

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

December 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 FAULK, CITY ATTORNEY.

Invocation: Mayor Charles Scott.

ROLL CALL:

Absent during Roll Call: Alderwoman Carolyn Odom.

A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the proposed Minutes dated November 21, 2022. On a roll call vote, Alderman Devaull, Alderman Haynes and Alderman Allen voted “Aye”. Alderwoman Garth voted “Nay”. Alderwoman Odom was not present to vote.

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated December 6, 2022 (after the removal of the Mississippi 811 claim in the amount of \$4,151.68 from the Water Department Docket of Claims). 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 authorize Public Utilities General Manager LaMarcus Thompson to close the Collection Office of the Aberdeen Public Utilities building on January 6 and 9, 2023 in order for CSA to do a system upgrade and new installation. Per Thompson, the Electric Department employees will still work in the Warehouse and the Office from 7 am – 3:30 pm. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize Tohona Lartridge to attend the Public Works Officials Executive Management Certificate Program Conference, Athens, Georgia on January 24-27, 2023. 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 Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Devaull to post and advertise for a Public Hearing at the Aberdeen City Hall on December 27, 2022 @ 5:00 pm for citizens input and to discuss a proposed Ordinance regarding the City 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 Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve the renewal of the BBI, Inc Software Support agreement (privilege license documentation) for the term of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, at a cost of \$1,140.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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A motion was made by Alderman Devaull, seconded by Alderman Allen to approve payment to TK Elevator Corporation for the emergency repairs of the City Hall elevator system in the amount of \$11,000.00, to be paid from the Tax Exemption Fund. Per information from TK Elevator Corporation, the elevator jack goes underground as far as the elevator goes up, approximately 30 feet; and the elevator "hole" did not have original casing, and a pump truck had to be brought in to clean debris from the hole and to dispose of the materials in compliance with environmental standards. This allowed the jack assembly to be put in the ground and the project to proceed without further work stoppage. Delay incident to publication for bids or quotes would be prejudicial to the City. 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 Alderman Allen to approve and authorize travel and to pay all necessary expenses according to state guidelines for Imogene Dancy to attend the Public Works Officials Executive Management Certificate Program Conference, Athens, Georgia / January 24-27, 2023 / Fee: \$570.00. 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 Alderman Allen to appoint Felecia Cox Lenoir to serve in the capacity of Aberdeen School Board Member for the term of January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2027. 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 employ Brandon Brown as an Aberdeen police officer at a rate of pay of \$14.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Allen, seconded by Alderman Devaull to employ Zackery Westbrook as an Aberdeen police officer at a rate of pay of \$14.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Devaull to accept the resignation of Water Department Supervisor Jason Roberson, with an effective date of December 16, 2022. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Haynes to authorize the refund of a deposit to Amber Jones and Mirraça Merhundred, paid for the rental of an Aberdeen Park and Recreation Department Building. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott asked the community to please support the play "Love Noel" at the Elkin Theatre. The Play is being presented by the Mayor's Youth Council, on Sunday, December 18, 2022 @ 6:00 pm. Admission: \$5.00. Also, the Aberdeen Public Utilities Grand Re-Opening is scheduled January 9, 2023 from 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm. The location is 609 North Meridian Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730. Please contact Utilities General Manager LaMarcus Thompson @ 662-369-4731 for additional information.

Mayor Scott also asked citizens to continue bagging leaves so the leaves do not flow into and clog the City drainage systems.

Mayor Scott asked Public Utilities General Manager LaMarcus Thompson to report the status of renovations of the Aberdeen Public Utilities building. Thompson stated everything is progressing in a timely manner and the Open House is scheduled for January 9, 2023. Thompson asked the Board's permission to close the Aberdeen Public Utilities Office on January 6 and 9, 2023 in order for CSA to do the system upgrade and new installation. Thompson stated the Public Utilities Office will re-open on January 10, 2023.

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Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Devaull: Alderman Devaull asked everyone to enjoy the Aberdeen Christmas Parade and to please be safe.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth read to the Board a letter from a concerned citizen regarding flooding on the 300 block of South James Street between West Jefferson Street and Madison Street. “Any time there’s a major rain the water backs up on South James Street, it looks like the drain at South James and Madison Street is blocked with leaves and other debris. The drain at West Jefferson and South James Street also seems to clog with leaves and other debris adding to the problem. I don’t understand why the drain down by Madison Street cannot be repaired like the one at West Jefferson and Columbus Street. We also wondered why the sidewalk in front of 300 South James is still not fixed. A slab of concrete was removed from a home so the homeowner could fix the leak but was never put back in place. It has been sticking up for over a year now, it looks junky and makes the neighborhood look bad. Please look into this matter so Aberdeen can look better.

Alderwoman Garth stated that George Berry called about his complaint against an Aberdeen police officer. The officer used vulgar language when talking with Berry at the police station. Alderwoman Garth asked if Tohona Larthridge will be attending the training she normally attends. Mayor Scott said no, and Alderwoman Garth asked why not? Mayor Scott stated at least one person in charge needs to be at the Aberdeen Public Works, and Larthridge may attend the next training

Alderwoman Garth asked Attorney Faulks where the City stands on the Mandate for the City of Aberdeen. Attorney Faulks stated that no Mandate has been issued, concerning the Holliday - Devaull election contest case, by the Mississippi Supreme Court, as of this afternoon. Faulks added there could be a Mandate issued as early as Thursday, and we could expect to see a Mandate at any day now.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes recognized Devonshae Young for receiving a Master’s Degree. The Commencement Exercises will be held on Friday, December 9, 2022. Alderman Haynes received several telephone calls yesterday and today from residents stating they are doing what has been asked of them, but bagged leaves are not being picked up on several streets in Ward Three. Alderman Haynes has received several telephone calls from citizens stating that Monroe County Solid Waste is not picking up their garbage, and when they dump the trash cans they leave trash on the ground and place our canisters anywhere. Alderman Haynes stated the Street Department needs to take their time when patching the potholes throughout the City. Alderman Haynes asked if the engineer and company that did the work on Project Street and on Woodruff Street have been contacted? Mayor Scott stated that Hanna Contracting has been contacted and a meeting will be scheduled with them, Engineer Dabbs and Attorney Faulks to discuss the work they did on the project.

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

Alderman Allen: Alderman Allen also did not have anything to report at this time.

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Citizen's Input:

City employee Jovoni Jones addressed the Board about his purchase of a paper picker from his own money in order to do his job, and asked the Board to approve a reimbursement to him for purchasing this item. There was no purchase order or any authority given to employee Jones to incur this debt on behalf of the City. City Attorney Faulks advised the Mayor and Board that Jones' purchase of the equipment was not in compliance with Mississippi Public Purchase laws and that the Board was not authorized to give a refund to Jones.

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

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk


Charles Scott, Mayor