

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CITY HALL BOARD ROOM

SEPTEMBER 3, 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, DEPUTY CITY CLERK DEVONSHAE HOGAN YOUNG, AND CITY ATTORNEY WALTER H. ZINN, JR.

Absent from Meeting: Alderwoman Rhonda Moore & City Clerk Melissa Moore

Invocation: Lamarcus Thompson

ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory 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, with a correction made to line item #11 to be changed from purchase to sale. On a roll call vote, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday and Alderman Belle voted "Nay". The vote resulted in a 2-2 tie vote. Mayor Stevens voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the Board Minutes dated August 20, 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 22, 2024, by changing the Assistant Fire Chief Guyvester Dobbs hourly pay from \$18.65 per hour to \$16.96 per hour. (Addendum to Motion made at Special Called Board Meeting August 22, 2024). On a roll call vote, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday and Alderman Belle voted "Nay". The vote resulted in a 2-2 tie vote. Mayor Stevens voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to TABLE to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated September 3, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to correct Guyvester Dobbs from Battalion Chief to Assistant Fire Chief at the rate of pay of \$16.96 instead of \$18.65 per hour. On a roll call vote, all voted "Aye".

Mayor Report:

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board that he spoke with Mrs. Ann Tackett regarding the \$442,000.00 grant that Natchez, MS received for Mainstreet. Mayor Stevens would like to see bike lanes in the City of Aberdeen.

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Mayor Stevens invited Ms. Tina Robbins to the Board to update the Board on events happening within the City of Aberdeen. Ms. Robbins provided the following:

1. 9/11 Patriot Day – September 11, 2024
2. Rosenwald School Marker Dedication – September 14, 2024
3. Constitution Day – September 17, 2024
4. Fall in Paradise Alley – September 19, 2024
5. Homecoming Parade – September 26, 2024 & Homecoming Game – September 27, 2024
6. Movies at Elkin Theatre – The Forge (9/13-14/2024 & You Gotta Believe (9/27-29/2024
7. Yoga Tuesdays @ 9:00am & 10:00am
8. Aberdeen Cycling Club – Thursdays @ 6:00pm & Saturdays @ 7:00am

Ms. Robbins stated the re-opening of Blue Bluff should happen in time for campers before the Bukka White Festival.

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. William Tacker, High Cloud Corporation to share with the Board his interest in opening two industries, either in Aberdeen, MS or Prairie, MS.

Alderman Holliday invited Mr. Tyler and Mr. Michael from Murphree's Paving to the Board to share information about the paving projects within the City of Aberdeen.

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 Sean Parson to attend the Class Lineman Apprenticeship Lab 3 Operations, Murfreesboro, TN / September 16-20, 2024. Registration Fee: \$845.00. On a roll call vote, all voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to adopt the ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS TO ALLOW RESIDENTIAL APARTMENTS IN THE CENTRAL COMMERCIAL C-1 DISTRICT OF DOWNTOWN ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Aberdeen High School Homecoming Parade on September 26, 2024, at 6:00 PM. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to TABLE the hiring of Gaython McKenzie as Laborer for Public Works. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to TABLE and discuss in Closed Determination the approval of grant writer application for the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to TABLE the approval recommendation from City Inspector Roy Haynes for Michael Walters to be a member of the Zoning Board until the next work session on September 16, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the City of Aberdeen Purchase Order / Requisition submitted by Water Department Leadman Marcus Collins to pay Tri-State Chlorination in the amount of \$10,546.50. 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 approve the City of Aberdeen Purchase Order / Requisition submitted by Water Department Leadman Marcus Collins to pay Tri-State Chlorination in the amount of \$10,546.50. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to TABLE the sale of PPIN: # 8973/PARCEL ID: 112B-03-001-003.00 and PPIN: #8974/PARCEL ID: 112B-03-001-004.00 for Closed Determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Aldermen/Alderwoman Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday stated that he spoke with Mr. John Byers from Three Rivers Planning and Development District regarding the \$2.5 million needed to repair the Dock Wall at the Port, Fire Truck for the Fire Department, Police Cars for the Police Department, Handicap Splashpads for the Parks, Park and Recreation Upgrades, Sanitation Truck, Pay Raise Grant for Aberdeen Police Department, Dump Truck and any equipment needed in Public Works. Alderman Holliday stated that he will be addressing his concerns at the Congressional Black Caucus, Washington, D.C. and seeking all grants to help fund these projects. Alderman Holliday inquired about speed bumps, and he would like to have cameras installed to catch the ones speeding and send tickets in the mail. Alderman Holliday shared with the Board that he spoke with Ms. White from Jackson, MS in creating a plan / project for a homeless shelter in the City of Aberdeen.

Alderwoman Moore: Alderwoman Moore wasn't present for the meeting.

Alderman Ivory: Alderman Ivory stated Ward Three is moving in a good direction, and there is some potential for the Parks in Aberdeen. Alderman Ivory stated the Board has been working diligently in trying to bring businesses, restaurants, truck stops, and jobs for the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Ivory is asking the citizens to please remain patient with the Board while things are moving forward in a positive direction.

Alderman Belle: Alderman Belle stated that Mr. Boone, Public Works Director gave the Board a schedule listing the Street Department employees and the areas where they will be doing work in the city. Alderman Belle shared with the Board about an article of concern he seen on Facebook regarding pedestrians walking and riding bicycles at night. Someone was almost hit by a vehicle because they couldn't see them with the dark clothing and no lights or reflectors on their bikes. Alderman Belle stated he gave a reflector vest to an individual that was walking, and if anyone has vests to donate, please do so. Alderman Belle asked the citizens of Aberdeen to please call him if they have any complaints or concerns. Alderman Cain shared with Alderman Belle and the Board that he will contact Eutaw Construction and see if they have some reflector vests to donate.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated in the past the Aberdeen Fire Department used to clean the curbs, gutter, sidewalks, and streets downtown on the weekends, and would like for the Fire Department to start the clean-up again on Mainstreet if it's not illegal. Alderman Cain asked Mayor Stevens to discuss the clean-up with Chief James and follow-up with him.

Alderman Cain stated he received a disturbing telephone call about a business in Aberdeen selling alcohol. Alderman Cain asked Chief Quinell Shumpert to shut down Sierra's Café for selling alcohol in Aberdeen without the Board's permission, and the business will remain closed until Mrs. Sierra White comes before the Board asking for permission to sell alcohol in the City of Aberdeen.

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Alderman Ivory stated that he will contact Ms. White and ask her to meet before the Board asking permission to sell alcoholic beverages. Alderman Cain stated that he received several complaints about the internet and cable with MaxxSouth. Alderman Cain contacted MaxxSouth and was told they're in the process of correcting the issues in the City. Alderman Cain stated the Board will be TABLE the discussion regarding Seven States.

Alderman Cain stated that Mr. William Sanford, P.E. w/Neel Schaffer, Inc. has been notified about the issues on Jett Street and Med Stat Ambulance on Chestnut Street. Alderman Cain informed the Board the Accounting Department will have a vacancy once Mrs. Lucinda Randle resigns, and Mrs. Janet Parks would like to transfer to that position. The Board will discuss this further in Closed Determination.

Alderman Cain asked City Attorney Zinn, Jr. to give the Board a full opinion at next Board Meeting on the Mississippi Main Street Revitalization Grant Program that was approved by the Mississippi Legislature in 2023 that authorizes the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) to provide grants up to \$500,000.00 per community.

Citizen Input (2 minutes)

Mr. Heater shared with the Board that he's still doing works in the Parks, and the Board is making a mistake in Tabling the decision to hire a Grant Writer.

Mr. Barker stated that Alderman Cain had a great idea to have training exercises with the Aberdeen Fire Department. Mr. Barker cautioned the Board (Alderman Belle) for taking ownership in something from the public, and feels Alderman Belle needs to have someone other than himself do this because it may be deemed as something else. Mr. Barker stated he would like to caution Alderman Ivory not to do City functions. Mr. Barker inquired about Special Called Meetings being held decently and in order, and the Board Members cannot be accusers, investigator, juror and judge.

Mrs. Childress shared her concerns about the weeds not being maintained in front of the churches on Main Street.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday to enter in closed determination to ascertain whether 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 Ivory to enter in Executive Session to discuss personnel issue regarding the transfer of Mrs. Janet Parks from the City Clerk's Office to the Accounting Department, the hiring of a Grant Writer, the hiring of a Laborer for Public Works, and the sale of PPIN: #8973 and PPIN: #8974. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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The Mayor and the Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss personnel issue regarding the transfer of Mrs. Janet Parks from the City Clerk's Office to the Accounting Department, the hiring of a Grant Writer, the hiring of a Laborer for Public Works, and the sale of PPIN: #8973 and PPIN: #8974. 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 Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve to post and advertise In-House for Administration Clerk position in the Accounting Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to accept the resignation letter of City Employee Lucinda Randle with an effective date on September 20, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to TABLE hiring for a grant writer for the City of Aberdeen until after the interviewing process on September 16, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to TABLE any hiring within the Common City Budget until after the approval of the FY 2024-2025 Budget. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, no seconded was given to accept the highest appraisal in the amount of \$26,350.00 for PPIN: #8973/PARCEL ID:112B-03-001-003.00 and PPIN: #8974/PARCEL ID: 112B-03-001-004.00. Alderman Cain rescinded his motion.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated September 3, 2024, excluding Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay all bills submitted by Cadence Bank as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated September 3, 2024. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Belle Recused himself from voting.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Tamanda Griffin to attend the North Mississippi Public Power Accounting Conference, Tupelo, MS / September 24, 2024 / Registration Fee: \$100.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

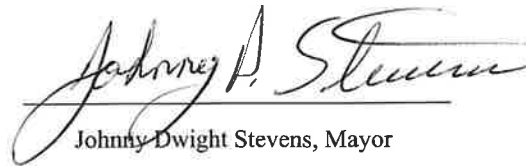
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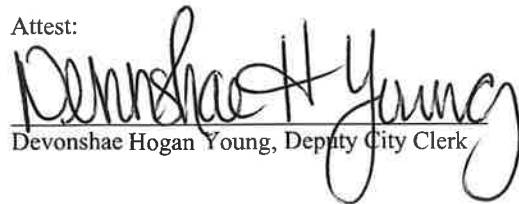
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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to increase the backup data file with Exceed from \$30.00 per month to a \$75.00 package per month. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn until the September 17, 2024, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor

Attest:


Devonshae Hogan Young, Deputy City Clerk