

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**August 20, 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**

**Present on the telephone:** Alderwoman Rhonda Moore

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 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 Special Called Board Minutes dated August 12, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to TABLE all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated August 20, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the Ordinance Establishing Regulations to Allow Residential Apartments in the Central Commercial C-1 District of Downtown Aberdeen, Mississippi. Alderman Cain rescinded his vote, and Alderman Belle rescinded his seconded. No vote was taken at this time.

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

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve 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 Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to TABLE the approval of Fernando Davis and Terry Morgan to attend the 2024 NRPA Conference, Atlanta, Georgia / October 7-10, 2024. 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 Norris James as Fire Chief for the Aberdeen Fire Department at a rate of pay of \$28.77 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Belle "Recused" from voting.

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, to promote Battalion Chief Guyvester Dobbs to Assistant Chief for the Aberdeen Fire Department. No second was given. Motion Died due to a lack of a second.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to accept Officer John Lay resignation letter, effective immediately. No vote was taken due to Alderman Holliday rescinding his motion, and Alderman Belle rescinded the second.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to TABLE the acceptance of Officer John Lay resignation. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Roy Haynes to attend the 2024 International Residential Code Training Classes, Oxford, MS / September 4, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Roy Haynes to attend the 2024 Building Officials Association of Mississippi Winter Conference, Natchez, MS / December 4-6, 2024 / Registration Fee: \$250.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the City of Aberdeen in becoming a member of the National League of Cities and paying membership dues in the amount of \$924.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Ivory, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve for Elected Official Nicholas Holliday to attend the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Legislative Conference, Washington, DC / September 11-15, 2024 and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve XX On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

**Mayor Report:** Mayor Stevens shared with the Board the information he received from the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Conference about the Aberdeen Port and Morgan Landing. Mayor Stevens stated he's hoping the Port becomes a landing site for a Cruise Boat with American Cruise Line. Mayor Stevens asked everyone to please support the new restaurant Triggers on Main Street.

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. Dustin Dabbs, Dabbs Corporation to the Board Meeting to update the Board on the Magnolia's Project. Mr. Dabbs stated the roofing needs to be replaced and his recommendation to do the work is Wheeler's Roofing. Mr. Dabbs will have more information at next Board Meeting.

Mayor Stevens thanked Mr. Walter Lann for volunteering in cleaning up Morgan Landing and demolishing the old building at Oddfellows Rest Cemetery. Alderman Cain stated that Mr. Trey Cullum demolished the old building at Oddfellows Rest Cemetery.

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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. Wild, Wild West Prom – August 24, 2024
2. AHS Football – 9/6/2024 & 9/13/2024
3. 9/11 Ceremony – September 11, 2024
4. Constitution Day – September 17, 2024
5. POW Day at the Legion – September 20, 2024
6. AHS Homecoming Parade – September 26, 2024
7. AHS Tailgate and Homecoming Game – September 27, 2024

Ms. Robbins provided the Board with a flyer listing all the events happening within the City of Aberdeen for the months of October – December.

Ms. Robbins shared with the Board that Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau will be featured in four national magazines in the Fall of the year. Ms. Robbins stated Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau has two professional new videos for the Bukka White Blues Festival. Ms. Robbins provided the Board with the closings of the campgrounds due to repaving of all the roads.

### Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

**Alderman Holliday:** Alderman Holliday stated that Mr. John Byers (Three Rivers Planning & Development) is asking the Board to compile a list of proposals for the City of Aberdeen that he can take with him while attending the Congressional Black Caucus to submit to the legislatures because the season for grants opens January 1, 2025. Alderman Cain stated that Mrs. Missy Goodgame Younger from Representative Trent Kelley's Office visited with the Mayor and Board to share information about upcoming grants. Alderman Cain stated a Wish List for the City of Aberdeen will be given to Mrs. Younger.

**Alderwoman Moore:** Alderwoman Moore stated she needs to meet with City Inspector Roy Haynes about abandon houses in Ward Two that needs to be attended too. Alderwoman Moore stated she received complaints about the sewer located by Allmond Printing and Beauty Supply Store that needs to be fixed before someone gets hurt.

**Alderman Ivory:** Alderman Ivory is asking the Board to approve for Alderman Holliday to attend the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Legislative Conference, Washington, DC / September 11-15, 2024. Alderman Ivory is asking everyone in all Wards to please be patient with the issues and concerns in their Ward. Alderman Ivory stated the City is working behind the scenes on projects for the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Ivory thanked Mayor Stevens for working diligently in getting things done for the City of Aberdeen.

**Alderman Belle:** Alderman Belle is asking everyone in the community to support one another and the events being hosted in the City of Aberdeen.

**Alderman Cain:** Alderman Cain shared the news of the re-opening of J & L Soul Food, 405 Highway 145 Alt. North, Aberdeen, MS / owner operator, Mrs. Lucinda Everett and Mr. James Everett. The name will be officially changed to Jazz Place. Alderman Cain is asking everyone to please support all your local businesses and restaurants. Alderman Cain thanked the Street, Water and Electric Department for the hard work they're doing in the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Cain stressed the safety of all departments working in the extreme weather conditions. Alderman Cain thanked the citizens of Aberdeen for allowing him to attend the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway Conference, Point Clear, Alabama. Alderman Cain stated he enjoyed the conference and learned a lot to help benefit the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Cain stated that Mr. Richard Caradine cleaned up the East side of Oddfellows Rest Cemetery at no expense to the City of Aberdeen.

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### Citizen Input (2 minutes)

Mr. Frederick Heater shared with the Board that he would like to volunteer in doing repairs for all the parks in the City of Aberdeen.

Mrs. Connie Hodges asked the Board to be mindful and respectful of one another while information is being shared for the public. Mrs. Hodges stated the wires hanging on Woodcrest Drive are unsafe and needs to be attended to before someone gets hurt.

Mr. Crosby, 102 Jett Street, Aberdeen, MS shared with the Board about the calls that have been made regarding the sewer and manhole issues, and the problem is still not fixed. Alderman Cain stated that he discussed this with Marcus Collins and a system flush was done. Alderman Cain shared with Mr. Crosby that he will contact Mr. Collins again to analyze the problem, and if need be the engineer will be contacted.

An unknown citizen thanked the Water Department for addressing three different water leaks and a sewer issue in a timely manner. The issue of abandon homes throughout the City of Aberdeen was mentioned to the Mayor and Board.

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 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 Cain to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues involving Public Works Employee Earvin Thompson, Police Officer John Lay, and possible litigations involving Barry McMillian, Johnny McMillian, Charles Scott and Lady B. Garth. 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 issues involving Public Works Employee Earvin Thompson, Police Officer John Lay, and possible litigations involving Barry McMillian, Johnny McMillian, Charles Scott and Lady B. Garth.

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 Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines Walter H. Zinn, Jr. to attend the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Legislative Conference, Washington, DC / September 11-14, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the write-up for City Employee Earvin Thompson due to an altercation that happened during work hours. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

**Alderman Cain stated a Determination of Fact: On a case-by-case basis the Board will review from time-to-time any city employee that needs to be terminated for any such reason. The Board has to put in the record that the Board do not condone what happened, and the Board has to take this position, and in no way, shape form or fashion the disparity of anyone attached while on the job. However, this is the City's position: the city employee did not insight this altercation or provoked the situation. The city employee was acting in self defense and no in fault by the determination of the Board.**

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the August 20, 2024 Docket of Claims, except the bills associated with Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, all present voted Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the August 20, 2024 Docket of Claims bills associated ONLY with Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Cain voted Aye”.

Alderwoman Belle “Recused” from voting.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to pay the Monroe County Board of Supervisors \$42,000.00 for the invoice submitted for City of Aberdeen Inmates. No vote was done. Alderman Cain rescinded his motion, and Alderman Belle rescinded his second.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to join Monroe County Board of Supervisors in the purchase of the A/C Unit, and paperwork will be provided by Board Attorney Judge Houston in the amount of \$75,000, and City of Aberdeen will pay \$37,500.00 of the invoice. No vote was done. Alderman Cain rescinded his motion, and Alderman Ivory rescinded his second.

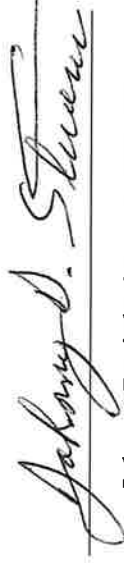
A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, second by Alderman Cain to accept the new rate change from \$358.67 per city employee to \$359.99 per city employee given by Mr. Homer Braylock, a representative for Marketing Group of MS Insurance, LLC. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, second by Alderman Belle to accept Officer John Lay resignation letter effective immediately. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to adjourn until the September 3, 2024, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

Attest:

  
Melissa Moore, City Clerk



Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor