

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**March 7, 2023  
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 NICHOLAS HOLLIDAY, ALDERWOMAN LADY B. GARTH, ALDERMAN EDWARD HAYNES, ALDERWOMAN CAROLYN ODOM, MELISSA MOORE CITY CLERK, AND ROBERT FAULKS, CITY ATTORNEY.**

**Invocation:** Mr. LaMarcus Thompson

Roll Call

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the adjournment of February 21, 2023 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated March 7, 2023. On a roll call vote, Alderman Haynes and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay". Due to a tie vote of 2-2, Mayor Scott voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the proposed February 21, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes with the correction of the wording "adjournment" being removed from the minutes. On a roll call vote, Alderman Haynes and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay". Due to a tie vote of 2-2, Mayor Scott voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to accept the resignation of Ward 5 Alderman John Allen and declare the seat vacant. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to Table on setting the Qualifying Dates and Special Election Date for the City of Aberdeen Special Election. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve Employment Enhancement according to state guidelines and pay all necessary charges for Jermaine Polk to attend the Fundamentals Lab 1, Huntsville, AL / March 13-17, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve Employment Enhancement according to state guidelines and pay all necessary charges for Jermaine Polk to attend the Lineman Apprenticeship Lab 2 Construction, Huntsville, AL / May 8-12, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve Employment Enhancement according to state guidelines and pay all necessary charges for Tamanda Garth to attend the 2023 Joint Accounting Conference, Tupelo, MS / March 22-24, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the City of Aberdeen to apply for the Port Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Grant with a ten percent match by the City of Aberdeen with a deadline date on March 31, 2023. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Haynes and Alderman Odom voted "Aye. Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve James Pest Management Mosquito Management Service Agreement from April 1, 2023 thru October 31, 2023. The payments for this service will be \$2,580.00 times seven months equaling \$18,060.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employment Enhancement according to state guidelines and pay all necessary charges for Christopher Dobbins, Lee Johnson and Jordan Gillespie to attend the Mississippi Association of School Resource Officers (MASRO) 2023 Training Conference, Biloxi, MS / July 9-14, 2023 / Fee: \$395.00 each. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye"

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to accept the resignation of City Employee Dewayne Laney with an effective date: February 13, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the lowest bid for the purchase of a 750 KVA 3Phase Pad Mount for Aberdeen Public Utilities given by MSTN Transformers, Greenwood, TN in the amount of \$38,100.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to Table the approval of Implementing Service Fees for Reprinting Public Utilities Statements for the citizens of the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to Table the approval of Land Swap involving Mr. Torrey Boykins. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve the TVPPA Mutual Aid Agreement. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes that the Internet Services at the Aberdeen Sports Complex be discontinued. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the reinstatement of Mr. Richard Boone and be hired with the City of Aberdeen as Public Works Director and receiving his former pay. No vote was given due to being discussed in Closed Determination.

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**Mayor Report:** Mayor Scott asked Ms. Tina Robbins to update the Board on the events taken place within the City of Aberdeen.

1. Let's Get Clean Aberdeen / Community Clean-Up Day: March 18, 2023 @ 8:00 AM
2. Aberdeen Main Street / Spring Open House: March 19, 2023 @ 1:00 PM
3. Aberdeen Spring Pilgrimage: March 31-April 1, 2023

Ms. Robbins stated the flyer for the Clean-Up day will be posted on the social media pages, and they're reaching out the businesses, churches and residents of Aberdeen to please up their areas. If anyone would like to adopt and area, please contact Ms. Tashanda White at City Hall.

Mayor Scott stated that he would like for the residents of Aberdeen to do a hard-push and clean their yards all the way to the curbs. The Mayor's Youth Council and Alderman Haynes adopted the downtown area to clean up.

Mayor Scott asked Kyle Kirkpatrick, Secretary of State Office to join the meeting by telephone to share with the Board about the procedures of a Municipal Special Election. If a City has a Special Charter it takes precedence over General State Law, but if there's nothing notated in the Special Charter the General State Law takes precedence.

Mayor Scott stated the Parkway Project is almost completed and will be inspected by Mr. Dustin Dabbs w/Dabbs Corporation in making sure everything has been done correctly. Mayor Scott shared with the Board that William Sanford w/Neel-Schaffer will need more time in getting the proper estimates to present to the Board for the Sewer / Drainage Projects.

Mayor Scott stated that William Sanford w/Neel-Schaffer has been working with the City of Aberdeen on the Port, and to announce to the Board that Governor Tate Reeves and the Mississippi State Legislature, Mississippi Development Authority awarded the City of Aberdeen a Mississippi Port Improvement Fund grant in the amount of \$803,700.00, pursuant to Section 57-1-731, Mississippi Code of 2019 to work on Phase II of the Port.

Mr. James w/James Pest Management was asked to come before the Board and explain the type of mosquito services they will be providing for the City of Aberdeen during April 1, 2023 – October 31, 2023.

Aberdeen Public Utilities General Manager, LaMarcus Thompson presented the Board with two quotes for the purchase of a 750 KVA 3Phase Pad Mount for Public Utilities: Also, Mr. Thompson is asking the Board to approve a Mutual Aid Agreement between all TVPPA Utilities.

1. MSTN Transformers, Greenwood, MS 38935 bid amount is \$38,100.00
2. Sunbelt Solomon, Temple, TX 76504 bid amount is \$48,539.00

**Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:**

**Alderman Holliday:** Alderman Holliday stated it's been a tough couple of weeks, and I would love to see my Street Department Employees back at work, because there is a lot to do. I'm looking forward to working with everyone in Ward One or wherever I'm needed in getting the streets and curbs cleaned up from trash and debris and keeping the grass mowed. Alderman Holliday stated one of the main focuses is getting people back to work to do the job they're being paid to do. Alderman Holliday shared that Men of Vision will be helping him to clean up ward One, especially Southview Apartments, and all volunteers are welcome to help. Mayor Scott shared that tenant Ms. Gates supposed to be setting up a meeting with the tenants at Southview Apartments, and he will contact Alderman Holliday once the date has been set. Alderman Holliday stated there are some things coming down the pipeline within the next couple of months, and I'm hoping as a Board that we can approve any business, infrastructure, and tax dollars the City of Aberdeen can get.

**Alderwoman Garth:** Alderwoman Garth stated the Park & Recreation Director would like for the Board to discontinue the \$400+ Internet Services the City is paying at the Sports Complex. Alderwoman Garth stated she would like to put a motion on the floor again for Mr. Richard Boone to be re-instated into his job and be hired with the City of Aberdeen as Public Works Director and receiving his former pay. Mayor Scott asked Alderwoman Garth if this can be taken into Executive Session. Alderwoman Garth stated since we have an election coming up for the Election Commissioners, and this is a new Board I would like to make new appointments. Alderwoman Garth made the citizens aware their being charged \$17.00 for Sanitation, but the County is only being paid \$12.00 of it. Please call and ask where the \$5.00 is going.

**Alderman Haynes:** Alderman Haynes stated that Fire Chief Fred Hodges request for Mr. Norris James to attend training on the Gulf Coast. Whenever City Inspector Roy Haynes has been approved to attend a conference the Fire Marshall goes along with him. Alderman Haynes asked about the yellow letter residents received in the mail regarding the drinking water in the City of Aberdeen, and where does the City stand on getting a certified personnel to pull the water sample on a monthly basis. Alderman Haynes stated he received information from the City Clerk that either Board Member can monitor water samples being done. Mayor Scott stated Wastewater (Sewerage) is being done by an outside company, and City employee C.J. is taken the water samples. Alderman Haynes asked, "Who is the outside company the City is outsourcing to?" Mayor Scott stated it's the same company that's been doing it, and I will provide you the name. Alderman Haynes wanted to know if the City has received the results from the samples, and if it was a passing grade. Mayor Scott said yes.

**Alderwoman Odom:** Alderwoman Odom stated the only complaint she has is about the 4-wheelers running in-between the speed bumps, and not reducing their speed. Alderwoman Odom would like for Aberdeen Police to patrol Meadowlane Drive because of the speeding and fast driving.

**Citizen's Input:**

Ms. Mary Ann Butler of 105 Walters Drive, Aberdeen, MS came before the Board complaining about the flooding and drainage issues in her yard and neighborhood that needs to be addressed. Ms. Donna Lucas of 107 Walters Drive, Aberdeen, MS shared with the Board about flooding in her yard that needs to be attended to.

Ms. Toni Price asked if the water and samples are okay in the City of Aberdeen. Mayor Scott said yes. Alderman Holliday told Ms. Price to please check with Mayor Scott and the City Clerk for more information regarding the concerns of the water.

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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 Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue regarding City employees Pedro Clay, Tohona Larthridge, Albert Johnson, Richard Boone, and Jamarquez Johnson. 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 regarding City employees Pedro Clay, Tohona Larthridge, Albert Johnson, Richard Boone, and Jamarquez Johnson.

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

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the reinstatement of Mr. Richard Boone and be hired with the City of Aberdeen as Public Works Director and receiving his former pay and reports to work on March 8, 2023. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday that Mr. Albert Johnson, Mr. Pedro Clay and Ms. Tohona Larthridge return to work on March 8, 2023, and no money deducted from their pay during the time they were at home and they will resume their regular duties. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday that Ms. Linda Jagers, Ms. Anniece Riddle and Ms. Geann Jones be the new Election Commissioners, and replacing Mrs. Dorothy Wilson, Mrs. Jennifer Rollison, and Mr. Lee Turnage. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay". Alderman Haynes voted "Recuse".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday that Mr. Walter Zinn, pending his finality with his lawsuit be made City Attorney as well as Prosecutor for the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay". Alderman Haynes voted "Recuse".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday that Judge Adrian Haynes becomes City Judge for the City of Aberdeen replacing Judge Shane Tompkins. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay". Alderman Haynes voted "Recuse".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve Employment Enhancement according to state guidelines and pay all necessary charges for Norris James to attend the Building Officials Association of Mississippi (BOAM), Gulfport, MS / June 12-16, 2023 / Fee: \$200.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to accept the resignation of City Employee Alyssa Bailey with an effective date: March 16, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve to post and advertise for police officers. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to make sure Mayor Scott discuss with the engineers and attend to the flooding issues at 105 & 107 Walters Drive, Aberdeen, MS. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve City Employee Jovoni Jones temporary leave from Aberdeen Public Works Department for ninety days beginning March 13, 2023 with a return to work day June 12, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve City Employee Jamarquez Johnson to return-to-work and have another drug screen in forty days. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to adjourn until the March 21, 2023 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

Attest:

  
Melissa Moore, City Clerk

  
Charles Scott, Mayor