

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
October 22, 2012**

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

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
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by LTC Thomas W. Cox, Command Chaplain, Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Young.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve the minutes of the September 24, 2012, Council meeting as submitted. **The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.**

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2012, Council meeting/work session as submitted. **The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.**

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the closed meeting minutes of October 15, 2012, as submitted. **The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.**

The City Clerk read the Statement of Closed Session for the October 15, 2012 closed meeting.

On October 15, 2012, the Mayor and Council held a regularly scheduled meeting/work session in Council Chambers which began at 4:00 p.m. All members voted by roll call in the affirmative to close the meeting.

At approximately 4:06 p.m., a closed meeting was convened by the Mayor and Council in the second floor administrative conference room. Members present were: Mayor Michael E. Bennett, Councilwoman Ruth Elliott, Councilman Bruce Garner, Councilwoman Sandra Landbeck, and Councilwoman Ruth Ann Young. Also in attendance was Douglas Miller, City Manager, and Monica Correll, City Clerk.

The session was held pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Section 10-508(a): (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 topics discussed were the annexation agreement for Aberdeen Technology Campus, LLC (ATC) and a personnel matter.

During the closed meeting, the Mayor and Council discussed a counter offer received from the ATC annexation petitioners and came to a consensus to make no changes to the annexation agreement. The Mayor and Council then discussed a personnel matter regarding the removal of an appointee over whom the Mayor and Council have jurisdiction and, by roll call, voted unanimously to terminate the services of Elwood V. Stark, Jr., Esquire and the Law Firm of Stark and Keenan, P.A.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:24 p.m. (finished)

Mayor Bennett welcomed the members and leaders from Cub Pack 820 to the Council meeting. Prior to the meeting the Pack toured City Hall.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Proclamation – Official International Walk to School Month – October 2012

Mayor Bennett read a proclamation declaring October as Official International Walk to School Month in Aberdeen.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Paul Curtis, Windemere Drive;

Mr. Curtis expressed his displeasure on the poor appearance of the Aberdeen B&O Train Station and that a deadline should be set for restoration, moving, or razing. The train station has been like this since he moved here in 1958.

Mayor Bennett said a letter of request has been sent to the Historical Society of Harford County along with pictures of the building and a copy of a recent ordinance about unsafe buildings. He mentioned that the City has received many complaints regarding the structure's poor condition and since this has been ongoing, the City is asking for information on their plans and a time frame for solutions.

2. Mr. Bob Hartman, Paradise Road;

Mr. Hartman voiced a complaint regarding the uncut grass on Rt. 40, unmaintained properties, and a house in disrepair on Paradise Road.

Mayor Bennett answered that the grass is located on State property where the City has no jurisdiction to enforce grass cutting.

3. Master Anthony Williams, Cub Scout Pack 820;

Master Anthony asked what would happen if someone walked on the train tracks and a train approaches.

Mayor Bennett answered that it is unsafe to walk on the train tracks and since it is private property, this is considered trespassing. The police try to warn people that no one should be on them at any time.

Addressing Mr. Hartman (regarding his earlier statement), the Mayor answered that he just got word that the City is working with the bank regarding the Paradise Road house on demolition estimates.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Ordinance No. 12-O-12, Water Capital Revolving Loan Program (For Introduction)

Mayor Bennett introduced Ordinance No. 12-O-12, Water Capital Revolving Loan Program. This ordinance would create a water capital revolving loan program and establish the terms and conditions of how the program would be administered.

For background purposes, Mayor Bennett explained that during 2004-2005, there was a gasoline spill on the west end of Aberdeen which entered the well water system. Aberdeen incurred legal expenses which were taken from the Water Fund during the law suit regarding the gasoline additive, MTBE. The suit finally awarded Aberdeen \$2,577,140.33 after legal expenses.

This ordinance would permit the City to borrow its own money, keep the rates low, and to use only for water-related needs or for a nationally declared disaster. If any other need is warranted to use monies from the Water Fund, the action to do so must be taken to referendum for citizen approval by ballot question.

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

1. Business of the City – None

2. New Business – None

3. Business from the Director of Planning and Community Development – None
4. Business from the Chief of Police – None
5. Business from the Director of Finance

A. Year-to-Date Financial Activities

Mr. Jack gave a summary on the year-to-date financial activities of the City for July 2012 through September 2012 and compared revenues and expenses to budgeted amounts for various funds. Below is the report.

General Fund

Total receipts exceeded total expenses by \$3 million with collections of \$6.7 million, and expenses of \$3.7 million. Property tax collection was more than budgeted by \$456 thousand. State shared revenues were \$232 thousand less than budgeted; and County shared revenues were \$53 thousand more than budgeted. Expenses were better than budgeted by \$279 thousand. This was mostly due to: 1) savings from property insurance premium, and 2) delayed cash outlays in line items such as street lighting, tipping fee, IT, and legal counsel.

Capital Projects Fund

There were practically no activities in the Capital Projects fund other than BRAC Zone grant of \$108 thousand and transfer-in from the General Fund of \$631 thousand.

Water Fund

Total revenues exceeded total expenses by \$289 thousand, with revenues of \$747 thousand and expenses of \$458 thousand. Total revenues were in line with budget; so were expenses.

Sewer Fund

Total expenses exceeded total revenues including grants and loan proceeds by \$1.4 million with expenses of \$2.1 million and revenues of \$676 thousand. Total resources were less than budgeted by \$2.2 million. This was mostly due to grants and loan proceeds that are yet to be drawn down; \$919 thousand in grant and \$592 thousand in loan proceeds are pending. Expenses were less than budgeted by \$715 thousand because of the slower pace of capital project construction.

Stadium Fund

The only activities in the Stadium Fund were transfer-in from the General Fund of \$279 thousand and expenses of \$6 thousand.

All Funds

Overall, the City's total revenues exceeded expenses by \$2.9 million with revenues of \$9.2 million and expenses of \$6.3 million.

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Lapinsky mentioned that the water analysis packet some residents received in their mail is from a vendor selling a water softener product and to proceed with caution. He stated that the City's water analysis is available online with the consumer confidence report published every July 1.

Mr. Lapinsky reported that Havre de Grace won the Second Annual Rodeo at Ripken Stadium held on October 5, 2012. (*Note: This is a Department of Public Works competition held within and between Harford County municipalities promoting safety.*) He also reported that Enhance Nutrient Removal project (ENR) upgrade is in its seventeen day of delay claim. He announced that the new Leaf Vac truck was delivered and training will commence soon. He noted that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Mr. Lapinsky thanked everyone for their condolences on the passing of his mother.

7. Mr. Miller congratulated the Mayor's wife, Mrs. Elaine Bennett, Chairperson for the Relay for Life in Aberdeen and Havre de Grace and raised funds for the battle on breast cancer. The Mayor explained that Ms. Bennett was scheduled to make a report on the American Cancer Society to the Havre de Grace Council meeting and was surprised by the Havre de Grace Council with a proclamation. In addition, Mrs. Bennett along with her niece, received Most Valuable Person Awards from Mayor Bennett for being the top organizers in the State of Maryland and raising over \$114,000.

Mr. Miller reported that the City owns and operates the water and sewer systems on APG. A new sanitary sewer pump station and force main are needed and there was only one bid. The City Manager recommended the bid be awarded to McQuitty Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$52,732 .00 for Building 5015 Sanitary Sewer. He clarified that no City money would be used in this purchase.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve the McQuitty Construction Company bid in the amount of \$52,732.00 for the Aberdeen Proving Ground, Building 5015, Sanitary Sewer.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

Mr. Miller stated that the City will recognize Halloween on October 31, 2012, between the hours of 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Residents were asked to drive carefully.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council

Councilwoman Elliott reported that she attended the 46th anniversary of the Golden Age Club and an Aberdeen Room Museum and Archives Board meeting where proclamations were presented to each. The Aberdeen Room is currently celebrating their 25th anniversary. Councilwoman Elliott gave an update on the Aberdeen B&O Train Station and that there are plans to provide the City the following in 90 days: approval for a grading plan from the City, access to a site plan from the Maryland Department of Transportation, final site plan from the City, provide the name of the company to move the structure under contract, foundation plans designed to submit to the City and the County, plans to stabilize and mothball the building submitted and approved by the City's Planning/Fire/Police Departments, and Harford County. A new cover for the roof of the station is being sought by the Aberdeen Museum and the Historical Society.

2. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Bennett announced the upcoming meetings and events including the Veterans Day Services, Police Department Toy & Food Drive, and Christmas Street Celebration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Council Meeting: Monday, November 5, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

Next Council Work Session: Monday, November 19, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

Annual Veterans Day Services, Aberdeen Veterans Memorial Park, Sunday,
November 11, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.

Aberdeen Police Department, Holiday Food & Toy Drive, November 1–December 17, 2012

Aberdeen Christmas Street Celebration Saturday, December 1, 2012, Parade at 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Young to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.