

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
August 8, 2011**

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Stephen Wallis, City Engineer
Henry Trabert, Chief of Police
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance
Monica Correll, City Clerk

Mayor Bennett introduced Mr. Isaiah White who was selected by the Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford County as honorary "Mayor of the Day". Mr. White called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by Pastor Cordell Hunter, St. James AME Church and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Landbeck.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve the minutes of the July 25, 2011 meeting as submitted.

The motion passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Recognition of Isaiah White, Mayor of the Day, Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford County

Mayor Bennett presented Mr. Isaiah White a proclamation recognizing him as honorary "Mayor of the Day". Mr. White has been a Boys & Girls Club member since he was eight years old. He is currently a senior at Harford Tech High School and plans to pursue electrical engineering in college.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Tory Pierce, Board President, Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford County;

Mr. Pierce thanked the Mayor, Council, and staff for this event and for supporting the Learn Project.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Ordinance No. 11-O-07, Amendment to the Code, Chapter 36, Elections (For Adoption)

Mr. Miller explained the changes proposed to Chapter 36, Elections and additional amendments. As introduced, the changes included: candidacy forms be physically given to the City Clerk or designee, confirm the calendar days for filing candidacy forms, clarify the closing day for filing for candidacy, the liquidation of the candidate's treasury, and campaign sign requirements. The additional changes presented are: that the candidate must be "domiciled" two years within the City limits rather than "reside" two years; the two years must be immediately preceding the election rather than prior to the filing date; signs must not be placed in State right-of-ways; and the report of campaign and election contributions and expenditures form should be deleted.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Young and Councilwoman Landbeck to approve Ordinance No. 11-O-07 as amended.

The motion passed with a vote of 5 - yes.

2. Ordinance No. 11-O-10, Refinancing CDA Loans (For Introduction)

Mr. Miller explained that the debt incurred on Ripken Stadium is 10 years old and may be refinanced at a better interest rate. A public hearing will be held at the next meeting.

The Mayor introduced Ordinance No. 11-O-10. Refinancing CDA Loans.

3. Resolution No. 11-R-05, Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford Co. *Learn* Project (For Introduction & Adoption)

Mayor Bennett introduced and read the Resolution.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Garner to approve Resolution. No. 11-R-05, Boys & Girls Clubs of Harford Co. *Learn* Project.

The motion passed with a vote of 5 - yes.

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

1. Unfinished Business – None
2. New Business – None
3. Business from the Director of Planning & Community Development
 - a. Preliminary Site Plan for Grace United Methodist Church

Ms. Grover explained the renovations proposed to the church including interior improvements, a building extension, and additional parking. The plan was approved by the Planning Commission in June, the Architectural Review Committee has expressed

support and the variance was approved. Ms. Jennifer Leonard, Director of Planning of Frederick Ward Associates, gave further information and offered to answer Council questions. There were no questions from the Mayor and Council.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve the Preliminary Site Plan for Grace United Methodist Church.

The motion passed with a vote of 5 - yes.

4. Business from the Chief of Police – None
5. Business from the Director of Finance - None
6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Stephen Wallis, City Engineer, substituted for Mr. Lapinsky who was absent.

- a. Approval: Paving Bids

Mr. Wallis reported that the low bidder for the street resurfacing of Beards Hill Road, from Hospitality Way to the sewer pumping station, was Frank J. Goettner Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$132,100.00.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck and Councilwoman Young to approve the bid of \$132,100.00 for street resurfacing to Frank J. Goettner Construction Company, Inc.

The motion passed with a vote of 5 - yes.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller explained recommendations for purchases of equipment for use on APG. Bids for the mini-excavator were made for the same equipment specifications but not necessarily for the same manufacturer.

- a. Approvals

- 1) APG Mini-Excavator

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the bid of \$34,329.00 to Bobcat of Baltimore, LLC for the purchase of a Compact Excavator for use on APG.

The motion passed with a vote of 5 - yes.

2) APG Trailer Purchase

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Garner to approve the bid of \$6,250.00 to Folcomer Equipment Corporation for the purchase of a 12,000 lb. Payload Trailer for use on APG.

The motion passed with a vote of 5 - yes.

b. Election Schedule

Mr. Miller made the following election announcements: Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 7:00 a.m.to 8:00 p.m.at the Aberdeen Senior Center, 7 Franklin Street; forms of candidacy are available Wednesday, August 10 from the City Hall Receptionist and available on the City Hall website www.aberdeen-md.org; file with the City Clerk or designee; first day to file is Friday, September 9; last day to file is Friday, October 7 by 5:00 p.m.; last day to withdraw from election (in writing) is October 7 by 5:00 p.m. The ballot will be printed and advertised with the candidates who correctly filed.

Regarding voting, Mr. Miller announced: the public demonstration (logic and accuracy testing observation) will be held on Friday, November 4 at 10 a.m.at the Harford County Board of Elections, 133 Industry Lane, Forest Hill; voter registration deadline is Tuesday, October 18 at the Harford County Board of Elections. Absentee ballot application deadline (by mail) is Tuesday, November 1 to the Harford County Board of Elections and then it must be done in person. Absentee ballot return deadline is by 5:00 p.m. to City Hall or 8:00 p.m. to the Aberdeen Senior Center polling place on Election Day.

Official Election results will be certified by Friday, November 11 and the swearing-in ceremony will be Monday, November 14 in Council Chambers.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council

The Council remarked on the success of a quilt raffle sponsored by the Aberdeen High School Class of 1966 to benefit the Aberdeen Room operating costs. The Council acknowledged recent policing events benefiting community relations and bereaved the loss of U.S. Navy Seal Team 6 in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan.

2. Business from the Mayor

The Mayor, in his responsibilities as the President of the Maryland Municipal League (MML), attended the Allegheny-Garrett County Chapter Meeting in Friendsville, Maryland.

ADJOURNMENT/EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Mayor called for a motion to go into executive session according to the Open Meetings Act. He cited the topics and reasons for closing.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Young to close the session. The motion was carried with a roll call vote of 5 – yes. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m. for the purpose of convening the closed session.

The Mayor announced that the next Council Meeting scheduled is Monday, August 22, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.