

CITY OF ABERDEEN
Council Meeting
July 24, 2017

Council Present: Mayor Patrick McGrady
Councilwoman Sandra Landbeck
Councilman Timothy Lindecamp
Councilman Melvin Taylor

Absent: Councilman Steven Goodin

Also Present: Randy Robertson, City Manager
Frederick Sussman, Esq., City Attorney
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Kyle Torster, Director of Public Works
Henry Trabert, Chief of Police
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance
Monica Correll, City Clerk

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

PRESENTATIONS:

- 1 Greater Aberdeen-Havre de Grace Enterprise Zone Expansion: Jake Adler, Harford County Office of Economic Development

Ms. Karen Holt, Director, and Mr. Jake Adler, Enterprise Zone Administrator, both from the Harford County Office of Economic Development gave an overview of the Resolution for Support of the Greater Aberdeen/Havre de Grace Enterprise Zone proposal which included real and state income tax credits, the program history, the areas identified for growth, and the application timeline. Council discussion followed.

2. Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

Ms. Grover briefed the Council that Aberdeen was receiving almost \$294,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds. The Council had already decided on six projects and Ms. Grover updated them on the amount and status:

- The Swim Center resurfacing was completed for \$58,300.
- The Boys & Girls Club building improvements were approved for about \$15,000. There was no activity completed pending completion of agreement.
- A new playground at 15 East Bel Air Avenue was proposed at \$85,000.

- Four concrete bus shelter pads were completed for \$207,000. Harford County Government would contribute \$59,830 to cover some of the costs.
- North Deen Park was estimated at \$29,500 for the purchase of new bleachers at North Deen Park, new sign inline hockey, clear coat for inline hockey, two storage containers for Aberdeen Parks and Recreation. There was no activity on this at the present time.

Public hearings were required to be held and several policies were required to be adopted: Minority Business Plan; Section 3 Plan; Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Plan; and the Affirmative Action Strategy for the City. Council discussion followed.

3. Old Post Apartments - Isaac Sassoon, Tryko Partners

Mr. Isaac Sassoon from Tryko Partners, a private equity real estate group, discussed a proposition for a 30-year tax exemption agreement or a PILOT program (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) upon the purchase of Affinity Old Post Apartments.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Greater Aberdeen-Havre de Grace Enterprise Zone Expansion: The Resolution was introduced and there were no public comments.
2. Maryland Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG): There were no public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Resolution No. 17-R-06, Resolution of Support for the Greater Aberdeen/Havre de Grace Enterprise Zone Expansion

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilman Lindecamp to introduce Resolution No. 17-R-06, Resolution of Support for the Greater Aberdeen/Havre de Grace Enterprise Zone Expansion. **The motion passed by a vote of 4 – yes; 0 – no; 1 – absent.**

Ayes: Mayor McGrady, Councilwoman Landbeck,
Councilman Lindecamp, and Councilman Taylor.
Nays: None.
Absent: Councilman Goodin.

2. Emergency Ordinance No. 17-O-13, Amendment of FY 2017 Budget (7)

Mr. Jack explained that the FY 2017 budget for the General and Capital Projects Funds needed to be amended. The General Fund budget was being increased by a net total of \$114,750 for: the transfer to Capital Projects Fund for the construction of bus pads in the

amount of \$98,750; and, the transfer to Stadium Fund for the railing project in the amount of \$16,000. Both funded with Fund Balance.

The Capital Projects Fund budget was being increased by a total of \$109,248 for the construction of bus pads. Funded with transfer from General Fund of \$98,750 and State grant of \$10,498.

A motion was made by Councilman Taylor and seconded by Councilman Lindecamp to introduce Emergency Ordinance No. 17-O-13, Amendment of FY 2017 Budget (7). **The motion passed by a vote of 4 – yes; 0 – no; 1 – absent.**

Ayes: Mayor McGrady, Councilwoman Landbeck,
Councilman Lindecamp, and Councilman Taylor.
Nays: None.
Absent: Councilman Goodin.

A motion was made by Councilman Lindecamp and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to suspend the prohibition against passing an ordinance at the meeting it was introduced for Emergency Ordinance No. 17-O-13, Amendment of FY 2017 Budget (7). **The motion passed by a vote of 4 – yes; 0 – no; 1 – absent.**

Ayes: Mayor McGrady, Councilwoman Landbeck,
Councilman Lindecamp, and Councilman Taylor.
Nays: None.
Absent: Councilman Goodin.

A motion was made by Councilman Lindecamp and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 17-O-13, Amendment of FY 2017 Budget (7). **The motion passed by a vote of 4 – yes; 0 – no; 1 – absent.**

Ayes: Mayor McGrady, Councilwoman Landbeck,
Councilman Lindecamp, and Councilman Taylor.
Nays: None.
Absent: Councilman Goodin.

3. Approval of 2018 Road Improvements

Mr. Torster submitted the 2018 Road Improvement Cost Estimate for the following roads: Carol Avenue (Route 40 to Walker Street), Edmund Street (Custis Street to Washington Street), Baltimore Street (W. Bel Air Avenue to end), Custis Street (Rock Road to Moyer Drive), Chestnut Street (Elm Street to Third Street), Oak Street (Chestnut Street to Elm Street), and Carol Avenue (Route 40 to Walker Street).

A motion was made by Councilman Taylor and seconded by Councilman Lindecamp to approve the FY 2018 Road Improvement proposal by the Director of Public Works. **The motion passed by a vote of 4 – yes; 0 – no; 1 – absent.**

Ayes: Mayor McGrady, Councilwoman Landbeck,
Councilman Lindecamp, and Councilman Taylor.
Nays: None.
Absent: Councilman Goodin

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

1. Unfinished Business: None.
2. New Business: None.
3. Updates from City Manager and Staff
 - a. City Manager

Mr. Robertson reported on the start of road improvements to APG Road, the progress of handicap accessibility at the Aberdeen Post Office, Aberdeen Police Department events, a Ministerial Association meeting, the possible costs for the Waste Water Treatment Plant screens, and the impact of stormwater from severe storms.

- b. Aberdeen Façade Improvement Program, Musical Inn, 310 S. Philadelphia Blvd.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilman Lindecamp to approve the application for the Aberdeen Façade Improvement Program, Musical Inn, 310 S. Philadelphia Blvd. **The motion passed by a vote of 4 – yes; 0 – no; 1 – absent.**

Ayes: Mayor McGrady, Councilwoman Landbeck,
Councilman Lindecamp, and Councilman Taylor.
Nays: None.
Absent: Councilman Goodin.

- c. Bid No. 18-02, One (1) Dump Body Truck Award

A motion was made by Councilman Lindecamp and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to award Bid No. 18-02, One (1) Dump Body Truck Award to Johnson Truck Center, 3801 Ironwood Place, Landover, Maryland, in the amount of \$119,409, the lowest bidder. **The motion passed by a vote of 4 – yes; 0 – no; 1 – absent.**

Ayes: Mayor McGrady, Councilwoman Landbeck,
Councilman Lindecamp, and Councilman Taylor.
Nays: None.
Absent: Councilman Goodin

PUBLIC COMMENT: There were no public comments.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Business from the Council Members: Councilwoman Landbeck thanked everyone for their thoughtfulness for a personal matter. Councilman Lindecamp discussed negotiations made with Tufton Baseball. He rescinded his authority from a letter he signed and was sent to Tufton Baseball. He said he was waiting for a response on an opinion from the Ethics Commission.
2. Business from the Mayor:

State of the City

Tonight I wish to make a few remarks about where we've been and where we're going. Some may refer to it as a State of the City, but in my mind, it's more like a report to the shareholders of our company; with the company being the City of Aberdeen and the shareholders being our citizens.

Let me begin by acknowledging my fellow Council members. You work very hard for the well-being of our citizens and the Aberdeen community. Your efforts do not go unnoticed; it's done with professionalism, zeal, curiosity and a sense of the selfless servant. We have not and will not agree on some things but we are firmly united in agreement that the City of Aberdeen is one of a proud past and a bright future. So with that I applaud you, Councilman Goodin, Councilwoman Landbeck, Councilman Lindecamp and Councilman Taylor for your efforts and contributions on behalf of our City. I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to my family and the families of our Council members for your support and sacrifice as we, the elected officials of Aberdeen, serve our community. It can be tough to be the partner of an elected official, so from myself and my colleagues, our sincere thanks and appreciation for your contributions.

Let's address the elephant in the room; there's no question that we, as a Council, saw our origins in a rocky start. The November 2015 election was difficult and controversial. But, we are now nearly two years past the election, and I, and the Council wish to reach out to every constituency with the challenge of moving Aberdeen forward. There are over 19,300 incorporated places, counties, cities, boroughs, parishes across the United States, and to some extent every one of those organizations desires the same thing: economic growth and prosperity as well as a good quality of life, jobs, schools and housing. Aberdeen is just like them. So, my and the Council's challenge to our residents and leaders is an extension of the hand to work together. Let's strive to build each other and our City up rather than tear down. While we may not always agree on how to get there, let us at least resolve ourselves to respectfully work together for the good of Aberdeen. And when we do differ let's have face-to-face dialogue. In a world of Facebook, emails, text messages, and tweets, the civility to talk to one another rather than at one another has suffered. Rancorous rumor, deceitful discourse and deliberate misrepresentation of the facts can be the seeds that potential businesses, investors or residents see and remember when deciding on a new community. I and the Council recognize we have a community of stakeholders who do not think the way

we do, or agree with all the things we do, but none-the-less they love our community. If you're in that camp, I simply ask for an opportunity to have a face-to-face conversation. 2017 marks our City's 125th Anniversary, and a window to look at that proud past I referred to. There's so much going on at the City and in the community...and so much to be proud of. This is also a perfect opportunity to look at the strategy to move the community forward. Here are four key areas where I, as Mayor, feel we should focus:

1. First: The Aberdeen City Council and staff need to continue their work to maintain financial stability while balancing the needs of the community.
2. Second: Economic development is the catalyst to propel Aberdeen forward. In the past year there's been a positive move to create more local employment opportunities, but like those other 19,000 plus locations we simply cannot rest upon what was done in the past. The drumbeat can't be on what we did, but what we will do; not about yesterday or today, but tomorrow.
3. Third: Sustaining our efforts to ensure Aberdeen is a safe community is and will remain a top priority. Drug abuse plagues every city, county and state in the U.S. and with drug abuse comes other criminal activities. To combat this, our police must be the best and brightest we can attract and retain. While the lure of a career in policing may not have the same luster it once had, here in Aberdeen we had more than 100 applicants who wanted to become a member of the Police Department in our last recruiting effort. We will keep the focus on hiring, training and retaining the best of the best. As the only nationally accrediting body, CALEA certified force in Harford County, there should be no question we will continue actively, aggressively pursuing criminal activity when and where it occurs.
4. Fourth: Through the work of this Council, our professional staff, dedicated volunteers and citizens across Aberdeen we commit to sustain a focus on our quality of life, the foundation for all growing communities. Hundreds of citizens of Aberdeen contribute their time, energy and talent to work together, to do good within our City. From Mrs. Curry and the Christmas Parade Committee to our Planning Commission to the Parks and Rec Board to the Appearance and Preservation Committee; there's an opportunity if not a responsibility for everyone. There are volunteers in the Senior Center, at our schools, as well as with the City's new Economic Development group. There are mentors and role models working with scouts, with new parents, inside our churches and with the homeless, with Habitat for Humanity and with those afflicted by drug use. There are volunteers at the Boys & Girls Club, Swim Center, for Third Friday's and those who come out and pick up trash for Keep Aberdeen Beautiful, who through action, demonstrate their love of this City. These men and women, boys and girls are those who make the quality of life in Aberdeen exceptionally unique and extraordinarily meaningful. Paraphrasing President Kennedy, it may not be what your community does for you but what are you doing for your community.

Rather than more generalizations, let's take a look at some measures. I like metrics, measures, numbers, and comparisons . . . they're a lot like mile markers on a map; they tell where you've been and show where you want to go.

- As noted, the Aberdeen Police Department is the only certified Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Department in Harford County. In the last year, of the 7 required FBI major reportable crime indices, commonly referred to as Part 1 crimes, 5 saw a reduction. Yes, there were declines in robbery, assault, breaking and entering and theft. Overall, the total number of Part 1 crimes has been reduced from 652 in 2014 to 365 in 2016. That's an incredibly good news story.
- The Police are doing better at clearing cases, too. In the first 6 months of this year, the clearance rate for assaults was 65% compared to the Maryland average of 57% and the national average of 54%. Our clearance rate for breaking and entering was 46% compared to a national rate of nearly 35%. In the latest data available, in 5 of the 7 Part 1 categories, the Aberdeen Police Department's clearance rate exceeded the County, State and national levels.
- Working with the Council, the leadership of our Police has completely redone how we acquire police cars. This year, they will lease 19 new fleet vehicles, selling many of the old patrol cars with hundreds of thousands of miles on them. This initiative represents an upgrade to more fuel efficient, safer vehicles with embedded state-of-the-art technology at essentially the same cost as the way it used to be done.
- Right now there are 3 new police candidates undergoing training at the Baltimore County Police Academy. They were handpicked from more than 100 applicants.
- The Aberdeen Police Department, under the leadership of Chief Henry Trabert and Deputy Chief Kirk Bane, have built partnerships with the County, State, and other localities to ensure the safety of our community and the continued integration and propagation of modern police science among the force.
- While the scourge of drug abuse is horrible, comparatively, Aberdeen has the lowest number of drug overdoses and fatalities of any municipality in the County. This is reflective of the proactive, "not in our city" approach to drugs the Aberdeen Police take.
- The APD community outreach is extraordinary, a model for community-based policing. Our officers take it to heart that we wish to build relationships across the community, bottom-to-top and side- to-side.

On the engineering and public works side, here are a few noteworthy data points:

- Last year we paved over three and one half miles of City streets; more than in years. While the primary financing for road paving, the Maryland gasoline tax, is severely constrained because of more new, more fuel efficient vehicles, in FY18 our Director of Public Works, Mr. Kyle Torster advises we expect to execute nearly one-half million dollars of street improvements.
- On a different but complimentary note, Maryland State Highway officials have advised that repaving of the entire route of West Bel Air will be the number one project in this district next fiscal year. We should see planning for this start as early next summer.

- Late last summer, the DPW completely redesigned the refuse pick-up processes for large sections of the community. This move, prompted to enhance employee safety, has saved the City tens of thousands of dollars in reduced fuel and repair costs along with overtime expenses. On that point, in the last year, not one of the City's refuse workers has left the job. Concentrating on improving their working conditions while constantly recognizing their contributions, this is the first time in years where the Environmental team hasn't lost up to one-third of its employees in a single year.
- Your public works team has successfully maintained hundreds of miles of aging, sometimes antiquated water, sewer and storm water lines. Last year, between local purchases and our own production capabilities, our water crew distributed nearly 500 million gallons of safe, clean water, meeting all State and federal standards. In the coming year, we will see refurbishment of one of the City's near 50-year-old City water tanks, and continuation of the plan to expand the water distribution system to the western perimeter. It will take time and money, but the process has started.
- The Public Works crews have done a brilliant job maintaining our exceptional parks. Festival Park, just in front of City Hall, is the jewel of Aberdeen. Anyone who has visited recently will attest how beautiful the DPW team keeps it. The same can be said for Victory Park on the east side. You may recall Victory Park rose from the ashes of arson last fall with donations from across the community. Victory Park is now projected to be the home to Aberdeen's first Bark Park for dogs.
- Invisible to most citizens, the contractual relationship to operate and maintain the water and waste water services at Aberdeen Proving Ground continues to be a source of pride for the City and the Army. Since its inception, the APG/Aberdeen water and wastewater contract has executed over \$131 million, with an average annual expense of nearly \$6 million. We are truly proud and humbled to be one of APG's longest, strongest and most reliable service providers.
- For the first time in over a dozen years, the pot hole-riddled APG road, immediately behind the Aberdeen train station, has been resurfaced. A long standing source of "finger pointing" between the Army and the State, last November the City brought over 40 stakeholders involved with the road and train station together to negotiate a deal. The remainder of APG Road is being repaved as I present this tonight.
- Some really good news! The long awaited bus shelters are projected to be in place around the City in about 8 weeks.
- In this year's budget, the City Council earmarked \$750,000 to go towards refurbishing one of the City's aging water tanks. The Council also is financing some new, million dollar sludge screens at the treatment plant. In 2016, our waste water plant processed over one half billion gallons of waste water. While these aren't exciting, highly visible projects, there're absolutely essential to the successful operation of the plant and to the health and safety of our community.

From the Economic Development perspective, here are some truly great measures to consider.

- In the last 18 months there's been 22 new business tenant occupancy permits issued: Image360, Chaps Pit Beef, Verizon, Mattress Firm and many others now call Aberdeen home.
- In the last 18 months, the City has seen 16 existing business expansions or renovations with a taxable value of nearly \$16.5 million. Frito Lay tops the list with nearly \$10 million invested back into our City from them alone.
- The City has seen several public projects including a near \$4 million renovation at the Center for Educational Opportunity—known as the “alt-ed” building at Aberdeen High School’s north building. Over \$1.5 million went into the City’s stadium with new handrails and video scoreboard.
- Over \$6 million of new construction is scheduled for a new Lidl Grocery and National Tire and Battery, both on Route 40.
- Partnering with the leadership of MacKenzie Corporation, the staff redid our community marketing materials to reflect an Aberdeen on the move. The Council and I are especially pleased that through relationships we’ve been able to capture APG specific economic data that hasn’t been part of our economic development resource library.
- On the housing side, in the last 18 months more than \$36.5 million of houses and apartments have been built or are now under construction
- Under the purview of Mrs. Phyllis Grover, our Economic Development Director, the City of Aberdeen has captured over \$700,000 in State grants with nearly \$1.3 million in pending requests.
- Through successful lobbying of the transportation officials, in the late spring, the Aberdeen Train Station had a \$300,000 interior make over.
- The City now controls the destiny of the Old Aberdeen High School, to the front of Festival Park. Acquiring it from the County late last year gave us the opportunity to market the structure, considering what will be the best long-term use for our community. We’re right in the midst of taking offers and have had some intriguing interest expressed in the facility.
- Through active, continued efforts from across the City, Aberdeen is posed for a future site of several short listed, nationally recognized restaurants. A recently State-approved right in and out is on slate for the long vacant Merritt office complex by Target on Route 22. This stands to be a major kick start to development in that area and along Middelton Drive when it’s completed.

- The end is in sight for completion of SR 22! At our last Council meeting, State Highway officials advised that the initial base-coat for the Beards Hill intersection should be done, weather dependent, by early August. While there's more work to be done, this will be the catalyst to resorting traffic flow at the heart of the City.

Let's shift course and speak briefly about Team Aberdeen, and a few items most residents and businesses don't see. Yet, these are the things that are both the foundation and glue to any organization; its people.

Corporal Onas Jansen of the Aberdeen Police Department nearly single handedly held down the City's code enforcement and property management operations for most of the year. The Corporal was seen everywhere around the City working on our codes issues, yet at the same time he was and still is the "go to" person for much of the Police Department's exceptional community outreach activities.

Mrs. Connie Martin serves our citizens through oversight and budgeting of the financial segment of the APG water and wastewater contracts. As I previously noted, the Aberdeen Proving Ground contract is over \$6 million per year, and Mrs. Martin does a stellar job in keeping track of every dime. On the City's side, Mr. Mark Walls, the DPW Employee of the Year came from the waste water treatment plant. Mark has and continues to do exceptional work in what are often challenging conditions.

Mrs. Mary Venetos, who to many, is the lady sitting behind the glass barrier at the Finance Department, working daily with customers to resolve concerns with their water and waste water bills. Granted most folks aren't necessarily happy to be in City Hall paying bills, so that's why Mary's exceptional "customer service" focus acts sort of like a staff multiplier by helping citizens understand the process. After working with Mary, most customers leave with a positive impression.

Our hats are off to Mrs. Jennifer Liberto and Mrs. Donna Burdette of the Aberdeen Police Department. Mrs. Liberto is renowned for keeping the front offices up on track and in prime operational order, while Mrs. Burdette is the cool, steady hand ensuring the APD dispatchers are trained and ready to meet any emergency.

Mrs. Judith Hinch and Mrs. Helen Rucker . . . the voices of Aberdeen. They're the ones on the other end of the line with you call; and they're the ones who normally know how to fix any problems you may have with the City in a matter of minutes. Mrs. Hinch has been also a stellar volunteer at the Aberdeen Fire Department and is still serving today.

Mr. Dave Holcomb and his crew work across the City ensuring it looks as good as possible, summer or winter, rain or shine, heat or cold. Dave and his guys are also the ones who make sure the Christmas decorations are ready to go each winter and they get properly put away for the next year.

Mr. John Epps, who simply has to be one of the hardest working and happiest environmental workers this City has ever had. Aberdeen is blessed with a lot of rock solid fellows working

at the Environmental Shop, but John Epps is undoubtedly the one most people remember after just speaking with him for a few minutes.

Officers Jason Neidig and Karen Kerins, our School Resources Officers at the Middle and High Schools, are the professionals who work with our most precious resource, our children, each and every day. They are the rock solid models our children see and talk to daily, as they mentor and help shape the future for many of them.

And there's many, many more selfless, professional, humble public servants out before the sun comes up and there long after dark, 24/7, 365 days a year serving our community. We owe them our respect, thanks and deep felt appreciation.

Let's now move look at some financial matters. Here are just a few highlights:

Aberdeen is in a strong financial position. Our credit and ratings are superb and improving. Fitch's rating system just upgraded Aberdeen this year to AA plus.

The Government Finance Officials Association has awarded Aberdeen its highest rating for the last 8 years. This is a reflection of not only the City's financial posture but of the acumen of the individuals who work within our Finance Department.

By working the markets and through extensive research, the Human Resources, Finance and Safety Directors, in partnership with members of the staff and spouses slashed nearly \$200,000 in costs out of the City's health insurance and workman's compensation programs. Under the auspices of our Finance Director, Mr. Jack, the City's investment policy has been revised to move investments to a privately managed venture. This captures the fullest flexibility of State law and capitalizes on greater returns.

While property taxes actually slightly decreased this year, we continue to see increases in our water rates, essentially tied to an agreement made several years ago during the Base Realignment and Closure Commission era, linking the City and County water charges together. We have approached the County's leadership about relooking that arrangement in an effort to stabilize the costs.

We continue to work with and encourage our friends who own and operate the Aberdeen IronBirds to look at a more favorable financial burden sharing. While we love the IronBirds, the contract agreed upon in 2002 simply isn't one we feel is equitable to our citizens. In the last five years the citizens of Aberdeen and the State have paid over \$5.1 million out of the General Fund to pay for and maintain the stadium. Last year alone, with the assistance of the State, Aberdeen installed nearly \$1million of new railing around the complex. That \$5.1 million figure just mentioned comes to over \$1,000 from every averaged priced home or business owner here in the City going into the stadium between 2013 and 2017. Some property owners pay more and some pay less, but as we spend more time on this issue the majority of City Council feels this is something that has to be addressed. While there's no question there's a multiplier effect on the local and regional economy with IronBirds baseball, we, the body of this Council believe there must be more contributors to this project

than just the City. Whether that includes the owners and management of the team, the County, the State or a combination of all, we continue to work with all parties to identify other options that better meets the pocketbooks of Aberdeen taxpayers.

Finally, while there's much more to be said, let's talk about how the City communicates, both internally and with you and your neighbors. Inside City Hall we are now fully integrated with the Harford Area Metro Network, or HMAN. This gives all satellite elements of the staff the same fast, efficient and free data and communications connectivity

Just a few months ago, the staff started a weekly newsletter, *The Aberdeen Advocate*. Response to *The Advocate* has been great; every day sees more new subscribers as the community learns about the program. It's free, published every Monday, and pushed to your email. All you have to do is go to the City's home page and sign up www.aberdeenmd.gov. Second, if you're not on the City's and Police Department's Facebook page, you are missing out! The new Farmers Market, with as many as 17 vendors, and opens every other Thursday between 4 and 7 p.m., is just one program that is highlighted in the Advocate and Facebook. Kudos to Mrs. Felicia Banuelos, of the staff, for championing this effort.

We've completely redone the City's web page; adding a special tool the Interactive Properties and Facilities Map to give Aberdeen visibility to anyone interested in our City locally, in the U.S. or across the globe; whether it's from Havre de Grace, France, or from our neighbors; our revised web page has shown tremendous growth since being unveiled just a few months ago.

And if you just don't do electronic media, we still have published a couple special editions of the City newsletter and distributed them at key sites around the City, free to be picked up. We are also moving toward integrating the Council's agenda management system with the video system used by Harford Cable Network. What I'm most excited about is through this initiative we will be able to use an electronic platform versus paper for our Council meetings. This will save us thousands of dollars in the cost of paper, reproduction, ink and time, while providing an ability to do near real time changes to our agenda. Now, for those who don't use a computer, we'll still have some hard copies, but we'll be doing much fewer of them. You'll be seeing that effort put into play right here in our meetings over the remainder of the summer.

As the City celebrates its 125th anniversary, and as we partner with our largest employer and closest ally, Aberdeen Proving Ground, who is also celebrating their 100th Anniversary, I and the City Council are deeply honored to serve you. As your Mayor, I am struck that with the exception of going to college, I've spent my entire life right here in our community and am humbled to have served where it matters most...right here...in my community...the great City of Aberdeen. On behalf of my colleagues on the Council, thank you for giving us the privilege to serve you and thank you for all that each of you have done and will do to make Aberdeen Maryland's premier community. We look forward to continuing opportunities to support our citizens and community as we write a new chapter in Aberdeen's exciting story.

Thank you and God bless you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Council Vision and Goal Session, August 12, 2017, 2nd Floor Administrative Conference Room

Council Meeting: Monday, August 14, 2017, 7 PM, Council Chambers

Planning Commission Meeting: Wednesday, August 23, 2017, 7 PM, Council Chambers

Aberdeen Farmers Market, August 3 and August 17, 2017, 4-7 PM, Festival Park

Third Fridays, August 18, 2017, 6 PM, Festival Park

Police Department Community Event, Saturday, August 19, 2017, 10 AM-2 PM, Festival Park

CLOSED MEETING:

At approximately 8:44 p.m., a motion was made by Mayor McGrady and seconded by Councilman Taylor to close the meeting pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Statutory Authority Md. Code Annotated, General Provisions Article § 3-305(b): (4) to consider a matter that concerns the proposal for a business or industrial organization to locate, expand, or remain in the State; and (7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. The topic for closing was property tax feedback from the City Attorney as requested by the Council. **The motion passed by a vote of 4 – yes; 0 – no; 1 – absent.**

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

Nays: None.

Absent: Councilman Goodin.

The Mayor and Council proceeded to the second floor administrative conference room for the closed meeting and returned to the Council Chambers when finished.

REOPEN AND ADJOURNMENT:

The Mayor and Council reopened the meeting at 9:22 p.m. Being there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.