

**City of Aberdeen
Business Meeting, Work Session
January 5, 2015**

Council Present: Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Landbeck, and Councilwoman Young

Council Absent: Councilwoman Elliott

Guest Attendees: Senator Elect Bob Cassilly, Maryland State Senate
Delegate Glenn Glass, District 34A
Delegate-Elect Mary Ann Lisanti, District 34A
Delegate Susan K. McComas, District 35B

Staff: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Monica Correll, City Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers by Mayor Bennett.

A. Matters of Immediate and Urgent Business

1. Council Member Confirmation

Mayor Bennett said that the City suffered a great loss on December 20, 2014 when Councilman Bruce E. Garner passed away. Following the directives of the Charter, the Mayor nominated Mr. Stephen A. Smith, to fill the vacancy of Council Member for the duration of the term. Mayor Bennett read Mr. Smith's biography and credentials which included a career with the Aberdeen Police Department as Deputy Chief.

The appointment was approved by a vote of 3 – yes, 1 – absent, and 1 - vacant.

2. Oath of Office

Mayor Bennett administered the oath of office to Mr. Smith for the Office of Council. Councilman Smith joined the Council on the dais.

3. Other Matters - None

B. Work Session (2:10 p.m.)

1. Harford County State Senator, Harford County Delegates: Legislative Discussions

The Mayor and Council welcomed the visiting officials to Aberdeen to collaborate on the City's projects and issues. The visiting officials expressed their regrets on the passing of Councilman Garner and looked forward to working with Aberdeen.

Senator Cassilly said that he valued local government and the opportunity to open lines of communication. Delegate McComas explained their roles: Senator Cassilly was on the Judiciary Proceedings Committee, Delegate Glass was on the Judiciary Committee, Delegate Lisanti was on Economic Matters Committee, and she was on the Judiciary Committee. Delegate Glass said that he looked forward to working together with Aberdeen and to fight for municipal government. Delegate Lisanti continued by saying that she, too, was looking forward to continuing her relationship with Aberdeen and working on its issues such as the hotel tax

Discussions were held pertaining to three State Highway Administration projects underway in Aberdeen: Front Street on Rt. 40, Rt. 22 widening, and Rt. 715 widening. Mr. Miller explained that relocation of water and sewer lines would cost the City the following: Front Street project, \$70,000; Rt. 22 project, \$1 million; and the Rt. 715 project, \$300,000. Even though the last two projects primarily benefited the region, Aberdeen's costs could not be assimilated into the state's project costs because of state prior rights. In addition, the City was not acquiring commercial benefits to raise its tax base. Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) has benefited from the Enhanced Use Lease and from the infrastructure provided by the City. He asked for the delegation's support in helping Aberdeen acquire a bond bill to lessen the impact on the Aberdeen ratepayer.

Also of concern was the need to have full restoration of Highway User Revenues (HURs) to help with road maintenance, tourism, and maintenance of Ripken Stadium. The Mayor stated that Ripken Stadium has been the number one tourist attraction in Harford County and the restoration of HURs relieves the burden on Aberdeen taxpayers. The delegation was asked to support the full restoration of HURs. Mayor Bennett said that Aberdeen has adopted its master plan and has made long-term goals such as transit-oriented development and the train station.

Questions from the delegates followed on HURs, widening projects, state's rights, road overlay, the impact of APG, and other sources of possible financial help. The delegation offered their help with the matters.

The Mayor and Council thanked the visiting officials for attending and hoped for continuing their relationship. The Mayor extended an open invitation for future meetings.

Announcements:

Business Meeting, Work Session on January 12th at 4:00 p.m.

Council Meeting on January 26th at 7:00 p.m.

Maryland Municipal League Legislative Meeting and Reception on January 14th

City Hall Closed on January 19th for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Harford Night on January 22nd in Annapolis

Adjournment: Being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.