

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

JANUARY 21, 2025

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. Richard Boone

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 Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the Board Minutes dated January 7, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the Special Called Board Minutes dated January 8, 2025. 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 Ms. Tina Robbins to attend the AL/TN/MS Rural Tourism Association Board of Directors Meeting and Conferencing Planning Meeting, Pickwick, TN / January 23-24, 2025 / Registration Fee: \$0.00 / Hotel Expense: \$119.00 per night. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the refund to Mrs. Sierra Walker-White, 1115 Elk Circle Aberdeen, MS 39730 for the overpayment she paid on her electric bill in the amount of \$210.71 (\$160.71 plus \$50.00 reconnect fee). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Ivory, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay Contract Change Order No. 1 to cover the costs for Lagoon Dewatering in the amount of \$50,000.00 (\$3,000.00 x 15 = \$45,000.00) and Dewatering Pump and Piping Mobilization and Setup (\$5,000.00) for the CDBG Wastewater Lagoon IMP. Project being engineered by Neel-Schaffer, Inc. On a roll call vote, all voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve NE Mississippi Building Officials Association dues for Membership 2025 for City Inspector Roy Haynes in the amount of \$75.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Elected Officials Enhancement / Training and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Johnnie Dwight Stevens, Nicholas Holliday, Rhonda Moore, James Ivory, Jeremy Belle and John S. Cain to attend the CMO Elective Evening Classes, Oxford, MS / March 27, 2025 / Registration Fee: \$25.00 per person. On a roll call vote, all voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 21, 2025

Page 2

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Mrs. Devonshae Young to attend the Certified Municipal Clerks (CMC) Program Session, Oxford, MS / March 26-28, 2025 / Registration Fee: \$300.00 On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve and pay the 2025 Tennessee – Tombigbee Waterway Annual Council Membership for Mayor Johnnie Dwight Stevens in the amount of \$175.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve for City Clerk Melissa Moore to be added to the City of Aberdeen American Express Account as one of the Program Administrator with full access to the account. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

Mayor Report:

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board that he and Ms. Tina Robbins will be attending a Retail Merchant Workshop, Starkville, MS on Wednesday, January 22, 2025.

Mayor Stevens stated to the Board there will be a Department Head Meeting on Friday, January 24, 2025, at 9:00 AM in the Boardroom.

Mayor Stevens asked Ms. Tina Robbins to share with the Board the events happening in the City of Aberdeen and any additional updates. Ms. Robbins presented the Mayor, Board and City Clerk with a copy of the Mississippi Tourism Guide, and the 100th birthday celebration of BB King. Ms. Robbins asked the Board to approve her Travel Request.

Ms. Robbins stated some of the main attractions in the guide are as follows:

Page 2 / Welcome Home MS Retire Aberdeen

Page 3 / Aberdeen Main Street

Page 57 / Paradise Alley Mural

Page 58 / Bukka White Blues Festival

Page 62 / The Lofts at Corner 101

Page 72 / Greetings from Aberdeen

Page 74 / Evans Memorial Library

Page 81 / Aberdeen Pilgrimage

Mayor Stevens invited Fire Chief Norris James to the Board Meeting to discuss the plans moving forward with 911. Alderman Holliday stated that City Attorney Zinn, Jr. is waiting on the MOU from 911 Director Tracy Pharr.

Mayor Stevens invited General Manager LaMarcus Thompson to the meeting to share some helpful information given to him from TVA. Mr. Thompson is asking residents to please unplug any appliances not being used and keep the thermostat between 65 -70 degrees.

Alderman Belle invited Rabb & Clark Corporation, a managing partner from Empowerment Axis Consulting Group to the Board Meeting to propose an economic and environmental project for the city regarding the lasso Grant project, to create an energy independence opportunity for the City of Aberdeen.

Mayor Stevens is asking everyone to please let his office know if someone needs a place to keep warm and a hot meal to eat. The Aberdeen Park & Recreation Gym will be used as a Warming Station.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 21, 2025

Page 3

Aldermen/Alderwoman Input:

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday shared with everyone that Aberdeen Park & Recreation Gym will be open as Warming Station for individuals to come in from the cold and have a good hot meal and a warm place to sleep. Alderman Holliday commended city employees for all their hard work. Alderman Holliday wanted to know how an individual can be a part of the Bukka White Committee. Ms. Robbins advised Alderman Holliday to contact Ms. Em Walters.

Alderwoman Moore: Alderwoman Moore asked that everyone please stay safe and keep warm during this cold winter season. Alderwoman Moore asked about the heat that's not working at the Aberdeen Community Center in the room where NAACP host their monthly meetings. Alderwoman Moore asked about vendor space for the Bukka White Blues Festival. Ms. Robbins shared information about the vendors.

Alderman Ivory: Alderman Ivory shared with everyone that he enjoyed the training in Jackson, MS, and the visit to the Capitol. Alderman Ivory stated the training was a success!

Alderman Belle: Alderman Belle shared with everyone that he enjoyed the training session in Jackson, MS with the Mayor, Board Members and City Attorney. Alderman Belle stated the visit to the Capitol was a great success! Alderman Belle informed everyone about the Warming Station at Aberdeen Park & Recreation Gym. Alderman Belle stated Aberdeen Park & Recreation Gym has a storm shelter, but repairs are needed before it can be used for safety. Alderman Belle stated the Aberdeen Community Center needs some repair work done to roof and other areas of the building.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain thanked everyone that come together and offer assistance for the Warming Station at Aberdeen Park & Recreation Gym. Alderman Cain stated that one of the goals of he Board this year is to find some federal funding to invest in a homeless shelter. Alderman Cain commended the Mayor and Board for a successful training in Jackson, MS, and sharing conversation with representatives in hoping to receive the funding needed to repair the Port. Alderman Cain stated the City of Aberdeen will come together in helping one another and making sure everyone is safe and warm. Alderman Cain shared with everyone that Alderwoman Moore and Alderman Belle is putting plans together for the Aberdeen Bulldog Festival downtown Aberdeen June 27-28, 2025.

Citizen Input (2 minutes)

Ms. Joyce Vasser asked the community to please help a family in Hamilton, MS, that lost everything in a housefire.

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

The Board of Aldermen / Alderwoman allowed for City Clerk Melissa Moore and Comptroller Karen Crump to remain in Closed Determination and Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to come out of closed determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 21, 2025

Page 4

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to enter in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding the Aberdeen Electric Department Office Manager Samona Johnson, Water Department Lineman Marcus Collins, Police Department Chief of Police Quinell Shumpert, and Aberdeen Park & Recreation Director Fernando Davis. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

The Mayor and the Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into an Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding the Aberdeen Electric Department Office Manager Samona Johnson, Water Department Interim Supervisor Marcus Collins, Police Department Chief of Police Quinell Shumpert, and Aberdeen Park & Recreation Director Fernando Davis.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore 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 January 21, 2025, **EXCLUDING** Cadence Bank. 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 January 21, 2025, **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 7:12 PM and returned to the meeting at 7:14 PM.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay the Purchase Requisition for Vendor Tri-State Chlorination, Brandon, MS for the Water Department in the amount of \$6,800.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve and pay City Attorney Walter Zinn, Jr., invoice in the amount of \$1,267.50. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve and pay for the TVA Data Request Compliance Assessment in the amount of \$450.00, and it will be paid from the Electric Department Funds. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to remove the ten percent (10%) increase in pay given to Deputy Clerk Devonshae Young on November 19, 2024, by the Board while she served as Interim Municipal Court Clerk. 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 Mr. Calvin J. Parker as a Laborer for the Water Department at a rate of pay of \$15.00 per hour. No vote was given. Alderman Cain and Alderman Ivory Rescinded their motion because Mr. Parker denied the position and rate of pay.

Alderman Cain stated to the Board that he's wanting Comptroller Karen Crump to configure the cost of every Public Works (Street & Water) employee salary at \$14.00 and \$15.00 per hour and have those figures ready for the next Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve the promotion of Sergeant Bobby McFarland to Auxiliary Major with no increase in is rate of pay. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".


REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 21, 2025

Page 5

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to re-assign Officer Eric Potts as a full-time Sergeant for the Aberdeen Police Department at a rate of pay of \$16.87 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to adjourn until the February 4, 2025, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".



Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk