

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**October 15, 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 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 Belle, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the Board Minutes dated October 1, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve to pay the Purchase Requisition for Raborn Media, Madison, MS in the amount of \$8,960.53. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Mayor Report:

Mayor Stevens asked Ms. Tina Robbins to update the Board on events and projects for the City of Aberdeen.

Ms. Robbins shared the following with the Board:

1. Costume Parade – October 26, 2024 / 3:30 PM
2. Trunk or Treat – October 26, 2024 / 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM
3. Movie at Elkin Theatre – Beetlejuice – October 26, 2024 / 7:00 PM
4. Aberdeen Main Street Christmas Open House – November 31, 2024 / 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Ms. Robbins shared with the Board the great time everyone had at the Bukka White Festival and gave the Mayor and Board new design stickers of the City of Aberdeen.

Ms. Robbins shared a flyer stating 5 reasons for being excited about Aberdeen:

1. ARPA Boost
2. Record Growth
3. Shattered Benchmark
4. Year Over Year Growth
5. \$9M spent in Aberdeen on Specialty Tax

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. Josh Wooten from Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to share with the Board regarding the Power Supply Expanded Flexibility Agreement. Aberdeen Public Utilities General Manager LaMarcus Thompson provided the Mayor and Board with copies of the Power Supply Expanded Flexibility Agreement and Guidelines.

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Mayor Stevens shared with the Board that he had a conversation with J. B. Crawford Chemicals. Mr. Crawford shared with Mayor Stevens that he would like to put a conveyer at the Port. Ms. Betty Harris, owner of Golden Triangle Driving Academy, LLC, came before the Board to share the services her company offers and be given permission to use her services in the City of Aberdeen Municipal Court.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, second by Alderman Belle to enter in Closed Determination to discuss business regarding a prospective purchase sale or leasing of lands and / is through transaction of business, discussions and negotiations regarding locations and relocations of businesses, medical services or industry through solar, and to ascertain whether to go into Executive Session. 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 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 a merit raise for Public Works Director Richard Boone, Water Department Leadman Marcus Collins to determine if unearned pay was given to a city employee and Aberdeen Public Utilities General Manager LaMarcus Thompson and TVA Josh Wooten on the PPA / Flex Agreement. 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 a merit raise for Public Works Director Richard Boone, Water Department Leadman Marcus Collins to determine if unearned pay was given to a city employee and Aberdeen Public Utilities General Manager LaMarcus Thompson and TVA Josh Wooten on the PPA / Flex Agreement.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle 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 approve to pay the Purchase Requisition for Mississippi State Department of Health, Jackson, MS in the amount of \$8,847.25 for the Water Quality Analysis Fee. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and pay the lowest quote given by Sunbelt Solomon, Temple, Texas for Single Phase Pole Mount 15 KVA Transformers in the amount of \$5,500.00 (5 @ \$1,100.00) for the Aberdeen Electric Department. 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 for Mr. Guyvester Dobbs to attend the Mississippi Fire Academy, Pearl, MS / Fire Ground Leadership (SC-611), and \$317.05 for food and mileage. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the Revised Record Request Form. 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 refunding \$500.00 to Mrs. Bernice Hamilton. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the change of rank for the following City of Aberdeen Police Officers: Christopher Dobbins to Lieutenant, Lee Johnson to Lieutenant, and Santana Scales to Sergeant. 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 TABLE the approval of Commissioners for Fire, Police, Electric, Water, Public Works and Park & Recreation Departments until November 5, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the purchase of a city cellphone for Deputy City Clerk Devonshae Young. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve to TABLE the hiring of a Grant Writer for the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

Mayor Stevens opened the Cemetery Sealed Bids and read them aloud to the Board and the public:

1. Premiere Property Solutions, LLC -----\$276,500.00
2. JG All Do Lawn Service, LLC ----- \$93,600.00
3. Clean Cut Lawn Care, LLC ----- \$100,000.00
4. Wilson Hill Lawn Service -- ----- \$90,000.00
5. Matt’s Cut and Wash -- ----- \$172,440.67
6. Jeff Doty w/MS Landscape ----- \$261,846.00

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve to post and advertise to Re-Bid for Oddfellows Rest and Oaklawn Cemeteries. 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 Ivory to approve and pay the lowest Bid from Gregory Companies LLC, DBA, Murphree Paving, Tupelo, MS to pave Ewing Drive, Aberdeen, MS in the amount of \$28,765.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to authorize Ms. Karen Crump to open an account that’s specifically ear-marked for cemetery use, and the name of the account will be the City of Aberdeen Cemetery Fund. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve for City Attorney Zinn, Jr. and City Clerk Melissa Moore to revise and develop a new handbook 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 approve and pay Columbus Fence Company, LLC, Columbus, MS. for installing a Commercial Fence in the amount of \$3,875.00 for Aberdeen Park & Recreation. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to post and advertise in its entirety the MS Statues associated with Privilege License and Transient Vendors in the Monroe Journal Newspaper. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to declare void / nullify the 10% raise given to Mr. Richard Boone at the October 1, 2024, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay City Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr. Invoice in the amount of \$3,090.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay Docket of Claims dated October 15, 2024, excluding Cadence Equipment and Finance. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

Alderman Belle left the Board Meeting @ 8:57 PM

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay Docket of Claims dated October 15, 2024, including Cadence Equipment and Finance. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Belle “Recused”.

Alderman Belle returned to the Board Meeting @ 8:59 PM.

Alderman Cain expressed his concern regarding the violations that several departments received from the Mississippi Municipal Service Company, Risk Control Specialist Alan L. Bowen. Mr. Bowen provided each department head with a list of the violations.

Mr. Bowen shared in his report the purpose of the report is to support the City of Aberdeen efforts in improving the identification of hazards, helping reduce injuries and losses by improving safe working practices and sharing practical solutions.

Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday asked Ms. April Hampton to address the Board about the issues she has with the City. Ms. Hampton stated she resides at 1001 Ogle Street, Aberdeen, MS, and the owner of a double-wide mobile home came across the family property without permission. Alderman Holliday shared with Ms. Hampton that she cannot block the street, and access must be granted to the new homeowner. Alderman Holliday stated that Mr. Davis and his crew has been cutting grass and keeping the city clean. Alderman Holliday stated the Electric Department is out and about cutting and trimming trees throughout the city. Alderman Holliday mentioned the two quotes for the paving on Ewing Drive given by Murphree Paving (\$28,765.00) and Falcon Contracting Co, Inc. (\$40,350.00). Alderman Holliday is asking all elders to please come and participate with the Senior Citizens Program on a weekly basis. The Seniors play games, share activities and provided a hot meal.

Alderwoman Moore: Alderwoman Moore stated she enjoyed the Bukka White Festival. Alderwoman Moore stated there are several events going on in the City of Aberdeen: Costume Parade, Trunk or Treat, the Movie Bettle juice, and the Main Street Christmas Open House. Alderwoman Moore thanked the Mayor’s Youth Council for helping with Ward Two Cleanup, and a special thanks to Ms. Tashanda White and Mr. Christopher Cunningham. Alderwoman Moore shared with the Board that Men of Vision (MOV) will be having their 4th Annual Feed the City on Sunday, November 26, 2024, at Aberdeen Park and Recreation from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Alderwoman Moore had questions about the Invoice from the Monroe County Sheriff’s Office regarding the inmates, the Fuelman Invoice and the \$1.00 filing fee collected for public records.

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Alderman Ivory: Alderman Ivory stated the Tent Revival given by Pastor Red Holliday on October 12, 2024, was nice, and everyone enjoyed themselves. Alderman Ivory shared with the Board about the Breast Cancer Awareness Walk given by Ms. Paulette Walker and the Bukka White Festival. Everyone had a great time!

Alderman Belle: Alderman Belle thanked the citizens / tax payors for allowing him to attend the Small-Town Conference, Vicksburg, MS. Alderman Belle stated he learned about alcohol and liquor sells, how to conduct a Board Meeting and different types of grants. Mississippi Municipal League gives credits for attending classes. Alderman Belle stated that Ms. Crystal Heard had a Breast Cancer Walk in honor of her family member on Big John Road. Alderman Belle stated that Stinson Road and Murphree Circle have been overlooked and needs to be paved. A quote was given by MS Peanut Supply & Equipment Co, LLC and Hanna Contracting.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain shared the following with the Board:

1. A donation given to the city by Mr. and Mrs. Coggins in the amount of \$2,289.58.
2. City Attorney Zinn, Jr. and City Clerk Melissa Moore to revise and develop a new handbook for the City of Aberdeen.
3. To pay Columbus Fence Company, LLC, Columbus, MS / \$3,875.00
4. To advertise the statues associated with Privilege License and Transient Vendors in the Monroe Journal Newspaper.
5. To void / nullify the 10% raise given to Mr. Richard Boone

Citizen Input (2 minutes)

None

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn until the November 5, 2024, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk



Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor