

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

May 16, 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, ALDERMAN JOHN S. CAIN, MELISSA MOORE CITY CLERK, AND WALTER H. ZINN, JR., CITY ATTORNEY.

Invocation: Mr. Jim Edwards

Roll Call

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the proposed May 2, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes. On a roll call vote, Alderman Haynes and Alderwoman Odom voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay". Alderman Cain was present at this Board Meeting. Due to a tie vote, Mayor Scott voted "Aye".

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 May 16, 2023. On a roll call vote, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve WATCO, LLC as Port Operator for the City of Aberdeen Port. On a roll call vote, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the **RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AND ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR AN OUTDOOR FITNESS COURT AS A PART OF THE 2023 NATIONAL FITNESS CAMPAIGN** and allocate funds to upgrade playground equipment for Newberger Park, aid Monroe County Sheriff Department, Aberdeen Police and Fire Department in training new officers and firemen, and made available for the public. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Garth voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the lowest Bids from Hanna Contracting Company, Aberdeen, MS on the City of Aberdeen Sidewalk Project on Hickory Street in the amount of \$4,312.00, Pinehurst Street in the amount of \$3,075.00 and Pullen Lake Drive in the amount of \$1,250.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve for Mrs. Devonsha Young, Mr. Marcus Collins and Mr. C.J. Parker to re-take the Water Exam, and Mr. Barry McMillian to attend a Water Certification Class. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve for Mrs. Devonsha Young to attend every Board Meeting and Special Call Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve for the removal of the sign at General Young's Park with the names of the Alderpersons voted on the MBA Cap Loan. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve for the City of Aberdeen to patronize all businesses for lunch purchases for inmates. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve Mrs. Carolyn Quinn-Hoskins and Ms. Toni Price as the two new Election Commissioners for the City of Aberdeen, and Ms. Anniece Riddle will remain her position as Election Commissioner. Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, and Alderman Haynes voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve for the Rental Agreement Ordinance be dissolved, and if the City of Aberdeen entered into another Rental Agreement Ordinance the "Sitting Attorney" review it and approve it for the Board. No vote was given. This motion was Tabled.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to Table the discussion on the City of Aberdeen Rental Agreement Ordinance. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the Mayor's \$15,000.00 salary be returned to him immediately. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the removal of Attorney Zinn, Jr. from the seat as City Attorney. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay". Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye".

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Scott invited Ms. Lovelace Cook, Public Affairs Specialist with the Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience Field Operations Center to the Board Meeting to provide helpful information about Small Business Administration (SBA). The deadline date to apply is May 25, 2023. Ms. Cook advised everyone that needs assistance, please apply.

Mayor Scott welcomed Alderman John S. Cain to the Board Meeting, and he wishes him well.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday invited Mrs. Michelle Thomas, Affluent Marketing and Consulting Representative to provide a update to the Board on new ideas the company has for the City of Aberdeen. Mrs. Thomas discussed TransitX LLC, Headquarters being housed in the City of Aberdeen for PODS transportation. Alderman Holliday asked that Mrs. Young, Mr. Collins, and Mr. Parker be able to re-take the Water Exam, and Mr. McMillian to attend the Water Certification Class. Alderman Holliday asked that Mrs. Young be allowed to attend every Board Meeting and Special Call Meeting. Alderman Holliday asked for the sign in General Young Park be taken down and updated with the correct names. Alderman Holliday would like for the City of Aberdeen and residents to support Freshly's Market.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth welcomed Alderman Cain to the Board Meetings. Alderwoman Garth stated the City of Aberdeen needs two new Election Commissioners. Alderwoman Garth asked that the Board Minutes from April 4, 2023 be corrected as it relates to Mr. Barry McMillian and the statement regarding the Supreme Court. Alderwoman Garth stated the Rental Agreement need to be dissolved by the Board. Alderman Cain asked Alderwoman Garth and Board if this can be Table until he has the chance to review the Rental Agreement Ordinance.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes wanted to know what steps does citizens have to take in order to get a replacement trash receptacle once it has been stolen. Mr. Boone stated the resident needs to contact his office and then his office will contact Monroe County Solid Waste. Afterwards, the resident will need to go to Public Works Office and sign a fax that will be faxed to Monroe County Solid Waste and Aberdeen Public Utilities. These steps must be taken in order to get a replacement trash receptacle. Alderman Haynes wants to know where the City of Aberdeen and the Board stands on the status of legal counsel. Alderman Haynes asked Attorney Zinn, Jr. if he can serve as the City Attorney, an advise the Board. Attorney Zinn, Jr. replied with a yes.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom stated she received a telephone call regarding a culvert that runs underneath Highway 8 that gets clogged up periodically and water stands in that area. Alderwoman Odom asked that City Employees stop parking in front of the City Hall. The parking spaces are reserved for the individuals that have business in the City Hall.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain thanked Mayor Scott and the Board for welcoming him to his seat on the Board. Alderman Cain stated that Mr. Jimmy Pace, J.& E on Meridian Street would like to purchase a vacant lot from the City of Aberdeen on the north side of the fence by the Holley's entrance. If not, with the City's permission J & E would like to keep the lot cleaned and mowed. Alderman Cain mentioned potholes that need to be repaired within the City of Aberdeen, and concerns of the racing throughout the City. Alderman Cain mentioned the power outage on Shady Oak Drive, and the Mayor's salary. Alderman Cain asked that Attorney Zinn, Jr. be removed from seat as City Attorney due to not feeling comfortable and being protected around the Board.

Citizen's Input:

Ms. Tohona Larthridge wanted to know the steps the City of Aberdeen need to take in getting control of the property on the East Side of Oddfellows Rest Cemetery becomes it needs to be cleaned and mowed.

Mrs. Sharon Gardner inquired about concerns she has with Aberdeen Public Utilities regarding the steps needed to take in order to have your account reinstated once it has been disconnected longer than 14 days (Finaled Out).

Mrs. Mary Ann Butler inquired about the flooding on Walters Drive, Aberdeen, MS.

Mr. Barry McMillian asked to go into Executive Session to discuss his legal matters. Mr. McMillian was told that the Board cannot discuss his matter for legal reasons.

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 employees Officer Amir Franklin, General Manager LaMarcus Thompson, Public Works Corwin McFarland, Rodreck Pargo, Tohona Larthridge, Supervisor Richard Boone and Animal Control Pedro Clay. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding City employees Officer Amir Franklin, General Manager LaMarcus Thompson, Public Works Corwin McFarland, Rodreck Pargo, Tohona Larthridge, Supervisor Richard Boone and Animal Control Pedro Clay.

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, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye" and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize Mayor Scott to get a response from Attorney Mozingo and Quarles within seven (7) days regarding the Settlement Judgement or the Mississippi Bar will be contacted. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Garth voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to suspend Officer Amir Franklin indefinitely. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to suspend City Employee Corwin McFarland for five (5) days without pay with a 90 day probationary period beginning May 17, 2022, and if Ms. Larthridge or Mr. Boone has any other disrespect or inappropriate behavior from Mr. McFarland, he will be terminated. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to suspend City Employee Rodreck Pargo for three (3) days without pay beginning May 17, 2022, for failing to report to work when scheduled and not communicating with his supervisor, and seek any medical help he needs. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to terminate City Employee Jermaine Polk due to job abandonment. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve a 10% pay increase to Ms. Tashanda White, Mrs. Janet Parks and Mrs. Devonsha Young. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to appoint Alderman Cain as Voting Delegate and Alderman Holliday as Alternate Delegate for the MML 2023 Election of MML 2nd Vice-President. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to adjourn until the June 6, 2023 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk



Charles Scott, Mayor