

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
September 21, 2015**

Council Present: Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott Councilwoman Landbeck,
Councilman Smith, and Councilwoman Young

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Kyle Torster, Director of Public Works
Chief Henry Trabert, Aberdeen Police Department
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance
Monica Correll, City Clerk
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of Donald Pyle, life member of the Aberdeen Fire Department who passed away. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Ruth Ann Young.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Smith and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2015 Council Meeting. **The minutes were approved by a vote of 5 – yes and 0 – no.**

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Harford County's Consolidated Annual Performance Evaluation Report CAPER , and Annual Action Plan presented by Harford County Department of Housing and Community Development

Mr. Leonard Parrish, Director, and Elizabeth Meadows, Community Development Coordinator, were present to report on FY2015 CDBG and Home Investment Partnership funding to help in community needs and poverty-related issues. Improvements were made on Mt. Royal Avenue with sidewalks, crosswalks, handicapped ramps, and school zone signs. Assistance was provided to three first-time home buyers.

A discussion followed regarding: counseling programs, future improvements on Aberdeen's library, and the lead-based paint health threat. Councilwoman Young read an article from The Baltimore Sun by Timothy B. Wheeler, dated August 22, 2015, entitled, *Maryland Warns Landlords About Lead Compliance*. It was noted that Harford County has regulations and guidelines on this and other environmental issues.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. Comcast Needs Assessment for Franchise Agreement

Comcast representatives, Matt Shiffermiller, Senior Manager, Government Affairs and Antoine Banks, Senior Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs were present at the meeting to answer questions.

Mr. Miller explained that the City was in the process of negotiating a new franchise agreement with Comcast. An advertised public hearing was being conducted to receive public input on community needs. He said that the City was asking Comcast for the following provisions:

- Payment of franchise fees of 3% of gross cable revenues generated within the City limits.
- Free Comcast drops at municipal buildings.
- Assistance with fiber installation at the disaster recovery site at or near Ripken Stadium.
- Assistance with fiber connection between Public Works and other municipal buildings.

There were no questions from the Council and no comments from the public.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Kenneth Varner, Master Sergeant (Retired), Oxford Avenue: Mr. Varner said that the City was responsible to repair his concrete driveway after they removed a piece of concrete three years ago.
2. Ms. Marla Posey-Moss, Avon Drive: Ms. Posey-Moss inquired about the Aberdeen Proving Ground and City of Aberdeen Land Use Study.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION: None

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

1. Unfinished Business - None
2. New Business - None
3. Business from Director of Planning & Community Development

Bid Tabulation for the Demolition of 204 Northeast Road

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilman Smith to approve the Bid Tabulation for the Demolition of 204 Northeast Road to Civil Utility Construction Company, Inc., Aberdeen, Maryland in the amount of \$13,800. **The motion passed by a vote of 5 – yes and 0 – no.**

4. Business from Chief of Police – None

5. Business from Director of Finance

Mr. Jack announced that Fitch Ratings affirmed Aberdeen's AA bond rating on September 3, 2015 and the factors involved in obtaining that rating.

6. Business from Director of Public Works

Mr. Torster reported that the Hillcrest Tower project was nearing completion and the tower was refilled.

7. Business from City Manager

- a. City Events - The City Manager reported that the City and the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce were sponsoring "Paint the Town Pink" events during October that included a 5K Run/Walk, Poker Run, and Festival Park activities.

BUSINESS OF COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council

Councilwoman Landbeck clarified that a recent \$36,700 budget amendment for a fabric analysis/detailed facilities assessment at the Aberdeen Community Services Building (Old School Building) was just for a team of experts to assess the building and its viability. She stated that the Council had not purchased the building, they did not plan to displace anyone, and they did not decide that it was to be the main community center. The Council was following the directives of the 2012 Master Plan and considering community activity options in order to revive a blighted building. Such efforts would also help the City with sustainability measures as directed by the State.

Councilwoman Elliott stated her concern that the City might be forfeiting a multi-million dollar community center at Beards Hill Road for the Old School Building.

Councilwoman Young reported that she attended a community meeting held at the University Center about the Joint Land Use Study. She, Councilman Smith, and other officials attended the Aberdeen Klein's ShopRite "Bagging for Hunger" to benefit the Maryland Food Bank.

2. Business from the Mayor

The Mayor reported that the Aberdeen Ethics Commission received notice that the City of Aberdeen was found to be in compliance with the Public Ethics Laws by the State Ethics Commission for 2014. The Mayor welcomed the birth of his grandson, Otis.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Business Meeting, Work Session: Monday, October 5, 2015 at 4:00 p.m.

Next Council Meeting: Monday, October 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

Planning Commission Meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

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