

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**June 18, 2024
5:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMAN 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: Mr. LaMarcus Thompson

Present by Telephone: Alderman Jeremy Belle

ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday 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 Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the Board Minutes dated June 4, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the Special Called Board Minutes dated June 6, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated June 18, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay Big Heavy Transport Services, Columbus, MS for Line-Haul Tractor for Aberdeen Public Utilities in the amount of \$1,000.00, and it will be paid from the Equipment Fund. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday voted to "Recuse" himself from the voting.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay Cook Development, LLC for the installation of 2'8"x6'8" Commercial Exterior Door, Door Hardware, and Demo Wall to Create Wall Opening including materials and labor for Aberdeen Public Utilities in the amount of \$4,771.30, and it will be paid from the Equipment Fund. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday voted to "Recuse" himself from the voting.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay Cook Development, LLC for the installation of New Overhead Door Tracks, Opener Brackets, Door Rollers, Door Weather Seal, and Overhead Door including materials and labor for Aberdeen Public Utilities in the amount of \$4,892.60, and it will be paid from the Equipment Fund. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday voted to "Recuse" himself from the voting.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve for a Memorial be placed at the Aberdeen Fire Department in honor of the late Fire Chief Fred Hodges. 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 two new applicants for the Historic Preservation Board: Mr. Edward Haynes and Mr. Michael Walters. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Cook and Sons, LLC, Smithville, MS for the DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS PAY REQUEST NO. 2 in the amount of \$153,601.68. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to refund Ms. Mary G. Walters \$200.00 for the Boar she received on April 2023, and not the \$945.50 that was motioned and approved at June 4, 2024 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to Write Off / Charge Off Unpaid Electric Bills Debt at Aberdeen Electric Department on Account #996 in the amount of \$33,952.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the Aberdeen Electric Department Operating Budget for the FY 2024-2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve to raise an adjust the customer charge 0.8% with the Aberdeen Electric Department with an effective date October 1, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve Mayor Johnnie Stevens and City Clerk Melissa Moore as authorized signatures for the CDBG Project for Mississippi Development Authority. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. to attend the Tennessee – Tombigbee Waterway Conference, Point Clear, AL / August 14-16, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the FINAL RESOLUTION GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM ADVALOREM TAXES for Westlake Chemical and Vinyl, LLC, Aberdeen, MS in the amount of \$9,608,966.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve Mayor Johnnie Stevens as the Applicant Agent for MEMA / FEMA. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve hiring of Malik Holliday as a part-time Assistant Mechanic for Public Works at a rate of pay of \$16.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday voted to "Recuse" himself from the meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve hiring of Jayla D. Coleman as a full-time Police Officer for the Aberdeen Police Department at a rate of pay of \$14.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the Rental Event Fee in the amount of \$50.00 made payable to the Aberdeen Electric Department for the use of Newberger and General Young Parks. 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 termination of City employee Larry Rayburn. 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 firemen for the Aberdeen Fire Department for two weeks. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to have speed bumps put down on Nickles, Bellview, Charles and High Extension. Alderman Cain withdrew his motion, and Alderman Ivory withdrew his second.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to declare PPIN: 8973; PARCEL ID: 112B-03-001-003.00 and PPIN: 8974; PARCEL ID: 112B-03-001-004.00 on South Matubba Street as surplus property. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to allow two appraisers {Chester Patterson / \$2,500 & Mitchell Appraisal Service / \$3,000} for PPIN: 8973; PARCEL ID: 112B-03-001-003.00 and PPIN: 8974; PARCEL ID: 112B-03-001-004.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to give permission to City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. to pursue the Delinquent UDAG Loans. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday voted "Recuse".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the City of Aberdeen to open a charge account with Nabors Home Center, Amory, MS for emergency purposes only. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report: Mayor Stevens asked Ms. Tina Robbins to update the Board on events and projects for the City of Aberdeen.

Ms. Robbins shared the following with the Board:

1. Destination Marketing Organization Grant
2. Digital Marketing
3. Summer in Paradise Alley
4. Explore Aberdeen T-Shirts (\$20)
5. Residency Program Ribbon Cutting at Monroe Regional Hospital

Mayor Stevens invited Ms. Kathy Seymour to the meeting to approve the applicants for two applicants for the Historic Preservation Board. Ms. Seymour recommended the following applicants: Mr. Edward Haynes and Mr. Michael Walters.

Ms. Walters provided an update on the two programs: The High Street Community Center and the Library on Long Steet. Ms. Seymour stated that both buildings need some repair work. Ms. Seymour will be contacting an Engineer to do the repairs.

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board that Serve Pro has been contacted to give a quote on the repairs needed for High Street Community Center, and the price given was \$30,600.00. Mayor Stevens stated that other Bids will be given from other service companies.

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Mayor Stevens stated that an Ordinance regarding Mr. Boone being able to pick up trash and limbs needs to be researched for more clarity on what Mr. Boone should and shouldn't be ordered to pick up. Alderman Cain stated Mr. Boone will be at the next Work Session to explain which items he picks up and the items that are the responsibility of the resident. Mayor Stevens stated the Board needs to move on the Apartment and Cemetery Ordinance.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday stated the Street Department has been doing an excellent job in maintaining the curbs and streets within the City and doing pavement work in Ward One. Alderman Holliday stated that since the decision was made for the Street Department to work Ward by Ward it has cut down on the telephone calls, and he's thankful to Mr. Boone and his crew. Alderman Holliday asked everyone to please check on the elderly in their community an assisting them with water, fans, and anything else they need to stay cool due to the excessive heat, and if anyone needs his assistance, please don't hesitate to give him a call.

Alderwoman Moore: Alderwoman Moore asked the citizens to please be patient with the Board Members while they're still in their transitioning phase, and please obtain the correct information before spreading rumors that are not true. Alderwoman Moore stated that if anyone has any questions for her or needing to know what's going on in the city, please give her a call or send an email. Alderwoman Moore asked the community to please keep the late Chief Fred Hodges family in your prayers.

Alderman Ivory: Alderman Ivory stated the City of Aberdeen is looking much better and he's seen the improvement since the election of the new administration. Alderman Ivory asked that everyone please be patient with all departments within the city because they are working hard in getting things done and taken care of the complaints of the citizens. Alderman Ivory asked that everyone be hospitable with one another and continue making Aberdeen a great City.

Alderman Belle: Alderman Belle is asking everyone to please keep The Hodges Family in your prayers due to the passing of the late Fire Chief Fred Hodges. Alderman Belle thanked Mr. Boone and his crew for working on a Saturday an addressing the need of citizens in Ward Four. Alderman Belle asked that everyone please stop bashing and tearing one another down, especially on Facebook. Instead, let's get the right understanding and work together.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain echoed the Board's sentiments concerning the late Fire Chief Fred Hodges and the thirty-seven years of service he gave to the City of Aberdeen, and please keep the family in your prayers. The City of Aberdeen and the Board of Alderpersons appreciated his dedication. Alderman Cain stated he received several complaints about speeding on Meadowlane, Nickles, Bellview, Charles Street, and High Extension and would like speed bumps placed in those areas. Alderman Cain stated that Timothy and Joann McKinney would like for the Board to approve their UDAG Loan Application. Alderman Cain would like to declare PPIN: 8973 / PPIN: 8974 as surplus land on South Matubba Street. Alderman Cain asked City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. pursue all Delinquent UDAG Loans. Alderwoman Moore asked that every delinquent UDAG Account receives a letter.

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Citizen Input (2 minutes)

A concerned citizen stated that a speed bump isn't needed on Nickles Street due to the four-way STOP sign and hopes the city can find another way to slow down the speeding.

Mr. Sims shared with the Board that Animal Control Supervisor Pedro Clay picked up his dogs for no reason, and he wants to know the steps to take to get his dogs back.

Mr. Hatfield shared with the Board that he always come before the new administration and encourage everyone to be aware of racism. Mr. Hatfield stated that a tree fell and knocked the power out. Aberdeen Public Utilities replaced the pole and hit a gas line on Meadowlane Dive. Mr. Hatfield was concerned about the gas leak and wanted to know why the residents in that area weren't informed of the gas leak, and what is the procedure of treating a gas leak.

Ms. Lashonda McFarland came before the Board to inquire about the follow-up on her concern regarding her high electric bills. Ms. McFarland was asked to attend a meeting on June 19, 2024 @ 2:00 PM at Aberdeen Public Utilities.

Ms. Cassandra Payne inquired about the lights being out at Woodruff Manor and whose responsibility it is to fix the problem.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to enter in Closed Determination to ascertain if we need to go into Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues involving Public Works Director Richard Boone, Litigations involving previous Mayor Charles Scott, and EEOC and U.S. Department of Labor Claims involving Barry McMillian, the Louisiana Case, the Howard Case, and SKL Investments. 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 personnel involving Public Works Director Richard Boone, Litigations involving previous Mayor Charles Scott, and EEOC and U.S. Department of Labor Claims involving Barry McMillian, the Louisiana Case, the Howard Case, and SKL Investments. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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 approve hiring for Derrick Hogan as a full-time Laborer for the Water 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 Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the RESOLUTION REGARDING USE OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS AND VIDEO DEVICES during CITY BOARD MEETINGS. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to credit Mr. Richard Boone with his time served and bring him back with three weeks' vacation per the City of Aberdeen Handbook. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to adjourn until the July 2, 2024, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".



Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk