

**Aberdeen City Council Meeting
July 30, 2007**

OPENING:

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

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

Absent: Mayor Simmons

Also Present:

Doug Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning & Community Development
Matthew Lapinsky, Director of Public Works
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance
Randy Rudy, Chief of Police

Mayor Simmons was attending a meeting on BRAC issues with the OEA.

Council President Hiob called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by Pastor Torbert of the Faith Worship Center and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Kupferman.

The Minutes of the July 9, 2007 Council Meeting and the July 23, 2007 Work Session were approved as submitted.

STATEMENT OF CLOSED SESSION:

On July 21, 2007 at 3:00 p.m., July 2, 2007 at 3:30 p.m., and July 6, 2007 at 3:15 p.m., Closed Sessions were held by the Council at City Hall. These sessions were held pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Section 10-508(a)(1) to discuss a matter pertaining to personnel action.

In addition to the City Council, Mr. Elwood Stark, City Attorney, and Ms. Theresa Hartman, Human Resources Administrator, were in attendance at the June 21st, and July 2nd meetings. The Council alone held the Closed Session on July 6th. Components of the personnel evaluation were agreed upon.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Presentation – Rebuilding Together of Harford County, Inc. – Ms. Beverly Dean-Crabtree

Ms. Dean-Crabtree said the program began in 1973 and provides a safe, dry environment for homeowners who are unable to afford repairs and improvements to their homes. Volunteers perform these jobs so the individuals can remain in their homes. The money used for repairs does not have to be repaid. The group also provides portable steel ramps for the disabled. Ownership is retained and the ramps can be used for other families. Ms. Dean-Crabtree noted that Harford Cable Network did a documentary on this organization.

2. Presentation – Community Development Block Grant, Consolidated Plans – Ms. Jennifer Phelps of Harford County Government

Ms. Phelps said the time frame for the plan was five years, 2007 – 2011, and detailed how funds would be used. Copies are available in libraries and on the website. The fiscal year allocation for Aberdeen is \$103,813.

3. Presentation of \$1,000 Check from Aberdeen WalMart to the Aberdeen Police Department – Chief Rudy and Councilman Yensan

Two representatives of the Aberdeen WalMart presented the check in the amount of \$1,000 to Chief Rudy and Councilman Yensan for use by the Police Department. WalMart has partnered with the City for many years. Additional financial help has been given to the Police and Fire Departments on the Community Projects.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Ms. Karen Heavey, 634 W. Bel Air Avenue;

Ms. Heavey asked the status of Resolution No. 721-06, the Annexation Moratorium. She also asked if the Water Study has been completed, evaluated; and a copy available to the public.

Mr. Miller reported that the Study period has been “sun settled” and has ceased at this time. Thus, the City will now be considering annexations.

2. Mr. Art Koszura, 424 Doris Circle;

Mr. Koszura asked that the Council invite the Stadium Board to a meeting to explain their function. He said Tufton has two priorities: Ripken and Aberdeen. There is a question as to how the City generates money, i.e., concessions, etc. Mr. Koszura has the impression that parking fees are not a possibility.

Mr. Miller said Councilwoman Elliott is the Council liaison to the Stadium Board. He asked Mr. Koszura to call and schedule a meeting with him and Mr. Jack.

Council President Hiob stated that the City does better financially on non-baseball events.

Councilman Yensan noted that the Tufton Group is the Ripken business management group.

Councilwoman Elliott suggested that Ms. Betsy Champion, President of the Stadium Management Board give a presentation on the details of the operation documents.

Councilman Kupferman has spoken to Ms. Champion about scheduling a public meeting within the next month.

3. Ms. Ruth Ann Young, 445 Doris Circle;

Ms. Young thanked Councilman Kupferman for setting up a public meeting on the stadium issues. An update will help with problem solving. She said both this administration and the previous administration seemed to have a problem with the Block Grants and their operating procedures. Tonight was being considered as a presentation and felt it should be designated as a hearing. Ms. Young said she supports what is being done with the money but would like to see this matter cleared up.

Councilman Yensan said the City has information to check what has been going on at the stadium currently. Previously, no information was available. He referred to an article in the Baltimore Sun which reported information on the stadium issues.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

None

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Unfinished Business – None
2. New Business
 - A. Approval of CDBG Project, Community Development Block Grants – Ms. Grover

Ms. Grover provided a handout of previous and future proposed use of Block Grant Money. She detailed three requirements: a) must benefit low and moderate income residents, b) entitlement, and c) must be within local jurisdiction. The Staff has met to determine the distribution of current excess money. It was decided to hold the money for use on the Bush Chapel Road project. The 2007 – 2008 money in the amount of \$207,579 is designated for use on the Swan Meadows Infrastructure Design Project.

Councilman Yensan asked if there was a firm, actual cost at this time. He was told this figure was not currently available because much was involved with the engineering and design phases of the project.

Mr. Miller said there was a figure of 1.1 million dollars, but this amount was dated.

Councilman Kupferman asked if a public hearing was needed and he was told no hearing was necessary.

Council President Hiob asked if the designated amount was fixed and was told it was.

Ms. Grover said over-runs could possibly come from other Block Grant Funds.

Councilman Kupferman indicated the project order as: 1) Bush Chapel Road, and 2) Swan Meadows.

Mr. Lapinsky reported that Verizon needs a purchase order for the work on Bush Chapel Road. He said one would be sent tomorrow.

Council President Hiob asked the time frame for this job and was told there was none.

Councilwoman Elliott asked how far the City would get with these projects with the funds from the 2007 – 2008 Block Grant Money. She was told it would cover some of the study and design.

Mr. Miller said after Bush Chapel Road is completed, the City would know how much money would be available for the next project.

A motion was made by Councilman Yensan and seconded by Councilman Kupferman to approve the CDBG Project with the provision that the Bush Chapel Road Project is completed and the remaining funds be applied to the Swan Meadows Project.

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

Ayes: Council President Hiob, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilmen Kupferman, and Yensan

Absent: Mayor Simmons

3. Business from the Director of Planning and Community Development

None

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Rudy received a letter from a Forest Hill resident asking about the safety of the train station for individuals and cars left parked there. This resident was given assurances that he and his car would be safe and well protected.

Chief Rudy reported that the Police Department purchased a Dodge Durango 4x4 for \$19,000 and five Crown Victoria automobiles for the Police Department.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

None

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Lapinsky listed the following expenses for the Senior Center: air conditioning - \$1,350 - \$4,500; Tyco Fire suppression work \$1,270; Magic Force Door Openers \$2,200; and a small freezer \$1,300. These items totaled \$9,300.

Mr. Miller said there was a Budget amount of \$4,000 and Councilwoman Elliott and Councilman Kupferman located additional revenue sources in the form of donations. Needs will be detailed and revenue sources will be presented at the next meeting.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller reported that Chief Rudy purchased two Durango's for less than the cost of a Crown Victoria automobile.

Mr. Miller said the Camera Ordinance would be redrafted and available next time for introduction.

8. Business from the Council

Councilman Kupferman reported that Mayor Simmons is working on the water situation. Mr. Lapinsky is working with MDE and waiting for approval on the documents. MDE has been in contact with Harford County Health Department on leasing the required plats.

Councilman Kupferman asked if a meeting has been scheduled with the Garrison Commander. Mr. Lapinsky said he met with Colonel Weissman and the two agreed to meet later to discuss water issues.

Councilwoman Elliott asked for an update on the paving program. Mr. Lapinsky said the entire area in Rams Gate, Rail Bird Alley, and Michael Lane has or are being paved.

Councilman Yensan said that last week Pulte Homes did a blitz build on two duplex homes. The construction began Monday and the homes were dedicated Friday. The Baltimore Sun did an article on this project and the City was mentioned favorably. He noted that the selection process is very involved for receiving these homes.

Councilman Yensan asked about automatic door openers for City Hall; he was told they are being purchased.

Council President Hiob referred to an article in the Baltimore Sun which showed a shooting caught on a Baltimore City camera.

Council President Hiob asked Mr. Lapinsky to check and replace the burned-out lights in Festival Park.

Council President Hiob thanked Ms. Lynch for the positive action taken by the County regarding Mr. Sagner's son being attacked by a dog. The City will try to establish a City Code to deal with this and similar problems.

Council President Hiob said there was an invitation letter in the lobby for a meeting on the property development of the Mews. This area consists of approximately 35 acres and is located between Graceford Drive and Target.

The meeting was held Wednesday, August 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The proposed development included offices, retail, a hotel, and Target expansion.

Council President Hiob noted that approximately 500 people attended the Friday Flicks. There were booths, contests, games, and door prizes. He thanked Fox 45 for sponsoring the event.

9. Business from the Mayor

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Bob Hartman, 226 Paradise Road;

Mr. Hartman thanked DPW for clearing the island on the corner of Paradise Road and Bel Air Avenue so that oncoming traffic is visible.

Mr. Hartman asked if fees will be set for cameras located at businesses. He also asked if there would be cameras located in the Park to record drug activities.

Councilman Yensan said there is no cost to the City for developments and businesses to install the cameras. Not many fees are involved.

2. Ms. Ruth Ann Young, 445 Doris Circle;

Ms. Young asked that the City Council not make any formal proposals until a traffic study is completed on the development of the western end of town.

Councilman Yensan said the cost of the study for the new development plan is approximately \$60,000. Ms. Grover noted that the \$60,000 was to update the transportation element of the Comprehensive Plan. The money will be available July 1st and then the proposal can be developed. Councilman Yensan was told the time frame was at least six months. The traffic is a problem which needs a solution.

3. Ms. Karen Heavey, 634 W. Bel Air Avenue;

Ms. Heavey thanked Council President Hiob for scheduling a meeting on the Mews at Market Place development.

Council President Hiob said residential will not be included; thus, rezoning will be required.

Councilman Yensan spoke with Mr. Kurtz who is communicating with the person who owns the property behind the existing Target. This person developed Bel Air Market Place and Chili's and has also completed similar projects all over the country. Currently, this is preliminary, and is only a concept plan.

Council President Hiob said the previous proposal was for 197 town homes. This proposal will not impact schools and will require less water.

4. Mr. Art Koszura, 424 Doris Circle;

Mr. Koszura agrees with Ms. Young on postponing new projects due to the studies taking place.

Mr. Koszura referred to a suggestion made for a pathway along Beards Hill Road several months ago. He was told the City has no right-of-way for that area. New development should provide the needed walkway; however, currently there is no time frame available.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Aberdeen Senior Center, Crab Feast, Friday, August 17th at 12:30 p.m.
Cost: \$1.00 per crab and \$1.00 for sodas.
- S.T.A.R. Rally, Smart Teens Always Rise, Topic: Drugs and Alcohol Awareness, the speaker is from Harford County Sheriff's Office, Friday, August 3rd at 6:00;p.m. in the Aberdeen Senior Center

ADJOURNMENT:

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