

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**November 5, 2024  
5:00 P.M.**

**BE IT REMEMBERED THAT THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN/ALDERWOMEN 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:** Alderman Jeremy Belle

**ROLL CALL**

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore 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 proposed Minutes dated October 15, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve to accept the Bid from Continental Plumbing in the amount of \$32,800.00 for electrical work at the M & O Depot. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve Mr. William Patrick James to replace Mr. David Ewing on the Aberdeen Historic Preservation Board due to missing several meetings. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and award the lowest quote for the "CANAL STREET DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS" project to Hanna Contracting, Incorporated, Aberdeen, MS in the amount of \$51,015.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the Purchase Requisition Vendor Raborn Media, LLC, Madison, MS that was submitted by Ms. Tina Robins in the amount of \$9,812.71. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the TRAVEL REQUEST of Ms. Tina Robbins, TMP Executive Director to attend the Welcome Home Mississippi Retirement / Relocation Program, Madison, MS / November 13-14, 2024, Registration Fee: \$50.00 / Hotel Fee: \$129.00 nightly. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve an award the Bid submitted on a New Single Axle Cab Class 7 Straight Truck Chassis with an 8/9 – Yard Dump Body in the amount of \$117,987.00 to Tri State Truck Center, and it will be paid from the Water Equipment Fund. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore and Alderman Belle voted "Aye". Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Nay".

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the refund of a cemetery plot sold by the City of Aberdeen to Mrs. Bernice Hamilton in the amount of \$500.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and accept the resignation letter from city employee Mr. Undrea Hogan with an effective date October 28, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all charges according to state guidelines for Fireman Dontavious Lyons and Fireman Lazarus Haynes to attend the Hazardous Material Awareness and Operations Hybrid Training at the Mississippi State Fire Academy, Pearl, MS / November 10-15, 2024. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Belle Recused himself.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the purchase from Bunker Gear Specialist, LLC, Gonzales, LA in the amount of \$7,684.00 for Turn Out Gear for the graduate at the Mississippi Fire Academy. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to amend the Purchase Requisition #045421 that was made payable to Sunbelt Fire, Incorporated on November 1, 2024 in the amount of \$678.20 for Engine #7, and approve to pay Purchase Requisition #045479 to Sunbelt Fire Inc. in the amount of \$7,165.35 for the additional repairs to Engine #7. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to set aside the decision to pay Bunker Gear Specialist (BGS) in the amount of \$7,684.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to authorize the City of Aberdeen to complete an application and conduct business with Bunker Gear Specialist, LLC, Gonzales, LA for fire equipment for the Aberdeen Fire Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the purchase from Bunker Gear Specialist, LLC, Gonzales, LA in the amount of \$7,684.00 for Turn Out Gear for the Aberdeen Fire Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and accept the resignation letter from city employee Mr. Patrick Gholston with an effective date October 20, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve and accept the resignation letter from city employee Mr. Justin Sheely with an effective date October 18, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve Elected Officials Training and pay all charges according to state guidelines for Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderwoman Moore to attend the 2024-2025 Board Member Management Training, Tupelo, MS / October 21, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all charges according to state guidelines for Ms. Melissa Moore to attend the Winter Clerk Conference, Flowood, MS / December 11-13, 2024 / Registration Fee: \$250.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Employee and Elected Officials Training and pay all charges according to state guidelines for Dwight Stevens, Nicholas Holliday, Rhonda Moore, James Ivory, Jeremy Belle and Melissa Moore with an exclusion of John Cain to attend the 2025 Mid-Winter Legislative Conference, Jackson, MS / January 14-16, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve for City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. to attend the 2025 Mid-Winter Legislative Conference, Jackson, MS / January 14-16, 2025 and pay all charges according to state guidelines. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the PROCLAMATION from the Office of the Governor Tate Reeves to authorize closing of all offices on Thursday, November 28, 2024, in observance of THANKSGIVING DAY, on Wednesday, December 25, 2024, in observance of CHRISTMAS DAY, and on Wednesday, January 1, 2025, in observance of NEW YEAR'S DAY; and further observation on Friday, November 29, 2024 for Thanksgiving holiday, Tuesday, December 24, 2024, in further observance of the Christmas season. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the REVISION to Section 2 of the Aberdeen Public Records Request Form. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve to TABLE the hiring of a 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 approve and award the Annual Bid for Oddfellows Rest and Oaklawn Cemeteries to Clean Cut Lawn Care, Aberdeen, MS in the amount of \$100,000. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to authorize Attorney Zinn, Jr. to research Great Whip Cream Charger Master (Huffing). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay the Purchase Requisition from the Water Department for Perma Corporation, Columbus, MS in the amount of \$15,644.87 for the Emergency Sewer Line Repair on North Maple Street, Aberdeen, MS. 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 Purchase Requisition from the Police Department for Holloway's Body Shop, Aberdeen, MS in the amount of \$5,314.07 for Unit #19 Repairs. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Moore and Alderman Ivory weren't present to vote.

A motion made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and authorize payment for the DISBURSEMENT REQUEST AND AUTHORIZATION from The First Bank, Aberdeen, MS Prepaid Finance Charges in the amount of \$280.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye"

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated November 5, 2024, including Cadence line items. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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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 November 5, 2024, **EXCEPT** Cadence line items. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Belle Recused himself. (Alderman Belle exited the meeting at 7:31pm and returned to the meeting at 7:33pm)

**Mayor Report:** Mayor Stevens invited Mrs. Kathy Seymour to the Board Meeting to discuss the following:

1. To accept Bid from Continental Plumbing in the amount of \$32, 800.00 for electrical work at the M&O Depot. The two previous Bid amounts were \$69,200.00 and \$118,097.00
2. To accept an appointment of Mr. William P. James to the Aberdeen Historic Preservation Board

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. Dustin Dabbs of Dabbs Corporation to the Board to update them on the Canal Street Drainage Improvements Project. Mr. Dabbs provided two Quotes:

1. Hanna Construction in the amount of \$51,015.00
2. James A. Hodges Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$68,858.00

Mr. Dabbs shared with the Board there are some Inlets on Bulldog Drive as you approach Commerce Street up to the Aberdeen High School that needs some repairs. City Inspector Roy Haynes shared with the Board that the Inlets are working fine, and the only problem on the City side is the Top on the Inlets isn't safe. Mr. Dabbs shared with the Board that he would like to review it and come up with a plan and bring quotes to the Board. Mr. Dabbs stated he will discuss the details with Mr. Haynes. Mr. Dabbs stated that he discussed the new jail issue with Chief Shumpert, and will report back to the Board toward the end of this year.

Mayor Stevens asked Ms. Tina Robbins to update the Board on any new business and events happening in the City of Aberdeen. Ms. Robbins provided the Board with the following updates:

1. Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau has completed year one of the expenditures from the ARPA Funding
2. Website Hosting & Maintenance
3. Ad Dollar Reimbursement Facebook Ads
4. MAGCOR Rack Cards / Christmas
5. Alabama Media Group

Ms. Robbins stated the following events taken place in the City of Aberdeen:

1. Veterans Day Breakfast – November 9, 2024 @ 7:00 AM
2. Sip-n-Shop – November 14, 2024 from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
3. Holiday Market at the Depot – November 19, 2024 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM
4. Turkey Stroll Scavenger Hunt – November 28, 2024 from 8:00 AM-8:00PM
5. MOV Community Thanksgiving – November 21, 2024 from 1:00 PM-3:00PM
6. Christmas Parade – December 3, 2024 @ 6:30 PM

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City Inspector/Code Enforcer Roy Haynes came before the Board to ask if they had any questions, concerns or issues involving the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Cain asked Mr. Haynes if he has mailed any letters to owners of rental properties. Mr. Haynes answered no. Alderman Cain asked Attorney Zinn, Jr. if this was permissible, and the response was no. Attorney Zinn, Jr. stated a letter can be drafted for Mr. Haynes to mail out to property owners.

Alderman Cain stated that he wants it to be notated in the Minutes who need to be notified to enforce vendors that may be operating illegally in the City of Aberdeen. Attorney Zinn, Jr. shared with the Board if vendors haven't been inspected by the Code Enforcer and Fire Marshall, and completed the paperwork in the City Clerk's Office they have violated the law and at that time law enforcement needs to be notified. Alderman Cain asked Mr. Haynes to start enforcing the apartment ordinance. Alderwoman Moore asked Mr. Haynes to briefly explain to the Board and the people present at this meeting the amount of funds in your budget to demolish houses and maintain the properties not being mowed by property owners.

Mr. Haynes shared with everyone that he only has \$15,000.00 in his Budget to demolish abandon homes and businesses and keep the grass mowed at abandoned property. Chief Shumpert would like for the City Clerk's Office to notify his department of any vendors that don't have the proper paperwork to operate their business in the City of Aberdeen. Alderwoman Moore asked Mr. Haynes to explain the process of vehicles on the side of the street. Mr. Haynes stated he can tag the vehicles and allow the owners time to remove the abandon vehicles. If the owner ignores the violation (tag) after the 7-10 days time frame a wrecker service will be called to tow the vehicle.

Mayor Stevens asked Mr. Emory Mullins to share with the Board the Reverse Auction process regarding the purchase of the Single Axle Cab Class 7 Straight Truck Chassis with an 8/9 – Yard Dump Body for the Water Department. Alderman Cain asked Mr. Mullins to explain the 4% fee PH Bidding charges for handling the Reverse Auction.

Mayor Stevens invited WATCO Sales Manager, Mr. David Fiveash and Mr. Jim to update the Board about the Aberdeen Port. Mr. Fiveash shared with the Board they're waiting to do business with the City of Aberdeen, and help out in any way they can in getting the Port to the next phase. Ms. Kelly Martin from Monroe County Chamber of Commerce shared with the Board that she's happy to work with WATCO, Ms. Moore and Neel Schaffer to see what grants are available in helping with the repairs needed for the Port.

Alderman Holliday congratulated City Clerk Melissa Moore for completing the requirements prescribed by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks and receiving the certification in becoming a Certified Municipal Clerk with IIMC.

Alderman Cain asked City Attorney Zinn, Jr. to clarify if a refund may or may not be given to a family member once a cemetery plot have been purchased from the City.

Mayor Stevens provide the Board with a typed letter stating that he will be out of the office November 6-7, 2024, and asked Alderman Holliday to sign all the checks.

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### **Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:**

**Alderman Holliday:** Alderman Holliday stated he is advocating for the community to help ban the Great Whip Cream Charger Master aka Huffing that young people are inhaling and causing bodily harm to their bodies, maybe even death. Alderman Holliday will try to get this item ban from all stores in Aberdeen. Alderman Holliday has communicated with paving companies and the Board about streets that need paving in Aberdeen. Alderman Holliday is trying to utilize the small amount of funds the City have without taking out another Bond to pave the streets within the City. Alderman Holliday thanked Mr. Collins and the Water Department crew for all their hard work in the community, and a hearty thanks to Mr. Boone for assisting and lending a helping hand to the Water Department. Alderman Holliday will be passing out flyers for a clean-up in Ward One around the first weekend in December.

**Alderwoman Moore:** Alderwoman Moore thanked Mr. Collins (Water Department) and Mr. Boone (Street Department) for taking care of the street repairs in Ward Two. Alderwoman Moore asked Mr. Collins to please go back and revisit some of streets that's beginning to sink again, especially on Cook Drive and Burnett Street. Alderwoman Moore commended Ms. White and her Advisors for doing an outstanding job on the Mayor's Youth Council Ball. The event was really nice and everyone had a great time. Alderwoman Moore invited everyone to come and support MOV 4<sup>th</sup> annual Feed the City on Sunday, November 24, 2024 from 1:00 PM-3:00 PM, Free food and community fellowship.

**Alderman Ivory:** Alderman Ivory stated that several things are going on in the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Ivory stated that Mayor Stevens be going places to try and bring development to the city, and he's asking the Board to give the mayor more credit and continue to encourage him to work hard for the City of Aberdeen.

**Alderman Belle:** Alderman Belle stated he received several calls about the littering in Ward Four. It's stopping up the sewer and drains. Alderman Belle stated if you see someone lettering, please let him know and the local authorities will be notified. Alderman Belle mentioned the repairs needed on Murphy's Circle and Stinson Road, and the two quotes he received from contractors. Alderman Belle had a discussion with Mr. Boone about a Laborer spot in his Street Department Budget. It was agreed that discussion needs to take place in Closed Determination.

**Alderman Cain:** Alderman Cain commended Alderwoman Moore on her attire she wore to the Mayor's Youth Council Banquet and congratulated her on the award she received from MYC. Alderman Cain apologize for missing the MYC Ball, and he will be clearing his schedule to be able to attend more city events. Alderman Cain mentioned the contract given to the City of Aberdeen from Monroe County Supervisors involving the housing of the inmates. Attorney Zinn, Jr. stated the contract needs to be discussed in Closed Determination.

### **Citizen Input (2 minutes)**

Ms. Latonya Courtney shared a letter with the Board regarding Deputy City Clerk Mrs. Young, and her behavior.

Mr. Tyrone Rodgers resides at 204 East Jefferson Street, Aberdeen, MS and he has a complaint about his neighbor's house not being maintained and it makes it difficult for him to enjoy his front and back yard. Mr. Rodgers stated it's a tree in the neighbor's yard that's leaning and about to fall in his back yard.

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Mr. Andrew Dilworth aka Cowboy shared with the Board that he has work that needs to be done at his home, but if the City would allow him to do the work and credit payment to his city fines, it would help out a lot. Attorney Zinn, Jr. stated the Board can look into it to make sure its legal. Mr. Dilworth resides at 510 South Hickory Street, Aberdeen, MS.

Mr. Albert Barker asked the Board to support the Bulldog Alumni Association Black Tie Event on Friday, November 29, 2024 @ 7:00PM. All proceeds will go toward scholarships for the Aberdeen School District.

Mr. Richard Caradine shared with the Board that he's willing to assist with cleaning up the leaves in the City.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, second by Alderman Cain to enter into a closed determination to ascertain whether or not 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 Belle 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 concerning Deputy City Clerk Devonshae Young in the City Clerk's Office, Public Works Director Richard Boone, and Chief Quinell Shumpert on the hiring of an Assistant Police Chief; Monroe County Chamber of Commerce Kelly Martin regarding projects for the City of Aberdeen. 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 concerning Deputy City Clerk Devonshae Young in the City Clerk's Office, Public Works Director Richard Boone, and Chief Quinell Shumpert on the hiring of an Assistant Police Chief; Monroe County Chamber of Commerce Kelly Martin regarding projects for the City of Aberdeen.

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 Belle to authorize the city to setup an account with Tractor and Supply. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

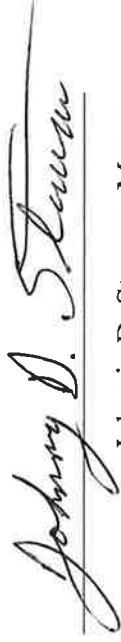
A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to post and advertise the City Council and Legal Budgeted Expense Reports for the month ending September 30, 2024 that exceeded ten percent (10%) from \$88,624.00 to \$101,093.52. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, second by Alderman Holliday to approve and authorize GovDeals to release a payment to the City of Aberdeen in the amount of \$1,525.00 for Asset 7 (5 cast iron storage tanks at the Port). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to accept and approve the recommendation from Chief Quinell Shumpert in promoting Captain Kelly Drake to Assistant Chief of Police with a rate of pay of \$23.81 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn until the November 19, 2024, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".



Johnnie D. Stevens, Mayor

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk