

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**November 19, 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 Cain to approve the proposed Minutes dated November 5, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the Special Called Meeting dated November 12, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve an authorize the Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau to move the ARPA Account Funds at The First Bank from a Non-Bearing Interest Account to an Interest-Bearing Account with a balance of \$139,151.70. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

The Board agreed to PASS on the transfer of TKO Staff Pros Employee Frederick Blanchard from the Street Department to the Water Department.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all charges according to state guidelines for Roy Haynes to attend the 2024 ICC CODE TRAINING CLASS for Plumbing, Mechanical, and Gas Code (PMG), Oxford, MS / November 21, 2024. This is a Free Class. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

The Board agreed to PASS on General Manager LaMarcus Thompson training at the 2024 Executive Summit, Nashville, TN / December 3-4, 2024. Mr. Thompson agreed to cancel until a later date.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all charges according to state guidelines for Richard Boone to attend the APWA Public Works Officials Executive Management Certificate Program Conference, Athens, GA / January 28-31, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all charges according to state guidelines for Tohona Larthridge to attend the APWA Public Works Officials Executive Management Certificate Program Conference, Athens, GA / January 28-31, 2024. 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 SET ASIDE the Action approving Employee Enhancement and paying all charges according to state guidelines for Richard Boone to attend the APWA Public Works Officials Executive Management Certificate Program Conference, Athens, GA / January 28-31, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the hiring of Charity Davis as a full-time police officer for the Aberdeen Police Department at a rate of pay of \$14.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

The Board agreed to PASS on the hiring of a full-time police officer for the Aberdeen Police Department.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated November 19, 2024, **EXCEPT** Cadence and any of its subsidiaries. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated November 19, 2024, **INCLUDING** Cadence and al its subsidiaries. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Belle Recused. Alderman Belle stepped away from the meeting at 6:20PM and returned at 6:23PM.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve to pay City Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr. invoice in the amount of \$3,385.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve to pay Frank Jones for the Rewire and Replacement of Lights in the basement of the High Street Community Center in the amount of \$2,045.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

**Mayor Report:** Mayor Stevens asked Ms. Robbins to update the Board Members on any new business and events going on within the City of Aberdeen. Ms. Robbins gave the Mayor and Board of Aldermen / Alderwoman invitations for the Christmas Parade and would like to know in a timely manner who’s participating in the parade. Ms. Robbins reminded everyone of the deadline for completing an application and paying the entrance fee for the Christmas Parade.

Ms. Robbins informed the Board that Raborn Media will change their billing process in January 2025 to only receive bank drafts for ACH. Ms. Robbins stated that Ms. Crump asked her to discuss this with City Attorney Zinn, Jr., to see if this process can be arranged due to the fact it’s never been done this way. City Attorney Zinn, Jr. asked Ms. Robbins to please allow him time to review the information, and he’ll discuss his findings with her later.

Ms. Robbins asked the Board for approval to move the ARPA funds from a Non-Bearing Interest Account to an Interest-Bearing Account. The account is with The First Bank, and the remaining balance as of October 2024 is \$139,151.70, and the money must be spent by 2026.

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Ms. Tina Robbins shared the following events happening in the City of Aberdeen:

1. Holiday Market and Tree Lighting being hosted by Aberdeen Main Street at the Depot / November 21, 2024, beginning at 4:00 PM
2. M.O.V. hosting their Annual Feed the City / November 24, 2024, from 1:00PM-3:00PM
3. Aberdeen Christmas Parade / December 3, 2024, beginning at 6:30PM

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. Bryan Warren with Custom Insurance Concepts to the Board Meeting to introduce himself and share with the Board the pricing and benefits that's being offered for the next calendar year for the City of Aberdeen Employees. Mr. Warren is the current insurance representative for the City of Aberdeen that handles the Dental and Vision Policies through Ameritus. Mr. Warren stated that Ameritus rates will not change. They will remain the same. The Proposed Effective Date: 1/1/2025

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. William Sanford with Benefits Management Group to the Board Meeting to share with the Board the pricing and benefits for Dental, Vision, Accident and Critical Illness Plans. Mr. Sanford would like for the Board Members to review the packet of information and consider Benefits Management Group in handling the City's Dental, Vision, Accident and Critical Illness needs.

Mayor Stevens invited Ms. Anna Dobbs with Citadel Insurance Group to share with the Board the benefits being offered that will save the city and employees money. Ms. Dobbs stated the plan will save the city money to their bottom line by reducing payroll taxes, and employees will enjoy benefits at no cost to them or the employer. Ms. Dobbs will send additional information to City Clerk Melissa Moore to forward to the Mayor and Board to review and discuss later.

Mayor Stevens shared two quotes with the Board that were given to him by Leadman Marcus Collins to do repair work on a Sewer Main on Pullen Lake Road, Aberdeen, MS. The two quotes are: Paul Smithy Construction Company, Inc., Belden, MS in the amount of \$55,090.00, and PERMA CORP Utilities Construction, Columbus, MS in the amount of \$14,000.00. Mayor Stevens stated the repair was an emergency. City Attorney Zinn, Jr. stated that if this was an emergency any company that was available and could do the work should've been doing the repairs and reporting to the Board if and how the repairs could be done. Alderman Cain stated that it's mandatory to have a superintendent over the Water and Sewer Department.

Mayor Stevens asked City Attorney Zinn, Jr. if he reviewed the Municipal Inmate Housing Agreement given to the City of Aberdeen by the Monroe County Board of Supervisors. Attorney Zinn, Jr. asked that this issue be discussed in Closed Determination to address the contractual concerns at that time.

**Aldermen/Alderwomen Input:**

**Alderman Holliday:** Alderman Holliday commended the Street Department on staying busy and taking care of the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Holliday asked Mr. Boone to do a little preventative maintenance by cutting down tree limbs hanging over-power lines. Alderman Holliday appreciated the Electric Department Crew for trimming and cutting tree branches throughout the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Holliday stated that engineers are working throughout the city trying to fix the water issues, and he's asking everyone to please be patient. Alderman Holliday asked the Street and Water Department to keep working hard and keep up the good work.

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**Alderwoman Moore:** Alderwoman Moore stated she received several calls from residents complaining about condemned house being torn down, and the owners not cleaning up the debris. The issues are located on James, Monroe, Matubba, and Canal Streets. Alderwoman Moore shared with Mr. Boone that a resident called her about needing one of the blue garbage cans. Alderwoman Moore received several calls about cars parked on the side of the streets blocking the view of drivers. Alderwoman Moore shared with Alderman Holliday that it's a couple of cars parked on the side of the street in his Ward that she discussed with him. Alderwoman Moore started several people have asked her about the status and progress of the truck stop. Alderwoman Moore invited everyone to come and fellowship and eat a hot delicious with M.O.V. on Sunday, November 24, 2024, beginning at 1:00PM.

**Alderman Ivory:** Alderman Ivory commended Mr. Boone and his crew on the good job they're doing throughout the city. Alderman Ivory stated he constantly remind residents the work that's going on behind the scenes in the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Ivory asked Mayor Stevens share with everyone the proposed projects coming to the City of Aberdeen. Mayor Stevens stated the following: Boats will be traveling down the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway in February 2025, Meeting with Mayor Corey Glenn about the \$2.5 million to repair the Dock Wall and move the Rail Spur to the next phase.

**Alderman Belle:** Alderman Belle stated the most issues he's having in Ward Four is sewer issues, and it's causing sewer spillage in the neighbor's yard. Alderman Belle commended Mr. Boone and his crew and Mr. Collins and his crew for doing a good job throughout the City of Aberdeen and asking everyone to please be patient as work is being done to fix the sewer issues.

**Alderman Cain:** Alderman Cain stated Comptroller Karen Crump informed him that Park and Recreation Director Fernando Davis would rather for Terry Morgan to have a cellphone instead of Larry Darty. Ms. Crump shared with the Board that Mr. Davis stated that Larry Darty will not answer his cellphone when you call him. Alderman Cain stated this matter will be discussed in Closed Determination. Alderman Cain stated the Board were supposed to install Retirement Benefits for Officer Bobby McFarland. Ms. Crump was asked to share the information regarding Mr. McFarland's Retirement with the Board. Alderman Cain mentioned the Park & Recreation and Community Center Contracts and was told they will be discussed in Closed Determination.

### Citizen Input (2 minutes)

**Ms. Viki Mason asked the Board about issues being taken in Closed Determination**

**Ms. Tina Robbins asked about the recent traffic study done by the city**

**Mr. Albert Barker made a statement about the city's retirement benefits**

**Ms. Joyce Vasser talked about the St. Jude Bowl-a-Thon**

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, second by Alderman Holliday to enter a 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 Holliday to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues with Court Clerk Janel Davidson, WATCO Contract and Park & Recreation Gym and High Street Community Center Contracts. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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The Mayor and Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues with Court Clerk Janel Davidson, WATCO Contract and Park & Recreation Gym and High Street Community Center Contracts.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, 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 terminate Court Clerk Janel Davidson effective immediately. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Moore and Alderman Belle voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, second by Alderman Holliday to increase Deputy City Clerk Devonshae Young salary by 10% while she serves as an interim Municipal Court Clerk on a temporarily basis. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve to post and advertise for a Municipal Court Clerk. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to adjourn until the December 3, 2024, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Attest:

  
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Melissa Moore, Certified Municipal Clerk

  
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Johnnie D. Stevens, Mayor