

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
January 26, 2015**

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 (DPW)
Henry Trabert, Chief of Police
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 Mayor called for a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Ruth Ann Young.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2014 Council Meeting.

The minutes were approved by a vote of 5 – yes.

PRESENTATIONS:

A. Proclamation in Honor of Councilman Bruce E. Garner

Mayor Bennett presented a proclamation and a shadow box containing a Mayor's Medal to the family of Councilman Bruce E. Garner, commemorating the outstanding contributions he made to the City of Aberdeen and its citizen during his tenure as Council member from 2009 to 2014.

B. American Legion Presentation to Aberdeen Police Department

Mr. Gary Ivey, Director of American Legion Riders, and other members of American Legion Bernard L. Tobin Post 128, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Aberdeen Police Department for the "Shop with a Cop" program.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Walter Winder, Aberdeen resident: Expressed his concern about the safety and welfare of crossing guards.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION: None

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

A. Unfinished Business - None

B. New Business - None

C. Business from the Director of Planning and Community

1. Preliminary Subdivision Plan for Lot 2, Aberdeen Station, South Philadelphia Boulevard

Ms. Grover stated that the Preliminary Subdivision Plan for Lot 2 was located specifically at 744-788 South Philadelphia Boulevard and the proposal was to subdivide Lot 2 into 4 lots and 1 parcel. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the plan at their December, 2014 meeting. Mr. Gerry Powell of Frederick Ward Associates and Mr. Sean Langford, representing the owner, were present.

Mr. Power explained that the 4 lots would be fee simple and the parcel would contain forest conservation, stormwater management, and access. The only development would occur on lots 2, 3, 4, and 5. The property was located in the highway commercial district, the downtown revitalization overlay district, and mostly located in Aberdeen wellhead protection zone 2, with a portion of the future lot 2 and parcel in Harford County/Perryman wellhead protection zone 3. Public water and sewer were available on the lots and the traffic impact analysis affected what would be placed there.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve the Preliminary Subdivision Plan for Lot 2, Aberdeen Station, South Philadelphia Boulevard.

The motion passed by a vote of 5 – yes, 0 – no.

D. Business from the Chief of Police

1. Budget Amendment - Command Vehicle
2. Sole Source Permission - Command Vehicle

Chief Trabert and Mr. Miller asked the Council for a budget amendment in the amount of \$135,000 to outfit the command vehicle and permission to sole source the work for the command vehicle.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the budget amendment in the amount of \$135,000 to outfit the command vehicle and permission to sole source the work for the command vehicle.

The motion passed by a vote of 5 – yes, 0 – no.

3. Surplus, Aberdeen Police Department -Vehicles and Equipment

The Chief asked for permission to surplus and sell, by government online auction, the following vehicles and equipment:

Item	Serial	Description	Reason	Unit
Vehicle	2FAFP71W81X174442	2001 Ford Crown Victoria	End Service Life	265
Vehicle	2FAFP71W17X105102	2006 Ford Crown Victoria	End Service Life	252
Vehicle	2FAFP71W87X105100	2007 Ford Crown Victoria	End Service Life	254
Vehicle	1HGCG6657YA025824	2000 Honda Accord	End Service Life	243
Police Lights	None	Roof LED Light Bar	End Service Life	265
Police Lights	None	Roof LED Light Bar	End Service Life	254
Furniture	None	VCR Tape File Cabinet	End Service Life	

Item	Serial	Description	Reason	Amount
Vehicle	1FMZU73K74UB28635	2004 Ford Explorer	End Service Life	\$2,575.00
Vehicle	1J4FJ28S5VL508327	1997 Jeep Cherokee	End Service Life	\$3,625.00
Radio Box	None	5 Center Console	End Service Life	\$51.00
Police Lights	None	5 LED Visor Lights	End Service Life	\$431.00
Police Lights	None	Roof LED Light Bar	End Service Life	\$56.00
Police Lights	None	Roof LED Light Bar	End Service Life	\$147.85
Police Lights	None	Roof LED Light Bar	End Service Life	\$152.65
Police Lights	None	Roof LED Light Bar	End Service Life	\$142.03
Police Lights	None	Roof LED Light Bar	End Service Life	\$166.00
Police Lights	None	Roof LED Light Bar	End Service Life	\$166.00
Police Lights	None	Roof LED Light Bar	End Service Life	\$151.00
		Total		\$7,663.53

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the surplus to be sold on the government website (govdeals.com).

The motion passed by a vote of 5 – yes, 0 – no.

E. Business from the Director of Finance

1. Year-to-Date Financial Transactions

Mr. Jack presented the following year-to-date financial activities report, for July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014, to the Council.

General Fund

Total revenues (including appropriated fund balance) exceeded total expenses (including transfers-out) by \$2.8 million, with revenues of \$10.6 million, and expenses of \$7.8 million.

Revenues were \$344 thousand better than budgeted. Property tax collection was more than budgeted by \$439 thousand. State and County-shared revenues were, mostly, in line with the budget.

Expenses were better than budgeted by \$519 thousand. This was mostly due to: 1) savings from vacant positions, police pension plan, workers' compensation and property insurance premiums, and 2) less than budgeted cash outlays, so far, in line items such as Fuel and Contingencies.

Capital Projects Fund

Total receipts exceeded total expenses by \$298 thousand, with receipts of \$2.8 million (including transfer-in of \$1.6 million from the General Fund, and appropriated fund balance of \$1.2 million), and expenses of \$2.5 million. Total receipts and expenses were, mostly, in line with the budget.

Water Fund

Total revenues exceeded total expenses by \$725 thousand, with revenues of \$1.9 million and expenses of \$1.2 million. Revenues were better than budgeted by \$473 thousand due to higher than expected capital connection fees. Expenses were \$87 thousand better than budgeted.

Sewer Fund

Total expenses exceeded total revenues by \$95 thousand, with expenses of \$2.2 million and revenues of \$2.1 million. Revenues were better than budgeted by \$287 thousand due to higher-than-expected capital connection fees. Expenses were \$84 thousand worse than budgeted.

Stadium Fund

Total receipts exceeded total expenses by \$377 thousand, with receipts of \$463 thousand (including transfer-in of \$260 thousand from the General Fund), and expenses of \$86 thousand. Revenues and expenses were in line with the budget.

All Funds

Overall, the City's total revenues and other sources exceeded total expenses and other uses by \$4.1 million, with revenues and other sources of \$17.8 million and expenses and other uses of \$13.7 million.

F. Business from the Director of Public Works

1. Surplus, DPW - Vehicle #98

Mr. Torster asked the Council for permission to surplus and sell by government auction, Vehicle #98, 2003 Ford F-350 Pickup Truck.

A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve the surplus of Vehicle #98 from the Waste Water Treatment Plant, 2003 Ford F-350 Pickup Truck, VIN # 1FTSF31P23EB86961, 138,452 miles, for posting on a government website for sale.

The motion passed by a vote of 5 – yes, 0 – no.

2. Unsafe Structure

Mr. Torster reported on snow removal, trash removal, and construction projects. Social media would be used to alert residents. He also reported on the fire damage of Aberdeen In-Town Motel located at 404 South Philadelphia Boulevard and recommended that the structure be declared unsafe. He sought the Council's approval based on Aberdeen City Code Section 348-12.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to concur with the recommendation made by the Director of Public Works that the Aberdeen In-Town Motel was deemed unsafe and all that implies.

The motion passed by a vote of 5 – yes, 0 – no.

G. Business from the City Manager

1. Surplus, Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) - Vehicle #67, 2001 Ford F-350 Pickup Truck, VIN #1FTSF31F71EA29902, Tag No. LG13732

2. Surplus, APG - Compressor Unit

Mr. Miller asked to surplus APG Vehicle #67 and the APG Compressor Unit to be sold on a government website.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the surplus of APG Vehicle #67, 2001 Ford F-350 Pickup Truck, VIN #1FTSF31F71EA29902, Tag No. LG13732, and the APG Compressor Unit for sale on a government website.

The motion passed by a vote of 5 – yes, 0 – no.

3. Harford County Water and Sewer Authority

Mr. Miller stated that the City of Aberdeen had been considering the possibility of joining the four water and sewers operations of Harford County, Bel Air, and Havre de Grace to create the Harford County Water and Sewer Authority. This project was initiated by the former Harford County Executive, David R. Craig.

He explained that a water and sewer operation has five components: water production, water distribution, water storage, sewer collection, and sewage treatment. Since Aberdeen already has an excellent system, the Harford County Water and Sewer Authority would not improve it. Also, if Aberdeen joined, there would probably be a tax increase, water and sewer rate increase, and the City would loss control over its economic development.

Mayor Bennett added that the City had considered the matter in good faith. He and the City Manager had participated in the study since the beginning and the City had signed a memorandum of understanding. However, the study had not yielded the answers desired and he recommended that the City discontinue its participation. County Executive Glassman had been informed of this action.

A motion was made by Mayor Bennett and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck for the City of Aberdeen to drop out of the Harford County Water and Sewer Authority Concept Study.

The motion passed by a vote of 5 – yes, 0 – no.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council

The Council expressed their support of the decision to discontinue participation in the Harford County Water and Sewer Authority Study. The Department of Public Works was acknowledged for their work in fixing a broken water main on Rt. 22. Thanks were extended for all those involved in moving the Hotel Tax forward toward passage, including the Mayor, Councilman Garner, and Dr. Rose Mary Hatem Bonsack. Harford Night was recently held in Annapolis and was a success.

2. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Bennett stated that this was the first Council Meeting since Councilman Garner passed away. Councilman Smith was a long-time resident of Aberdeen and had retired as Deputy Chief of the Aberdeen Police Department. The decision to nominate Councilman Smith was a result of seeking someone who exemplified the same passion as Councilman Garner for the City and its residents. He also thanked the family of Councilman Garner and welcomed them back.

The Mayor, acting as Legislative Chair for the Maryland Municipal League, had been meeting in Annapolis reviewing various legislative bills and how they would affect municipalities. He added that they have had several meetings with the current Governor and saw progress toward the full restoration of State Highway User Funds.

He thanked Mr. Torster and the DPW crew for their efforts during the Rt. 22 water leak repairs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Business Meeting, Work Session:	Monday, February 2, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. Monday, February 9, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.
Next Council Meeting:	Monday, February 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.
Planning Commission Meeting:	Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Smith to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.