

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting  
January 27, 2014**

**Present:** Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilwoman Landbeck,  
Councilman Garner, and Councilwoman Young

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Douglas Miller, City Manager  
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development  
Matthew Lapinsky, Director of Public Works  
Henry Trabert, Chief of Police  
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance  
Monica Correll, City Clerk

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by Pastor Melvin Taylor, Word of Faith Outreach Ministries and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Landbeck.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2013, Council Meeting. **The minutes were approved by a vote of 5 – yes, 0 – no.**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Aberdeen Appearance and Preservation Committee, Christmas Street Contest 2013

Mayor Bennett and Ms. Caroline Curry awarded the following Christmas Street Contest winners for 2013:

<u>Youth Category</u>	
Hall's Crossroads Elementary	Windows – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place, Walking 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
Cub Scout Pack 961	Windows – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
Cub Scout Pack 820	Windows – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
Karing for Kids Learning Center	Walking – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place
St. Joan of Arc School	Float – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place
Cub Scout Pack 802	Float – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
Lisby Hillsdale School	Float – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place

<u>Adult Category</u>	
Aberdeen Room	Windows – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place
The Kruger Family	Windows – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce	Windows – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
Greyhounds Pets of America	Walking – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place
Aberdeen Lioness Lions	Float – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place

Youth/Adult Category

Girl Scout Service Unit 76	Walking – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place
Horne Concrete Company	Float – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place
Work of Faith	Float – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place

Business Category

National Bank of Rising Sun	Windows – 1 <sup>st</sup> Place
Scoops Corner Café & Deli	Windows – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place
Flowers by Lucy	Windows – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place, Float – 2 <sup>nd</sup> Place

2. Aberdeen Heritage Trust, Holiday Decorating Contest

The Mayor, Dr. Nancy Backus, and Mr. Dan Augustyniak presented the Aberdeen Heritage Trust Decorating Contest Awards to:

Ms. Louise Costello – First Place Colonial Category  
Mr. Wilfried Adams and Ms. Linda Adams – Second Place Colonial Category  
Ms. Amanda Ordos and Mr. Vincent Ordos – Third Place Colonial Category  
Mr. Scott Ryan and Ms. Veronica Ryan – First Place Modern Category  
Ms. Pam Hullett and Paul Hullett – Second Place Modern Category  
Mr. William Loerop – Third Place Modern Category

3. Aberdeen Heritage Trust Preservation Award

The Mayor, Dr. Nancy Backus, and Mr. Dan Augustyniak presented the Aberdeen Heritage Trust Preservation Award to Mr. Mark DiDomenico and Mr. John McKeon.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

1. Ordinance No. 13-O-09, Revision, City of Aberdeen Development Code, Transit Oriented Development (TOD)

Ms. Grover stated that the Aberdeen Train Station was designated as a transit oriented development area in 2010. The City completed improvement studies to add a new platform area, a pedestrian underpass, removal of pedestrian overpass, and started the pre-preliminary engineering and designs. They also worked on amendments to the development code and form based codes. The amendments were based on the Master Plan vision adopted in May, 2012 and the ordinance was introduced in November, 2013. Over 400 letters were mailed to the business owners, residents, and property owners within the TOD area. Mr. David Dalstrom, Maryland Department of Planning and Ms. Stacey Dalstrom, Maryland Department of Transportation, were present.

There were no public comments.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Mr. Robert Hartman, Paradise Road, Aberdeen: Mr. Hartman said he was opposed to salary increases for the Mayor and Council and that it should be the decision of the residents. He was adverse to the City spending money on the water authority study.
2. Mr. Michael Hiob, Graceford Drive, Aberdeen: Mr. Hiob asked that the second public comment be reinstated to the Council Meetings. He also expressed his opposition to Mayor and Council salary increases, and if adopted, would pursue a referendum.
3. Mr. Michael Danish, Hemlock Lane, Aberdeen: Mr. Danish stated opposition to Mayor and Council increases and listed issues of concern.
4. Mr. Robert Hanson, Parke Street, Aberdeen: Mr. Hanson had questions pertaining to TOD and the form based code. This would be addressed by Ms. Grover at a future meeting.

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

1. Charter Resolution No. 14-CR-01, Revisions to City's Electoral Process (Introduction & Adoption)

Mayor Bennett introduced Charter Resolution No. 14-CR-01, Revisions to City's Electoral Process.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to adopt Charter Resolution No. 14-CR-01, Revisions to City's Electoral Process.

**The motion passed by a vote of 5 – yes; 0 – no.**

2. Charter Resolution No. 14-CR-02, Mayor & Council Member Qualifications (Introduction & Adoption)

Mayor Bennett introduced Charter Resolution No. 14-CR-02, Mayor & Council Member Qualifications.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to adopt Charter Resolution No. 14-CR-02, Mayor & Council Member Qualifications.

**The motion passed by a vote of 5 – yes; 0 – no.**

3. Ordinance No. 14-O-01, Campaign Finance (For Introduction)

Mayor Bennett introduced Ordinance No. 14-O-01, Campaign Finance.

4. Ordinance No. 14-O-02, Mayor and Council Candidate Qualifications (For Introduction)

Mayor Bennett introduced Ordinance No. 14-O-02, Mayor and Council Candidate Qualifications.

5. Ordinance No. 14-O-03, Mayor and Council Compensation (For Introduction)

Mayor Bennett introduced Ordinance No. 14-O-03, Mayor and Council Compensation.

**BUSINESS OF THE CITY:**

1. Unfinished Business – None.

2. New Business

a. Aberdeen Planning Commission Appointment

Mayor Bennett nominated Ms. Dominic Edwards to be appointed as a member of the Planning Commission.

**The nomination passed by a vote of 5 – yes; 0 – no.**

b. Budget Amendment: Participation in Study Regarding Regional Water Authority

A motion was made by Councilwoman Young and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve a Budget Amendment for the Second Study Regarding Regional Water Authority not to exceed \$81,500, contingent on the approval of the scope of work by the Mayor and City Manager.

Councilwoman Elliott objected to the budget amendment citing that the taxpayers have paid enough for the recent upgrades, rates will increase, and that the City will lose control and rights over a valuable commodity. She stated that Harford County Government has tried this before and the municipalities rejected it. The money paid for the studies could be used for other needs. Councilwoman Landbeck agreed, however, her conclusion was that the City should pay the fee in order to participate and retain control. She said that the Mayor and Mr. Miller are on the Board and are strong representatives for the City.

**The motion passed by a vote of 4 – yes; 1 – no.**

**Ayes: Mayor Bennett, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Landbeck,  
Councilwoman Young**

**Nays: Councilwoman Elliott**

3. Business from the Director of Planning and Community Development

a. Preliminary Site Plan for Hampton Inn and LaQuinta Inn

Mr. Grover stated that this is a 3.28 acre redevelopment plan located at 793 West Bel Air Avenue. The owner, Crossroads Hospitality, Inc. will redevelop the site with a Hampton Inn by Hilton with 89 rooms/4 stories and a LaQuinta Inn & Suites with 81 rooms/4 stories, zoned B3 (Highway Commercial District). The Planning Commission recommended approval at their January, 2014 meeting. Ms. Amy DiPietro of Morris & Ritchie Associates, Inc. explained the property in more detail and that LEED certification will be attempted.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve the Preliminary Site Plan for Hampton Inn by Hilton and LaQuinta Inn & Suites.

**The motion passed with by a vote of 5- yes, 0 – no.**

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Trabert asked the Council for their approval to surplus the following vehicles to be sold at auction. The vehicles are no longer in use and do not meet the minimum standards for use by any City department.

- 1995 Dodge Dakota, VIN# 1B7GG23Y4SS386744
- 2002 Ford Crown Victoria, VIN# 2FAFP71W22X132592
- 2000 Cadillac El Dorado, VIN# 1G6EL12YXYU172260

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the surplus of the 1995 Dodge Dakota, 2002 Ford Crown Victoria, and a 2000 Cadillac El Dorado.

**The motion passed with by a vote of 5- yes, 0 – no.**

5. Business from the Director of Finance

a. Year-To-Date Financial Activities

Mr. Jack presented the following year-to-date summary of financial activities for the City of Aberdeen from July 1 through December 31, 2013.

General Fund

Total revenues (including appropriated fund balance) exceeded total expenses (including transfers-out) by \$2.7 million, with revenues of \$13 million, and expenses of \$10.3 million.

Revenues were \$62 thousand better than budgeted. Property tax collection was more than budgeted by \$219 thousand. State Shared revenues were \$61 thousand less than budgeted; and County Shared revenues were in line with budget.

Expenses were better than budgeted by \$191 thousand. This was mostly due to: 1) savings from property insurance premium; and, 2) less than budgeted cash outlays, so far, in line items such as Street Lighting, Tipping Fee, IT, Fuel and Motor Vehicle expenses.

#### Capital Projects Fund

There were no revenue activities in the Capital Projects Fund other than the transfer-in of \$4.1 million from the General Fund for street resurfacing and other capital purchases. Expenses were \$676 thousand which includes the acquisition of the Franklin Street properties.

#### Water Fund

Total revenues exceeded total expenses by \$392 thousand, with revenues of \$1.6 million and expenses of \$1.2 million.

Revenues and expenses were better than budgeted by \$239 thousand and \$355 thousand respectively.

#### Sewer Fund

Total expenses exceeded total revenues by \$1.2 million, with expenses of \$3.2 million and revenues of \$1.9 million.

Revenues were less than budgeted by \$784 thousand. This is mostly due to grant proceeds that are pending. Expenses were less than budgeted by \$205 thousand.

#### Stadium Fund

Total receipts exceeded total expenses by \$345 thousand, with receipts of \$432 thousand (including transfer-in of \$241 thousand from the General Fund), and expenses of \$87 thousand.

Revenues and expenses were in line with the budget.

#### All Funds

Overall, the City's total revenues and other sources exceeded total expenses and other uses by \$5.7 million, with revenues/other sources of \$21 million and expenses/other uses of \$15.3 million.

### 6. Business from the Director of Public Works (DPW)

#### a. Surplus Inventory

Mr. Lapinsky asked for Council approval to surplus the following items for sale on gov.deals:

- commercial gas range
- bell and wall mount
- 10 inch plastic 90 degree sewer pipe fitting (2 pieces)
- 10 inch plastic 45 degree sewer pipe fitting (2 pieces)
- 36 inch ductile 45 degree pipe fitting (2 pieces)
- 20 inch gate valve
- 20 inch x 20 inch x 12 inch tee, 20 inch sleeve (2 pieces), 20 inch megalugs (8 pieces)
- assorted guard rail material
- assorted corrugated drain pipe
- basketball hoops (2 pieces)
- assorted precast concrete manholes
- steel security door
- metal bay door parts
- assorted concrete forms for sidewalk, curb and gutter
- concrete drain vault 4 foot W x 5 foot L x 3 foot H
- 5 foot x 20 foot concrete pipe (1 piece)
- 3 foot x 3 foot concrete pipe (5 pieces), 6 foot x 16 foot concrete pipe (8 pieces)
- 12 inch x 7 foot concrete pipe (16 pieces)
- 24 inch x 8 foot concrete pipe (4 pieces)
- assorted concrete pipe, sizes include: 12 foot x 16 foot (2 pieces); 5 foot x 16 foot (2+ pieces); 10 foot x 20 foot (15+ pieces); 8 foot x 16 foot (1 piece)
- hydraulic shoring with pump
- rigid electric pipe snake
- large diameter pipe wet tap machine, assorted parts, several pieces crated
- 16 inch pneumatic walk behind sawtech FS150 street saw
- 16 inch gas powered Edco walk behind street saw with trailer
- Homelite 662, 4 inch trash pump.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the Department of Public Works surplus inventory.

**The motion passed with by a vote of 5- yes, 0 – no.**

b. Bid Award, Michael Lane Creek Erosion

Mr. Lapinsky explained the need to repair erosion damage on a bank located at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The damage is a storm water management compliance issue.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to award Bid No. 13-11 to R.J. Nooft Contracting in the amount of \$34,950.00.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller thanked citizens for their patience during recent delays in City services due to the weather and DPW for their outstanding work. He noted the success of Harford Night in Annapolis.

**BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. Business from the City Council

Mr. Arthur Elliott's (former Chief of the Aberdeen Police Department) funeral arrangements were announced. The Council members congratulated everyone associated with the Christmas Street Parade, all the award winners, and Ms. Caroline Curry, Chair of the Appearance and Preservation Committee. They noted that Aberdeen High School students' performance on Advanced Placement examinations and academic achievement earned the school the 2012-2013 School of the Year by the National Math and Science Initiative. Other community events were also announced.

2. Business from the Mayor

Condolences were offered to the Elliott family. The Mayor gave an update on Maryland Municipal Leagues priorities to have the State fully restore Highway User Revenues. He noted that this year, over half funding will be restored to Maryland's municipalities and Police Aid was slightly increased. He reported that allocations for Program Open Space were decreased, Community Parks and Recreation remained stable, Sustainable Communities Strategic Demolition Neighborhood Business Works Program increased, the Waterway Improvement Fund increased, and the Chesapeake Bay Trust fund increased. The Hotel Tax issue will be pursued. He thanked the Department of Public Works and the Police Department for their efforts during the recent weather events.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next Council Work Sessions:	Monday, February 3, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. Monday, February 10, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.
Next Council Meeting:	Monday, February 24, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Young to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.