

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
December 21, 2015**

Council Present: Mayor McGrady, Councilwoman Landbeck, Councilman Lindecamp,
and Councilman Taylor

Absent: None

Vacancy: One Council Seat

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Kyle Torster, Director of Public Works
Chief Henry Trabert, Aberdeen Police Department
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance
Monica Correll, City Clerk
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

Mayor McGrady called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was delivered by Reverend Catherine Hooker, New Beginnings Church of God, and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Landbeck.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilman Lindecamp to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting for November 23, 2015.

The motion was passed with a vote of 4 – yes, 0 – no, 1 – vacant.

Ayes: Mayor McGrady, Councilwoman Landbeck, Councilman Lindecamp,
and Councilman Taylor.
Nays: None.
Vacancy: One seat.

A motion was made by Councilman Lindecamp and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve the minutes of the Council Meeting for December 7, 2015.

The motion was passed with a vote of 4 – yes, 0 – no, 1 – vacant.

Ayes: Mayor McGrady, Councilwoman Landbeck, Councilman Lindecamp,
and Councilman Taylor.
Nays: None.
Vacancy: One seat.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilman Lindecamp to approve the Closed Meeting minutes for December 7, 2015.

The motion was passed with a vote of 4 – yes, 0 – no, 1 – vacant.

Ayes: Mayor McGrady, Councilwoman Landbeck, Councilman Lindecamp,
and Councilman Taylor.

Nays: None.

Vacancy: One seat.

Statement of Closed Session for December 7, 2015

The City Clerk read the Statement of Closed Session for December 7, 2015 for the record.

On December 7, 2015, the Mayor and Council held a regularly scheduled Business Meeting, Work Session in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. All members, with the exception of one vacancy, voted by roll call in the affirmative to close the session.

At approximately 8:44 p.m., a closed session was convened by the Mayor and Council in the second floor administrative conference room. Members present were: Mayor Patrick McGrady, Councilwoman Sandra Landbeck, Councilman Timothy Lindecamp, and Councilman Melvin Taylor. Also in attendance were City Manager Douglas Miller and City Clerk Monica Correll.

The session was held pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Statutory Authority Md. Code Annotated, General Provisions Article § 3-305(b): (8) To consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. The reason was to discuss potential litigation and the topic was an e-mail regarding litigation threat.

During this meeting, the Mayor and Council were in consensus that the City Manager may discuss the particulars of a potential lawsuit with those who threatened to bring it. No action was taken at this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. 2015 Aberdeen Heritage Trust, Christmas Decorating Contest

Mayor McGrady presented awards to the winners of the 2015 Aberdeen Heritage Trust Christmas Decorating Contest.

Eric Piper, First Place, Modern
Robert Oldland, Second Place, Modern
Russell Piper, Second Place, Modern
William Loerop, Third Place, Modern
Michael Wirsing/Pam Overly, Third Place, Modern
Nichole Malone, First Place, Traditional
Ordos Family, Second Place, Traditional

Bernard and Myrtle Ridgely, Third Place, Traditional
Mamie's Café with Love, First Place, Business

2. 2015 Appearance and Preservation Committee Christmas Street Contest Winners, Caroline Curry (President)

Mayor McGrady and Caroline Curry presented awards to the winners of the 2015 Christmas Street Contest Winners.

Youth Category

Karing for Kids Learning Center, Walking, First Place
Cub Scout Pack #802, Float, First Place and Window, First Place
Aberdeen High School Sports for Life Program, Float, Second Place
Belcamp Baller Cheerleaders, Walking, Second Place
St. Joan of Arc, Float, Third Place

Adult Category

Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce, Window, First Place
Aberdeen Lioness Lions, Float, First Place
Aberdeen Room, Window, Second Place
Friendly Paws Veterinary Clinic, Float, Second Place
The Kruger Family, Window, Third Place
Italian American Businessmen, Float, Third Place

Youth/Adult Category

George D. Lisby Elementary School, Float, First Place
Aberdeen Girl Scout Troop #76, Walking, First Place
Duchy of Chesapeake, Walking, First Place
Ravens Nest #26, Float, Second Place
American Legion #128, Float, Third Place
Hoppin Hawks Jump Rope, Walking, Third Place

Business Category

Mamie's Restaurant, Window, First Place
Edible Arrangements, Window, Second Place
Keypoint Health Services, Window, Third Place

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Ms. Amy Lindecamp, Edmund Street: Ms. Lindecamp asked for the best to be done for the City by the Council.
2. Ms. Janice Grant, Law Street: Ms. Grant discussed her property on Robinson Avenue.
3. Mr. Bill Ordos, Ferndale Road: Mr. Ordos stated his traffic concerns for Rt. 22.

4. Mr. Michael Hiob, Graceford Drive: Mr. Hiob shared his viewpoints on recent Council matters and expenses.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Resolution No. 15-R-10, Aberdeen Police Department Pension Plan, Seventh Amendment (For Introduction and Adoption)

Mayor McGrady introduced Resolution No. 15-R-10, Aberdeen Police Department Pension Plan, Seventh Amendment.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilman Taylor to approve Resolution No. 15-R-10, Aberdeen Police Department Pension Plan, Seventh Amendment.

The motion was passed with a vote of 4 – yes, 0 – no, 1 – vacant.

Ayes: Mayor McGrady, Councilwoman Landbeck, Councilman Lindecamp, and Councilman Taylor.

Nays: None.

Vacancy: One seat.

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

1. Unfinished Business

- a. Council Vacancy

Mayor McGrady nominated Mr. Sean DeBonis to fill the vacant Council seat.

The motion failed with a vote of 1 – yes, 3 – no, 1 – vacant.

Ayes: Mayor McGrady.

Nays: Councilwoman Landbeck, Councilman Lindecamp, and Councilman Taylor.

Vacancy: One seat.

- b. Council Rules of Procedure

Mayor McGrady stated that more work was needed on this document. It should be discussed at the next meeting with the Council's proposed changes.

2. New Business – None.

3. Business from Director of Planning & Community Development

- a. Revolving Loan Program Repeal

Mr. Grover said that the State would like the City to close out its revolving loan fund, in the amount \$139,734.94, and use toward a project. A public hearing would be held on January 25, 2016. Council discussion followed.

4. Business from Chief of Police

The Chief reported on police events and activities such as “Christmas on Patrol” and “Shop with a Cop.” Discussion followed about the need for a School Resource Officer at Aberdeen Middle School.

5. Business from Director of Finance

a. First Quarter Financial Activities

Mr. Jack presented the following summary report, by fund, on the Quarterly Financial Activities, July 1, 2015 through September 30, 2015, comparing revenues and expenses to budgeted amounts for the various funds.

General Fund

Total revenues exceeded total expenses (including transfers-out) by \$3.2 million, with revenues of \$7.4 million, and expenses of \$4.2 million.

Revenues were \$242 thousand better than budgeted. Property tax collection was more than budgeted by \$360 thousand. State Shared revenues were \$387 thousand less than budgeted due to delay in Income Tax and Highway User Revenue remittance from the State. County Shared revenues were, mostly, in line with budget.

Expenses were better than budgeted by \$98 thousand.

Capital Projects Fund

Total receipts exceeded total expenses by \$770 thousand, with receipts of \$818 thousand (including transfer-in of \$788 thousand from the General Fund), and expenses of \$48 thousand.

Revenues were \$30 thousand better than budgeted due to a grant from the State. Expenses were better than budgeted by \$149 thousand due to delay in implementing projects.

Water Fund

Total expenses exceeded total revenues by \$83 thousand, with expenses of \$852 thousand and revenues of \$769 thousand.

Total revenues were in line with budget, while expenses were \$211 thousand worse than budgeted due to the carry-over of the Hillcrest water tank rehabilitation project from last year.

Sewer Fund

Total revenues exceeded total expenses by \$202 thousand, with revenues of \$1.024 million and expenses of \$822 thousand.

Revenues were better than budgeted by \$58 thousand. Expenses were \$57 thousand better than budgeted.

Stadium Fund

Total receipts were more than total expenses by \$358 thousand, with receipts of \$411 thousand (including transfer-in of \$370 thousand from the General Fund), and expenses of \$53 thousand.

Revenues were \$37 thousand less than budgeted, while expenses were, mostly, in line with budget.

All Funds

Overall, the City's total revenues and other sources exceeded total expenses and other uses by \$4.5 million, with revenues and other sources of \$10.4 million and expenses and other uses of \$5.9 million.

6. Business from Director of Public Works

Mr. Torster provided updates on: the Rt. 40 sewer replacement; Winston's Choice snow removal, Bid No. 16-04 – FY16 Street Resurfacing; a new project for curb/gutter/sidewalk work; and a new project for replacing the Ripken Stadium railings. He also provided information on the City's traffic counter device and the Maintenance Shop's new forklift and front end loader. Council discussion followed.

7. Business from City Manager

Mr. Miller said that a Public Works bulletin will be issued concerning snow removal, recycling, yard waste, and other matters. He also addressed the speed concerns on the Rt. 22, between Paradise Road and Old Post Road. The State Highway Administration had been contacted in the past and should be contacted again to request a decrease in the speed limit.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Ms. Janice Grant, Law Street: Ms. Grant asked for an investigation into damages to her property and for a reduction or elimination of trash pickup charges.
2. Mr. Michael Hiob, Graceford Drive: Mr. Hiob stated the benefits of the trash sticker system.
3. Ms. Marla Posey-Moss, Avon Drive: Ms. Posey-Moss commented on current grant money available for bus shelters. The Mayor said that the City contacted the County and the shelters are expected in February. Ms. Posey-Moss asked the Council members to state reasons for their decisions on the Council vacancy nominations.
4. Ms. Carol Bruce, Oak Street: Ms. Bruce discussed the Council vacancy impact. She also asked for Public Works information on repaving. Mr. Torster responded with an update.

5. Mr. Blaine Miller, W. Bel Air Avenue: Mr. Miller complimented the Council on their performance and commented on the Council nomination process.

BUSINESS OF COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council

The Council reported on their meetings and activities. They also stated their concerns for filling the Council vacancy and the reasons behind the nomination rejection.

2. Business from the Mayor

The Mayor reported on a meeting he and the City Manager had with Harford County Government officials about Aberdeen projects. They discussed the School Resource Officer matter caused by a funding shortage; further discussions would be held at a later date. The Aberdeen Library was scheduled for renovation in approximately five years. He announced that the City of Aberdeen just celebrated its 39th Christmas celebration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Council Meeting/Work Session: Monday, January 11, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

Next Council Meeting: Monday, January 25, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m. The motion carried.