

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
April 28, 2014**

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

Absent: Councilwoman Elliott

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
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 Mayor Bennett and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Landbeck.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the following minutes:

Business Meeting/Work Session, March 10, 2014
Council Meeting, March 24, 2014
Business Meeting/ Work Session, April 14, 2014
Business Meeting/Work Session, April 21, 2014.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 4 – yes, 0 – no, 1 – absent.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Proclamation in Recognition of the Aberdeen High School Dance Team

Mayor Bennett presented a proclamation in recognition of the Aberdeen High School Dance Team commemorating their victories during March competitive dancing events.

2. Harford County Dept. of Community Services Annual Action Plan (HUD), Elizabeth Meadows

Ms. Elizabeth Meadow, Community Development Coordinator, Harford County Department of Community Services presented the Annual Action Plan, U.S. Housing and Urban Development report for the FY 2014 funding. The Harford County Action Plan included \$931,409 in Community Development Block Grant Funding (CDBG) and \$322,521 for Home Investment Partnership Funding (Home Funding). The City of Aberdeen will receive \$86,994 in CDBG funds, for use toward road paving within a low-income community, the Mt. Royal sidewalk improvement project, and demolition and clearance of three vacant houses on Franklin Street.

Other benefits of this funding in Harford County included eight homes provided to first time, eligible homeowners, a financial literacy program located in Edgewood, and a budget skills/foreclosure prevention program run by the Tabernacle of Faith.

3. Award Presentation by Mayor Bennett

Mayor Bennett honored Dr. Rose Mary Hatem Bonsack, a former Maryland State Delegate, with an award in appreciation of her dedication and support to the City of Aberdeen. Dr. Bonsack was instrumental in having a State budget bill passed to enable all chartered governments in Maryland the ability to have a hotel tax.

4. Aberdeen Heritage Trust Preservation Awards to

Mayor Bennett, along with Mr. Daniel Augustyniak, Heritage Trust Chair, presented Mark DiDomenico and John McKeon, Aberdeen Heritage Trust Preservation Awards in honor of their restoration efforts to a care facility they own and operated at 468 West Bel Air Avenue.

5. Aberdeen Heritage Trust Beautification Awards

Mayor Bennett along with Mr. Daniel Augustyniak, Heritage Trust Chair, presented the Heritage Trust Beautification Awards to Terrence White and William Baumgardner for their home improvement achievements.

6. Proclamation for the Fourth Annual National Kids to Parks Day on May 17, 2014

Mayor Bennett presented a proclamation for National Kids to Parks Day and declared Saturday, May 17, 2014, as National Kids to Parks Day in the City of Aberdeen.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Ordinance No 14-O-07, Transit Oriented Development District Sectional Map Amendment

Ms. Grover explained that Governor O'Malley designated the one half mile around the Aberdeen Train Station as a Transit Oriented Development (TOD) area. The City adopted a master plan in 2012 followed by the development of a form based code and amending the Aberdeen development code.

Public Comment:

- a) Mr. Curtis Coon, Esq., Law Street, Aberdeen: Mr. Coon said that the TOD map was too complex, required more clarification, and was difficult to understand. He questioned the implementation, differences in zoning, and the TOD districts.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Ms. Kat York, Chesapeake Court, Aberdeen: Ms. York commented on the poultry articles printed in the newspapers and that this issue should not be tabled. She felt that the current Aberdeen law should allow chickens as pets and was in favor of a survey.
2. Mr. Michael Hiob, Aberdeen: Mr. Hiob asked for Council opinion on a high speed chase by the Aberdeen Police Department in a congested neighborhood. He also commented on owning chickens and gave a definition of poultry.
3. Mr. Frank Turner, Chesapeake Court, Aberdeen: Mr. Turner spoke in favor of owning chickens in Aberdeen as a basic freedom. The petition he had been circulating reflected to him, a favorable response to the matter.
4. Mr. Arthur Helton, former member of the Maryland Senate, South Rogers Street: Mr. Helton congratulated Dr. Bonsack. He also voiced his disappointment with representatives currently in office in Annapolis.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Ordinance No. 14-O-09, Prohibition Against Parking Unregistered Vehicles (For Adoption)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to adopt Ordinance No. 14-O-09, Prohibition Against Parking Unregistered Vehicles.

The motion passed by a by a vote of 4 – yes, 0 – no, 1 – absent.

2. Ordinance No. 14-O-10, Ethics Commission, City Attorney Advice (For Adoption)

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to adopt Ordinance No. 14-O-10, Ethics Commission, City Attorney Advice.

The motion passed by a by a vote of 4 – yes, 0 – no, 1 – absent.

3. Ordinance No. 14-O-11, Budget FY 2014-2015 (For Introduction)

Mayor Bennett introduced Ordinance No. 14-O-11, Budget FY 2014-2015.

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

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

Ms. Grover announced that the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development awarded Aberdeen two grants: \$200,000 for Strategic Demolition Smart Growth Impact Fund for acquisition of properties within the Transit Oriented Development area and \$50,000 for the Community Legacy Façade Improvement Program.

- a. Final Subdivision Plat for Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, Inc., at First Street

Ms. Grover said that the Planning Commission recommended the final subdivision plat for approval at their April 2, 2014 meeting. Mr. Jonathan Scott Dallas, J.S. Dallas, Inc. Baldwin, Maryland, Surveyor for Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, Inc. added that most of the comments on the plan were minor and were all met. There were no questions from the Council.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the final subdivision plat for Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, Inc., First Street.

The motion passed by a by a vote of 4 – yes, 0 – no, 1 – absent.

- b. Revised Subdivision Plat for Lots 10-20 & 30-40, Lands of E. Roy James

Ms. Grover stated that this property contained Hinder Ford, Inc. and the original property line was moved to accommodate an addition on the side of 505 South Philadelphia Boulevard, parcel numbers 505 and 517 South Philadelphia Boulevard. The plan was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission at their April 2, 2014 meeting. Mr. David Stoker, architect, and Mr. Timothy Farren, surveyor, were present.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilman Garner to approve the revised subdivision plat for lots 10-20 & 30-40, Lands of E. Roy James.

The motion passed by a by a vote of 4 – yes, 0 – no, 1 – absent.

- 4. Business from the Chief of Police - None

- 5. Business from the Director of Finance

Mr. Jack informed the Council that the auditors would be there the week of May 12th for the 2014 fiscal audit.

- 6. Business from the Director of Public Works (DPW) – Mr. Lapinsky was not in attendance.

- 7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller said that the budget public hearing would be held on May 19th and copies of the budgets were available in the lobby and for viewing on the website. Ms. Grover was congratulated for her grant work.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council

The Council members congratulated Ms. Grover on her grant work and commented on the success of Earth Day. The Maryland Municipal League had recognized Mr. Miller, Mr. Lapinsky, and the Mayor for their work on the legislative committee. Dr. Bonsack was thanked for her time, guidance, and hard work.

2. Business from the Mayor

The Mayor said that Ripken Stadium is the number one tourist attraction in Harford County and that the hotel tax will benefit its upkeep, relieving the burden on Aberdeen taxpayers. The hotel tax will also benefit all of Harford County and the other municipalities. He will continue communicating with Senator Glassman on this in his efforts to promote the City. Significant to note was that the General Fund Budget was reduced by almost 19% over last year. His goals were to reduce the property tax rate, promote tourism, and help the general fund.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Business Meeting/Work Sessions:	Monday, May 5, 2014 at 4:00 p.m. Monday, May 12, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.
Next Council Meeting:	Monday, May 19, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. (Budget Public Hearing Scheduled)
Next Planning Commission Meeting:	Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Young and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.