Alderman Haynes asked about the \$17.00 fee residents are charged each month to have their garbage picked up, and the County is only charging the City \$12.00 each month. Alderman Haynes stated there are limbs on College Street that need to be picked up, and pallets on the sidewalk behind the theatre also need to be moved. Alderman Haynes has received three telephone calls regarding the sidewalk on Commerce Street being blocked by accumulated items from a Thrift Shop that need to be cleaned up. Several mattresses in Ward Three have not been

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picked up, along with other items not being picked up by the workers. Alderman Haynes expressed that Ward Three has been neglected. On Columbus Street near Jefferson Street a mattress has been there for four weeks and no one has picked it up yet, and on the corner of Jefferson Street there are three garbage cans that the County did not empty.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom did not have anything to report at this time.

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen stated he has received a telephone call about tree limbs hanging over in the street and hitting the top of cars on Jett Street.

Citizen's Input:

Wallace Young asked about the County garbage pickup schedule and the rules the County has in place for residents about the garbage pickup. Young stated his elderly neighbors on Shady Oak Drive have garbage that is not being picked up and would like to know what days have been set aside for garbage pickup in their neighborhood.

Sarah Sims reported that her garbage was picked up and the County is doing a good job.

City employee Matthew Sanders expressed that he is overworked and underpaid, and would like some help in the department he works in. Sanders stated he can go and work for another employer and make more money. Sanders is asking for more help because it is too much work for one person.

Matt Wood, CPA with Alexander Thompson Arnold, PLLC reported the conclusions and findings of the City of Aberdeen and Electric Department Audits. (The City of Aberdeen, Mississippi Financial Statements and Supplementary Information for the Fiscal Year ended September 30, 2021 and City of Aberdeen, Mississippi Electric Department Financial Statements and Supplementary Information for the Fiscal Year ended June 30, 2021). Mr. Wood stated the City of Aberdeen Audit Report had no Internal Control Findings for the first time since ATA has audited the City of Aberdeen. The Electric Department Audit Report findings remained the same from the prior year, but new information received will enable the Auditor to revise and eliminate the audit finding.

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

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to go into Executive Session to discuss the employment of Xavier Wilson. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

The Mayor and Board requested Attorney Faulks to announce to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss the employment of Xavier Wilson, but there was no one present. 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 Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to come out of Executive Session. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Allen voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

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A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to adjourn until the October 18, 2022 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk



Charles Scott, Mayor