

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**July 16, 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 Cain

**ROLL CALL**

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the Agenda. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the proposed Minutes dated July 2, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated July 16, 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 Cain to approve the hiring of Ms. Akalin McNairy as full-time cashier with Aberdeen Public Utilities 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 Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Mr. LaMarcus Thompson and Mr. Brent Thompson to attend the Utility Engineering Operations Technology Conference, Huntsville, Alabama on August 22, 2024, at no cost to the City. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the closing of the Rural Development Clearing Account at Cadence Bank with a balance of \$12.79 that will be transferred to the Common City General Fund. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the closing of the Home Gant Account at Cadence Bank with a balance of \$5.96 that will be transferred to the Common City General Fund. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve City Clerk Melissa Moore to do a Wire Transfer to Trustmark Bank towards the Bond payment in the amount of \$140,947.50, and the payment will be paid from the Infrastructure Modernization Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Neel-Schaffer for the Professional Fees dated from May 1-31, 2024, in the amount of \$247, 800.00, and the monies will be paid from the ARPA Fund Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the UDAG Loan Application for Timothy and Joann McKinney in the amount of \$20,000.00, and the collateral is the West Half of Lots 782 and 789 in Block 93 in the part of the City of Aberdeen, Monroe County, Mississippi. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the Senior Parade given by the Aberdeen High School Senior Class on August 2, 2024. 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 Devonsha Young to attend the Certified Municipal Clerks Program Training, Oxford, MS / September 11-13, 2024 / Registration Fee: \$300.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Janel Davidson to attend the Mississippi Judicial College Training, Biloxi, MS / September 18-20, 2024. The City will only pay for one night hotel stay on September 17, 2024 in the amount of \$104.98. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to accept Officer Tori Ray resignation letter with an effective date: July 2, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain accept Officer Tyler Smith resignation letter with an effective date: July 2, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the appointment of Cecil S. Belle as a Zoning Board Member for the term of three years (7/16/2027). 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 Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the appointment of Eddie J. Hoskins as a Zoning Board Member for the term of three years (7/16/2027). On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the appointment of David S. James as a Zoning Board Member for the term of three years (7/16/2027). On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to TABLE the purchase of two 2024 Ford Trucks (\$44,713.00 / \$48,769.00) for Public Works. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

**Mayor Report:** Mayor Stevens stated he talked with Mr. Randy Kelley, III, Executive Director of Three Rivers Planning and Development regarding the old Holley’s Building. Mr. Kelley will ask Jesco, Inc., Tupelo, MS to come and tour Holley’s for a second opinion to see if the building can be saved or will it need to be torn down.

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Mayor Stevens invited Ms. Kathy Seymour to the Board to share updated information on the three grants given by the National Historic Preservation:

1. M & O Depot --Waiting on additional electrical bids with reasonable prices.
2. Newberger Library -- Once the 106 Review has been approved estimates will be accepted to do the repair work.
3. Aberdeen High Street Community Center -- Proposal needed from an Engineering Firm on the repairs.

Ms. Seymour shared with the Board that the Certified Local Government (CLG) /The Historic Preservation Training will be held on August 20, 2024 @ 10:30 AM in New Albany, MS at the Magnolia Theatre.

Mayor Stevens invited Ms. Tina Robbins to the Board Meeting to share with the Board projects / events going on within the City of Aberdeen:

1. Welcome Home Cards
2. Shopping / Dining Brochures will be updated and printed
3. Welcome bags for the Aberdeen School District Teachers
4. Wear Your Neon Glow Crazy / July 18, 2024 / 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM
5. Family Love Day / July 20, 2024, General Young Park
6. Summer Camp / July 23-26, 2024, Aberdeen Park and Recreation
7. Elkin Theatre Movie / Despicable Me 4 / July 26-27, 2024

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. Homer Braylock, Chairman/Broker/Marketing Group of MS Insurance, LLC to share a quote and benefits for the renewal of the medical coverage for the City employees.

Mayor Stevens asked General Manager LaMarcus Thompson to share with the Board the information TVA shared with him about the ReNewvia Agreement. Mr. Thompson submitted the PPA from ReNewvia to TVA to review the documents. TVA has seen a couple of issues they would like to look further into before accepting the agreement. Mr. Thompson stated he will inform the Board once TVA has shared their findings.

Mayor Stevens invited Ms. Kathy Hodge, Service Manager and Mr. Nick Boone from Affordable Employee Benefits to share a quote / benefits for the City medical insurance.

Alderman Cain asked Mr. Braylock and Ms. Hodge to have information ready for City Clerk Melissa Moore by August 1, 2024.

Mayor Stevens invited Ms. Teresa Reid, Aspire Learning & Development to the Board to share information about the GED classes being offered in Aberdeen. Ms. Reid stated that Itawamba Community College has plans on ending the classes in Aberdeen due to low enrollment and lack of funds. Ms. Reid stated the last day for GED Classes in Aberdeen will be August 13, 2024. Ms. Reid is asking the Mayor, Board and everyone to spread the word and help in any way in keeping the GED classes in Aberdeen. The GED classes hours of operation: Monday & Tuesday from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM.

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### **Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:**

**Alderman Holliday:** Alderman Holliday stated Mr. Boone and the Street Department Crew has been working to improve potholes in Ward One. Alderman Holliday stated they are working on a plan to form a Pack Crew to help with potholes and badly damaged streets within the City. Alderman Holliday informed the Board Members and residents that changes with the Aberdeen School District Budget will affect tax payers during the next school year, and the City will begin to implement some of the goals during the next Fiscal Year. Alderman Holliday is asking everyone to focus on education and push their children in taking the ACT Test, and enrolling in the AHS Flight Academy to learn how to fly a plane and earn your pilot license. Alderman Holliday expressed his concern about the hot weather and making sure senior citizens and children are getting everything they need to stay cool. If anyone needs water or fans, please call Alderman Holliday @ 662-436-6701. Alderman Holliday appreciates the Water, Street and Electric Departments for the hard work they've been doing in the City, and all abandon properties will be adjudicated by the City.

**Alderman Moore:** Alderman Moore asked Mr. Boone when the work on the potholes will begin in Ward Two. Mr. Boone stated Mr. Johnson has been working in Ward Two about a week. Alderman Moore is asking parents that may or may not have children enrolled in the Aberdeen School District to please volunteer your time in helping with the Athletic Booster Club. The application fee is \$25.00. All donations are welcome. The Mayor Youth Council is selling Krispy Kreme Donuts for \$13.00 per box, please show your support and purchase some from the Mayor's Youth Council.

**Alderman Ivory:** Alderman Ivory stated the Aberdeen School District is losing a lot of money because the residents of the City of Aberdeen failed to complete the Census that was mailed to their address. Alderman Ivory asked that everyone please complete the Census and remind their family and friends to do the same. Alderman Ivory commends Mr. Boone and the Street Department on the good work they're doing in the City, and he appreciates the patience of the citizens in Ward Three.

**Alderman Belle:** Alderman Belle appreciates the Street and Water Department for the good job they're doing in Ward Four, and for taking care of the grass that needs mowing. Alderman Belle is asking for everyone to please stop speeding and racing their cars on Big John Road and Meadowlane Drive. Alderman Belle stated two children were riding their bicycles, and almost was struck by a vehicle driving too fast. Alderman Belle is inviting everyone to come out and join in with the Bicycle Club on Thursday evening @ 6:00 PM and Saturday morning @ 7:00 AM.

**Alderman Cain:** Alderman Cain stated he served with Dr. Smith in the Rotary Club, and everyone is proud to see the Aberdeen School District test scores improve and he applauds Dr. Smith and the staff in doing a great job. Alderman Cain stated that Kenny Tisdale and Jean Bowen had some problems in their neighborhood. Mr. Boone has been assessing the issues concerning ditches and flooding in Ward Five. Alderman Cain commends Mr. Boone and the Street Department on the work they're doing in Ward Five. Alderman Cain stated he receives telephone calls all the time about power outages in the City, and he understands at times it will happen, and the Aberdeen Electric Department restores the power in a timely manner. Alderman Cain commends all City workers for the work they do in the extreme weather conditions, and he advise them to stay safe and hydrated.

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### Citizen Input (2 minutes)

Mr. Za’Narrious Graham is asking the citizens of Aberdeen to please attend the Aberdeen School Board Meetings to stay informed on what’s going on with the Aberdeen School District.

Mrs. Hanna Davis inquired about the City Ordinance as it relates to night clubs closing at 1:00 AM, and asked that Mr. Henry Danner abide by the City Ordinance. Mrs. Davis asked the Board to give Mr. Danner a limit, because she needs peace, quietness and safety. Alderwoman Moore informed Mrs. Davis there will be a Public Hearing on July 30, 2024 at 5:00 PM regarding the extending of time for businesses to stay open until 2:00 AM.

Ms. Sherrina Walker inquired about the internet issues with MaxxSouth, and would like to know what can be done to improve the internet service.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, second by Alderman Holliday 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 Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle 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 a personnel issue concerning an EEOC claim filed by City Employee Johnny McMillian. 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 issue concerning an EEOC claim filed by City Employee Johnny McMillian.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday 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 Belle to approve the City of Aberdeen in becoming a member of the National League of Cities and paying the membership fees of \$924.00. No vote was done. Alderman Holliday rescinded the motion, and Alderman Belle rescinded the second. More information regarding the membership will be shared at next Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, second by Alderwoman Moore to approve and accept the **MISSISSIPPI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION STRATEGIC MULTI-MODAL INVESTMENTS FUND AGREEMENT – PROJECT NO. SMIFP-24(001) – PORT DREDGING PROJECT with a Maximum SMIF Amount: \$704,700.00.** On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve hiring of Frederick Blanchard through TKO StaffPros, LLC as a 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 Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to accept the resignation of Dispatcher Brenda Watson with an effective date July 26, 2024. 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 post and advertise for a Fire Chief for the Aberdeen Fire Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to post and advertise for a part-time Dispatcher for the Aberdeen Police Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to terminate Officer Amir Franklin. 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 two full-time and one part-time police officer for the Aberdeen Police Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and allow for City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. to respond to the EEOC Complaint involving Johnny McMillian. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

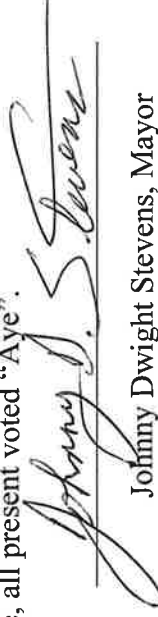
A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to set aside the passing of the July 16, 2024 Docket of Claims item number three (3). On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Belle voted “Aye”. Alderman Cain voted “Abstain”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to pay all bills on the July 16, 2024 Docket of Claims **except** Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

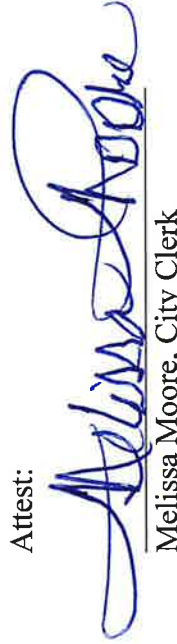
A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to pay all bills on the July 16, 2024 Docket of Claims **including** Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Belle “Recused from Voting”.

Alderman Holliday asked Comptroller Karen Crump to explain the process of travel expenses for City Employees and Elected Officials. Alderman Holliday asked Ms. Crump if City Employees and Elected Officials must get approval from the Board before getting reimbursed for travel expenses. Ms. Crump said yes. Alderman Holliday stated there was an item on the Docket of Claims for Mayor Stevens getting reimbursed for traveling to Jackson, MS that wasn’t voted on by the Board. Ms. Crump stated she got confused with the dates of the training sessions and thought she was reimbursing Mayor Stevens for the MML Conference travel expenses. Alderman Holliday shared with Ms. Crump that all travel expenses must be approved by the Board before going on the Docket of Claims.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn until the August 6, 2024 Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

  
Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor

Attest:

  
Melissa Moore, City Clerk