

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
October 17, 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 CAIN, MELISSA MOORE, CITY CLERK, AND CITY ATTORNEY WALTER H. ZINN, JR.

Invocation: Pastor _____

Roll Call

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the Agenda. 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 Alderman Haynes to approve the proposed Minutes dated September 19, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the proposed Minutes dated October 3, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to pay bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated October 17, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the lighting on Meridian Street and this will be paid from the Grant Aberdeen Visitor’s Bureau received from TVA. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve Holiday Home Tour to have the City Hall open on December 10, 2023 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Samona Johnson and Valerie Page to attend the 2023 TVPPA HR Conference, Nashville, TN / November 15-17, 2023 / Cost: \$1,272.28. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Tamanda Garth to attend the CSA Academy, Tupelo, MS / November 13-15, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the 2024 BOAM Membership Dues in the amount of \$100.00 for Building Official Roy Haynes. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the lowest bid given by Phillips Contracting Company, Inc. in the amount of \$548,890.00 / C.R. Number: 229 / Bid Bond / FDCM for the Port of Aberdeen Dock Infrastructure Improvements; Phase 2 – Dolphin Rehabilitation. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to Table item #9 in approving insurance quotes for the City Property Insurance. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve the re-zoning of PPIN: 32763 / PARCEL ID: 3740-14-000-012.50 from a C2 to a R1 with an effective date of October 17, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to approve to subdivide PPIN: 32763 / PARCEL ID: 3740-14-000-012.50 and contact Quincy Water requesting they install fire hydrants. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the Public Hearing on REGULATIONS TO ALLOW RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS IN THE CENTRAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT OF DOWNTOWN ABERDEEN on Monday, November 20, 2023 @ 5:00 PM. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the Public Hearing for GARAGE SALES AND YARD SALES IN THE CITY OF ABERDEEN on Monday, November 20, 2023 @ 6:00 PM. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the 2023 Fitness Court Milestone II for Newberger Park in the amount of \$160,000.00, and the funds will be paid from the Grant Matching Funds. On a roll call vote. Alderman Holliday and Alderwoman Odom voted “Nay”. Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Kemar Sims to attend the Mississippi Fire Academy Course 1001-1-11, Jackson, MS / October 23 – December 14, 2023 / Cost: \$1,610.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Haynes, seconded by Alderman Cain to authorize Aberdeen Fire Department to check the fire extinguishers every 30 days at all City buildings. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to have the building at Oddfellow Rest Cemetery be demolished and removal of debris by Trey Cullum at no cost to the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott invited the following to share information that may be helpful to the City of Aberdeen:

1. Mayor Command – provide alerts to citizens, employees and the City website with any emergencies or general information.
2. Ground Pounders – to assist with forestry mulching, stump grinding, skid steer, and demolition.

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Mayor Scott asked Ms. Robbins to provide an update on the activities and events going on in the City of Aberdeen:

1. Fall Festival – Aberdeen Church of Christ – October 22, 2023
2. Trail of Witches – October 28, 2023
3. Hotel Transylvania – October 28, 2023
4. Rock-Tober – October 21, 2023
5. Let's Get Clean Aberdeen – October 21, 2023
6. Aberdeen Christmas Open House – November 5, 2023

Mayor Scott asked General Manager of Public Utilities, LaMarcus Thompson to come before the Board and make the presentation to Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau Director, Tina Robbins. Ms. Robbins received a check from TVA in the amount of \$8,250.00 to continue helping in the community.

Mayor Scott invited Mr. William Sanford, Neel-Schaffer to update the Board on the Port of Aberdeen. Mr. Sanford shared with the Board the two bidders for the Port of Aberdeen Dock Infrastructure Improvements – Phase 2 – Dolphin Rehabilitation. The two bidders are: Ausbern Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$677, 075.00, and Phillips Contracting Company, Inc. in the amount of \$564,890.00. Mr. Sanford shared with the Board the invoice from Perma Corporation in the amount of \$24,990.00.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday stated this is Homecoming Week and asking everyone to please be safe and support the Aberdeen Bulldogs.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth would like to discuss her concerns in Executive Session.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes shared the following concerns:

1. Franklin Alley need some attention
2. Handicap walkway on the corner of Franklin and Jefferson Street
3. Water leak on Franklin Street right before you get to Jefferson Street
4. Can the City do anything about the potholes on Vine Street, because vehicles are crossing into other lanes to avoid the potholes
5. Requested an update from the Code Enforcer
6. Concerns about the City's over time
7. Barrel on Locust and Washington Streets have been there to long, and what is the plan in addressing this issue
8. Curbs need repairing on Matubba and Jefferson Streets. The cones will not fix these problems
9. Received several calls asking for the Aberdeen Police Department to monitor traffic on Chestnut Street due to speeding and not slowing down or stopping for pedestrians
10. Aberdeen Fire Department will check all fire extinguishers at City buildings
11. Limbs on Franklin Street

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom thanked the Aberdeen Electric Department for the work done on Cheryl Drive. Alderwoman Odom thanked the Aberdeen Electric Department for putting up the lights on Marina Road.

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Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain received a call from Aberdeen Loaves and Fish Food Pantry regarding an issue with their driveway, and wanted to know if the City can help out with it. Alderman Cain stated a gravesite at Oddfellow Rest Cemetery belonging to the Allen family is sinking, and asked if the City can attend to it. Alderman Cain stated the building at Oddfellow Rest Cemetery be demolished due to its condition. Trey Cullum has agreed to demolish the building and remove the debris at no cost to the City. Alderman Cain thanked LaMarcus Thompson for keeping him inform on things going on at the Electric department, and thanked Marcus Collins at the water Department for addressing the issues of the citizens. Alderman Cain stated Mrs. McKinney has some ongoing issues at her home. Alderman Cain shared with everyone there's a severe water leak out by Eutaw Construction. Alderman Cain asked City Attorney Zinn, Jr. about the title search for Oddfellow Rest Cemetery on the East side.

Citizen's Input:

Minister Gary Williams, Walking Faith Ministries shared with the Board the resources they have in helping anyone in the community.

Mr. Leon Manning wanted the Board to know he called the City Hall and spoke with Ms. Moore about sewer issues at his home, and was given Marcus Collins contact information. Mr. Manning stated that Mr. Collins addressed the issue in a timely manner.

Ms. Vasser reminded everyone about the Bowl-A-Thon in November.

Mr. Richard Boone asked the Board permission to discuss a personnel matter.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth to enter into a closed determination to determine whether to go into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters concerning Public Works employees Richard Boone and Vernon Rogers concerning tardiness and Aberdeen Public Utilities LaMarcus Thompson concerning employees' lunch schedules. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Haynes voted "Nay".

The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter concerning Public Works employee Richard Boone and Vernon Rogers concerning tardiness and Aberdeen Public Utilities LaMarcus Thompson concerning employees' lunch schedules.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve to post and advertise the City Clerk and Park and Recreation Budget due to exceeding the 10%. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the PROCLAMATION from the Office of Governor Tate Reeves observing Veteran's Day on Friday, November 10, 2023, and all offices of the State of Mississippi be closed on that day. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to close the front offices of Aberdeen Public Utilities from 11:00 AM – 12:00 PM for the next 60 days, so clerks and cashiers can go to lunch. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize to appeal to Monroe County Circuit Clerk from City of Aberdeen Municipal Court. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to transfer Terry Cunningham from Public Works to City Hall on a temporary basis (90 days) until Attorney Zinn, Jr. communicates with Worker’s Compensation. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Haynes voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Haynes to suspend City employee Vernon Rogers five (5) days with no pay. Alderman Holliday and Alderman Haynes voted “Aye”. Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to terminate City employee Vernon Rogers immediately. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday and Alderman Haynes voted “Nay”. Alderwoman Garth, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Haynes voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday authorizing Mr. Richard Boone return to work tomorrow morning in the capacity of Public Works Director, and not miss any pay. On a roll call vote, al present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve to review TKO Staffing Contract and continue the hours to fulfill our obligation and do not allow TKO Staffing to hire any more employees for the City of Aberdeen, and once the contract ends the City will resume duties of hiring and interviewing. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve payment for the invoice submitted by Perma Corporation, Columbus, MS in the amount of \$24, 990.00 for emergency sewer repairs on Chestnut and Meridian Streets. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderwoman Garth and Alderman Haynes voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to terminate City employee Germarko Shaw. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Santana Scales to attend NASRO, Moorhead, MS / December 4-8, 2023 / Cost: \$550.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve hiring of William Johnson for the Aberdeen Police Department as a full-time officer at a rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour pending graduation October 27, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn until the November 7, 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