

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
August 22, 2011**

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

Absent: Councilwoman Landbeck

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Matthew Lapinsky, Director of Public Works
Henry Trabert, Chief of Police
Monica Correll, City Clerk
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by Chaplain Major Steven Simpson, from Aberdeen Proving Ground and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Young.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Garner to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2011 meeting as submitted.

The motion passed with a vote of 4 – yes and 1 – absent.

Ayes: Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilwoman Young, and
Councilman Garner

Absent: Councilwoman Landbeck

The following statement of closed session was read by the City Clerk.

Statement of Closed Session:

"On August 8, 2011, the Mayor and Council held a regularly scheduled Council Meeting in Council Chambers which began at 7:00 p.m. All members voted by roll call in the affirmative to close the session.

At approximately 7:47 p.m. a closed session was convened by the Mayor and Council in the second floor administrative conference room. Members present were: Mayor Michael E. Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilman Bruce Garner, Councilwoman Sandra Landbeck, and Councilwoman Ruth Ann Young. Also in attendance were Douglas Miller, City Manager, and Monica Correll, City Clerk.

The session was held pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Section 10-508(a): (1)(i) The appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials

over whom it has jurisdiction; and, (14) before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, discuss a matter directly related to a negotiation strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process.

During this meeting, the Mayor and Council discussed with the City Manager the formulation of the Annexation Agreement for Aberdeen Technology Campus, LLC & Route 22 Properties. The Mayor and Council also discussed the repeal of Aberdeen Board and Committee Code Sections and gave instruction that ordinances be drafted for introduction. No other action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m."

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Daughters of the American Revolution, 9/11 Flag

Councilwoman Young introduced Ms. Betty Myers, Vice-Regent of the Harbor of Grace Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Both Councilwoman Young and Vice-Regent Myers presented a flag to the Mayor, City Council, and Aberdeen citizens in remembrance of the September 11, 2001 tragedy.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Ordinance No. 11-O-10. Refinancing CDA Loans

Mr. Miller proceeded to explain that the City introduced this ordinance on August 8, 2011 to refinance the five loans taken out through the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development infrastructure loan program (CDA) for expenses at Ripken Stadium, City Hall, and the Public Works Shop. Ordinance No. 11-O-10 allows the City to borrow up to ten million dollars to replace the existing debt resulting in significant savings on interest costs. There are two methods of refinancing; private placement through banks and private sale. The City will also proceed to acquire a bond rating.

Also present were Mr. Steve Winter, Bond Counsel, and Mr. Samuel Ketterman, financial consultant, who answered questions from the Council. Mr. Ketterman said that after a rating committee visits the City, a decision should be rendered in early October. He further explained that even if the Ordinance is passed, the City is not required to sell the bonds if the savings level is unacceptable. The rating lasts throughout the life of the transaction but does not mean that the rating is firm since rating agencies are supposed to perform annual reviews.

- a) Ms. Karen Heavey, W. Bel Air Avenue;
Ms. Heavey expressed support of the Ordinance and expressed her concerns.

The Council questioned interest rate stability to which Mr. Kettermann answered that interest rates are set once the bids are accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Ms. Karen Heavey, W. Bel Air Avenue;
Ms. Heavey announced the BRAC Town Hall meeting schedule by the County Executive and the Base Realignment Planning Advisory Commission (BPAC).

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Resolution No. 11-R-06. Ben Carson Scholars Fund (For Introduction and Adoption)

Mayor Bennett introduced and read Resolution No. 11-R-06, Ben Carson Scholars Fund.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve Resolution No. 11-R-06, Ben Carson Scholars Fund.

The motion passed with a vote of 4 – yes and 1 – absent.

Ayes: Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilwoman Young, and Councilman Garner

Absent: Councilwoman Landbeck

2. Resolution No. 11-R-07, Sustainable Community Zone (For Introduction and Adoption)

Mayor Bennett introduced Resolution No. 11-R-08, Sustainable Community Zone.

Ms. Grover stated that this Resolution is for the Mayor and City Council to show support of a sustainable community zone. An application and the Resolution will be presented to the State with a plan for reinvestment and revitalization of these areas. The area totals 834.1 acres and is a compilation of all City zones and designations.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Young and seconded by Councilman Garner to approve Resolution No. 11-R-07, Sustainable Community Zone.

The motion passed with a vote of 4 – yes and 1 – absent.

Ayes: Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilwoman Young, and Councilman Garner

Absent: Councilwoman Landbeck

3. Resolution No. 11-R-08, Harford Family House Project (For Introduction and Adoption)

Resolution No. 11-R-08 was introduced and read by Mayor Bennett.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve Resolution No. 11-R-08, Harford Family House Project.

The motion passed with a vote of 4 – yes and 1 – absent.

Ayes: Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilwoman Young, and Councilman Garner

Absent: Councilwoman Landbeck

4. Ordinance No. 11-O-02, Public Ethics Ordinance (For Introduction)

Mayor Bennett introduced Ordinance No. 11-O-02, Public Ethics Ordinance.

5. Ordinance No. 11-O-08, Repeal of Chapter 134, Ripken Stadium Management Board (For Introduction)

Mayor Bennett introduced Ordinance No. 11-O-08, Repeal of Ch. 134, Ripken Stadium Management Board.

Regarding the ethics ordinance, Mr. Miller stated that the State mandated that the City adopts an ethics ordinance with lobbying requirements based on their templates. Mr. Miller stated that Ripken Stadium Management Board's mission has been satisfied and delegated to others. This action is not a negative reflection on this Board. The Swim Center Advisory Committee has not been active for at least five years and there is no need for this committee. The Boys & Girls Club has taken over the management and operation of the pool.

6. Ordinance No. 11-O-09, Repeal of Chapter 147, Swim Center Advisory Committee (For Introduction)

Mayor Bennett introduced Ordinance No. 11-O-09, Repeal of Ch. 147, Swim Center Advisory Committee.

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

1. Unfinished Business – None.
2. New Business – None.

3. Business from the Director of Planning & Community Development

Ms. Grover announced the Farmers Market schedule.

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Trabert reminded everyone that schools will be back in session and to be cognizant of traffic laws and safety.

5. Business from the Director of Finance – None. (Mr. Jack was not present.)

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Lapinsky reported that the enhanced nutrient removal upgrade for the Waste Water Plant is progressing and the Edmund Street booster station prefabricated building will be operational in 1-2 weeks. He reported on the Paradise Road water main break, the assistance of the police department, and the LED lights in City Hall and Festival Park.

7. Business from the City Manager – None.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council

Councilwoman Young reported that Harford County State's Attorney Joseph Cassilly was honored as the 2011 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year; Wegmans Food made a large food donation to the Harford County Community Action Agency for the needy. She thanked Ms. Betty Myers and paid tribute to those lost in the 9/11 tragedy.

Councilman Garner reported that the Cal Ripken Little League World Series was a success and the City of Aberdeen was complimented by many visitors.

2. Business from the Mayor

The Mayor participated in the Home Runs for the Homeless by the Harford Family House and spoke at their awards dinner. He also attended the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Executive Board Meeting in Annapolis. The MML Board of Directors Retreat is scheduled to be held in Aberdeen.

Councilwoman Landbeck, Councilman Garner, and he attended the opening of the Cal Ripken World Series (CRWS). He threw out the first pitch at the second game. The Mayor congratulated retired First Sgt. Jim Testerman of the Aberdeen Police Department for receiving the Outstanding Member of the Community Award during

the semi-final games. Councilman Garner and he attended a World Series reception held at the Marriott Hotel.

Council members and the Mayor attended the ribbon cutting of a new Aberdeen business called Grab-N-Go Burger. The Mayor also attended the Maryland Association of Counties Convention on behalf of MML.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Council Meeting: Monday, September 12, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Young to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. The motion carried.