

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM

October 1, 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: Mayor Stevens

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. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the Board Minutes dated September 17, 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 Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore approve the Special Called Board Minutes dated September 27, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain authorizing Mr. Dustin Dabbs with Dabbs Corporation to create a proposal for a new jail and police department 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 authorize Mr. Dustin Dabbs with Dabbs Corporation to provide the Board with a proposal on the Canal Street Project. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the lowest Bid given by Perma Corporation in the amount of \$1,665,255.00 for the ABERDEEN ARPA WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENTS (REBID) – PART 2 BID SUMMARY. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the lowest Bid given by Pace Excavating, LLC in the amount of \$531,808.07 for the ABERDEEN 2024 CDBG LAGOON IMPROVEMENTS BID SUMMARY. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT – ABERDEEN PORT DREDGING PROJECT to Neel-Schaffer, Inc. (NSI) for the following fixed fees: Environmental Permitting and Design - \$60,000.00 and Construction Administration - \$29,000.00. 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 authorize and retain Mr. William Sanford, P.E. with Neel-Schaffer to do a proposal for a Water Rate Study for the City of Aberdeen, and not to exceed \$10,000.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve Ms. Tina Robbins Travel Request to the MS Governors Conference on Tourism, Hattiesburg, MS / October 2-4, 2024 / Registration Fee: \$450.00 / Hotel: \$131.00 / Nightly. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Ms. Tina Robbins Travel Request to AL/MS/TN Rural Tourism Conference, Union County, TN / October 21-23, 2024 / Registration Fee: \$95.00 / Hotel: \$119.00 / Nightly. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the hiring of Mr. Michael Roberson as a full-time fireman for the Aberdeen Fire Department with a rate of pay of \$10.00 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 \$1.00 hourly wage increase for Aberdeen Fireman Curtis Randle for completing the Firefighter 1-11 Certification at the Mississippi Fire Academy. Mr. Randle hourly rate will change from \$10.00 per hour to \$12.00 per hour. 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 Mr. Skyler McCool as a full-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 Ivory to accept the resignation letter from city employee Xavier Burnett with an effective date: September 19, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore 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 Alderwoman Moore to approve to cancel the internet services at Morgan Landing. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve for city employee Mr. Larry Darty to have a city cellphone with the monthly payments being paid by 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 approve the refund in the amount of \$1,050.00 to Title Clearing & Escrow, LLC due to an overpayment for a lawn care violation. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to set aside the approval of a motion given at the Special Called Board Meeting on September 27, 2024 in approving a loan for the 2025 – 2500 Crew Cab 4x4 Flatbed Truck for Public Works in the amount of \$49,993.38 with Government Capital, Southlake, Texas for 60 months with true interest cost of 5.78% for a monthly total of \$958.88. 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 loan with the lowest financing bid on a 2025 – 2500 Crew Cab 4x4 Flatbed Truck for Public Works in the amount of \$49,993.38 with The First Bank, Aberdeen, MS for 60 months with an interest rate: 5.70%, document fee: \$150.00 and a monthly payment of \$975.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

Mayor’s Report

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. Dustin Dabbs with Dabbs Corporation to the Board Meeting to give an update on the Magnolia’s Project and Canal Street Project. The Board asked Mr. Dabbs to configure the cost for a new jail and police department and submit a proposal to the City of Aberdeen.

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 items:

1. ARPA Project Part 2 Bid Results
2. CDBG Lagoon Project Bid Results
3. Port Dredging Contract for Professional Services
4. Water Rate Study
5. Rail Spur at the Aberdeen Port

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board that he will be meeting with Prince Oil on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, to discuss a proposed deal of a truck stop coming to the City of Aberdeen.

Aldermen/Alderwoman Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday stated he has been working in the background trying to get some economic impact to come to the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Holliday asked that all the dishonesty about him having an agenda when it comes to bringing businesses and jobs to the City of Aberdeen, please stop. Alderman Holliday stated if you’re going to kill a project, please bring something to the table that’s going to provide the same type of income. Alderman Holliday stated he has no personal interests with any businesses trying to come to Aberdeen, and if the Mayor and Board have any issues with him, please talk to him and no one else. Alderman Holliday asked the community to please come to the High Street Community Center through the week to play games and other activities with the Senior citizens and enjoy a delicious hot meal. The hours are from 8:00am-12:00pm. Please come and volunteer your time.

Alderwoman Moore: Alderwoman Moore stated she has received several complaints from residents about the \$75.00 vendor fees, and why the Code Enforcer isn’t enforcing certain codes. Alderwoman Moore stated she received calls from residents concerning the lights not working at the Sports Complex. Alderwoman Moore asked about the fee changes for the High Street Community Center and Park & Recreation Gym. Alderwoman Moore reminded the Board and community about the clean-up in Ward Two on Saturday, October 5, 2024, from 8:00am-10:30am.

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Alderman Ivory: Alderman Ivory stated the Board has been working hard and diligently throughout the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Ivory stated the Mayor and Board have proposals for new industries that's interested in coming to the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Ivory asked that everyone come together and pray for the betterment of the City of Aberdeen.

Alderman Belle: Alderman Belle stated he had a Ward Meeting last Tuesday for Ward Four, but didn't get much participation due to the weather. Alderman Belle emphasized the need for more volunteers and participation from the Senior Citizens, and asking everyone to share with their loved ones about the daily activities going on at the High Street Community Center. Alderman Belle is eternally grateful that he didn't receive any calls regarding Ward Four, and he is just a telephone call away if anyone needs his assistance.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated the Board discussed with City Attorney Zinn, Jr. about having Commissioners assigned to each department withing the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Cain made motions to cancel the internet at Morgan Landing, purchase a city cellphone for Mr. Larry Darty, refund Clearing & Escrow their overpayment, and the loan agreement at The First Bank regarding a pickup truck for Public Works.

Citizen Input (2 minutes)

Mr. Coutlee shared with the Board about continuous yard sales going on at a residence on Columbus Street, and why the Mayor and Board isn't addressing this issue.

Mrs. Ward-Hodges shared with the Mayor and Board they need to work together as a team in making things happen for the City of Aberdeen and get things for the youth to do in this city. Mrs. Ward-Hodges stated Ward Three and the entire city needs to be cleaned. The city is filthy.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded 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 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 Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to enter in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding the transfer of Mrs. Janet Parks to the Accounting Department, Aberdeen Electric Department employee Ms. Akalin McNairy, Mayor Stevens Ethics Claim, and Mr. Barry McMillian's EEOC.

The Mayor and Board announced to the public to enter in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding the transfer of Mrs. Janet Parks to the Accounting Department, Aberdeen Electric Department employee Ms. Akalin McNairy, Mayor Stevens Ethics Claim, and Mr. Barry McMillian's EEOC.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Cain to come out of Executive Session. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve hiring of TKO StaffPro's employee Mr. Gaython McKenzie 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 Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve paying all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on Docket of Claims dated October 1, 2024, **excluding** any expenses of Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve paying all Cadence Bank expenses on Docket of Claims dated October 1, 2024. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Belle Recused from voting and left the room. After the motion and vote had been cast, Alderman Belle returned to the room.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Cain approving the transfer of Mrs. Janet Parks from the City Clerk's Office as Administrative Assistant to the Accounting Department as an Administrative Clerk with modified duties and a rate of pay of \$16.39 per hour with an effective date of November 4, 2024. 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 for a part-time Administrative Clerk for the City Clerk's Office. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve and pay the invoice submitted by City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. in the amount of \$3,225.00. 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 from city employee Mr. Patrick Ghoston as a full-time police officer with an effective date October 6, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve and retain the services of Mr. Patrick Ghoston as a part-time police officer for the Aberdeen Police Department at the certified rate of pay. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve a ten percent (10%) increase in pay for Public Records Director Richard Boone for completing his certification. 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 Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the suspension of city employee Ms. Akalin McNairy for three days no pay beginning November 2, 2024 – November 4, 2024, due to tardiness and write-ups during her probationary period. 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 15, 2024, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk


Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor