

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

**February 4, 2025  
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 James Ivory

**ROLL CALL**

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the agenda. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the proposed Minutes dated January 21, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve an allow \$1,000.00 to be taken from the Mayor’s Budget and donated to the Mayor’s Youth Council for the use the Enlightened Trip to Atlanta, Georgia. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve for city employees Tashanda White, Tamanda Griffin and Fernando Davis to accompany and travel to Atlanta, Georgia with the Mayor’s Youth Council on March 12-15, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve for Comptroller Karen Crump to write the \$2,500.00 donation in the form of a check that was donated from WLK Chemicals & Westlake, Aberdeen, MS from the City of Aberdeen Public Fund Checking Account into the Mayor’s Youth Council Account to go towards the Mayor’s Enlightened Trip, Atlanta, GA / March 12-15, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve and be in agreeance to terminate the contract between the City of Aberdeen and WATCO. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and pay the 2024 CDBG Wastewater Lagoon Improvements; Pace Excavating, LLC – Pay Request No. 1 submitted by Neel-Schaffer, Inc. in the amount of \$49,407.06 that will be paid from the Sewer Rehab Account. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve and pay the 2024 ARPA Water Supply Improvements Part 1: New Elevated Water Storage Tank; Maguire Iron, Inc. – Pay Request No. 3 submitted by Neel Schaffer, Inc. in the amount of \$68,358.81. 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 approve Elected Officials / Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Dwight Stevens, Nicholas Holliday, Rhonda Moore, James Ivory, Jeremy Belle, John Cain and City Clerk Melissa Moore to attend the MML 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Biloxi, MS / July 21-23, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve Employee Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for City Attorney Walter inn, Jr. to attend the Mississippi Municipal Attorneys Conference, Biloxi, MS / July 21-23, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the re-hiring of Justin A. Sheely 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”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the hiring of Kelvon M. Robinson 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”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve for Michelle Stewart to place a snack vending machine at City Hall. Ms. Stewart will be responsible for the labor and refunds and will donate 15% of sales each month to the City of Aberdeen. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve an allow The Great Smoke Show Benefit for the Elkin Theater on May 3, 2025, to be held on College Street and block off Hickory Street and Meridian Street. The entry fee for the rib contest is \$125.00 and wings entry fee are \$75.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

**Mayor Report:** Mayor Stevens invited Ms. Tashanda White to the Board Meeting to share information about the Mayor’s Youth Council Enlightened Trip to Atlanta, Georgia on March 12-15, 2025. Mayor Stevens will donate \$1,000.00 to the Mayor’s Youth Council. This donation will come from the Mayor Stevens Budget. Ms. White thanked Mr. Dustin Dabbs for the donation and sponsorship of the Mayor’s Youth Council.

Mayor Stevens invited Ms. Tina Robbins to the Board Meeting to share with the Board projects, events and other business going on with Aberdeen Visitor’s Bureau. Ms. Robbins stated she still needs to know how to process the payments with Raborn Media through ACH.

Events with Aberdeen Visitor’s Bureau (Absolutely Aberdeen):

1. Candlelight Vigil at the Cross – February 1, 2025
2. Elkin Theatre – February 7-8, 2025
3. Mississippi Abor Day – February 14, 2025
4. Valentine’s Day Luncheon – February 14, 2025
5. Book Lunch – February 19, 2025
6. Yoga Tuesdays
7. Mardi Gras Parade – March 1, 2025
8. Aberdeen Pilgrimage – April 4-5, 2025

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. Dustin Dabbs, Dabbs Corporation, to the Board Meeting to give an update on the Canal Street Project. Mr. Dabbs stated the project is 80% done and should be completed within the next two weeks. Mr. Dabbs stated he will try to start the Bulldog Drive Inlets next week and review the financial expenditure for the jail for the Aberdeen Police Department. Mr. Dabbs asked the Board to provide him with streets within the City of Aberdeen that need repairs, and that February and March are the best time to check on prices.

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

**Alderman Holliday:** Alderman Holliday invited Attorney Brad Davis with Watkins & Eager Attorneys and Counselors at Law, and Mr. Larry Day with Knight & Day Group, LLC to share information on how to assist with getting General Obligation Bonds to help with the Aberdeen Port repairs, sanitation trucks, fire trucks and police cars for the City of Aberdeen.

**Alderwoman Moore:** Alderwoman Moore commended and applauded the Mayor’s Youth Counsel and Advisors for all the wonderful things they’ve done and will continue to do while they serv in their positions. Alderwoman Moore supports the Mayor’s Youth Counsel 100%. Alderwoman Moore invited Ms. Michelle Stewart to share with the Board to give permission to put her vending snack machines on the first floor of the City Hall.

**Alderman Ivory:** Alderman Ivory stated the Board will have a better year this year. Alderman Ivory is asking for citizens to please be patient with the Board and contact us when they see issues throughout the city.

**Alderman Belle:** Alderman Belle stated he has received several calls with complaints about ditches and sewer problems in Ward Four. Alderman Belle stated he spent a lot of time in his Ward with Mr. Boone and Mr. Collins trying to get these sewer issues rectified. Alderman Belle has concerns with the ambulance service within the City of Aberdeen and would like to know how the services can improve and get better.

**Alderman Cain:** Alderman Cain stated he shares the same concerns that Alderman Belle has about the ambulance service in this city. Alderman Cain stated Monroe County Board will be contacted about the ambulance service and see where the problem lies and what steps needs to be taken to fix it. Alderman Cain stated there will be a Ward Meeting for Ward Five at Aberdeen Public Utilities. The date and time are TBD (To Be Determined).

Alderman Cain stated the street and water department employees has been working hard, and if anyone has any complaints, please inform the Mayor and Board. Alderman Cain shared with the Board that Mr. Mike Ray would like to have a benefit for the Elkin Theatre and would like to block off College Street from Hickory Street to Meridian Street. Alderman Cain shared with everyone about the Aberdeen Blue and White Festival, June 27-28, 2025, downtown Aberdeen, and gave a heartfelt thanks to Alderwoman Moore and Alderman Belle for putting this event together.

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

Ms. Joyce Vasser inquired about speed bumps being placed on Burnett Street.

Mr. Jessie Payne inquired about a tree being cut down on Jett Street.

Ms. Betty Johns inquired about the tree in her neighbor’s yard that needs to be cut down.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday to enter in 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”.

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A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issues concerning Aberdeen Public Utilities General Manager LaMarcus Thompson, Aberdeen Electric Department Office Personnel Angela Fears, Kimberly Williams, Valerie Page and Tammy Johnson; Aberdeen Park & Recreation Secretary Akalin McNairy and Larry Darty; Aberdeen Fire Chief Norris James; Mississippi Department Unemployment Services involving previous employee Janel Davidson; Bond Counsel Attorney Brad Davis and Larry Day regarding a Bond to repair Aberdeen Port, and Litigation invoice submitted by Attorney Kimberly Williams on the case involving the City of Aberdeen v. Tom Withers III. 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 a personnel issues concerning Aberdeen Public Utilities General Manager LaMarcus Thompson, Aberdeen Electric Department Office Personnel Angela Fears, Kimberly Williams, Valerie Page and Tammy Johnson; Aberdeen Park & Recreation Secretary Akalin McNairy and Larry Darty; Aberdeen Fire Chief Norris James; Mississippi Department Unemployment Services involving previous employee Janel Davidson; Bond Counsel Attorney Brad Davis and Larry Day regarding a Bond to repair Aberdeen Port, and Litigation invoice submitted by Attorney Kimberly Williams on the case involving the City of Aberdeen v. Tom Withers III.

Alderman Belle Recused himself from Executive Session at 6:54p.m. and returned to Executive Session at 7:23p.m.

City Clerk Melissa Moore and Comptroller Karen Crump remained in Closed Determination and Executive Session. Ms. Crump exited the Executive Session at 6:50p.m.

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 Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to terminate city employee Marcus Strong with an effective date: January 21, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to accept city employee Akalin McNairy resignation with an effective date: February 14, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay an invoice submitted from Dabbs Corporation, Tupelo, MS in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the Survey / Design (\$2,500.00) and the Quote Packages & Solicitation (\$500.00) for the Canal Street Drainage Improvements Project. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay the invoice submitted by M&M Underground Video Inspection Services, LLC in the amount of \$3,200.00 (TV Truck on West Canal Street -- \$1,350.00 / Vac Truck -- \$1,350.00 / Mobilization / \$500.00). On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to TABLE the Purchase Requisition for Perma Corporation, Columbus, MS in the amount of \$14,573.00 and strike it from the Docket of Claims dated February 4, 2025. 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 approve and pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated February 4, 2025, **EXCLUDING** Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated February 4, 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 8:24 PM and returned to the meeting at 8:26 PM.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, second by Alderwoman Moore to approve and pay the late fee for the 20213 Egypt Road – Water Well in the amount of \$143.26 to the City of Okolona Electric Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and pay Wrecker Works, LLC, Aberdeen, MS to tow the SCAG Mower from Morgan Landing in the amount of \$250.00, and will be paid from Aberdeen Park & Recreation Budget. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to suspend city employee Larry Darty five days without pay beginning February 5, 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 do a Full Internal Investigation on all matters dealing with our Aberdeen Electric Department. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Ivory voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve to cut Mayor Johnnie Dwight Stevens salary by \$15,000.00 beginning February 5, 2025. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Belle voted “Aye”. Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and have Mayor Stevens execute the RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, MISSISSIPPI, AUTHORIZING THE ENGAGEMENT OF CERTAIN PROFESSIONALS TO ASSIST WITH THE ISSUANCE OF THE PROPOSED GENERAL OBLIGATION PORT IMPROVEMENT BONDS OR PORT IMPROVEMENT REVENUE BONDS OF THE MUNICIPALITY, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and execute the Letter of Engagement and Disclosure for Municipal Advisors with Mr. Larry Day of Knight & Day Group, LLC. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and have Mayor Stevens to execute on behalf of the City of Aberdeen the Letter of Engagement Bond Counsel to Attorney Brad Davis with Watkins & Eager, Attorneys and Counselors at Law. 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 adjourn until the February 18, 2025, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

  
Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor

Attest:

  
Melissa Moore, City Clerk