

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

October 3, 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: Mayor Scott.

Roll Call

Alderman Holliday was absent for Roll Call

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve the Agenda. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Garth, and Alderman Cain voted “Nay”. Alderwoman Odom and Alderman Haynes voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Garth 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 and re-advertise property with PPIN: 32763 / PARCEL ID: 3740-14-000-012.50 to be re-zoned from a C-2 to R-1, and the Public Notice Meeting to be held on October 30, 2023 @ 6:00 P.M. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the proposed Special Called Minutes dated September 25, 2023. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to pay bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated October 3, 2023. 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 Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Terrell Johnson to attend the Mississippi Fire Academy, Jackson, MS / October 23 – December 14, 2023 for Course 1101-1-11 and give \$1,610.00 for meals. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve Sealed Bids for the Port Dock Infrastructure Improvement Phase II. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Garth, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve Employment Enhancement for City Official and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Alderman John Cain to attend the 2023 Board Member Management Trainings, Tupelo, MS on October 24, 2023. Fee: \$115.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve ESG/Tupelo Permit Renewal for the City of Aberdeen Waste Water (6months of metal samples, 4 toxicity WET test (12 months to complete), filling out of re-permitting application, and labor) in the amount of \$36,800.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Odom to approve to Table the Purchase of City Property Insurance. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the purchase of transformers for the Aberdeen Public Utilities from Sunbelt Solomon, Temple, Texas in the amount of \$16,830.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Mayor Scott is asking everyone to please volunteer and help with Let's Get Clean Aberdeen Community Clean-Up Day on October 21, 2023 from 8:00 A.m. – 10:00 A.M.

Mayor Scott invited Mr. Dustin Dabbs to the Board Meeting to provide an update on the City Building Codes (2018). Mayor Scott asked Mr. Dabbs about the status of the LPA. Mr. Dabbs stated they've submitted the Quantity Binder, and in the process of submitting a Material Binder. Mr. Dabbs stated that once the Binder has been approved a final estimate packet will be put together. Mr. Dabbs stated the Magnolia's Project is progressing and everything looks really good.

Mayor Scott invited Ms. Tina Robbins to the Board to share the upcoming events in October:

1. Bukka White Blues Festival – October 7, 2023
2. Chick-Fil-A Food Truck – October 9, 2023
3. Aberdeen High School Homecoming Parade – October 19, 2023
4. Aberdeen High School Homecoming Game – October 20, 2023
5. Main Street Paint & Sip – October 19, 2023
6. Rocktober in the Alley – October 21, 2023
7. Aberdeen Church of Christ Fall Festival – October 22, 2023
8. Witches Trail Downtown – October 28, 2023
9. Freshly's Trunk or Treat – October 29, 2023

Ms. Robbins shared the Food Pantry Volunteer Days for Seniors are October 11 & 18, 2023, and Distribution will be held on October 28, 2023. Ms. Robbins shared information from DFA regarding the Procurement. Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau has to re-advertise and re-bid the Procurement for the ARPA Grant.

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Mayor Scott invited Mr. William Sanford to the Board meeting to share a brief update on the projects at Aberdeen Port. Mr. Sanford is waiting on the Final approval from MARAD on the Final Environmental Assessment Documents. Mississippi Department of Transportation approved an additional \$539,000.00 to go towards the Rail Spur Project. Mr. Sanford stated that on the Dock Facility Improvement Projects bids will be taken on Thursday, October 12, 2023, and the Port Dock Infrastructure Improvements for Phase II is on the agenda for approval to advertise for Bids. Mr. Sanford stated the Drainage Improvements on Short, Hickory and James Streets for the Easements are in the process of getting signed by property owners. Mr. Sanford stated that Mayor Scott asked him to look at a potential Sidewalk Improvement Project to put sidewalks around Newberger Park and connect it to the new Training Facility.

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Mayor Scott invited Mr. Chris Holloway, ESG/Tupelo to update the Board on the status of the City Waste Water and approve the re-permitting waste water permit at a cost of \$36,800.00. Mr. Holloway commended the Water Department crew on doing a great job.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday thanked the City for allowing the overtime for the Street Department to work on Saturday in Ward One. The crew did a great job! Alderman Holliday stated he attended a training class in Oxford, MS regarding City business. Alderman Holliday stated that if the City of Aberdeen is going to do business with a company, please be honest and upfront, and make a decision that will stand and not change toward the end of the business deal. Alderman Holliday will re-mention the deal with Renewvvia.

Alderwoman Garth: Alderwoman Garth didn't have anything to share at this time.

Alderman Haynes: Alderman Haynes wanted to know who responsibility it is to pick up trash along the side of the curbs if it's not for the City to do. Alderman Haynes asked if it's the Code Inspector or Public Works to have a conversation with that person. Alderman Haynes stated that clarification is needed regarding this matter, because if you call one the finger is pointed at the other one. Alderman Haynes stated that according to the job description of the mechanic he answers to the Public Works Director until it has been changed by the Board.

Alderwoman Odom: Alderwoman Odom didn't have anything to share at this time.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated there was a brief discussion with Chief Shumpert regarding the Food Truck that delivers food to the City of Aberdeen for the community. Alderman Cain stated he didn't want the streets blocked anymore, and he wanted the location of the food truck changed from the City Hall to another place within the City. Alderman Cain stated that City employees cannot assist or distribute the food to the community on City time. Alderman Cain stated the City needs a DO NOT ENTER sign on the top of the hill on Thayer Avenue. Alderman Cain would like to have the garbage cans removed on the street at Fairfield Apartments, and place a dumpster in that location. Alderman Cain stated he talked with Mr. Roy Haynes this week and was informed that he contacted Scott & Sons regarding the awnings on Main Street. Alderman Cain received calls from Main Street Members regarding the camper at the bottom of the hill, and would like to have it removed from that area. Alderman Cain stated yard sales are "popping" up everywhere within the City of Aberdeen, and the Board needs to come up with a way to address this matter. Alderman Cain would like for City of Aberdeen Police Officers to attend the Training Academy that's held by Monroe County Sheriff Department.

Citizen's Input:

Mrs. Ulaine Williams and Ms. La'ary Williams came before the Board to ask about the food items being distributed by the Food Truck, and what steps are taken in order to receive the food items. Ms. Williams stated that Mrs. Young told her she wasn't giving her a form to fill out to receive the food items, and Mrs. Young was rude to her.

Ms. Joyce Vasser shared with the Board a flyer for the 6th Annual Bowl-A-Thon, Bowling Over Cancer that will be held November 4, 2023 from 10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. in Tupelo, MS. Ms. Vasser is asking everyone to please Pledge Per Pin or give a Donation for a Great Cause. All donations and proceeds will go to St. Jude Hospital. For more information contact Ms. Joyce Vasser at 662-319-1982 or Mr. James McGaugh at 662-401-9365.

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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 Alderwoman Odom, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters concerning Public Works employees Richard Boone and Lamar McFarland concerning job abandonment; Water Department employee Barry McMillian complaint with EEOC, and Renewvia Solar Company. 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 matter concerning Public Works employee Richard Boone and Lamar McFarland concerning job abandonment; Water Department employee Barry McMillian complaint with EEOC, and Renewvia Solar Company.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain 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 Cain, seconded by Alderman Haynes to terminate City employee Lamar McFarland due to job abandonment. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Garth, Alderman Haynes, Alderwoman Odom, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to authorize and give permission to City Clerk Ms. Moore to correspond with City Attorney Zinn, Jr. regarding the City of Aberdeen insurance policies. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, no seconded given nor a vote was cast to cease from moving forward with Renewvia Solar Company until July 7, 2024, along with no communication or ground breaking on any land belonging to City of Aberdeen. Motion Died for a lack of a Second.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, no seconded given nor a vote was cast to move forward with Renewvia Solar Company before July 7, 2024. Motion Died for a lack of a Second.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Garth to adjourn until the October 17, 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