

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
November 28, 2011**

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Matthew Lapinsky, Director of Public Works
Henry Trabert, Chief of Police
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance
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 APG Chaplain LTC Jimmy C. Davis, Jr., and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Garner.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2011 Council meeting.

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

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Proclamation in Recognition of Municipal Government Works Month

Mayor Bennett read a proclamation on behalf of the Council and Maryland Municipal League proclaiming the month of November as Municipal Government Works Month in the City of Aberdeen to promote municipal awareness.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Ms. Janice Grant, Law Street;
Ms. Grant announced Helping Hands Ministries' charitable activities.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION: None

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

1. Unfinished Business – None
2. New Business – None

3. Business from the Director of Planning and Community Development – None.

Ms. Grover was not in attendance.

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Trabert announced Aberdeen Police Department's holiday food and toy drive and donation information.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

- A. FY 2011 Audit Report

Mr. Jack submitted and read the following report to the Council:

"The financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2011 were audited by the independent accounting firm, McGladery & Pullen, LLP. The City received an unqualified opinion on the financial statements.

Overall, the financial position of the City improved over the prior fiscal year. The general fund had a budgetary surplus of \$2.1 million. Most of the surplus came from increase in Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) management fees, savings from unfilled vacant positions, and better than expected tax revenues.

The water and sewer funds posted net incomes of \$1 million and \$651 thousand, respectively. The Stadium fund posted a net loss of \$330 thousand.

The City's long-term liabilities increased by \$5.3 million to \$23.2 million mostly due to new loans for capital projects.

The City's net assets increased by \$8.3 million to \$47.4 million. A net asset is the difference between total assets and total liabilities. This increase is primarily due to increase in tax revenues, charges for services, and capital grants.

The fund balance for the City's governmental funds was \$6.8 million. A fund balance is the difference between current assets and current liabilities. About \$5.9 million of the \$6.8 million is unassigned and can be used to support the general government's operating needs.

In the governmental funds, property taxes increased by \$563 thousand.

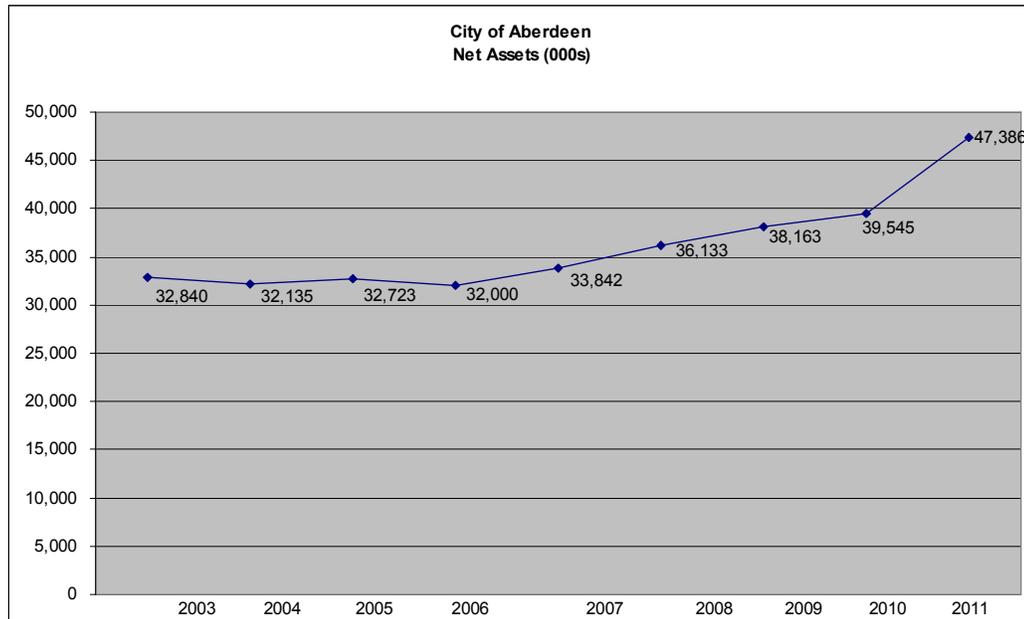
Charges for services increased by \$456 thousand, mostly from APG management fees.

Expenses decreased by \$693 thousand from the prior year. The decrease is mostly due to unfilled vacant positions and savings in medical insurance premiums.

In the enterprise funds, charges for services increased by \$1.5 million from the prior year. Expenses were consistent with last year.

Finally, it is worth pointing out that the City’s net assets have steadily increased since 2006. The trend in net assets may be a useful indicator of whether the financial position or condition of the City is improving or weakening. The trend since 2006 indicates improvement."

Mr. Jack continued and referenced this chart to the Council:



6. Business from the Director of Public Works

A. Bid Award – 12-01 Rebid

Mr. Lapinsky submitted a bid from Moxley’s, Inc., Street, Maryland, for a utility body and lifting crane, Knapheide Body Liftmore Crane, in the amount of \$19,800.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the bid from Moxley’s, Inc. for a utility body and lift crane in the amount of \$19,800.

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

Mr. Lapinsky updated the Council on the enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) upgrade as of November 2, 2011. He reported it is moving along well. An extension was given for poor weather conditions which extended the completion date to

October 12, 2012. The total contract value is now \$19,579,825. Work is taking place on the second reactor and equalization tank.

Variable frequency drives are being installed in the fourteen well systems. This enables utilities savings and helps the City manage the wells better. Completion should take place by the end of 2011.

The Chesapeake Rodeo was recently held at Ripken Stadium, sponsored by Local Government Insurance Trust, to test and improve driving and machinery skills of certain employees of local governments.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller invited everyone to attend the schedule of events for the Christmas Street Celebration. He commended Mr. Lapinsky for the Rodeo work and Mr. Jack for his financial work. Mayor Bennett also thanked the staff, employees and Police Department for their commitment to the City and community.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council

Councilwoman Elliott encouraged attendance at the Christmas Street Celebration and the Heritage Trust Home decoration contest.

Councilwoman Landbeck thanked City departments for insight into their duties so the Council may inform the public. She expressed distress over some of her recent observations of war-like election trends and then paraphrased portions of President George Washington's farewell speech. The Councilwoman described the negative tactics, actions, promises, and hidden agenda by Mr. Patrick McGrady during his mayoral campaign. She quoted from President William Clinton's book. She pledged clarity on programs, initiatives, increased communication, and dedication.

Councilwoman Young complimented Councilwoman Landbeck's statement. She discussed Harford County's Most Beautiful Person Award recipient. She hopes for the development of a helpful and neighborly community.

Councilman Garner described Councilwoman's statement as courageous.

2. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Bennett thanked all the citizens who voted. As President of the Maryland Municipal League, he attended the National League of Cities Conference in Arizona.

He invited everyone to the Christmas Street Celebration, the parade, tree lighting, and other local activities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Christmas Street Celebration with Parade at 3:00 p.m., Saturday, December 3, 2011.

Next Council Work Session: Monday, December 5, 2011, at 4:00 p.m.

Next Council Meeting: Monday, December 12, 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.