

**City of Aberdeen
Meeting/Work Session
October 15, 2012**

Present: Mayor Michael E. Bennett, Councilwoman Ruth Elliott, Councilwoman Sandra Landbeck, Councilman Bruce Garner, and Councilwoman Young

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Monica Correll, City Clerk

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Roll call was taken and the entire Council was present. The meeting was opened under matters of immediate and urgent business.

To close the meeting pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, the Mayor read State Government Article § 10-508(a): to discuss (1)(i) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; and, (14) before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, discuss a matter directly related to a negotiation strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

The Mayor explained that the topics were the annexation agreement for Aberdeen Technology Campus, LLC (“ATC”) and a personnel matter. Specifically, to discuss counter offers from the ATC petitioners and the removal of an appointee over whom the Mayor and City Council have jurisdiction.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to close the meeting. **The motion was passed by roll call vote 5-0.** The Mayor explained to those in attendance that they would return to reopen the meeting. The open meeting was closed at 4:03 p.m. The closed meeting began at 4:06 p.m. in the second floor administrative conference room and ended at 4:24 p.m. The Mayor and City Council returned to the Council Chamber and the meeting was reopened at 4:27 p.m. under immediate and urgent business.

Mayor Bennett proposed the law firm of Council, Baradel, Kosmerl & Nolan, P.A. as the new attorneys for the City of Aberdeen and that Frederick C. Sussman, Esquire would be the primary attorney. Ms. Suellen Ferguson, Esquire, another firm partner, would be his backup. Both attorneys had long, distinguished careers in municipal government in the State of Maryland. Mr. Sussman had represented the City in the past.

There were no questions regarding the nomination. **A roll call vote of 5–0 was taken in favor of the nomination.** The nomination for Council, Baradel, Kosmerl & Nolan, P.A., as the legal representatives for the City of Aberdeen, and Frederick C. Sussman, Esquire, as the City Attorney, was effective immediately.

The Mayor and City Council began the work session portion of the agenda. The City Manager said that staff would return to the Council early next year regarding a roadway paving plan once the needs, priorities, etc. are assessed. Since State Highway User Revenues had been greatly cut by the State from approximately \$800,000 per year to the current \$163,000 per year, roadway paving maintenance had suffered and demanded action. Mr. Miller discussed that the road work would require approximately three million dollars of work to be performed in the spring-summer timeframe. He further explained that he believed that about 2-2.7 million dollars would be borrowed, \$163,000 would be used to pay the 20-year debt service, and supplement the difference with the fund balance if necessary. If the road system were allowed to age further, the repair costs would escalate; therefore, preemptive measures were required. There was also discussion on future care of sidewalks.

Mr. Miller said that the City received over two million dollars in reimbursement from the MTBE case. The money came out of the water fund and should return to this. It is may be used as revolving capital loan fund. This would be presented in ordinance form. The Council supported this but asked for guarantees to avoid improper use.

Mr. Miller said that the future of the Integrated Business District (IBD) was still a priority and in process. The Mayor would meet with the Economic Development Commission. The vision of local businesses and property owners would be considered for uses in the zone.

Mr. Miller added that street widths would be discussed at a future meeting. Flu shots were planned to be dispensed to City employees as a safety measure. The November-December newsletter was being compiled and the Council was encouraged to provide topics. Topics suggested from the Council included: financial issues, the history of the Golden Age Club, the Aberdeen Room Archives & Museum, and Parks & Recreation information. Discussion followed about concerns and matters including increasing the time for subdivision and site plan approvals from one year to either two or three year approvals.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m. by unanimous agreement.