

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING
CITY HALL BOARD ROOM**

FEBRUARY 18, 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:

Absent from Meeting: Mayor Dwight Stevens

Present on the telephone: Alderman John Cain & City Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr.

Serving in the capacity of Vice-Mayor: Alderman Nicholas Holliday

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory 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 February 4, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the Special Called Board Minutes dated February 6, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to TABLE the discussion regarding the purchase of generators for the city. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the Murphy Bros, 1601 Dogwood Stand Road, Booneville, MS 38829 invoice in the amount of \$10,384.50 for the repairs of the Blue Side Cutter Tractor, transmission and other parts at the Aberdeen Electric Department, and paid from the Electric Department Equipment Account. On a roll call vote, all voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Razell Taylor to attend the Apprentice Lineman Lab 1 Fundamentals, Huntsville, Alabama / March 3-7, 2025 / Fees: \$1,126.67. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Razell Taylor and Joseph Chism to attend the Apprentice Lineman Lab 2 Construction, Huntsville, Alabama / May 5-9, 2025 / Fees: \$1,126.67. On a roll call vote, all voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve to post and advertise for a Foreman for the Aberdeen Electric Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

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A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve to post and advertise for a Groundman for the Aberdeen Electric Department. On a roll call vote, all present 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 LaMarcus Thompson, Karen Crump and Samona Johnson to attend he CSA Annual User Education Conference, Orange Beach, AL / June 22-27, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to TABLE the hiring for the Aberdeen Electric Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Belle to TABLE the electric bill for The Cross in the amount of \$253.20 until the next Work Session on March 3, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Ivory, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve to schedule a Public Hearing for the Re-zoning of PPIN: 8172 / PARCEL ID: 108R-34-010-001.00 from R-3 to a C-4 on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 5:00 P.M.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve to pay Purchase Requisition for Raborn Media, LLC in the amount of \$5,426.71 given by Aberdeen Visitor’s Bureau Director Tina Robbins. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Ivory, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the refund of a sewer tap paid by Terence Leary in the amount of \$610.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore approve to post and advertise for a Superintendent for the Aberdeen Water Department at \$30.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the rental deposit for the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Building to be refunded to Wille Mae Blanchard in the amount of \$200.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve the recommendation from General Manager LaMarcus Thompson to terminate city employee Brady Slupik (Electric Department) immediately with an effective date February 15, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to accept the resignation of city employee Antonio Walker (Street Department). On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Belle to accept the resignation of city employee Dexter Moore (Street Department). On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Devonshae Young to attend the Certified Municipal Clerk Training, Oxford, MS / March 26-28, 2025 / Registration Fee: \$300.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

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A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve the refund of a cemetery plot and grave marker at Oaklawn Cemetery to Buford Buckingham in the amount of \$500.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore approve Employment Enhancement and pay all necessary charges according to state guidelines for Kelly W. Drake to attend the First Line Supervision Training hosted by MLEOTA, Pearl, MS / February 24-26, 2025 / Course Fee: \$295.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Cain to accept the resignation of city employee Triron Brown (Water Department) with an effective date of February 24, 2025. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTING THE DISTRICT 4 REGIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve to open a bank account for the City of Aberdeen Blue and White Festival. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve and pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated February 18, 2025, INCLUDING Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Belle Recused from meeting at 5:58 PM and returned to the meeting at 6:00 PM.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve and pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated February 18, 2025, EXCLUDING Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve and pay City Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr. invoice in the amount of \$2,670.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

Vice-Mayor Report:

Mr. Buzzy Cullum was invited to the Board Meeting to share his concern about the electric bill for The Cross. Mr. Cullum stated that the amount of the electric bill was \$253.20 and would greatly appreciate if the City of Aberdeen could assist in helping to pay the bill. Mr. Cullum was informed by the Board that Attorney Zinn, Jr. will review the legal aspects of this and report the findings to the Board.

City Inspector Roy Haynes came before the Board to share a business that’s interested in opening in the City of Aberdeen, and according to the Aberdeen Zoning Board Members the property must be Re-Zoned from R-3 to C-4. Mr. Alfred Jones would like to open a small car dealership on 401 Houston Street, Aberdeen, MS 39730. The property identification: PPIN: 8172 / PARCEL ID: 108R-34-010-001.00. Mr. Haynes asked the Board permission to have a Public Hearing on March 17, 2025 @ 5:00 P.M.

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Aberdeen Fire Chief Norris James came before the Board to share information on the MOU between Monroe County E911 and the City of Aberdeen. Chief James stated that he needs the MOU to state if Aberdeen Fire Department receives a call to assist in helping with a call in County and while helping the County they receive a call in the city, Aberdeen Fire Department will need to leave the County call and take care of the city call. The Board agreed.

Ms. Shannon McCranie was invited to the Board Meeting to share information about Communities Unlimited Proposed Comprehensive Technical Assistance Work Plan, Loans, and Environmental Services for the City of Aberdeen. Ms. McCranie will send information to City Attorney Zimm, Jr., to review and discuss at the next Work Session.

Proposed Technical Assistance Tasks:

1. Perform Analysis TMF Assessment
2. RCAP Plans: TA Work Plan / Community Service Agreement
3. Write / Update Policies / Procedures: Managerial
4. Develop / Update Plan: Operations and Maintenance Plan

Aldermen/Aldерwoman Input:

Alderman Holliday: Nothing to report currently.

Aldерwoman Moore: Aldерwoman Moore invited Mrs. Toni Rogers, owner of Salad Bar Express, to the meeting to share her concerns. Mrs. Rogers shared with the Board the water and back-up sewer issues she had at her restaurant. Mrs. Rogers stated she had to close her business due to the sewage backing up and not being able to flush her toilets. Mrs. Rogers stated she contacted Mayor Stevens and Water Department Marcus Collins, and no one addressed her concerns. Mrs. Rogers eventually contacted Welch AC & Plumbing, LLC to repair the plumbing and it cost her \$1,166.30. Mrs. Rogers is asking for reimbursement.

Aldерwoman Moore stated that there are water / sewer issues within the City of Aberdeen and Prairie and asking everyone to please be patient with the Water Department Crew. Vice-Mayor Holliday shared with everyone that the City of Aberdeen started this water and sewer project a while ago, and it takes money to make all the repairs that everyone is having with their water and sewer. Vice-Mayor Holliday is asking the citizens to please reach out to your supervisor, alderman, mayor and city clerk with your concerns and they will be do their very best in addressing your needs and concerns.

Alderman Ivory: Alderman Ivory stated that Ward Three and other Wards of the city was affected by the stormy weather, and asking the citizens to please be patient while the Electric, Street and Water Department Crew attend to their cares and concerns.

Alderman Belle: Alderman Belle stated a tree fell in Ward Four on Forrest Hill Circle blocking the street. Alderman Belle asked for the assistance of Officers Mabry and Michael in helping him with cutting and removing the tree and debris. Alderman Belle is asking everyone that's walking or riding a bicycle at night, please wear a reflector vest. This will help to prevent accidents and fatalities. Alderman Belle is asking that a separate bank account be opened for the Aberdeen Blue and White Festival. Alderman Cain asked the Board if the city can start doing business with the Bank of Okolona. Vice-Mayor Holliday stated that Comptroller Karen Crump will decide and get back the Board and Festival Committee Members.

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Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain shared with the Board that he rode around and took some photographs in the rain and noticed Ward Five and Ward Two has some drainage issues. Alderman Cain stated he had a conversation with Alderwoman Moore regarding the drainage issues. Alderman Cain stated that Ward Five will be having a Ward Meeting, and the date and time will be announced later. Alderman Cain stated that everyone is working together in making the City of Aberdeen better.

Citizen Input (2 minutes)

None given at this time.

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

City Clerk Melissa Moore and Comptroller Karen Crump remained in Closed Determination and Executive Session.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, 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 Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to enter in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues regarding the Aberdeen Fire Department employee Kemar Sims regarding his payroll check, and Aberdeen Police Department Officer Jada Coleman regarding her doctor's appointment. 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 Fire Department employee Kemar Sims regarding his payroll check, and Aberdeen Police Department Officer Jada Coleman regarding her doctor's appointment.

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 Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve to RENEW the AGREEMENT FOR PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL POLICE SERVICES TO THE ABERDEEN HOUSING AUTHORITY On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

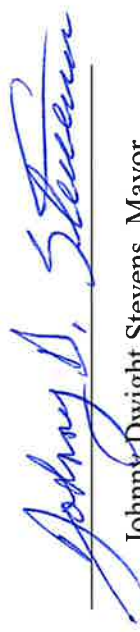
A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Cain to approve for Police Officer Jada Coleman to have a Psychiatric Evaluation on March 5, 2025, before going to the Police Academy. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to adjourn until the March 3, 2025, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Attest:



Melissa Moore, City Clerk



Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor