

CITY OF ABERDEEN
Special Post-Election Council Meeting
November 9, 2015

Council Present: Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilwoman Landbeck, Councilman Smith, and Councilwoman Young

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Kyle Torster, Director of Public Works
Chief Henry Trabert, Aberdeen Police Department
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance
Monica Correll, City Clerk

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by Bishop Melvin Taylor of the Word of Faith Outreach Ministries and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Young.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2015 Council Meeting and the minutes of the October 5, 2015 Business Meeting/Work Session.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 5 – yes and 0 – no.

ELECTION RESULTS FROM THE CITY CLERK:

On November 3, 2015, the City of Aberdeen, with the assistance of the Harford County Board of Elections, conducted an election for Mayor and four City Council seats at the Aberdeen Senior Center. The Provisional Canvass was held in Council Chambers on November 5, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

Out of 9,716 active, registered voters, there were 1,762 ballots cast at the polls; 33 ballots cast absentee; and 4 provisional ballots, for a total of 1,799 ballots cast. The percentage of voter turnout was 18.5%. *(Note for record: one more absentee ballot was received on November 13, 2015 and was rejected as untimely by the Board of Canvass. Absentee ballots totaled 34.)*

Due to the equal number of votes between Candidate DeBonis and Candidate Smith for Council, the Aberdeen Board of Elections requested a recount by the Harford County Board of Elections. This was performed in Council Chambers on November 6, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. The recount confirmed the original results of the election.

These are the official, certified results in alphabetical order:

For Mayor:

Michael Bennett	556 votes
Ruth Elliott	238 votes
Patrick McGrady	602 votes
Marla Posey-Moss	392 votes

For City Council:

Carol Bruce	485 votes
Sean DeBonis	655 votes
Daniel J. Forte	620 votes
Jason Kolligs	519 votes
Barbara Osborn Kreamer	555 votes
Sandra Landbeck	802 votes
Tim Lindecamp	783 votes
Stephen A. Smith	655 votes
Melvin Taylor	899 votes

The elected are:

Patrick McGrady for Mayor. Melvin Taylor, Sandra Landbeck, and Tim Lindecamp for City Council. I place the official, certified document into the records.

COMMENTS OF THE MEMBERS:

Councilwoman Elliott, Councilwoman Young, and Councilman Smith said that it was a privilege to serve and thanked their family, friends, and citizens. Mayor Bennett said that he was honored to serve and recounted accomplishments and achievements of the City throughout his eight-year tenure. He left the incoming Mayor and Council this motto: "If, it is good for the City, it is good for the citizens, and it is morally right, then we probably made the right decision most of the time." He thanked everyone involved in the City and asked God to bless the City of Aberdeen.

OATH OF OFFICE:

The Oath of Office was administered by Mr. James Reilly, Clerk of the Circuit Court to Sandra J. Landbeck, Timothy W. Lindecamp, and Melvin T. Taylor. He then administered the Oath of Office to Patrick L. McGrady.

COMMENTS OF NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS:

Councilwoman Sandra J. Landbeck

Councilwoman Landbeck thanked everyone for their support and especially her family. She promised to carry forth the vision of the City and live by the motto of the former Mayor.

Councilman Timothy W. Lindecamp

Councilwoman Lindecamp thanked his family and friends for their support and looked forward to working with the Mayor and Council to keep the City moving forward.

Councilman Melvin T. Taylor

Councilman Taylor thanked God, his family, leaders of Aberdeen, and the voters for his support. He looked forward to serving on the Council and to serve the City that had served him.

Mayor Patrick L. McGrady

Good evening, and welcome to Aberdeen City Hall. First, thank the Lord for all the blessings in our lives that we don't deserve. Thank you, Lord, for all those around me who assist and challenge me to do better every day.

Thank you to my lovely wife, Liz, for supporting me in all the things that I do. Those are our two beautiful kids, Indy and Remy. Thank you to my parents, Leonard and Pat. As a father now, I see the importance of a loving home, and I am grateful for that from you both.

Thank you to all the voters of the City of Aberdeen for participating in the process whether you voted for me or not, I am here to serve you as your mayor, and I am counting on all of you to keep me honest to this principle.

Thank you to Mayor Bennett for your years of service to the City of Aberdeen and earlier, your years of service to the State and the Nation. To the outgoing members of the City Council, thank you for your deliberations and service.

Thank you, as well, to all those who supported my election, whether with time, talent, or treasure. Thank you to those candidates who ran alongside me for City Council: Sean DeBonis, Jason Kolligs, and Daniel Forte.

Thank you to this newly elected City Council. The people have spoken through the election last Tuesday, and I am looking forward to working together to make Aberdeen a better place to live, work, and play.

I will work to ensure that every member of the City Government understands that they are the servants of the people of Aberdeen, and to behave accordingly. This will be a City Council that works, literally. Just like the hard-working people of Aberdeen, this Council is made up of a majority of people who have full-time jobs in addition to their service on the City Council. I will ensure that City meetings are held when working families, like mine and yours, are able to attend and participate in our government.

With our City Council meetings and publications from the City, I will work to increase the community's understanding of the way the City operates so that more people can be engaged in the process, leading to better results for everyone.

I look forward to working with this City Council, with the County Council, and with our state government to ensure that roadblocks to progress are pulled out. Every Aberdeen resident must have the ability to thrive and succeed.

To paraphrase my colleague and newly-elected Councilman Melvin Taylor: growth isn't always bad. When you have a little baby, you want that little baby to grow up strong and healthy and nurture it. That's what we need Aberdeen to do.

To grow in a strong and healthy manner, we must work to lift the burden of the highest property taxes in Harford County; the property tax rate here is much higher than our sister towns of Bel Air and Havre de Grace. This won't be easy, but with leadership comes prioritization, and I am looking forward to working with Council on this important task.

During our campaign, I heard from the people of Aberdeen about many things, people who have concerns that their water bills are too high, that their property taxes are too high, that they want better businesses in Aberdeen. And, I agree.

But another concerning idea was raised from time-to-time in Aberdeen. Folks don't feel like they are represented on the Aberdeen City Council. I plan to work every day to make sure that everybody is represented, whether you live in North Deen, Swan Meadows, Windemere, or Titan Terrace. This Council is your voice. So put us to work! We will begin working immediately to address these concerns.

I am announcing the creation of my transition team to Fix Aberdeen. Starting tonight, I will assemble a team to dig into all the operations at City Hall and find areas we can work to improve. I will ask them for a report by the first week of February.

You will see me around the City, at Walmart, on late night diaper runs, at ShopRite for groceries, at gas stations, or at dinner. I want to hear what you think. Grab me and tell me how you think we're doing. Let's work together for a better Aberdeen!

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilman Lindecamp to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m. The motion carried.