

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM
DECEMBER 17, 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 John Cain

Invocation: Mr. Richard Boone

ROLL CALL

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, 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 Belle, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the Board Minutes dated December 3, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the Special Called Board Minutes dated December 4, 2024. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Ms. Tina Robbins to attend the Welcome Home Mississippi (Retire/Relocate Program) Ideal Living Trade Show, McLean VA/Washington, D.C. / February 21-24, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Ivory, seconded by Alderman Belle approving and giving permission to Mrs. Ann Tackett with Aberdeen Main Street in placing the Welcome to Aberdeen sign on the City property located on the corner of Commerce and Matubba Street, along with a Memorandum of Understanding will be signed by the City of Aberdeen and Aberdeen Main Street. On a roll call vote, all voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the 48-month Subscription Merchant Agreement for the Credit Card Machine in the City Clerk's Office in the amount of \$54.95. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, no seconded was given to approve and give permission for Ms. Victoria Loggan to attend he Monroe County Sheriff's Department Part-Time Police Academy, Aberdeen, MS / January 2025 / Fee: \$500.00. Motion Died. It will be discussed in Closed Determination.

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A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the Contract between the City of Aberdeen, Watson Structural Engineers, and MS Department of Archives and History for the assessment project for the High Street Community Center. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to accept the resignation of City Employee Brent Thompson. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the City of Aberdeen to pay \$2,500.00 along with Monroe County Chamber of Commerce \$2,500.00 and Prince Oil \$5,000.00 for the investment in the City of Aberdeen for the Road Study. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle for Mayor Dwight Stevens to pay Restitution to the City of Aberdeen in the amount of \$1,632.00 for the time Mr. Undrea Hogan was sent home, and the matter never handled at a Board Meeting in a timely manner. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Ivory voted “Nay”.

Mayor Report:

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. William Sanford with Benefits Management Group Insurance (Dental / Vision) to speak to the Board and provide additional information regarding the benefits and hoping the Board decides on making B.M.G. Insurance the dental and vision carrier for the City of Aberdeen Employees.

Mayor Stevens asked Ms. Tina Robbins to share the events happening in the City of Aberdeen. Ms. Robbins shared the Christmas in Aberdeen activities: Holiday Market, Jingle & Mingle Shopping Night, The Winter Ball, The City Hall Angel Tree, Care Center of Aberdeen Care Packages, Polar Express, Meet & Greet Santa, Mrs. Claus, and the Grinch at Freshly’s Market, and The Cantata at First Baptist Church. Ms. Robbins stated that the Pilgrimage is being promoted this month and Mardi Gras after the first of the year.

Mayor Stevens invited Ms. Anna Dobbs with Citadel Insurance Company to re-cap the benefits of the company to the Board, and the savings for the City and Employees. Ms. Dobbs stated the “No cost Voluntary Employee Benefits Plan” would save the City of Aberdeen money on their payroll taxes. The Board asked Attorney Zinn, Jr., if he had the chance to review the agreement stating the company benefits. Attorney Zinn, Jr., shared with the Board that no one has emailed him an agreement to review. Ms. Dobbs shared with the Board that she will email the Citadel Agreement to Attorney Zinn, Jr. and City Clerk Melissa Moore.

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. Dustin Dabbs, Dabbs Corporation, to update the Board on the Canal Street Project. Mr. Dabbs shared with the Board that the Inlets didn’t come in, and after talking with John Hanna it will be January before the work begins. Mayor Stevens shared with Mr. Dabbs that someone had removed the barricades that were placed on Canal Street. Alderman Cain asked Mr. Dabbs if the area can be filled with crusher stone for the time being, and his response was yes. Mr. Dabbs will follow up with Mr. Hanna to make sure this is done.

Mr. Dabbs stated he has two quotes on the Inlets and Pipes Repair that needs to be done on Bulldog Drive in front of the Aberdeen High School. Mr. Dabbs stated the quotes were too expensive, and he recommends working with Public Works and doing the work for half the cost. The lowest Bid was quoted at \$32,000.00.

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Mayor Stevens asked the Board about approving the Full Color LED Welcome to Aberdeen sign and placing it on City property. Attorney Zinn, Jr. shared with the Board that his only issue/concern with the sign being placed on City property is the mechanism of getting the announcements put on the sign, and who will have the access to do so. Ms. Tina Robbins stated Aberdeen Main Street will be contacted about the announcements. Attorney Zinn, Jr. recommended that an MOU be done giving the City of Aberdeen a partnership in things being said and done as it relates to the sign being on City property.

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board that three appointments will need to be chosen for the Aberdeen Housing Authority Board. Alderman Holliday stated that a decision will be made once the Board comes out of Closed Determination.

Mayor Stevens shared with Alderman Cain that he needs to refund the City of Aberdeen the travel expenses given to him for the training in Oxford, MS. Mayor Stevens stated that Alderman Cain rode with him instead of driving to Oxford. Alderman Cain shared with the Board that he refunded the money in a form of a check that was given to the City Clerk.

Aldermen/Alderwoman Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday asked that everyone please check on the elderly in the community due to the changing of the weather. Alderman Holliday stated the Street Department has been busy working within the City of Aberdeen, and please be patient with them. Alderman Holliday stated the Electric Department is trimming back trees and limbs within the city and doing preventative maintenance for the months to come when the inclement weather (snow and ice) falls on the city. Alderman Holliday commended the Street, Electric and Water Departments for all the hard work they've been doing in the city.

Alderwoman Moore: Alderwoman Moore wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a safe holiday.

Alderman Ivory: Alderman Ivory Moore wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and asking everyone to pray for the City of Aberdeen and the City Employees.

Alderman Belle: Alderman Belle wished everyone a safe and happy holiday season. Alderman Belle asked that everyone please reach out to ones that have lost loved ones during this holiday season and offer them some encouraging words.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Alderman Cain stated that 2024 was a challenging year in many ways and different for everyone. Alderman Cain wanted to know if the City of Aberdeen Administration has the ARPA Funds properly identified and there's no chance the City of Aberdeen would lose the money. Alderman Cain asked Mayor Stevens about the \$2,500.00 Three Rivers pledged to the City of Aberdeen for the Road Study that needs to be done for the truck stop. Mayor Stevens stated that it was The Monroe County Chamber of Commerce and not Three Rivers.

Alderman Cain shared with the Board the money that was paid to a previous city employee that was sent home for quite some time must be paid back to the City of Aberdeen. The amount given to Alderman Cain by Comptroller Karen Crump was \$1,632.00. Alderman Cain stated that he had a conversation and was pleased with Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Belle and Alderman Holliday on the positive attitude and outlook they have about the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Cain shared with Alderman Ivory that he will be talking with him later.

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Citizen Input (2 minutes)

No citizen input was given.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday 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 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 Belle to enter in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues involving Comptroller Karen Crump and City Clerk Melissa Moore, overtime at the Electric Department, and Fire Department employees Kemar Sims, Devontae Lyons and Dejuante Ewing for not reporting to work. Also, litigation involving Brandon Lenoir, Unemployment Hearing for previous city employee Janel McMillian Davidson, and the hiring of a Municipal Court Clerk. 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 involving Comptroller Karen Crump and City Clerk Melissa Moore, overtime in the Electric Department, and Fire Department employees Kemar Sims, Devontae Lyons and Dejuante Ewing for not reporting to work. Also, litigation involving Brandon Lenoir and the City of Aberdeen, Unemployment Hearing involving previous city employee Janel McMillian Davidson, and the hiring of a Municipal Court Clerk. 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 Alderwoman Moore to approve and pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated December 17, 2024, **excluding** Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve and pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated December 17, 2024, **including** Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Belle Recused from meeting at 7:18 PM and returned to the meeting at 7:20PM PM.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve and give permission to Comptroller Karen Crump to complete an application with Union Auto Parts, 1901 IAC Drive, Memphis, TN 38116. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Ms. Victoria Loggan to attend the Monroe County Sheriff’s Department Part-Time Police Academy, Aberdeen, MS / January 2025 / Fee: \$500.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and pay City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr. invoice in the amount of \$3,465.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve overtime pay for Fire Chief Norris James until December 31, 2024. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Belle Recused from the meeting at 7:26PM and returned to the meeting at 7:30PM.

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the hiring of Mrs. Shelia James as the full-time Municipal Court Clerk at a rate of pay of \$17.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Ameritus Insurance Company for the Dental, Vision and Hearing Insurance for the City of Aberdeen for the calendar year January 1, 2025, thru December 31, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to accept the resignation of full-time city employee Michael Boyd with an effective date of December 30, 2024, but remain as a part-time police officer for the Aberdeen Police Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to hire three Board Members for the Aberdeen Housing Authority. No vote was given, and Motions by Alderman Holliday and Alderman Cain were Rescinded.

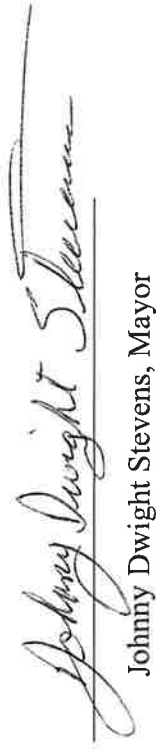
A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to Amend Docket of Claims dated December 17, 2024, and **Exclude** Inmate Housing Invoice in the amount of \$1,250.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to review General Manager LaMarcus Thompson salary at Aberdeen Public Utilities and no longer permit Mr. Thompson to receive any more over time. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Ivory to adjourn until the January 7, 2025, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Belle, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Holliday voted "Nay".

Attest:


Melissa Moore, City Clerk


Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor