

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting  
January 9, 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 & 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 Pastor Kenneth Telsee of True Joy 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 12, 2011, Council meeting as submitted.

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

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Aberdeen Football Program Awards, Sanford Fisher

Mr. Fisher of the Aberdeen Football Program, presented plaques to Mayor Bennett, Chief Trabert and Councilman Garner in appreciation of their help during the football season.

2. Proclamation in Recognition of Lance Hersh, President, Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce

Mayor Bennett presented a proclamation to Mr. Hersh for his service to the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce in 2011, the Boys & Girls Club of Harford County, Harford County Library Foundation, Harford Family House, and businesses and non-profits in and around Aberdeen. The Mayor designated January 9, 2012 as Lance Hersh Day in the City and gave him the Most Valuable Person Shooting Star Award.

3. Presentation to Harford County Executive David Craig

The Mayor presented Harford County Executive David Craig a gift, the Jefferson Cup, from the Maryland Municipal League (MML) commemorating his service as a past MML President.

4. Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation Update

Senator Frank Kelly, Chairman of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation, stated that the late Cal Ripken, Sr. and the Ripken family had a vision to reach out and mentor at-risk children through baseball, instilling the values of character and life values. The Foundation, which began in Aberdeen, raises funds to build all-purpose, all-weather, synthetic, turf fields and turns them over to organizations in the communities to help children. The Foundation also works along with law enforcement by way of the Badges for Baseball program.

Mr. Billy Ripken stated that the goal of the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation is to give kids a chance. Fields have already been donated to several sites in Virginia and Maryland. A synthetic, multi-purpose field is planned to be donated to Aberdeen by the Foundation and named for his mother, Mrs. Violet Ripken. It will be used for baseball, football, soccer, and other sports.

Mr. Cal Ripken, Jr. noted that he graduated from Aberdeen High School in 1978. He mentioned that his father had a great interest in helping children. This field donation will be named, "Vi Ripken's Park".

Mr. David Craig thanked the Ripken family and the Cal Ripken, Sr. Foundation for their generosity. He indicated that Harford County would work on the grants toward construction and the City of Aberdeen would supply the location.

Mayor Bennett expressed thanks and noted that this was a great day for the City. He said the construction of the field may take approximately one year to complete.

Mr. Tory Pierce, President, Board of Directors, Boys & Girls Club of Harford County, thanked everyone and is looking forward to the project.

5. US 40/MD 715 Road Improvement Project Update, David Phillips, MD State Highway Administration

Ms. Karen Holt, BRAC Manager, Chesapeake Science & Security Corridor (CSSC), acknowledged the collaboration on this project between Harford County, CSSC, City of Aberdeen, Aberdeen Proving Ground, and State Highway Administration. She introduced: Colonel Orlando Ortiz, APG Garrison Commander, Teresa Kaltenbacher, Public Affairs Officer, Charles Eckerd, Department of Public Works, Aberdeen Proving Ground; Fran Ward, John Vananzo, and David Phillips of the State Highway Administration.

Mr. Phillips, Design Project Manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation which included some of the following information: project phases, proposed changes, improvements, the lane closure schedule, and other pertinent information. He answered questions from the Council.

Colonel Ortiz noted that progress can be painful and it is better to forewarn. This information will be communicated on the Proving Ground.

Mayor Bennett stated that everyone is being informed in the City and prepared as much as possible.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

1. Ordinance No. 12-O-01, Amendment to the Code, Chapter 482, Taxation (Habitat for Humanity) (For Introduction)

Mayor Bennett introduced Ordinance No. 12-O-01, Amendment to the Code, Chapter 482, Taxation (Habitat for Humanity).

2. Ordinance No. 12-O-02, LEED Office Building Tax Subclass, (For Introduction)

Mayor Bennett introduced Ordinance No. 12-O-02, LEED Office Building Tax Subclass.

**BUSINESS OF THE CITY:**

1. Unfinished Business – None
2. New Business – None
3. Business from the Director of Planning & Community Development

A. Preliminary Site Plan for the Corner at Beards Hill

Ms. Grover noted that this project is located at the corner of Beards Hill Road and W. Bel Air Avenue. She introduced: David Taylor, David G. Taylor & Associates; Wayne Tapscot, Underdeveloper, WCT and Sons, LLC; and Paul Thompson, Architect, Architectural Design Works. The request was for two new retail buildings to be developed for use as a shopping center. The request was approved by the Planning Commission at their December 14, 2011, meeting.

Mr. Taylor explained the redevelopment of a portion of the previous automobile sales site, a proposal for two 10,000 sq. ft. restaurants. There would be good access for traffic, existing storm water management, and adequate parking for proposed uses. The Council asked about the type of retail intended and Mr. Tapscott stated that several small restaurants are interested, including a furniture store.

Mr. Thompson stated that the buildings would be Class A, family-oriented, constructed of masonry with stone and brick, and possible cafes with outdoor dining. The requirements for landscaping and proper turning radius have been met.

The Council inquired about a drive-thru to which Mr. Thompson answered that one is planned and there are two interested vendors.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve the Preliminary Site Plan for the Corner at Beards Hill.

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

B. Revised Final Subdivision Plat for Lots 4, 5, and 6 of Beards Hill Park

Ms. Grover stated that this request includes Lots 4, 5, and 6 on the corner of Beards Hill Road and W. Bel Air Avenue. The request is for consolidation of the three lots as well as a building setback. The request was approved by the Planning Commission at their December, 2011 meeting.

Mr. Taylor said the plan represents easements necessary for the development of the property.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilman Garner to approve the Revised Final Subdivision Plat for Lots 4, 5, and 6 of Beards Hill Park.

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

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Trabert reported on the success of the 2011 Holiday Food and Toy Drive.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

A. Year to Date Financial Activities

Mr. Jack delivered the following report on year-to-date financial activities, July 2011 through November 2011.

"Attached is a schedule of the year-to-date financial activities of the City, for July 2011 through November 2011, comparing actual receipts and expenses to budgeted amounts for the various funds. A summary of the activities, by fund, is outlined below.

**General Fund**

Total receipts exceeded total expenses by \$3.8 million, with collections of \$8.1 million, and expenses of \$4.4 million.

Property tax collection was more than budgeted by \$49 thousand. State Shared revenues were \$124 thousand less than budgeted. County Shared revenues were in line with budget.

Expenses were better than budgeted by \$983 thousand. This was mostly due to 1) savings from vacant positions, 2) transfers of appropriated funds to the Capital Projects and Stadium funds have not been made, 3) savings from property insurance premium, and 4) delayed cash outlays in line items such as winter operations, IT, legal, and street signs and sidewalk repairs.

**Capital Projects Fund**

There were practically no activities in the Capital Projects fund other than the purchase of police cars for \$88 thousand. Most of the projects were probably being delayed because of the season.

**Water Fund**

Total expenses exceeded total receipts by \$757 thousand, with expenses of \$1.68 million and receipts of \$919 thousand.

Utility Usage Charges were in line with budget. No loan proceeds were received; however, a draw-down request of \$650 thousand is pending.

Expenses were more than budgeted by \$259 thousand. This was due to faster pace in the implementation of some capital projects.

**Sewer Fund**

Total expenses exceeded total receipts, including grants and loan proceeds, by \$745 thousand, with expenses of \$3.2 million and receipts of \$2.4 million.

Utility Usage Charges were below budgeted amount by \$80 thousand. Grants and loan proceeds were \$6 million less than budgeted because of the slower pace of capital projects construction. The City can only request for grant and loan proceeds after expenses have been incurred. Requests for \$856 thousand grant funds and \$1.1 million loan proceeds are pending for expenses already incurred.

Expenses were less than budgeted by \$5.3 million because of slower pace of capital projects construction.

**Stadium Fund**

Total receipts exceeded total expenses by \$211 thousand, with receipts of \$266 thousand, and expenses of \$55 thousand.

Admissions and Amusement tax was \$85 thousand higher than budgeted.

**All Funds**

Overall, the City's total receipts exceeded expenses by \$2.4 million, with receipts and loan proceeds of \$11.8 million and expenses of \$9.4 million."

Mr. Jack explained that more details were included in the paperwork.

There were no questions from the Council.

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Lapinsky reported on the projected completion date and contract values for the Enhanced Nutrient Removal Project. A tour will be planned during spring.

7. Business from the City Manager – None

**BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. Business of the City Council

The Council members reported their meeting and activities. They recognized citizen accomplishments and reported that the City and Aberdeen Proving Grounds are working with agencies and churches to relocate homeless people in the City. The Aberdeen Police Department was congratulated for the success of the Toy and Food Holiday Drive.

2. Business of the Mayor

Mayor Bennett attended the Maryland Association of Counties Conference in Cambridge, Maryland as President of the Maryland Municipal League (MML). He noted that County Executive Craig had been elected to the Board of this organization. The Maryland General Assembly will open this week in Annapolis and a meeting is scheduled at the request of the Lt. Governor.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next Council Meeting: Monday, January 30, 2012, at 7:00 p.m.

Next Council Work Session: Monday, February 6, 2012, at 4:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Young to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.