

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

April 18, 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 WALTER H. ZINN, JR., CITY ATTORNEY.

Invocation: Lamarcus Thompson

Roll Call

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the proposed April 4, 2023, Board Meeting 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 Odom, seconded by Alderman Haynes to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated April 18, 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 Odom, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the Final Resolution Granting Exemption for Westlake Chemicals & Vinyl's, LLC (FKA Axiall, LLC) Ad Valorem Tax Exemption \$10,897,835.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Haynes and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye" and Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Lady B. Garth voted "Nay". Due to a tie vote of 2-2, Mayor Scott voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept Dale Daniel Resignation with an Effective date: June 30, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve ESS for May 2, 2023, Special Election @ \$5,895.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Haynes, and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye" and Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to rescind job offer to Willie J. Jones at Public Works as CDL Operator. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye" and Alderman Haynes voted "Recused".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employee / Official Enhancement and pay all the necessary charges according to state guidelines for Judge Adrian Haynes to attend the 2023 Mississippi Municipal Court Judges Conference, Biloxi, MS / May 31-June 2, 2023. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay".

Regular Board Meeting
April 18, 2023
Page 2

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve Grant Resolutions for the USDA Grant to buy police vehicle(s) and announce public hearing on May 11, 2023. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Haynes, and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the hiring of William Shaw as Laborer for Public Works Department at a rate of pay of \$12.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the Fitness Court Grant Application process due April 19, 2023, and upgrade the playground equipment (merry-go-round / see-saws / swings / slides) at Newberger Park. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Affluent Marketing and Consulting and bring them on board to consult for the City of Aberdeen and bring manufacturing, infrastructure and any type of grants to better the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve and hire TKO StaffPros, LLC, 421 North Gloster Street, Tupelo, MS 38801 for the remaining of the 2023 calendar year. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to have the internet disconnected at the Senior Citizen Place (High Street Community Center) due to not being used. On a roll call vote, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday asked to be "Skipped" and no vote was cast.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve Monroe County Chapter of the NAACP to have access to Newberger Park for their scholarship fundraiser on April 29, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom to Rescind the hiring of Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr. as City Attorney. Motion died due to lack of a second vote.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom to settle the Summary Judgement. Motion died due to lack of a second vote.

Mayor's Report:

- A. FEMA Briefing - Mr. Tom Hardy shared information with the Board that FEMA has two designated areas for the storm victims and that if anyone requires a third destination, feel free to call Jackson, MS. The remote locations: Wren Volunteer Fire Department 32659 Highway 45 North, Aberdeen, MS 39730; Monroe County Justice Court Building, 1619 Highway 25, Amory, MS; 520 11th Street, Amory, MS. Mr. Hardy will be providing updates electronically. The deadline to register with FEMA is May 25, 2023.
- B. Small Business Administration (SBA) – Mr. Ryck Morales shared information with the Board about the SBA Loans, and how to apply. Mr. Morales stated that if an application gets denied from FEMA, the homeowner or renter is referred to SBA. The SBA Business Recovery Center (BRC) location: Monroe County Courthouse Annex Building, 301 South Chestnut Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730. Mr. Morales thanked the Board for allowing him the opportunity to speak and share information that's helpful to Monroe County, MS.

- C. Declare Equipment Salvageable – Mr. Brandon Mason, Mid-South Auctioneers came before the Board with a suggestion about getting money reimburse for their old equipment. The City of Aberdeen will be charged an 8% commission fee. Mid-South Auctioneers will have an Auction on May 6, 2023. The City of Aberdeen merchandise needs to be in Tupelo, MS no later than May 1, 2023.
- D. Baptistville Progress Report – Ms. Kathy Seymour provided an update on the Historic Preservation Grant for the Baptistville Historic District. The grant is almost complete. Ms. Seymour stated she received the Historic Resources Inventory and the Historic Research Survey report that will be given to every building in the proposed district. Total amount: 220.

Charles Scott, Mayor
Robert DeVault, Alderman Ward 1
Lady B. Garth, Alderwoman Ward 2
Edward Haynes, Jr., Alderman Ward 3
Carolyn Odom, Alderwoman Ward 4
John Allen, Alderman Ward 5



CITY OF ABERDEEN

Melissa Moore, City Clerk
Karen Crump, City Comptroller
Roy Haynes, City Inspector
Quinn Shumpert, Chief of Police
Fred Hodges, Fire Chief
Robert Faulks, City Attorney

April 18, 2023

Letter to Alderman Board – Thanks for 24 Months

Thanks to the citizens of Aberdeen for allowing me to be your mayor for the past 24 months. I want to thank all the organizations, Monroe County leadership, the of State Mississippi and our Federal leadership for their support to Aberdeen's economic endeavors. We have a ton of projects to complete for the betterment of Aberdeen. I am relying on this board and other citizens of this beautiful city to continue our onward progression toward stability as identified in Aberdeen Vision 2030.

In a few weeks the city will host a stakeholder meeting for housing needs and while continuing to upgrade our infrastructure for future economic development. This effort will require all citizens and leaders of Aberdeen to put Aberdeen First – let me explain, Aberdeen first is about citizens wellbeing, economic development – living wage salary, infrastructure improvement, healthcare & wellness – Park system, entertainment and a decent place to live in Aberdeen.

For Aberdeen to go forward this board must detangle itself from the conflict that continues to deepen, we must be servant leaders of Aberdeen. **(1) Rescind the motion to appoint Mr. Walter Zinn as city Attorney. (1) Rescind the motion to settle with Mr Zinn and allow Summary judgement to go forward.**

The citizens of Aberdeen deserve the best – remember we work for them! Always available to talk city business at 662-436-7074 or cscott@ci.aberdeen.ms.us

Aberdeen Vision 2030,

Charles Scott

City of Aberdeen – Mayor

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday stated that on Monday visitors came to the City of Aberdeen, and I believe in moving Aberdeen forward. Alderman Holliday stated he wanted to give this company a shot to get us out the dark and grey areas, and move in a different direction within the City.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth stated that Park and Recreation Director Fernando Davis would like for the internet at the Senior Citizen Place to be cut-off, terminated, or discontinued as of today. The \$400.00 isn't being used and it's wasting. Also, the internet at Mr. Darty's place of residence needs to be cut-off. The amount of the bill is \$400.00. Alderwoman Garth stated that Mr. Davis shared with her that the contributions given for Park and Recreation had to go in the General Fund, per Comptroller Karen Crump.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes shared with the Board about TKO Staffing Company to help City of Aberdeen on hiring the right people for any openings within the City. Also, the City of Aberdeen will be paying 35% on new hires through TKO payroll, and they will work 350 hours with TKO Staff Pros before being considered an employee with the City of Aberdeen. All new hire information will go through TKO Staff Pros (examples: worker's compensation, payroll, drug testing etc). Alderman Haynes received a few telephone calls this weekend regarding the condition of the East side of Oddfellow Rest Cemetery, and wanted to know what the City can do in making it look better.

Alderman Haynes is waiting to look at the old Aberdeen Public Utilities Building for the new locate of the Aberdeen Police Department, and getting grants to provide raises for the police officers. Alderman Haynes asked that Officer Chris Dobbins be available for the next training Work Session on Monday. Alderman Haynes would like for department heads to follow-up on the assignments given to the crew, and don't allow the workers to check up on one another. Alderman Haynes stated that once the Fitness Court Grant is in process, he wants them to upgrade the playground in Ward 3 and maybe insist on a pavilion likewise library or etc.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom asked to rescind hiring of Attorney Walter H. Zinn Jr. as City Attorney and Settle with Summary Judgment with Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr.

Citizen's Input:

Ms. Emma Hodges has issues about her property on Vine Street and Hillcrest Drive about the damage to her driveway that was done by City of Aberdeen Public Works. Ms. Hodges would like for the City to replace her driveway back with concrete.

Mrs. Mary Ann Butler has a water issue on Walters Drive and the City of Aberdeen hasn't fixed the problem. The Board shared with Mrs. Butler they will be getting Neel-Shaffer to look at this matter.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding City Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr. to discuss the Settlement of the Summary Judgment.

**Regular Board Meeting
April 18, 2023
Page 5**

The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding City Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr. to discuss the Settlement of the Summary Judgment.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to accept Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr. proposal as of April 18, 2023. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth vote "Aye". Alderwoman Odom voted "Nay". Alderman Haynes voted "Recused".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderwoman Haynes giving Mr. Richard Boone permission to get a couple of estimates on concrete to repair the driveway for Ms. Emma Hodges and bring back to the Board. 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 May 2, 2023 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk



Charles Scott, Mayor