REGULAR BOARD MEETING

CITY HALL BOARD ROOM

March 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: Alderman Jeremy Belle

Present on the telephone: Alderman Nicholas Holliday

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, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to TABLE the Board Minutes dated March 6, 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 MMC Materials, Inc., Starkville, MS invoices (#935977/#935737) in the amount of $1,455.00. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve and pay G & O Supply, Inc., Tupelo, MS invoice (T31685) in the amount of $2,389.54 for the Bulldog Boulevard Inlet Project. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve and pay Hancel Berryman, Corinth, MS invoice (# INV0174) in the amount of $4,800.00 for two inlets for the Bulldog Boulevard Project. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Dabbs Corporation, Tupelo, MS invoice (#2501.01-1) in the amount of $4,000.00 for the Bulldog Boulevard Drainage Improvements Services for Related Projects thru March 14, 2025. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Hanna Contracting Company, Aberdeen, MS invoice in the amount of $51, 015.00 for the Canal Street Drainage Improvements Project, and this will be paid from the Modernization Infrastructure Fund. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve the Board Minutes dated March 6, 2025, with the necessary corrections. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to authorize Mayor Johnny Dwight Stevens and Alderman Jeremy Belle to execute and sign the letter from Mississippi Home Corporation on the benefit of Trinity Development. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to accept Gray Casualty & Surety Bonding Company Settlement Agreement in the amount of $23,350.00 and it will be deposited in the 2022 Local Improvement Magnolia’s Project Fund. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Brindlee Mountain Fire Apparatus, LLC, Union Grove, Alabama the amount of $19,400.00 to cover the rental and delivery fees for the use of an Engine Pumper for the Aberdeen Fire Department. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and have Mayor Dwight Stevens execute the RESOLUTION GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM AD VALOREM TAXES to Westlake Chemicals & Vinyl’s, LLC. for 10 years beginning January 1, 2025, with a true value of $7,735,166.00. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore and Alderman Belle voted “Nay”. Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve the hiring of the part-time seasonal employee Aundra L. Thomas for Aberdeen Park and Recreation at a rate of pay of $10.00 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 AGREEMENT FOR PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL POLICE SERVICES TO THE HOUSING AUTHORITY. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to TABLE the 2025 Building Officials Association of Mississippi Summer Conference, Gulfport, MS / June 9-13, 2025, for Mr. Roy Haynes with a fee of $275.00. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted “Aye”. Alderman Holliday voted “Nay”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Holliday to approve and authorize for an account to be opened with APAC Surface Asphalt, Hamilton, MS. On a roll call vote, all present voted “Aye”.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve and hire Mississippi Pavement Pros, LLC, Pontotoc, MS and declaring an Emergency Road Repair for the City of Aberdeen for Labor, Demolition and Trucking cost in the amount of $24,414.00 to be made weekly at the end of each week (Thursday) for the work completed within that week via invoice for the following 14 locations, and this will be paid from the Modernization Infrastructure Fund:

1. Ogle and Albert Street (9'x10' – 90 sf)
2. Alice and Albert Streets (14x11 – 154 sf)
3. 1008 MLK Street (9x7 – 63 sf)
4. Forrest Street and behind Dollar General (13x39 – 507 sf)
5. 502 Forrest Street (5x9 – 45 sf)
6. Chaffie and Houston Streets (9x12 – 108 sf)
7. Chaffie and Burnett Streets (10x17 – 170 sf)
8. Church of Aberdeen location in street (5x16 – 80 sf and 3x14 – 42 sf)
9. 409 Burnett Street (7x10 – 70 sf)
10. 302 Burnett Street (17x11 – 187 sf)
11. West Commerce Street in front of High School Drive (21x17 – 357 sf)
12. 1345 West Commerce Street (20x10 – 200 sf)
13. 401 Bellview Drive (21x11 – 231 sf)
14. West Commerce Street at Country Club Road (11x10 – 110 sf)

On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderwoman Moore, seconded by Alderman Belle to re-instate Mayor Dwight Stevens salary to the original amount of $44,054.00. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

<u>Mayor's Report:</u>

Mayor Stevens invited Mrs. Kathy Seymour to the Board to share some exciting news. Mrs. Seymore stated that the Mississippi Department of Archives and History Staff has recently terminated the Fiscal Year 2024 CLG Grant with a certain city and given the grant money to the City of Aberdeen. The amount of the grant is $4.080.00.

Mayor Stevens invited Mr. Dustin Dabbs from Dabbs Corporation to share updates on projects in the City of Aberdeen and request payment on invoices. Mr. Dabbs shared with the Board the sewer line collapsed about six feet away from the manhole, which is about ten feet away from the Canal Street Drainage Project, and the incidents are not related to one another. The Board asked Mr. Dabbs to get quotes for the work that must be done to repair the sewer line.

Mayor Stevens invited Jason Colburn, Port Manager with Logistics Services, Inc., Columbus, MS to discuss the Marine, Terminal, and Logistics Services Agreement that was Revised.

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board the information he received from Trinity Development, Jackson, MS wanting permission to apply for the 2025 cycle of the Mississippi Home Corporation Housing Tax Credit application for an award of housing tax credits to fund the acquisition and rehabilitation of Aberdeen Apartments (North Forest Apartments) located at 526 Alternate Highway 145 North, Aberdeen, MS 39730.

Mayor Stevens shared with the Board that the City of Aberdeen went against Cook Development, LLC dba RLC Construction ("Cook") Bond. The Settlement Agreement stated without admission of liability, the City of Aberdeen and Gray Casualty & Surety Company agreed to an amicable resolution of the claim. Gray Casualty & Surety Company has agreed to pay the City of Aberdeen within 30 days of signing this Release, Twenty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Fifty and 00/100 Dollars ($23,350.00). Alderman Holliday asked that it be notated in the Minutes that the engineer came before the Board and stated the work done by Cook Development, LLC was completed and to his satisfactory and asked the Board to pay the invoices.

Mayor Stevens stated there are several trees on the right-of-way in the city that need to be cut down.

Mayor Stevens asked Alderwoman Moore to share information given to her by Ms. Tina Robbins. Alderwoman Moore reminded everyone about the ribbon cutting at Trinity Family Healthcare, 114 North Hickory Street Suite C, Aberdeen, MS 39730 on Friday, March 21, 2025 @ 1:00 PM. Provider on Duty: Mrs. Thelma Cox-Shelton, FNP-BC

<u>Aldermen/Alderwoman Input:</u>

Alderman Holliday: Alderman Holliday stated there was an invoice emailed to City Clerk Melissa Moore from Mississippi Pavement Pros, LLC about emergency paving for streets in the City of Aberdeen. Alderman Holliday stated that an account must be opened with the Asphalt Company. Alderman Holliday is asking the Board to review the information emailed from Mississippi Pavement Pros, LLC an agree for the paving to be done. Alderman Holliday asking everyone to please check on the elderly in your neighborhood due to the stormy weather. Alderman Holliday thanked the Water and Street Department for taking care of the city during the stormy weather.

Alderwoman Moore: Alderwoman Moore stated that speed bumps will be placed on certain streets in Ward Two for the safety of children and residents in the neighborhoods. Alderwoman Moore thanked the Street and Water Department for working diligently during the stormy weather and cleaning up streets and curbs in Ward Two. Alderwoman Moore stated for the record she has nothing against Westlake Chemicals, LLC, all she wanted to do is discuss the Resolution in Closed Determination with the Aldermen and Mayor. Alderwoman Moore asked that Mayor Stevens' salary be reinstated to the original amount of $44,054.00. Alderwoman Moore shared with Mayor Stevens that according to the conversation she had with House of Representative District 36 Mr. Karl Gibbs, the City of Aberdeen missed out on over a million dollars in grant money to help in paving the streets because the information wasn't given to him in a timely manner. Alderwoman Moore asked Mayor Stevens to please put a list together of projects for 2026.

Alderman Ivory: Alderman Ivory stated the City of Aberdeen is moving forward and working on projects for the city. Alderman Ivory thanked Mr. Boone for taking immediate action and getting that hole barricaded until the repair can be done. Alderman Ivory asked the citizens to please reach out to the mayor and aldermen if anything is going on in the city we need to know about, and we'll do all we can to help and show support.

Alderman Belle: Alderman Belle stated he received several calls about mattresses and other items being dumped on Pullen Lake Road and asked that it stop. Alderman Belle stated that Mr. Boone will be placing No Dumping signs in that area. Alderman Belle stated that Belleview Drive, Pullen Lake Drive and end of Commerce Street are a few on his list that needs paving and was placed on the list provided by Mississippi Pavement Pros, LLC. Alderman Belle stated the Storm Shelter inside of the Aberdeen Park and Recreation Building will be getting repaired this week. Alderman Belle is pleading with the men, women and children to wear reflector clothing when they're walking or riding bicycles after dark. Alderman Belle asked that permission be given to Monroe County NAACP to host their Burger Bash at General Young Park on April 5, 2025, from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

Alderman Cain: Alderman Cain stated he has received repeated complaints from citizens on High Street about the racing and will be getting with Mr. Boone and putting down speed bumps in that area and other areas in Ward Five. Alderman Cain stated that him and Alderman Belle has discussed several streets that needs paving in Ward Five and Ward Four, and they're working hard in getting the streets paved, but the process is moving slowly due to limited funding. Alderman Cain is working on scheduling a Town Hall Meeting for Ward Five before the end of this month or early April. Alderman Cain stated that Westlake sits in Ward Five, and the Alderperson in Ward Five always been the person to bring Westlake requests to the Board, and it would be devastated to lose $40 million dollars a year to this community. Alderman Cain pray they can work through it, and it be rectified.

Citizen Input (2 minutes)

Ms. Viki Mason shared her concern about West Lake Chemicals, LLC.

Mr. Leon Manning shared complaints about the tree behind his house. Mr. Manning shared his concerns about West Lake Chemicals, LLC. Mr. Manning is asking the City of Aberdeen Board Members and Mayor to purchase ten tickets for Burger Bash at $10.00 each.

Ms. Jodi Pryor, General Manager for the Inland Division, Little Rock, Arkansas for Logistics Services, Inc. Ms. Pryor shared with the Board that she is available for any questions concerning Port Operations.

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated March 18, 2025, **EXCLUDING** any expenses paid by Cadence Bank. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Holliday, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to pay all bills submitted by proper vendors as recorded on the Docket of Claims dated March 18, 2025, **INCLUDING** any expenses paid by Cadence Bank. Alderman Holliday, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderman Belle "Recused" himself from the meeting at 6:30 PM and returned to the meeting at 6:32 PM

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to enter in Closed Determination to ascertain 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 Alderwoman Moore to come out of Closed Determination. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to enter in Executive Session to discuss personnel issues concerning city employees Fire Chief Norris James and City Inspector Roy Haynes job performance. The Marine, Terminal, and Logistics Services Agreement with Jason Colburn, Logistic Services, Inc. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Alderman Belle Recused himself from Executive Session at 7:11 PM.

The Mayor and the Board announced to the public that the Board was entering into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues concerning city employees Fire Chief Norris James and City Inspector Roy Haynes job performance. The Marine, Terminal, and Logistics Services Agreement with Json Colburn, Logistic Services, Inc.

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".

Alderman Belle returned to Executive Session at 7:27 PM.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to allow Mayor Johnny D. Stevens to execute the Marine, Terminal, and Logistics Services Agreement with Logistics Services, Inc. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve and pay City Attorney Walter H. Zinn, Jr. invoice in the amount of $2,266.50. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve and pay Thomas Neuropsychology Diagnostics and Consulting, Tupelo, MS for Evaluation Services rendered in the amount of $1,000.00. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve for City Clerk Melissa Moore to do a wire transfer at Renasant Bank in the amount of $20,084.99 to Truist Governmental Finance for the Bond Interest payment due April 1, 2025, on the Electric System Revenue Bond. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". No vote from Alderman Holliday.

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 Roy Haynes to attend the 2025 Building Officials Association of Mississippi Summer Conference, Gulfport, MS / June 9-13, 2025, with a membership fee of $275.00. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve Mrs. Willie Mae Blanchard rental refund deposit in the amount of $200.00. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to approve Ms. Makia Dobbs rental refund deposit in the amount of $200.00. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to approve and pay West Central Agency, LLC, Aberdeen, MS in the amount of $74,780.00 for the City of Aberdeen Property, Auto and Inland Marine Insurance with coverage dates April 1, 2025 – April 1, 2026. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Alderman Cain asked all Board Members to please review the UDAG List and be prepared to make some decisions at next Board Meeting.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to allow Officer Bobby May to write a resignation letter to the City of Aberdeen and be filed in his personnel record file. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Alderman Holliday asked Alderman Cain to ask Chief Quinell Shumpert what's the status on the pick-up truck for Asst. Chief Kelly Drake? Chief Shumpert stated he's waiting on the striping.

Alderman Cain asked Chief Shumpert if Mr. Larry Rayburn has a clear record at this time, including his driver license? Chief Shumpert replied yes.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to hire Mr. Larry Rayburn as a full-time certified police officer with a rate of pay of $16.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderwoman Moore to reduce Mr. Roy Haynes salary by 15% for 90 days, and during his 90 days Mr. Haynes will have to report to the Mayor prior to each Board Meeting and give the Board an update on his contact and his inspection on rental properties within the corporate limits of Aberdeen, Mississippi as per a 2022 Ordinance effective immediately. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Ivory and Alderman Belle voted "Nay". Alderwoman Moore and Alderman Cain voted "Aye".

Alderman Belle was asked by Alderman Cain to please Recuse himself from the Board Meeting before the next motion is made. Alderman Belle exited the Board Meeting at 7:36 PM

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to make Mr. Norris James the Asst. Fire Chief and Chief Inspector for the Aberdeen Fire Department at a rate of $21.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Ivory, and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Moore voted "Nay". Alderman Belle Recused himself from the meeting at 7:36 PM.

Alderman Belle returned to the Board Meeting at 7:38 PM.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to place Mr. Guyvester Dobbs as Acting Fire Chief for the Aberdeen Fire Department with a 10% increase in his hourly pay with an effective date March 19, 2025. On a roll call vote, Alderman Holliday, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". Alderwoman Moore voted "Nay".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to hire the Law Firm of Russell & McClenton, P.A., New Albany, MS concerning the Withers vs. City of Aberdeen case at a rate of pay of $200.00 per hour. On a roll call vote, Alderwoman Moore, Alderman Ivory, Alderman Belle and Alderman Cain voted "Aye". No vote from Alderman Holliday.

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory that the Aberdeen Police Department is no longer authorized to participate in high-speed chases, they must radio ahead to the Monroe County Sheriff's Department and Mississippi Highway Patrol. The City of Aberdeen cannot afford this anymore due to the safety of everyone. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Belle to allow supervisors / department heads determine whether their people must clock in or not. 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 guideline for School Resource Officer Sanatana Scales to attend the 2025 NASRO Conference, Grapevine, Texas / July 6-11, 2025. The total fees: $2,494.72. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Cain, seconded by Alderman Ivory to approve Employee Enhancement for School Resource Officers Lee Johnson and Christopher Dobbins to attend the 2025 NASRO Conference, Grapevine, Texas / July 6-11, 2025, and all expenses are paid by the Aberdeen Public School District. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

A motion was made by Alderman Belle, seconded by Alderman Cain to adjourn until the April 1, 2025, Board Meeting. On a roll call vote, all present voted "Aye".

Johnny D. Stevens

Johnny Dwight Stevens, Mayor

Attest:

Melissa Moore

Melissa Moore, City Clerk