

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**DECEMBER 3, 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.**

**Meeting by telephone: Alderman Holliday was in attendance for the meeting on the telephone from 5:00 PM – 5:45 PM.**

**Invocation:** Mayor Johnnie D. Stevens

**ROLL CALL**

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle 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 Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the Board Minutes dated November 19, 2024. 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 three new members for the Aberdeen Housing Authority. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the **2024 ARPA WATER SUPPLY IMPROVEMENT'S PART 1: NEW ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK: MAGUIRE IRON, INC. – PAY REQUEST NO. 1** in the amount of \$269,841.19 that will be paid from the ARPA Funds. On a roll call vote, all voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Norris James to attend the 2025 Mid-Winter Fire Chief Conference, Meridian, MS / January 8-9, 2025 / Registration Fee: \$100.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Belle Recused from the meeting at 5:20 PM and returned to the meeting at 5:23 PM.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve to post and advertise the free smoke detectors that will be given away at the Aberdeen Fire Department. On a roll call vote, all voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the BBI Invoice in the amount of \$1200.00 for the calendar year January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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### **Mayor Report:**

Mayor Stevens allowed Aberdeen Fire Chief Norris James to address the Board about working with an External Grant Writer to get grants in helping with the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), fire trucks and other equipment the fire department needs. Fire Chief James shared the name of the consulting firm: JMC&M Consulting. Fire Chief James stated there is no charge up front to write the grant, and if the project receives a grant award the city will owe JMC&M 6.25% of the funded amount for project administration.

Aberdeen Fire Chief James mentioned to the Board that the City of Okolona would like to have one of Aberdeen Fire Trucks to be in their Christmas Parade on December 10, 2024, at 7:00 PM. The entry fee is \$25.00. Alderman Cain shared with Chief James that City Attorney Zinn, Jr. will advise the Board if it's okay to allow this or not, and follow-up with Chief James with an answer.

Mayor Stevens allowed Mr. Warren from Ameritus Insurance to address the Board. Mr. Warren wanted to know from the Board if they had any questions or concerns since the last meeting regarding the benefits, coverage and prices. Alderman Cain shared with Mr. Warren that the Board will be deciding at the next meeting on December 17, 2024.

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. Dustin Dabbs, Dabbs Corporation, to update the Board on the Canal Project. Mr. Dabbs shared with the Board the Inlets for Canal Street has been ordered, and once he receives them, they will start working on that project. Mr. Dabbs stated it should take about two weeks to complete the project, and everything should be covered up by the end of this year.

Mr. Dabbs shared with the Board that the Inlets at the High School must be replaced, and he will bring a proposal to the next Board Meeting.

### **Aldermen/Aldерwoman Input:**

**Alderman Holliday:** Alderman Holliday shared the following with the Board:

1. The Street Department is cleaning up streets and getting branches cut down in and around power lines in Ward One and within the city.
2. Asking everyone to check on the elderly within your community due to the freezing temperatures. Alderman Holliday will be having a heater drive in the next couple of weeks.

**Aldерwoman Moore:** Aldерwoman Moore shared the following with the Board:

1. For everyone to have a safe, happy and blessed holiday season. Merry Christmas everyone.

**Alderman Ivory:** Alderman Ivory shared the following with the Board:

1. Expecting a big turnout for the Aberdeen Christmas Parade
2. Appreciating the citizens for being patient with the Board as we try to move the city forward and in the right direction.
3. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas

**Alderman Belle:** Alderman Belle shared the following with the Board:

1. Received calls about streetlights being out on Thayer Avenue and by Wendy's Restaurant.
2. Making sure the city is prepared for inclement weather
3. Asking everyone to be safe and enjoy the Christmas Parade

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

1. Thanks to Ms. Tina Robbins (Aberdeen Visitor's Bureau), Aberdeen Main Street, The Rotary Club, The City of Aberdeen, Mr. Boone, The Chamber of Commerce, and everyone that volunteered in making the events a success, and tonight's Christmas Parade.
2. Received calls about the water situation and will try to move forward in 2025 in addressing the issues.

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

Ms. Joyce Vasser thanked everyone who donated to the St. Jude Fundraiser. It was a huge success! Ms. Vasser is still accepting donations for St. Jude.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain to enter in closed determination to ascertain whether if we need to go into Executive Session.

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 Belle to enter in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding the Aberdeen Fire Department Employees, the termination of Public Works Mechanic Daniel Fleming, and the three weeks paid time leave for Water Department previous employee Undrea Hogan. 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 issues regarding the Aberdeen Fire Department Employees, the termination of Public Works Mechanic Daniel Fleming, and the three weeks paid time leave for Water Department previous employee Undrea Hogan. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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 and pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated December 3, 2024, **including** Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Belle Recused from meeting at 6:17 PM and returned to the meeting at 6:19 PM.

Alderman James Ivory left the meeting at 6:17 PM to attend to the Christmas Parade.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated December 3, 2024, **excluding** Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to accept the resignation letter of City Employee Eric Potts to go from a full-time police officer to a part-time police officer with an effective date on December 15, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to suspend City Employee Daniel Fleming for 30 days with no pay with an effective date of December 4, 2024, and Mr. Fleming must pay out-of-pocket expense for Urine Drug Screen in 30 days. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”.

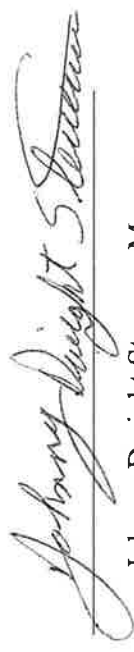
A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and pay the Nighthawk Invoice, (A TESCO COMPANY) in the amount of \$29,031.18 for Adara 25/200 Meters w/Disconnect for Aberdeen Public Utilities. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve and pay City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. invoice in the amount of \$3,682.50. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to adjourn until the December 17, 2024, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”.

Attest:

  
Melissa Moore, City Clerk



Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor