

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**July 2, 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. Richard Boone

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 Belle to approve the Board Minutes dated June 18, 2024. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Belle voted "Aye". Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated July 2, 2024. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Belle voted "Aye". Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the purchase of an air conditioning unit for Aberdeen Public Utilities from Evans Plumbing and A/C, Hamilton, MS in the amount of \$9,150.00, and it will be paid from the Equipment Fund. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to TABLE the issuance of an Alcoholic Beverage Permit to Sierra's Café, 701 West Commerce Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730 until further review. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve an order of Adjudication for Cleaning Purposes Only, and give permission to City Inspector Roy Haynes to Clean Up property belonging to Brandon and Shane Sanders, 500 South Columbus Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730. (PPIN: 7565 / PARCEL D: 108J-34-024-001.00). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to post and advertise for a Public Hearing for the Cemetery Ordinance on Tuesday, July 16, 2024 at 4:00 PM. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to TABLE the Ordinance Establishing Regulations to Allow Residential Apartments in the Central Commercial C-1 District of Downtown Aberdeen, Mississippi until the next Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

July 2, 2024

Page 2

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to Strike the \$27,451.08 (Monroe County Board of Supervisors) from the Docket of Claims (July 2, 2024) until the next Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Belle voted “Aye”. Alderman Cain voted “Abstain”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to post and advertise for a Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 30, 2024 at 5:00 PM to Extend Clubs, Nightclubs, Restaurants, and Restaurants/Bars, including Bring Your Own Bottle “BYOB” Establishments to stay open until 2:00 AM. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory giving permission to City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. to do a Comprehensive Title Search on the collateral given by Mrs. Joann McKinney regarding the \$20,000.00 UDAG Loan. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to TABLE the approval of seven members for the City of Aberdeen Zoning Commission Board, until after interviewing the applicants on Wednesday, July 10, 2024 @ 9:00 AM. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to TABLE the financing of two Ford pick-up trucks (2024 Ford F-150 Standard Crew Cab / \$44,713.00; 2024 Ford F-350 / \$48,769.00) for Public Works Department until next Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the Purchase Requisition submitted by ESG/Tupelo, Tupelo, MS in the amount of \$6,176.40 for Electrical Installation of Start-Up for Pumps (Best Western Lift Station). On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Officer Patrick Gholston \$1.00 raise in completion of the Police Academy. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Officer Michael Crawford \$1.00 raise in completion of the Police Academy. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to TABLE the acceptance of Officer Tori Ray letter of resignation with an effective date July 1, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to give permission to Interim Fire Chief Norris James to complete an apply for a 100% Grant with Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Belle “Recused”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve all Departments within the City of Aberdeen to complete an Inventory List of everything in their departments. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

July 2, 2024

Page 3

Mayor Report: Mayor Stevens presented the Board with two quotes from Aberdeen Public Utilities requesting to purchase an Air Conditioner Unit. The following quotes:

1. Progressive Heating & Cooling, Aberdeen, MS -- \$8,525.00
2. Evans Plumbing and A/C, Hamilton, MS -- \$9,150.00

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board an Official Notification from the Department of Revenue, State of Mississippi asking the Board to satisfy itself that Sierra's Café, 701 West Commerce Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730, is of good moral character and enjoys a reputation of being a peaceable law abiding citizen of the community in which the business resides, is not less than twenty one years of age and has not been convicted in any state or federal court of a felony. The entity has filed an application with the Alcoholic Beverage Control {ABC} for a permit.

Mayor Stevens asked City Inspector Roy Haynes to present his information to the Board regarding a Public Hearing for Brandon and Shane Sanders to determine pursuant to Mississippi Code 21-19-11; if the land registered under PPIN: 7565 / PARCEL ID: 108J-34-024-001.00 is in such a state of uncleanliness, and a menace to the public health, safety, welfare of the community.

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

Ms. Robbins advertised the following:

1. Taste of Aberdeen – July 4, 2024
2. No sales Tax Weekend – July 12-14, 2024
3. Movies at the Elkin – July 12-13 & 26-27, 2024
4. Book Lunch – July 17, 2024
5. Glow Crazy in Paradise Alley – July 18, 2024
6. Estate Auction – July 19-20, 2024
7. Basketball Skills – July 22-23, 2024
8. School Supply Giveaways – July 27, 2024 at two locations: General Young Park and Freshly's Market

Ms. Robbins shared with the Board an invoice from Taste of Aberdeen Family Reunion in the amount of \$3,700.00 given by Sponsorship Donations that needs to be approved by the Board. The Board was advised by Comptroller Karen Crump that the City can't accept donations from any organization that's not affiliated with the City of Aberdeen. Ms. Robbins was advised by the Board to return the donations to the sponsors.

Ms. Cristen Bland, Project Manager with Three Rivers Planning and Developing District was asked to come to the Board Meeting and introduce herself to the new administration. Ms. Bland shared with the Board that she's presently working on the CDBG Grant, and the June Surveying should be completed by the end of this month or next month. Ms. Bland asked the Mayor and Board if they had any questions for her at this time, and the answer was no. Ms. Bland stated if any questions arises, please do not hesitate to give her a call.

Mayor Stevens invited City Inspector Roy Haynes to come to the Board Meeting and provide an update on the status of the property located at 500 South Columbus Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730. Mr. Haynes shared with the Board that he is seeking an Order of Adjudication on 500 South Columbus Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730, with owners being Brandon and Shane Sanders; (PPIN: #7565 / PARCEL ID: 108J-34-024-001.00). Mr. Haynes stated the mailed four letters: two copies were mailed to the current address of Mr. Sanders, and two copies mailed to the address on the tax roll. Mr. Haynes placed a sign of publication on the property and one sign at City Hall. Mr. Haynes stated that he has met all requirements of publication and seeking an Order of Adjudication for Cleaning Purposes Only!

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

July 2, 2024

Page 4

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. Nick Boone, Public Relations with Affordable Employee Benefits to share with the Board a benefit packet detailing Employee Benefits: Medical, Prescriptions, Benefits Administration, etc.

Ms. Paige Atterberry and Ms. April Padgett with TKO StaffPros, LLC, Tupelo, MS were invited to the Board Meeting to introduce themselves to the new administration and answer any questions relating to the Agreement of Services between TKO StaffPros, LLC, and the City of Aberdeen. Ms. Atterberry asked the Mayor and Board if they had any question or concerns, and the answer was no. Ms. Atterberry thanked the Board for their time, and if a question arises, please do not hesitate in calling the office.

Mayor Stevens mentioned the Draft Cemetery Ordinance to the Board. Alderman Cain stated there needs to be a Public Hearing and revise the language in the Draft Ordinance. Mayor Stevens would like for the Ordinance Establishing Regulations to Allow Residential Apartments in the Central Commercial C-1 District of Downtown Aberdeen, Mississippi be revised and presented a clean copy to the Board.

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board the invoice provided by the Monroe County Board of Supervisors regarding the Aberdeen Housing Statement for City Inmates totaling \$27,451.08. Attorney Zinn, Jr. advised the Board that he would like to review the Agreement and compare with the invoice to make sure the City of Aberdeen owes Monroe County Board of Supervisors the amount stated on the invoice.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday stated the Aberdeen Electric Department and Street Department has been very busy working within the City of Aberdeen. The Street Department has filled several potholes in Ward One, and trees are being trimmed and cut down. Alderman Holliday is asking everyone to please check on the elderly and children due to this excessive heat. If anyone in the community needing fans or water, please call his cell at 662-436-6701.

Alderwoman Moore: Alderwoman Moore stated she received calls regarding City workers mowing grass on private property, and she asked Mr. Boone to please have a talk with his crew. Alderwoman Moore stated there is a burned house on the corner of Columbus and Madison Street that needs some attention. Mr. Boone shared with the Board there is a house that has been adjudicated by the City, and Mr. Roy Haynes has given them the permission to mow the grass. Mr. Boone informed the Board that he had a conversation with his crew about mowing grass on private property. Alderwoman Moore stated she received calls about the 15-minute parking downtown on Commerce Street, an asked for law enforcement to monitor these vehicles. Alderwoman Moore received calls about having somewhere for semi-trucks to park, and asking residents in Ward Two please be patient as work is being done.

Alderman Ivory: Alderman Ivory stated he has been working with Mayor Stevens on getting parking for the semi-trucks, and talking with the landowners on Matubba Street and Highway 45 about a possible truck stop in that area. Alderman Ivory stated work is being done behind closed doors, and asking residents in Ward Three to please be patient and while the work is being done to move the City of Aberdeen forward.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

July 2, 2024

Page 5

Alderman Belle: Alderman Belle stated he had some complaints from Tombigbee Windows and Ms. Catina Loggan regarding the ditches on Highway 145 Alt that needs to be cut. Alderman Belle reached out to Mississippi Department of Transportation (MDOT) asking them to please mow these areas on the highway, and they honored the request. Alderman Belle and Mr. Boone rode around in Ward Four, and took a look at some issues on Stinson Road reported by the landowner. Alderman Belle stated he talked with Supervisor Fulton Ware about putting some gravel down on part of Goodgame Lane. Alderman Belle stated the Bicycle Club is going really good, and everyone is enjoying it, and thanked Mr. Marcus Collins for fixing a leak.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated he is proud of Interim Fire Chief Norris James for asking the Board permission to apply for a Grant being paid at 100%. Alderman Cain appreciates Interim Chief James attentiveness and looking out for the City and the Aberdeen Fire Department. Alderman Cain stated the City of Aberdeen needs a Grant Writer, and asked City Attorney Zinn, Jr. to find some statutory information on Grant Writers. Alderman Cain would like for all departments to inventory equipment, tools, etc. in their department. Alderman Cain agrees with the Board about a Truck Stop for the City of Aberdeen, and using the location of the old Holley Building. Mayor Stevens stated the City is trying to get those two Parcels, and by doing so this will make the access easier for trucks to enter and exit the Truck Stop. Mayor Stevens stated a Truck Stop will be really good for the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Cain asked Mayor Stevens to contact Three Rivers and see if they will assist with a Fair Market Assessment of the value of the Holley Building.

Citizen Input (2 minutes)

Mr. Henry Danner would like for the Board to extend Restaurant and Club hours to 2:00 AM

Mrs. LuEllen Childress suggested to the Board that someone would volunteer in grooming and keeping the Boulevard beautiful.

Mr. T. James would like for the City of Aberdeen to invest in festivals, activities and growth development for children.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, second 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 Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues involving Public Works Employees Richard Boone, Malik Holliday and Martino Gates; Water Department Employees Marcus Collins and Triron Brown, and Police Officers Tori Ray and Tyler Smith. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Holliday “Recused”.

The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues involving Public Works Employees Richard Boone, Malik Holliday and Martino Gates; Water Department Employees Marcus Collins and Triron Brown, and Police Officers Tori Ray and Tyler Smith.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

July 2, 2024

Page 6

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to come out of Executive Session. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday wasn't involved with the voting in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to suspend City Employee Triron Brown for three days without pay (July 3,8,9, 2024), effective immediately due to his Fuelman Debit Card number being exposed which resulted in the theft of 38 gallons of fuel. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, second by Alderwoman Moore to authorize Water Department Leadman Marcus Collins to write-up Triron Brown and put a copy in his file and provide the Board with a copy at next meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to terminate City Employee Malik Holliday immediately due to fuel theft based on statement of facts and information provided by Comptroller Karen Crump and the Fuelman Report. On a roll call vote, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Moore and Alderman Belle voted "Nay". Alderman Holliday "Recused". Due to a tie vote of 2-2, the Mayor has the right to vote. Mayor Stevens voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to adjourn until the July 16, 2024, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk


Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor