

City of Aberdeen
Business Meeting, Work Session
May 5, 2014

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Henry Trabert, Chief of Police
Monica Correll, City Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers by Mayor Bennett. There were no matters of immediate and urgent business.

Work Session

a. 911 Memorial Dedication

Mr. Miller announced that the unveiling of the 911 Memorial would be held on Saturday, June 21 at 1:00 p.m. Mayor Bennett reported that he has seen the 2,000 lb. memorial which consists of a 3 x 4 foot slab of marble with two twin towers.

b. Heritage Trust Amendments

The Heritage Trust requested amendments be made to Chapter 61 of the Code for updating purposes. Mr. Miller said that the primary changes are to eliminate the function of reviewing real property tax credit applications and to remove the requirement of a Council liaison. The ordinance would be available for introduction at the next Council meeting.

c. Cottage Home Use; IBD (Integrated Business District)

Mr. Miller discussed, with the Council, the Council's vision and concerns for the IBD area, how they wanted to approach the zoning options, and how they wanted the development to function within the IBD. Currently under consideration was the concept of building cottage homes. However, a definition would need to be created for this.

d. Miscellaneous Project Update

1. Security Structural Changes; City Hall – The Mayor, Mr. Miller, and Chief Trabert explained the various security changes to be made to City Hall (i.e. swipe cards, cameras, door access).
2. Franklin Street Properties – A bid will be released for the three properties on Franklin Street for demolition and cleanup.
3. APD Mobile Command Vehicle – Mr. Miller informed the Council that the APD (Aberdeen Police Department) Mobile Command Vehicle requires equipment. Requests for needed resources will be forthcoming.

4. Paving – Mr. Miller reported on the paving work being performed on City streets. Council discussion followed pertaining to the schedule and quality of work.
 5. Hillman Court Sewer Project and Rt. 22 Relocations – To prevent collapse, Hillman Court requires water and sewer line work due to disintegration. Furthermore, some of Aberdeen's utilities are in the State's right of way requiring relocation of water and sewer lines due to the road widening resulting from BRAC. The Mayor has been discussing this issue with State Highway Administration since the citizens of Aberdeen should not be responsible for an economic development issue. BRAC is a county and regional benefit.
- e. FY 15 Budget – The FY 15 budget has been introduced and a public hearing scheduled.
- f. Potential Annexation; Hardy Property – There were preliminary discussions underway for a possible annexation petition for a self-storage facility currently not in the corporate limits.

Other Business

Mr. Miller said that the updated retreat report has been distributed to the Council. There will be a press release and further discussion in July. He reported that on April 30, Aberdeen experienced heavy storms and received six inches of rain. He also reported that the Cal Ripken World Series Parade preparations are in process. There were two more teams added: New Zealand and Puerto Rico.

The Mayor and Council discussed the ownership of poultry, including chickens, by homeowners within the municipal boundaries. No one was in favor of changing the code but a questionnaire was suggested. A comment from Aberdeen Proving Ground was also thought to be in order to avoid any possible negative consequences. Since the ownership of poultry was highly regulated in Maryland, further information and education was needed for full disclosure to the public of possible fees and costs. Code enforcement costs and the responsibilities of property owners who have rental property were also discussed. The Mayor proposed more time to research and discuss this with the City Attorney and staff for final discussion with the Council.

Further Council discussion concerned a cemetery fence, the demolition of the houses on Franklin Street to be finished as soon as possible, Rt. 40 construction to be completed by the State by September 2014, and a reminder to keep grass in the yard when mowing to benefit the environment.

Announcements:

Business Meeting/Work Session: Monday, May 12, 2014 4:00 p.m.

Council Meeting: Monday, May 19, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 7:00 p.m.

Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce Luncheon, La Tolteca: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 11:30 a.m.

Mayor's Golf Challenge, Ruggles Golf Course: Friday, May 23, 2014, 1:00 p.m.

Amanda Hichkad Celebration Walk, Ripken Stadium: May 17, 2014, 8:00 a.m.

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Deputy Chief Stephen Smith's Retirement Party, American Legion, Havre de Grace, May 31, 2014,
1:00 p.m.

Adjournment: Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at
5:03 p.m.