

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

September 17, 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 Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the Agenda. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday and Alderman Belle voted "Aye". Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

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. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday and Alderman Belle voted "Nay". Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the Board Minutes dated September 3, 2024, with the necessary corrections. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to TABLE the approval of paying the bills. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Ivory, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve an accept the Bid from Billy Davis Construction in the amount of \$14,750.00 to repair the flooring and roofing at Newberger Library. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve a \$1.00 raise for Gregory D. Partlow for obtaining his Commercial Driver License. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to post and advertise and take sealed Bids on Oddfellows Rest and Oaklawn Cemeteries. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to TABLE the hiring of a Grant Writer for the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to TABLE the hiring of a Fireman for the Aberdeen Fire Department. 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 sale of PPIN: 8973 / PARCEL ID: 112B-03-001-003.00 and PPIN: 8974 / PARCEL ID: 112B-03-001-004.00 Westlake Chemicals, Aberdeen, Mississippi in the amount of \$26,350.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to authorize Mr. LaMarcus Thompson to reach out to Neel-Schaffer and discuss with them regarding water rates and bring the information back to next planning session. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to authorize department heads to request a requisition for \$5,000.00, an any amount over \$5,000.00 will require Board approval. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve for Plan House PH Bidding Group to handle the Reverse Auction for a 2025 Axle Day Cab Class 7 Straight Truck Chassis with an 8/9- Yard Dump Body for Public Works and post to advertise in the local newspaper. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

Mayor’s Report:

Mayor Stevens invited Mrs. Kathy Seymour to the Board to provide an update on the CLG Grants for the High Street Community Center. Mrs. Seymour shared with the Board that the CLG Grant professional assessment of the High Street Community Center is required to have a third-party contract, and they will be ready to sign at the next meeting. The CLG Grant for Newberger Library has passed the Federal 106 Review with the stipulation that the flooring must be wood, and close as possible to the original. No laminated flooring is permitted.

Mr. LaMarcus Thompson, General Manager of Aberdeen Public Utilities asked the Board to approve Mr. Gregory Dante Partlow \$1.00 raise for obtaining his Commercial Driver License.

Mr. Thompson asked the Board to approve paying Progressive Heating & Cooling, Aberdeen, MS for the 5-ton Unit in the amount of \$8,525.00 for Aberdeen Public Utilities, and to discuss a personnel matter in Executive Session.

Mayor Stevens invited Ms. Tina Robbins to the Board Meeting to update the Board on events going on within the City of Aberdeen. Ms. Robbins stated the Aberdeen Visitor’s Bureau Ad will appear in the Good Housekeeping Magazine this month, and the Women’s Day Magazine in the December Issue. Ms. Robbins shared the following items and events:

1. Two promotional videos of the Bukka White Festival on the You Tube Channel
2. Updated all maps in the Kiosk Stand
3. Christmas in Aberdeen for the month of December
4. Rosenwald Documentary – Pilgrim Rest MB Church – September 18, 2024
5. Fall in Paradise Alley – September 19, 2024
6. Aberdeen Main Street Harvest Dinner – October 24, 2024
7. Downtown Aberdeen Costume Party and Trunk or Treat – October 26, 2024

Alderman Cain shared with the Board and residents of the City of Aberdeen about the letters that will be mailed to Landlords and Apartment Owners making sure renters are being treated fairly and their properties are being maintained in the standards in which they all demand.

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Mayor Stevens invited Mrs. Connie Hamilton to the Board Meeting to share news about the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Mrs. Hamilton stated that September 17, 2024, is the 237th Anniversary of the United States Constitution. Mrs. Hamilton presented the Board with a framed copy of the Constitution.

City Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr. shared with the Board and the public the Joint Public Notice **PROPOSED DISCHARGE OF FILL MATERIAL INTO THE WETLANDS AND UNNAMED TRIBUTARIES TO JAMES CREEK ASSOCIATED WITH THE EXPANSION OF A RAIL YARD AT THE WESTLAKE CHEMICAL PLANT IN ABERDEEN, MNROE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.**

Ms. Robbins shared with the Board the issues with the front porch at Magnolia's. The porch has a six-inch buckle, holding water and puddles are still on the porch. Ms. Robbins stated the materials used to do the repairs weren't good quality, and this has caused the defects in the porch. Ms. Robbins stated a claim has been filed with the Bonding Company against the Contractor and Engineer.

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board and citizens about the Pulp Wood Business that's interested in coming to the City of Aberdeen, and they would like for the Board to approve the location to be Aberdeen Sports Complex.

Aldermen/Alderwoman Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday didn't have anything to report at this time.

Alderwoman Moore: Alderwoman Moore thanked Mr. Boone, Ms. Tohona and the Public Works Department for the work they've done in Ward Two in repairing the potholes. Alderwoman Moore thanked Mr. Collins and the Water Department for assisting with the sewerage issue at a resident's home in Ward Two. Alderwoman Moore will be passing out flyers for Ward Two Clean-up Day on October 5, 2024, from 8:00am-10:00am. The Mayor's Youth Council will help with the clean-up. Alderwoman Moore shared the good news regarding the Aberdeen School District for their B rating.

Alderman Ivory: Alderman Ivory stated the Mayor and Board is working together behind the scenes trying to move this City forward in the right direction. Alderman Ivory stated the Mayor and Board is working diligently in trying to bring jobs and restaurants to the City of Aberdeen and asking everyone to please pray for one another.

Alderman Belle: Alderman Belle thanked Mr. Boone and the Street Department for the clean-up in Ward Four. Alderman Belle thanked Ms. Tina Robbins for making flyers for his events. There will be a Ward Meeting in Ward Four on September 24, 2024 @ 6:00pm at Aberdeen Public Utilities. Alderman Belle informed the Board that he asked Mr. Boone to get two quotes for repairs needed on Stinson Field and Murfree Circle. The repair work will be done later.

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Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated that Mr. Marcus Collins came to the Board some time ago asking for help with some water projects, and today Mr. Collins has a quote from Paul Smitty for a project on Hale Road and Old Magnolia Highway. Alderman Cain stated these are projects that have dilapidated pipelines, and since the Bid price is an excess of \$51,000.00, the city will have to take Bids on it. Alderman Cain asked City Attorney Zinn, Jr. to communicate with Mr. LaMarcus Thompson about the MOU with Aberdeen Main Street.

Alderman Cain stated that Mr. Thompson will do a feasibility study on water rates. Alderman Cain stated that any requisitions given by department heads in the amount of \$5,000.00 will need to come before the Board for approval. Alderman Cain inquired about the number of members on the Zoning Board. Alderman Cain would like for City Inspector Roy Haynes to attend the Work Session on September 30, 2024, and bring his records verifying the Zoning Members appointment dates.

Alderman Cain shared with the Board the Grand Opening of the Federal Building on October 8, 2024, and would like for the citizens and city employees to help clean up downtown Aberdeen. Alderman Cain asked the Board to consider the membership with Inland Rivers Ports & Terminals, Inc. (IRPT). Alderman Cain asked City Attorney Zinn, Jr. to advise the Board on the obligations / non-obligations on WATCO.

Citizen Input (2 minutes)

An unnamed citizen commended Alderman Ivory for the videos he shared on social media about the businesses and opportunities that may be coming to Aberdeen.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, second by Alderman Belle 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 Ivory 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 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, and the Agreement regarding the City of Aberdeen’s use of the Monroe County, Mississippi Jail. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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, and the Agreement regarding the City of Aberdeen’s use of the Monroe County, Mississippi Jail.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore 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 Cain to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated September 17, 2024, except for any expenses paid by Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to pay City Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr. invoice in the amount of \$2,775.00. 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 Progressive Heating and Cooling, Aberdeen, MS in the amount of \$8,525.00 for a 5 Ton 3 Phase Unit for Aberdeen Public Utilities. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to allow City Clerk Melissa Moore to do a Wire Transfer on a Bond and Interest Payment for the Electric System Revenue Bond Series 2022 in the amount of \$132,230.00 for principal and interest that's due on October 1, 2024, to Truist Governmental Finance, and this transaction will be done at Renasant Bank. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to pay all Cadence Bank expenses on Docket of Claims dated September 17, 2024. 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 approve to post and advertise for an Assistant Chief of Police. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to move forward with the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) with Renewvia under the Flex 1.0 Program. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, and Alderman Belle voted "Aye". Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to terminate City Employee Tyler Nelson from Aberdeen Public Utilities. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

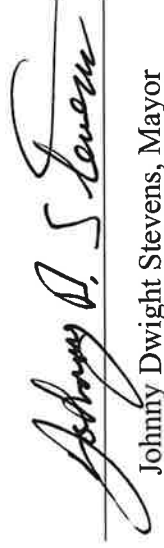
A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve to post and advertise for an Apprentice Lineman for Aberdeen Public Utilities. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to adjourn until the October 1, 2024, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk



Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor