

**Aberdeen City Council Meeting
January 8, 2007**

OPENING:

Roll Call: The Aberdeen City Council Meeting roll was called with the following results:

Present: Mayor Simmons, Council President Hiob, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilmen Yensan and Kupferman

Absent: None

Also Present: Mr. Miller, Ms. Grover, Mr. Jack, Mr. Lapinsky, and Chief Rudy

Mayor Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by

Pastor Kenneth Telsee of True Joy Ministries and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Elliott.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 18, 2006, meeting were approved as submitted.

No Statement of Closed Session was submitted.

PRESENTATIONS:

Presentation: Awards for Heroic Acts Aberdeen Police Department and Aberdeen Fire Department

Chief Rudy showed pictures of the fire and subsequent rescue of private citizens by the Aberdeen Police Department and Aberdeen Fire Department. On Sunday, December 24th, a fire was reported at 15 S. Roger Street. The police involved in the rescue were Sgt. Severn, Officer Helf, Officer Rieber, Officer Wade, and Officer Bray. The members of the Fire Department were Capt. Rizzuto, and Firefighter Hinch. Mr. Michael Smith, a private citizen, was also recognized. All of the participants received awards and City Medals.

Mayor Simmons said the time frame of the fire, without the rapid response, would probably resulted in one or more deaths.

Councilman Yensan said his church would step in to assist the families. He also commented on the remarkable group of public servants in the City.

PUBLIC HEARING:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. Bob Hartman, 226 Paradise Road

Mr. Hartman asked if the Annexation Committee representatives had been selected. He was told a list has been prepared but the people have not yet been called. He asked about attendance at the meeting with Nancy Jacobs. Mayor Simmons responded that his father had been hospitalized and he could not attend the meeting. Mr. Hartman asked why there was no Grant money for 2007 and beyond? Ms. Grover said the following monies had been received: Community Block Grant Funds, HUD award for Bush Chapel Road Phase II, and Parks and Playground money. Councilwoman Elliott said Mr. Miller and Mayor Simmons would be meeting with Nancy Jacobs in Annapolis on Friday.

Ms. Ruth Ann Young, 445 Doris Circle

Ms. Young read letters from Senator Jacobs which were in the newspapers regarding the Hotel Tax. Payments which the City makes toward the Stadium were omitted. She asked when the audit would be presented and was told it was on the Agenda for tonight. Mr. Miller said the Senator requested information on Stadium repairs but they were only interested in the Budget which has been sent to them. He noted that additional information will be taken to the meeting in Annapolis.

Mayor Simmons noted that the Council has received documents from Chief Rudy on police service to hotels which impacts the City finances.

Ms. Linda Simms, 655 Aldino Stepney Road

Ms. Simms distributed letters in sealed envelopes to the Council members and City Staff.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

Draft Resolution No. 721-06; Annexation Postponement/Preliminary Study of Future Water Supply Sources:

Mr. Miller distributed copies of Resolution No. 721-06 in the "Draft" stage. He indicated that this Resolution was not ready for adoption because the City Attorney is still reviewing it. It will be completed by the January 22, 2007, meeting. Mr. Miller stated that Article 23A of the Annotated Code requires that when an annexation petition is processed, an Extension of Facilities Report is created. At this time it is not certain that water would be available to the annexed areas. This Resolution would postpone annexation petitions until July 2007 when the water production is reviewed and a

determination is made on availability. This document applies only to annexation requests and not current development.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

A. Bid Awards, Department of Public Works

- Meter Truck

Mr. Lapinsky distributed copies of bids from Bob Bell Chevrolet, Chesapeake Ford Truck Sales, Inc., and Plaza Ford, Inc. The low bid was from Plaza Ford in the amount of \$34,468. He recommended adoption of this proposal.

A motion was made by Council President Hiob and seconded by Councilman Kupferman to approve the Bid Award for a Meter Truck for the Department of Public Works from Plaza Ford in the amount of \$34,468.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

- Bucket Truck

Mr. Lapinsky distributed copies of a bid from Plaza Ford in the amount of \$56,388 for the purchase of a 1 Ton Bucket Van. He recommended adoption of this proposal.

A motion was made by Councilman Yensan and seconded by Councilman Kupferman to approve the Bid Award for a 1 Ton Bucket Van for the Department of Public Works from Plaza Ford in the amount of \$56,388.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

B. Bid Award, Victory Street Park Pavilion/Electrical Package

Ms. Grover stated that Victory Street Park was improved through a State Grant several years ago. The pavilion which was at the site was vandalized 10 – 15 years ago. The Grant would provide a pavilion, new concrete pad and sidewalk, and an electrical package. This money is not a Budget line item. Three bids were received from Martell Construction Company, Civil Utility Company, and GrassBusters Landscaping. The low bid was from GrassBusters Landscaping in the amount of \$32,500. Ms. Grover recommended adoption of this proposal.

A motion was made by Councilman Yensan and seconded by Councilman Kupferman to approve the Bid Award for the Victory Street Park Pavilion Electrical Package from GrassBusters Landscaping in the amount of \$32,500.

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – yes.

Business from the Director of Planning & Community Development

Ms. Grover noted that the Planning Commission Meeting has been changed to January 17, 2007, and currently there are three items on the Agenda.

Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Rudy reported that currently there are 3 applicants to the Police Department. One applicant is transferring laterally and has a start date of January 22nd, the second is from the Maryland Transportation Authority and has a start date after January 12th, and the third is from the Baltimore City Police Department and after completion of a background investigation on January 10th will have a start date scheduled.

Chief Rudy said the intersection of Beards Hill Road and Route 22 is an ongoing problem. Ms. Grover, Mr. Lapinsky, and the Council have requested a turn on green arrow only at this intersection. This will eliminate a turn on a green light which should alleviate most problems.

Mayor Simmons mentioned shots from LaQuinta Motel and asked for an explanation. Chief Rudy said on New Year's Eve there was a domestic situation in the bar area which spilled outside. Shots were fired to "scare" people. Officers made several arrests for this incident. Some of those arrested were wanted in other areas and weapons were recovered which may be related to a shooting in another area.

Business from the Director of Finance

Mr. Jack noted that the complete Audit Report is available on the website. In a brief summary, he said assets exceeded liabilities by 33 million dollars and the debt decreased by \$791,000.

Business from the Director of Public Works

None

Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller reported that City Offices will be closed on January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King's Birthday and no City Council Meeting would be held.

Business from the Council

Councilman Kupferman said a Committee will be formed within 1 to 2 weeks to review options with the Council regarding Annexation requests. He wants informed decisions made. Mr. Miller said the Council will select the Committee members.

Councilwoman Elliott asked when the parking signs for the Senior Center would be installed. Mr. Lapinsky said they would be ordered tomorrow and installed as soon as they are received. She also asked about parking stickers for this organization. Mr. Lapinsky has asked for Council input but has not received input from all members at this time. Councilwoman Elliott said the money needed for stickers was minimal.

The repairs to the pond on William Powell Court will not take place until the Spring but the fence has been fixed.

The Council and Staff were reminded that all expenses paid for by the City must have receipts and justification.

Council President Hiob noted that LaQuinta is part of the Hotel package.

Business from the Mayor

Mayor Simmons reported that a "Big Burn" will take place at 602 Edmund Street, and 418, 442, and 454 Washington Street. This was initiated by Ms. Grover's staff, Mr. Lapinsky's staff and Chief Rudy. Most, if not all, of these residences were drug houses. Habitat for Humanity will build new homes on these sites.

Mayor Simmons noted that a contingency went to Washington, DC for the swearing in of the 110th Congress. They met with Mr. Ruppertsburger and Mr. Gilchrist. They then had a meeting with Ms. James whose agenda will benefit the City.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Wilma Nevacheski, 600 Old Robin Hood Road

Ms. Nevacheski works for Frito Lay, whose expansion is being held up due to a lack of water. She feels the City should cooperate with Frito Lay because they employ many City residents.

Mayor Simmons said PepsiCo is an incredible neighbor. He noted that Frito Lay's past expansion required the same amount of water as the City of LaPlata. Currently, providing an additional million gallons of water is not possible. However, the State, County and City are very interested in the request and the City Manager is working on solving the problem.

Elder Ringold, Highway Holiness Church

Elder Ringold thanked the Council, the Chief and all City Departments for the tremendous change in the City. He commented that the new pole definitely shows progress. There have been great accomplishments in 2006 and 2007 can be even greater.

Mayor Simmons noted that the new pole is for the installation of Hi-Tech Cameras.

Ms. Sherri Miller, P.O. Box 357

Ms. Miller said there are mobile basketball hoops located in the road which are not visible to motorists. She asked if there was an ordinance or if reflectors could be installed to make the situation safer.

Chief Rudy noted that nothing should be in the road to hamper traffic. The safest situation is in dead end streets and courts. He will have them removed if there is a threat to safety. Ms. Miller would like some type of reflectors installed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Heritage Trust Committee will host a lecture series on January 11, 2007, in the Council Chambers. Dr. Charles L. Hall will speak on "Bald Friar Petraglyphs".

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.