

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
October 24, 2011**

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Matthew Lapinsky, Director of Public Works
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance
Stephen Smith, Deputy Chief
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 said by Mayor Bennett and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Landbeck.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Proclamation in Recognition of International Walk to School Month
The Mayor presented a proclamation to Kate Autry, Grant Coordinator, recognizing the month of October as International Walk to School Month in Aberdeen encouraging health, safety, and care of the environment to the youth of Aberdeen.
2. Presentation – Municipal Water and Sewer Article
Mayor Bennett recognized members of the Department of Public Works sewer team with presentations of a framed cover page from the publication of *Municipal Sewer & Water* where they were featured for their inflow and infiltration (I&I) accomplishments.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott and Councilwoman Young to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2011 meeting as submitted.

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Bernard Backus, Northgate Road;
Mr. Backus thanked the Mayor and Council for all of their accomplishments.
2. Mr. Bob Hartman, Paradise Road;
Mr. Hartman asked the Council to promote the installation of electric vehicle charging stations.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Resolution No. 11-R-12, Community Legacy Grant, Façade Improvements
(For Introduction and Adoption)

Mayor Bennett introduced Resolution No. 11-R-12. Ms. Grover explained that the City is submitting a \$100,000 grant application to the Department of Community and Housing Development for improvements in the local community. The resolutions will support the grant applications.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve Resolution No. 11-R-12, Community Legacy Grant, Façade Improvements.

The motion passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

2. Resolution No. 11-R-13, Jennifer J. Badding-Benton, t/a Aberdeen Family Chiropractic, 110 N. Philadelphia Boulevard (For Introduction and Adoption)

Mayor Bennett introduced Resolution No. 11-R-13. Ms. Grover provided background information for Resolutions 11-R-13 and 11-R-14. The businesses are applying for local real property tax credits under the Greater Aberdeen/Havre de Grace Enterprise Zone.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve Resolution No. 11-R-13, Jennifer J. Badding-Benton, t/a Aberdeen Family Chiropractic, 110 N. Philadelphia Boulevard.

The motion passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

3. Resolution No. 11-R-14, Merritt-AD, LLC, c/o Merritt Properties, LLC, t/a Aberdeen Corporate Park, 650 McHenry Road (For Introduction and Adoption)

Mayor Bennett introduced Resolution No. 11-R-14. A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck and Councilwoman Young to approve Resolution No. 11-R-14, Merritt-AD, LLC, c/o Merritt Properties, LLC, t/a Aberdeen Corporate Park, 650 McHenry Road.

The motion passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

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

3. Business from the Director of Planning and Community Development

a) Preliminary Site Plan for the Home 2 Suites by Hilton, Aberdeen XChange, Lot 4

Ms. Grover explained that a 107-room hotel, principal permitted use, zoned B-3, is proposed for the site located at the intersection of US 40/Newton Road/Rt. 715. Favorable recommendations were made by the Planning Commission and the Architectural Review Committee. Ms. Amy DiPietro of Morris & Ritchie Associates and Mr. Brian Norris, Chief Operating Officer for Cherry Cove Hospitality, attended. Ms. DiPietro presented a PowerPoint presentation explaining the location site, landscaping, utilities, building description, parking, and amenities. Council and staff discussion followed. Mr. Norris said that they aim to obtain LEED Silver certification and the storm water management will be privately-owned for proper maintenance.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve Preliminary Site Plan for the Home 2 Suites by Hilton, Aberdeen XChange, Lot 4.

The motion passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

4. Business from the Chief of Police – None.

Deputy Chief Steven Smith substituted for Chief Trabert.

5. Business from the Director of Finance – None.

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Lapinsky reported on the status of Beards Hill Road paving.

7. Business from the City Manager

The City Manager asked motorists to drive safely and exercise precaution during Halloween activities. He announced that Tuesday, November 8, 2011 is Election Day, held at the Aberdeen Senior Center, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. He also explained how to obtain an absentee ballot.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council

The Council members discussed upcoming community events, their recent meetings and fundraisers. It was observed that the Aberdeen Police were very proactive during the last 6 months regarding drugs violations with 56 individuals arrested.

2. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Bennett reported that he and the Council attended the Aberdeen Station Area Master Plan Presentation held on October 13, 2011 in Council Chambers. He also attended the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce Luncheon held at the Boys & Girls Club and a series of

meetings for the Maryland Municipal League (MML) including the Quarterly Executive Board Meeting in Annapolis. He spoke at Aberdeen Middle School to students about education, goal-setting and developing a vision for life.

The Bond Sale was conducted in the City Manager's office. The City was grateful for the money saved by the bond sale amounting to \$1, 744,898.38. The rate anticipated was 2.6%, but actually came in at 2.3%. The City obtained an AA bond rating.

The Mayor attended: "Lights On After School" event by the Boys & Girls Club and a MML Cecil-Harford Chapter Meeting. He said MML will continue to focus on the increasing highway user revenue and state aid for police protection. They will lobby the State Legislature with these issues. He also held a meeting with Delegate Glen Glass followed with a tour of City facilities. Their discussion included the importance of the Hotel Tax to Harford County and the City of Aberdeen.

The Mayor said he was honored to be selected as first marshal for the homecoming parade for Aberdeen High School. He also attended the 10th Anniversary Thanks Banquet at the Jessie J. Shanks Masonic Lodge #137 to present a proclamation. The lodge presented a plaque to him for service to the community.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Election Day: Tuesday, November 8, 2011, Aberdeen Senior Center, 7 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Council Ceremony (Oath of Office): Monday, November 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Young to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously and the meeting concluded at 8:02 p.m.