

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

August 6, 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

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 Alderman Ivory to approve the Board Minutes dated July 16, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to TABLE paying the bills on Docket of Claims dated August 6, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the Final Summary Change Order and adjust the Final Contract price to \$412,776.26 for Drainage Improvements – Cook & Sons, LLC. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS – COOK AND SON, LLC – PAY REQUEST NO. 3 (FINAL) FINAL SUMMARY CHANGE ORDER in the amount of \$223,013.13. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve ABERDEEN ARPA WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENTS for the Base Bid plus Additive Alternate No.1 to Maguire Iron, Inc. in the amount of \$1,717,500.00. The award is contingent upon the results of the Rebid of Part 2. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to TABLE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING Between Aberdeen Board of Aldermen/Alderwoman and Mayor Johnnie D. Stevens. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the advertising for Bids for the 2024 CDBG Wastewater Project. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve payment to Dabbs Corporation in the amount of \$3,480.96 for the Professional Services on Project STP-0010-00(020). On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve to purchase a pallet of AMI Electric Meters from Knight Hawk, A TESCO COMPANY, Bristol, PA in the amount of \$31,150.00 to begin the swap from General Electric to Knight Hawk. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the reimbursement to Mr. Dale Pierce for being overcharged since November 2023 due to a meter change that wasn't programmed correctly at his business address 200 North Hickory Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730 in the amount of \$7,653.33. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve hiring of Joseph Eli Chism as a Lineman for Aberdeen Electric Department at a rate of pay of \$17.50 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory giving permission to Mr. LaMarcus Thompson to sell alcohol (alcoholic beverages) at his place of business known as Triggers Bar & Grill, 114 East Commerce Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to award City of Aberdeen Medical Insurance Contract to Marketing Group of MS Insurance, LLC for the Fiscal Year September 1, 2024 – August 31, 2025, with monthly medical rates for City Employees is \$358.67 with a \$500.00 Deductible. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to TABLE Renewvia Power Purchase Agreement until next Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the hiring of Tevin D. Spurgon as a full-time Assistant Mechanic for Public Works through TKO StaffPros at a rate of pay of \$16.00 per hour. Mr. Spurgon will report to work on August 12, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the hiring of Xavier Burnett as a full-time 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 Alderwoman Moore to approve the agreement with The First Bank to enroll in the Positive Pay Program with a Monthly Maintenance Fee of \$25.00 per month. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to TABLE the decision of the A/C Unit being moved from the old Aberdeen Public Utilities Building to the High Street Community Center. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to authorize City Officials to attend meetings or classes, and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for the CMO Elective Evening Classes, Oxford, MS / September 12, 2024 / Registration Fee: \$25.00 per person. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Melissa Moore to attend the 2024 Fall Municipal Clerk Conference & Committee Session, Starkville, MS / September 25-27, 2024 / Registration Fee: \$200.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to authorize City employees/officials to attend meeting or classes, and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for the 2024 MML Small Town Conference, Vicksburg, MS / October 9-10, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to TABLE the approval of the UDAG Loan Application for James and Lucinda Everett in the amount of \$20,000.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve hiring of Kemar T. Sims as a full-time firefighter at a rate of pay at \$12.00 per hour. 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 a Pump Primer for Aberdeen Fire Department from Sunbelt Fire, Fairhope, Alabama in the amount of \$5,508.02. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, no second was given to approve the Amending of Extending the City Ordinance for Nightclubs, Restaurants and Bar & Grills to stay open from 1:00AM to 2:00AM. Motion Died to a lack of a second.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve to post and advertise for a Grant Writer for the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. William Sanford, P.E., Neel-Schaffer to update the Board on projects within the City of Aberdeen. Mr. Sanford discussed the following:

1. Final Summary Change Order and adjust the Final Contract price to \$412,776.26 for Drainage Improvements.
2. DRAINAGE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS – COOK AND SON, LLC – PAY REQUEST NO. 3 (FINAL) FINAL SUMMARY CHANGE ORDER.
3. ABERDEEN ARPA WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENTS for the Base Bid plus Additive Alternate No.1 to Maguire Iron, Incorporated
4. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING Between Aberdeen Board of Aldermen/Alderwoman and Mayor Johnnie D. Stevens.
5. Advertising for Bids for the 2024 CDBG Wastewater Project
6. MDOT SMMIF Grant for Dredging Updates

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Mayor Stevens invited Mr. Dustin Dabbs, Dabbs Corporation, to update the Board on projects within the City of Aberdeen. Mr. Dabbs shared the following:

1. Professional Services in Accordance with Contract Executed 9/29/2018 as related to Project No.: STP-0010-00(020) / 107154-701000 LPA Sidewalk Improvements – City of Aberdeen, Monroe County, Mississippi.
2. Magnolia’s Project (The Roof) – Recommending Wheeler Roofing
3. Drainage issues on Canal Street
4. Comprehensive Plan w/City Inspector Roy Haynes / Building Codes / Components

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board that Aberdeen Main Street Director, Mrs. Ann Tackett received a grant in the amount of \$67,400.00 for the lighting on Main Street. Aberdeen Public Utilities General Manager, LaMarcus Thompson shared with the Board that the lighting will extend from Aberdeen Best Value Inn and Suites through Commerce Street and ending at Premiere Eye Care.

Mayor Stevens invited Ms. Kathy Hodge and Mr. Nick Boone, Affordable Employee Benefits and Mr. Homer Braylock, Marketing Group of MS Insurance, LLC to hear the Final decision on which company that will be awarded the medical insurance contract for the City of Aberdeen.

Mayor Stevens asked Mr. LaMarcus Thompson to explain to the Board the agreement he has with Mr. Fernando Davis as it relates to the A/C Unit at the old Aberdeen Public Utilities Building. Mr. Thompson stated it’s a 60/40 split, and 60% is controlled by the City of Aberdeen and 40% is controlled by Aberdeen Electric Department. Mr. Thompson discussed the matter with Mr. Tommy Wilson, and he was okay with the decision made regarding the A/C Unit. Mr. Thompson shared with the Board that Aberdeen Electric Department cannot uninstall or install the A/C Unit.

Mayor Stevens asked City Inspector Roy Haynes to update the Board on the status of the Zoning Board Committee. Mr. Haynes stated the Zoning Board Commission has eight members, and it should only be seven. Mr. Haynes asked the Board to Amend the Motion that will change the number from eight members to nine members and recommend another applicant to become a Zoning Board Member. Attorney Zinn, Jr. asked the Board to allow him time to review the documents before a decision is made to change from eight to nine members.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday asked Ms. Stene Johnson from Ward One (MLK Street) to come before the Board to express her concerns. Ms. Johnson was having sewer issues, but it has been repaired by the Water Department. Ms. Johnson stated that it was unfair for the Water Department to use her water from her home to fill up a sewer tank, and this caused her water bill to increase from \$20.00 to \$85.00. Alderman Cain stated that Mr. Collins and Alderman Holliday will find a solution to her problems. Ms. Johnson stated that Mr. Straughter needs to have his abandoned house across the street demolished due to mold and animals living in the house.

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Mr. Barry Moore came before the Board with pictures of abandoned property in Ward One (MLK Street) that has overgrown grass that needs mowing. Mr. Barry stated that animals travel from the abandoned property to his yard destroying his grass.

Alderman Holliday shared with everyone that the City of Aberdeen will be Amending the Ordinance to extend the hours for Restaurants, Nightclubs, and Bar & Grills to stay open until 2:00AM. Alderman Holliday stated that business owners must have Certified Police Officer or Bonded Security Company to stay open to 2:00AM. Alderman Belle stated that from 1:00AM – 2:00AM you can only serve food, but alcohol sales stops at 12:00AM and music stops at 1:00AM.

Alderwoman Moore: Alderwoman Moore shared information with the Board from a previous resident of Aberdeen, MS that now resides in Georgia. Her name is Ms. Renae Holliday. Ms. Holliday would like to put together a home event in Aberdeen, and help citizens with home ownership, renovations, and preventing foreclosures. Alderwoman Moore will schedule a date and time with Ms. Holliday to meet with the Mayor and Board.

Alderman Ivory: Alderman Ivory stated he's busy in the neighborhood trying to take care of Ward Three. Alderman Ivory helped a resident in Ward Three who lost everything in a house fire. Alderman Ivory is asking everyone that would like to donate clothing, food, etc. to Mr. B. Ledell please take it to Shelaine Motel, Aberdeen, MS. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Alderman Belle: Alderman Belle is asking everyone in Ward Four and other Wards throughout the City of Aberdeen to please be patient with Mr. Boone and the Street Department on addressing issues. The Street Department is short on equipment and trucks, but they're doing the best they can at this present time. Alderman Belle stated that on October 5, 2024, if anyone would like to ride the 44 miles Bike Trail in Houston, MS, please know you're welcome. Alderman Belle stated that a resident from Amory, MS will be talking with the Bicycle Club on Saturday about getting a Bike Trail from Amory, MS to Tishomingo County, MS. The unknown resident of Amory, MS, will be asking Government Agencies, and the Board of Supervisors to assist in getting funds for this Trail.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated he uses his Facebook page to keep the citizens of Aberdeen informed about issues happening in the City. Alderman Cain stated that if anyone post foul language or harass him on his Facebook page, they will be Blocked. Alderman Cain stated that Mr. Boone and the Street Department is doing the best they can do with the equipment they have on hand, but the Board is trying very hard in getting trucks and dump trucks for the Street Department. Alderman Cain states the will be making a motion for the City of Aberdeen to hire a Grant Writer.

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Citizen Input (2 minutes)

Mrs. Joann McKinney asked the Board when they will vote on the Apartments Ordinance for Downtown.

Mr. Albert Barker would like to see a Bike Trail in the City of Aberdeen and surrounding cities and would like for the Board to research and communicate with agencies that may have funding Bike Trails.

City Attorney Zinn, Jr. stated that Alderwoman Moore received a dissertation on how much someone didn't like her because they were operating allegedly a Board Meeting at a High School Convocation where no City business is being conducted. The Law states that where most of the Board is present there is a quorum, but the statute also says for chance meetings and social gatherings a quorum doesn't matter.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, second by Alderwoman Moore 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 Alderwoman Moore to come out of Closed Determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

The Board didn't go into Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated August 6, 2024, and City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. invoice in the amount of \$3,262.50, except for any expenses paid by Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to pay all Cadence Bank expenses on August 6, 2024, Docket of Claims. Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Belle "Recused".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn until the August 20, 2024, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk



Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor