

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting  
March 24, 2014**

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

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Douglas Miller, City Manager  
Matthew Lapinsky, 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 prayer was led by Pastor Dan Sheffield, First Baptist Church of Aberdeen and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Garner.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve the February 24, 2014 Council Meeting minutes. **The minutes were approved by a vote of 5 – yes, 0 – no.**

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Proclamation in Honor of DeMolay Month

Mayor Bennett presented members from the Nelson J. Briggs Chapter of the Order of DeMolay, a proclamation in observance of their 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary and proclaimed March, 2014 as DeMolay Month in the City of Aberdeen.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Ms. Kat York, Chesapeake Court, Aberdeen: Ms. York spoke in favor of amending the Code, Article IV, Section 235-27, G( 4), to allow residents to own pet chickens.
2. Ms. Barbara Osborn-Kreamer, Beards Hill Road, Aberdeen: Ms. Kreamer announced her candidacy for public office.
3. Mr. Frank Turner, Chesapeake Court, Aberdeen: Mr. Turner said that he spoke to the Council 1 ½ years ago after he was required by the City to get rid of his chickens. He was back again to request for an amendment or removal of the current law and to allow the ownership of poultry and farm animals for any personal use. Mr. Turner said that this was a matter of freedom and merit rather than the popularity of opinion. He had a petition signed

by 24 people, discussed the benefits of owning chickens, and quoted C.S. Lewis about tyranny.

### **LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

1. Ordinance No. 14-O-01, Campaign Finance (For Adoption)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Young to adopt Ordinance No. 14-O-01, Campaign Finance.

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

2. Ordinance No. 14-O-04, Grading and Sediment Control, Chapter 297, Repeal & Reenact (For Introduction)

**Ordinance No. 14-O-04, Grading and Sediment Control, Chapter 297, Repeal & Reenact was introduced.**

3. Ordinance No. 14-O-06, Amendment to the Code, Chapter 250, Environmental Control (For Adoption)

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to adopt Ordinance No. 14-O-06, Amendment to the Code, Chapter 250, Environmental Control.

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

4. Ordinance No. 14-O-07, Transit Oriented Development District Sectional Map Amendment (Deferral to May 19)

**Ordinance No. 14-O-07, Transit Oriented Development District Sectional Map Amendment was deferred to May 19, 2014.**

### **BUSINESS OF THE CITY:**

1. Unfinished Business - None
2. New Business – None
3. Business from the Director of Planning and Community Development – Ms. Grover was not in attendance.
4. Business from the Chief of Police - None
5. Business from the Director of Finance

Mr. Jack reported that the City had paid off its line of credit with Harford Bank.

6. Business from the Director of Public Works (DPW)

Mr. Lapinsky said that the Department of Public Works has been continuously working on pot holes in the City. Warmer weather will permit the ability to repave roads.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller reported that the budgets were due from the city departments on March 26, 2014. The preliminary budget would be ready for discussion on April 14, 2014 at the Work Session. The draft budget would be given to the Council at the April 21, 2014 Work Session and scheduled for introduction at the April 28, 2014 Council Meeting. Because the assessable base was flat, there would not be a constant yield tax rate process. He expects to receive the report on the Council Retreat soon.

**BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. Business from the City Council

Councilwoman Elliott reported that repairs to the roof and foundation of the B&O Train Station were finished to prepare it for its move. She welcomed visitors and volunteers to the Aberdeen Room Museum.

Councilwoman Landbeck reported that the Council Retreat was very worthwhile and was eager for the formal report to be released.

Councilwoman Young said that the projects discussed at the retreat will extend far into the future. The public was reminded that bulk collection must be made by calling and making an appointment.

Councilman Garner commented on the paving of the Ripken Stadium parking lot.

2. Business from the Mayor

The Mayor reported that he testified in front of the Board of Public Works, Annapolis to correct the name for a bond bill mistakenly made out to Harford County instead of Aberdeen. The \$450,000 bond bill was made possible last year with the help of Delegate Mary-Dulany James and will be used for the Ripken Stadium parking lot top coat application. Also, the Mayor said, that as Chair of the Maryland Municipal League Legislative Committee, he had spent time in Annapolis monitoring State laws which could have adversely impacted municipalities.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Young to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.