

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**May 21, 2024
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 JOHNNY D. STEVENS, ALDERMAN NICHOLAS HOLLIDAY, ALDERWOMAN RHONDA MOORE, ALDERMAN JAMES IVORY, ALDERMAN JEREMY BELLE, ALDERMAN JOHN CAIN, CITY CLERK MELISSA MOORE, AND CITY ATTORNEY WALTER H. ZINN, JR.

Invocation: Alderman Belle

ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the Agenda in its form, but if any new business came before the Board we're allowed to discuss it in detail and amend the Agenda at that time. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the proposed Minutes dated May 9, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated May 21, 2024, and include Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. invoice totaling \$2,512.50. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to authorize Mayor Johnnie D. Stevens to sign the Memorandum of Agreement for the Certified Local Government Grant Professional Assessment for the Community Center in the amount of \$10,000.00 and be matched by the City of Aberdeen for \$10,000.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to authorize Mayor Johnnie D. Stevens to sign the Memorandum of Agreement for the Certified Local Government Grant for the renovations of the second Newberger Library in the amount of \$10,000.00 and be matched by the City of Aberdeen for \$10,000.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve to post and advertise for two new members for the Historic Preservation Board. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the invoice submitted by TKO StaffPros, LLC, Tupelo, MS in the amount of \$4,368.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS – COOK AND SON, LLC – PAY REQUEST NUMBER ONE (1) in the amount of \$189,763.13. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve and appoint Mayor Johnnie D. Stevens to serve on the Board of Commissioners for the Three Rivers Solid Waste Management Authority. 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 approve the change from Fire Chief Fred Hodges to Interim Fire Chief Norris James to attend the 87th MS Firefighters / Fire Chiefs Conference, Natchez, MS / May 29-June 2, 2024. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Ivory Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Belle “Recused” himself from voting.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve Alderwoman Moore to be the Voting Delegate and Alderman Belle to be the Alternate Delegate for the MML 2024 Election of MML 2nd Vice President. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the CINTAS Standard Rental Agreement for Aberdeen Electric Department for 60 months from date of installation. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the CINTAS Standard Rental Agreement for Aberdeen Public Works Department for 60 months from date of installation. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve hiring of Gaython McKenzie through TKO StaffPros, LLC as Laborer for Public Works 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 Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to finance two new 2024 Chevy 2500's for Public Works priced at \$47,590.00 each totaling \$95,180.00. The lowest quote was given by Cadence Equipment Finance at a lease rate of 5.96% with lease payments at 60 monthly payments @ \$1,838.33. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, and no second was given to authorize Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. to start exploring a summary judgment on the Delinquent UDAG Loans effective immediately. Motion Died.

Mayor Report: Mayor Stevens asked Ms. Tina Robbins to update the Board on any new business and events happening in the City of Aberdeen:

Ms. Robbins stated the following things are taken place in the City of Aberdeen:

1. Tourism Week includes a new Mural
2. Outdoor Recreation Activities
3. Aberdeen High School Graduation
4. Community Upcoming Events (Memorial Day Basketball Tournament, Funeral is Cancelled, Outdoor Movie, Yoga, Prairie Fun Day, Summer in Paradise and Taste of Aberdeen)

Mayor Stevens invited Aberdeen Park & Recreation Director Fernando Davis to the meeting to share with the Board the new fees for renting the Community Center and Park and Recreation Gym. Also, there will be a fee for the use of Newberger and General Young Parks. The changes will go into effect October 1, 2024.

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Mayor Stevens invited Ms. Kathy Seymour to the Board to share the information regarding the Certified Local Government (CLG) Grants. Ms. Seymour presented two Memorandums of Agreements to the Board that needs to be signed by Mayor Stevens. Ms. Seymour shared with the Board that two motions were needed to authorize the following CLG Grants:

1. Memorandum of Agreement for the Certified Local Government Grant Professional Assessment for the Community Center. This grant is in the amount of \$10,000.00, and to be matched by the City of Aberdeen for \$10,000.00.
2. Memorandum of Agreement for the Certified Local Government Grant Professional Assessment for the renovations for the second Newberger Library. This grant is in the amount of \$10,000.00, and to be matched by the City of Aberdeen for \$10,000.00.

Ms. Seymour asked the Board to approve to post and advertise for two new members for the Historic Preservation Board. Ms. Seymour informed the Board that the Certified Local Government (CLG) Training will be held in New Albany, MS on August 20, 2024, and if they would like to attend the training, please let her know. The training is at no cost to the City and transportation will be provided by Ms. Seymour.

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. Brian Atkins to the Board Meeting to share information regarding the Flex Program with Renewvia. Mr. Atkins stated that through the Flex program with Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) the City of Aberdeen can build a 2.9 megawatt Solar Farm to supplement their electricity with TVA. Mr. Atkins stated that a PACE Grant was applied for through the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$12 Billion, but only \$1 Billion was approved for the City of Aberdeen. Mr. Atkins stated that Renewvia will build this facility on City Property which is located at Stinson Park. The facility will occupy about 20 acres of this land, and Renewvia will pay the City of Aberdeen rent for the use of this property at \$500.00 per acre per year. Mr. Atkins shared with the Board that a PPA with the City of Aberdeen would need to be approved before they can proceed. Mr. Atkins stated the grant approval deadline is in 30 days.

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board the need to discuss the unapproved Ordinance regarding the Regulations to allow Residential Apartments in the Central Commerce C-1 District of Downtown Aberdeen, MS.

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board that Mr. Randy Kelly with Three Rivers Planning and Development District is trying to help in getting the City of Aberdeen funds to help with the Wall Repair at the Dock. The cost to repair the Wall is \$2 million.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday stated the City has engineers working on the sewer water issues in Ward One, and asking everyone to please be patient while the work is being done. Alderman Holliday stated that over the next four years that all projects in the City of Aberdeen will be taken care of. Alderman Holliday stated that Mr. Boone and the Street Department is working hard in repairing the potholes throughout the City. Mr. Boone is working with less manpower, and asking everyone to please be patient. Alderman Holliday congratulated the 2024 Aberdeen High School Graduates, and asking everyone to please support them.

Alderman Moore: Alderman Moore thanked the Board, City employees and citizens for checking on her once she was released from the hospital after having surgery. Alderman Moore stated she talked with Mr. Boone on ways in repairing the potholes. Alderman Moore was asked to acknowledge and thank Mr. Brian Atkins for the generous donation in support of the Mayor's Youth Council Banquet. Ms. Tashanda White was very appreciative of his support.

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Alderman Ivory: Alderman Ivory stated Mr. Boone and his crew is working hard in fixing the repairs needed to the streets in the City of Aberdeen, and he can see the improvements. Alderman Ivory stated repairs and improvements in Ward Three will happen during his four year tenure, and asking the citizens to please be patient while the process is taking place.

Alderman Belle: Alderman Belle shared with the Board the Ward Meeting he had in Ward Four last Thursday. It was a good turnout, and the issues and concerns of the people are being addressed. Alderman Belle thanked Mr. Boone for the clean-up being done through the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Belle thanked Interim Water Department Supervisor Marcus Collins and his crew for taking care of a sewer smell behind the high school. Alderman Belle has started a Bicycle Club, and welcoming everyone to join.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated he contacted Mr. Jim Autry from WestLake and asked him to attend the Work Session on Monday, June 3, 2024 and give his presentation on information from 2023 with the Board approval. Alderman Cain commended Mayor Stevens on the work he has been doing in trying to get money for the repairs of the Dock Wall at the Port. Alderman Cain made a motion on two vehicles being financed for Public Works. Alderman Cain shared with Mayor Stevens and the Board that he would like to authorize Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. to start foreclosing proceedings on the delinquent UDAG Loans effective immediately. Attorney Zinn, Jr. asked the Board to amend the language “Foreclosure”, and use pursuing a judgment. Alderman Cain shared with everyone that the City of Aberdeen will have a rate increase in their electric bill the next fiscal year. Alderman Cain shared with everyone about the Public Hearing for the downtown Apartment Rental Ordinance and there is no need for another one. Alderman Cain asked that businesses downtown please read that Ordinance for a clear understanding before the Board votes on it. Alderman Cain has some issues and concerns with the Cemetery Ordinance, and asking the Board to read it for a better understanding. Alderman Cain stated that he would like to address the Zoning Board and vacancies on June 3, 2024. The Board needs seven (7) members.

Citizen Input (2 minutes)

Mr. Albert Barker has a concern about his electric bill and the high rates being offered by TVA, along with the rate increase.

Building Inspector / Code Enforcer Roy Haynes asked to go into Closed Determination to discuss a personnel matter.

Mr. Bobby Butler asked about the application process when applying for the Zoning Board.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, second by Alderman Cain to enter into a closed determination to ascertain whether or not if we need to go into Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to come out of closed determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues with Building Inspector / Code Enforcer Roy Haynes concerning enforcement issues, Court Clerk Janel Davidson concerning a complaint letter, and a litigation involving previous Mayor Charles Scott’s Appeal against the City of Aberdeen regarding his salary being cut by \$15,000.00. 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 with Building Inspector / Code Enforcer Roy Haynes concerning enforcement issues, Court Clerk Janel Davidson concerning a complaint letter, and a litigation involving previous Mayor Charles Scott's Appeal against the City of Aberdeen regarding his salary being cut by \$15,000.00.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to change Marcus Collins position from Interim Water Supervisor to Lead-Man of the Water Department at a rate of \$24.65 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, second by Alderman Ivory to approve hiring of Mr. Larry Rayburn as a full-time police officer for the Aberdeen Police Department at a rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

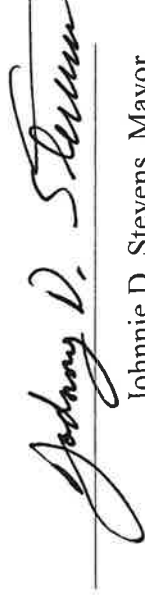
Attorney Zinn, Jr. informed the Board of the complaints filed with the Ethics Commission by Ms. Viki Mason regarding the Livestream of the Board Meetings. The Ethics Commission stated the Board doesn't have to provide Livestreams of the Board Meetings. Attorney Zinn, Jr. recommends the Board to end all Livestreams of the City Board Meetings. Alderman Cain stated that City Employees cannot film the City of Aberdeen Board Meetings.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve to end the Livestreams of the City of Aberdeen Board Meetings effective immediately. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn until the June 4, 2024 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk


Johnnie D. Stevens, Mayor