

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
January 30, 2012**

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

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 Robert Clipp of Grace United Methodist Church and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Young.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2011 Council Meeting as submitted.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2012 Council Meeting as submitted.

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

PRESENTATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

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

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

Mr. Bradley Stover, Attorney, spoke on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and that the short-term tax credit would benefit the City. Habitat builds or rebuilds on non-performing properties and are then sold. He asked the Council to support the Ordinance. Ms. Joann Blewett, Director of Habitat for Humanity, stated that 46 homes have been built in the City and she also supports the Ordinance. She said that

this support will help them continue their work to revitalize the community. She then updated the Council on the current Habitat projects and answered questions.

- a. Ms. Theresa Herbert, First Street, Aberdeen;
Ms. Herbert stated that she purchased a home from Habitat for Humanity and has spent \$4,000 on improvements to the property. She is in favor of the Ordinance because Habitat has helped her and family recover from financial ruin.
- b. Ms. Karen Heavey, W. Bel Air Avenue, Aberdeen;
Ms. Heavey expressed her opposition to this Ordinance because she feels it gives unfair advantages to a particular group. She also feels that taxes should not benefit non-profit organizations, charitable organizations in the form of tax credits or budget line items and instead should be used to run the government. She suggested a couple amendments including an annual review by the financial officer for possible adjustments or a cap, based on what can be afforded in forgiveness.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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.
4. Business from the Chief of Police: None.
5. Business from the Director of Finance
 - a. FY 2012 Budget Amendment

Mr. Jack made the following report:

"The FY 2012 budgets for the General and Capital Projects Funds need to be amended as follows.

The General Fund is being amended for the refunding of the CDA bonds.

The Capital Projects Fund is being amended for FY 2011 grants that were carried over to FY 2012 – LED Lighting and BRAC Zone Improvement grants from the State, and Community Development Block Grant from

Harford County (CDBG). In addition, the County increased the FY 2012 CDBG grant.

General Fund	Amount	Comments
1. Refunding of bonds	\$4,543,890	Funded with loan proceeds
Capital Projects Fund		
1. LED Lighting	\$80,000	Funded with State Grant
2. BRAC Zone Improvement Projects	\$94,596	Funded with State Grant
3. CDBG projects-Street Resurfacing	\$110,697	Funded with County Grant
4. CDBG projects- (FY 2012)	\$7,024	Funded with County Grant
Total	\$292,317	

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve the FY 2012 Budget Amendments in the amount of \$4,543,890 from Loan proceeds to the General Fund and \$292,317 carried over from the FY 2011 Improvement Grants to the Capital Projects Fund.

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

Mr. Jack stated that the City received \$2.5 million from the MTBE litigation settlement. The Mayor added with verification from Ms. Grover that the State and the City was awarded over \$200,000 in money to use on the train station study.

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Lapinsky said that the 2012 trash pickup schedule will be finished soon and will be available on the website.

a. APG WWTP #11-04, 4WD Dump Truck with Snow Plow

Mr. Lapinsky received three bids for the purchase of the above vehicle. He recommended the Apple Ford L/M, Inc., bid in the amount of \$66,700.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve APG WWTP #11-04, 4WD Dump Truck with Snow Plow, in the amount of \$66,700.

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

b. APG WWTP #11-05, 4WD Dump Truck

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

- c. APG WWTP # 11-06, One-Ton, 4WD Pump Station Service Truck with Extended Cab and Dual Rear Wheel Chassis

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

- d. Valve Maintenance Trailer Bid #12-03

Mr. Lapinsky stated that maintenance is needed on valves in the water distribution system. The higher bid is a best value for the features offered. The Council questioned the funds and the longevity of the equipment. Mr. Lapinsky said the money was in the Capital Budget and the life span is approximately 10 years. When asked about negotiating a discount, Mr. Lapinsky answered that there is no discount on closed bids and only two vendors had bid on this piece of equipment.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the Valve Maintenance Trailer Bid #12-03 by Maryland Industrial Trucks in the amount of \$59,981.

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

- e. ENR Upgrade Update

Mr. Lapinsky said he attended the new plant opening in Havre de Grace. The facility in Aberdeen is nearing completion, and is now 607 days into the construction portion. The final cost should be \$19,800,000.

Mr. Lapinsky displayed a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the Council. He said the ENR Project progress is available on the City website.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller reported the collapse of the Carter Street sewer and requires immediate emergency repairs amounting to approximately \$135,000. Requests for proposal have been requested. The work will be started.

Mr. Miller said that the Maryland legislative session has started in Annapolis and the State Highway Administration reported that our highway user revenues will be reduced this fiscal year to only about \$123,000. The City uses these funds toward system preservation and paving. The Maryland Municipal League will be pushing to regain funds back.

Senate Bill 240 was just introduced in Annapolis. The State drastically miscalculated the cost of enhanced nutrient removal technology (ENR) in 2003 which added a fee to our current water bill. In order to regain revenue, the State plans to tie the Bay Restoration bill to consumption. This means that the Bay Restoration tax (flush tax) will increase based on the use of each household and will be reflected on their sewer bills. MML will be looking at this very closely and the City does not want their residents overburdened.

The Council will conduct a retreat to be held March 3 held at Ripken Stadium.

8. BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

a. Business from the City Council

The Council members encouraged participation in various community and civic events and gave an inventory of their activities and meetings including the Greater Harford Committee's Annual Reception in Annapolis. The volunteers of Aberdeen were acknowledged as action takers and thanked for their dedication without complaint. Councilwoman Landbeck placed positive perspective and cost comparisons regarding the cost of water. The Ripken family was thanked for their donation of a new athletic facility. The need for a hotel tax for Harford County was discussed and citizens were urged to contact their delegates and senators in favor of this legislation.

b. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Bennett has been busy in Annapolis with meetings including one with County Executive Craig (Harford County Government), Mayor Dougherty (City of Havre de Grace), Mayor Hopkins (Town of Bel Air), and Harford County Senators. Topics of discussion included tourism and the hotel tax. The Mayor then encouraged everyone to e-mail their delegates and senators requesting that the hotel tax be enacted.

The Mayor stated that ENR is mandated by State law and the City must obey; there are stiff penalties for non-compliance. This has been protested with the

help of MML. The flush tax issues are not conclusive at this time and will be closely monitored.

Mayor Bennett added that he participated in an event on Aberdeen Proving Ground with a delegation from Italy. The meeting included discussion on economic development.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Next Council Meeting – Monday, February 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Garner to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION: None.

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

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2. New Business: None.
3. Business from the Director of Planning and Community Development: None.
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4. CDBG projects- (FY 2012)	\$7,024	Funded with County Grant
Total	\$292,317	

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve the FY 2012 Budget Amendments in the amount of \$4,543,890 from Loan proceeds to the General Fund and \$292,317 carried over from the FY 2011 Improvement Grants to the Capital Projects Fund.

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

Mr. Jack stated that the City received \$2.5 million from the MTBE litigation settlement. The Mayor added with verification from Ms. Grover that the State and the City was awarded over \$200,000 in money to use on the train station study.

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Mr. Lapinsky said that the 2012 trash pickup schedule will be finished soon and will be available on the website.

a. APG WWTP #11-04, 4WD Dump Truck with Snow Plow

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- c. APG WWTP # 11-06, One-Ton, 4WD Pump Station Service Truck with Extended Cab and Dual Rear Wheel Chassis

Mr. Lapinsky received three bids for the purchase of the above vehicle. He recommended the Apple Ford L/M, Inc., bid in the amount of \$42,300.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve APG WWTP #11-06, One-Ton, WD Pump Station Service Truck with Extended Cab and Dual Rear Wheel Chassis in the amount of \$42,300.

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

- d. Valve Maintenance Trailer Bid #12-03

Mr. Lapinsky stated that maintenance is needed on valves in the water distribution system. The higher bid is a best value for the features offered. The Council questioned the funds and the longevity of the equipment. Mr. Lapinsky said the money was in the Capital Budget and the life span is approximately 10 years. When asked about negotiating a discount, Mr. Lapinsky answered that there is no discount on closed bids and only two vendors had bid on this piece of equipment.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the Valve Maintenance Trailer Bid #12-03 by Maryland Industrial Trucks in the amount of \$59,981.

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

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Mr. Lapinsky said he attended the new plant opening in Havre de Grace. The facility in Aberdeen is nearing completion, and is now 607 days into the construction portion. The final cost should be \$19,800,000.

Mr. Lapinsky displayed a PowerPoint presentation and answered questions from the Council. He said the ENR Project progress is available on the City website.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller reported the collapse of the Carter Street sewer and requires immediate emergency repairs amounting to approximately \$135,000. Requests for proposal have been requested. The work will be started.

Mr. Miller said that the Maryland legislative session has started in Annapolis and the State Highway Administration reported that our highway user revenues will be reduced this fiscal year to only about \$123,000. The City uses these funds toward system preservation and paving. The Maryland Municipal League will be pushing to regain funds back.

Senate Bill 240 was just introduced in Annapolis. The State drastically miscalculated the cost of enhanced nutrient removal technology (ENR) in 2003 which added a fee to our current water bill. In order to regain revenue, the State plans to tie the Bay Restoration bill to consumption. This means that the Bay Restoration tax (flush tax) will increase based on the use of each household and will be reflected on their sewer bills. MML will be looking at this very closely and the City does not want their residents overburdened.

The Council will conduct a retreat to be held March 3 held at Ripken Stadium.

8. BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

a. Business from the City Council

The Council members encouraged participation in various community and civic events and gave an inventory of their activities and meetings including the Greater Harford Committee's Annual Reception in Annapolis. The volunteers of Aberdeen were acknowledged as action takers and thanked for their dedication without complaint. Councilwoman Landbeck placed positive perspective and cost comparisons regarding the cost of water. The Ripken family was thanked for their donation of a new athletic facility. The need for a hotel tax for Harford County was discussed and citizens were urged to contact their delegates and senators in favor of this legislation.

b. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Bennett has been busy in Annapolis with meetings including one with County Executive Craig (Harford County Government), Mayor Dougherty (City of Havre de Grace), Mayor Hopkins (Town of Bel Air), and Harford County Senators. Topics of discussion included tourism and the hotel tax. The Mayor then encouraged everyone to e-mail their delegates and senators requesting that the hotel tax be enacted.

The Mayor stated that ENR is mandated by State law and the City must obey; there are stiff penalties for non-compliance. This has been protested with the

help of MML. The flush tax issues are not conclusive at this time and will be closely monitored.

Mayor Bennett added that he participated in an event on Aberdeen Proving Ground with a delegation from Italy. The meeting included discussion on economic development.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Next Council Meeting – Monday, February 13, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Garner to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
January 30, 2012**

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

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 Robert Clipp of Grace United Methodist Church and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Young.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve the minutes of the November 21, 2011 Council Meeting as submitted.

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

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2012 Council Meeting as submitted.

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

PRESENTATIONS: None.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

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

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

Mr. Bradley Stover, Attorney, spoke on behalf of Habitat for Humanity and that the short-term tax credit would benefit the City. Habitat builds or rebuilds on non-performing properties and are then sold. He asked the Council to support the Ordinance. Ms. Joann Blewett, Director of Habitat for Humanity, stated that 46 homes have been built in the City and she also supports the Ordinance. She said that

this support will help them continue their work to revitalize the community. She then updated the Council on the current Habitat projects and answered questions.

- a. Ms. Theresa Herbert, First Street, Aberdeen;
Ms. Herbert stated that she purchased a home from Habitat for Humanity and has spent \$4,000 on improvements to the property. She is in favor of the Ordinance because Habitat has helped her and family recover from financial ruin.
- b. Ms. Karen Heavey, W. Bel Air Avenue, Aberdeen;
Ms. Heavey expressed her opposition to this Ordinance because she feels it gives unfair advantages to a particular group. She also feels that taxes should not benefit non-profit organizations, charitable organizations in the form of tax credits or budget line items and instead should be used to run the government. She suggested a couple amendments including an annual review by the financial officer for possible adjustments or a cap, based on what can be afforded in forgiveness.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

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.
4. Business from the Chief of Police: None.
5. Business from the Director of Finance
 - a. FY 2012 Budget Amendment

Mr. Jack made the following report:

"The FY 2012 budgets for the General and Capital Projects Funds need to be amended as follows.

The General Fund is being amended for the refunding of the CDA bonds.

The Capital Projects Fund is being amended for FY 2011 grants that were carried over to FY 2012 – LED Lighting and BRAC Zone Improvement grants from the State, and Community Development Block Grant from

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Mr. Jack stated that the City received \$2.5 million from the MTBE litigation settlement. The Mayor added with verification from Ms. Grover that the State and the City was awarded over \$200,000 in money to use on the train station study.

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Mr. Lapinsky said that the 2012 trash pickup schedule will be finished soon and will be available on the website.

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