

**Aberdeen City Council Meeting
June 18, 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 Kupferman and Yensan

Absent: None

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

Mayor Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by Ms. Peggy Norton and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Yensan.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

No minutes were approved at this meeting.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Presentation by Abingdon Elks Lodge #2354 for the Ripken Stadium Event Honoring Perry Point Veterans

Mr. Alan Dannenfels thanked the City of Aberdeen for their help which enabled the Elks to take veterans from VA Hospitals to a Ripken Baseball game. The Elks will distribute 2,000 flags to those in attendance. The City is providing tickets to the game and food will be made available. The game will be held on June 20, 2007.

Mayor Simmons presented a proclamation to Mr. & Mrs. Dannenfels for the Elks Lodge #2354 commending them for their work with veterans.

2. Presentation – Turtle Games Video, Jim Litke

Mr. Litke presented a video which he produced about how storm drains impact the major waterways. The video was produced in Aberdeen, and the script was written by Jim Litke. Mr. Litke thanked the volunteers, and Harford Cable Network. The video will be shown on Channel 21 and will be made available to Harford County Schools and Libraries. The cost of producing the video was \$25,000 and was two years in production.

- A. Proclamation to Jim Litke by Council President Hiob

Council President Hiob read a proclamation declaring June 18, 2007, Jim Litke Day in Aberdeen.

B. Presentation by Aberdeen Lions Club’s Mark Schlottman – Check for \$1,000 to Jim Litke for Recycling

Mr. Mark Schlottman and Mr. Tom Bray of the Lions Club presented a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Mr. Litke for the City to use for Earth Day. It was noted that Aberdeen has one of the highest percentages of participation in recycling in the State.

Councilwoman Elliott noted that recycling has been going on in the City for 15 years and has 80% participation.

3. Presentation – Annexation Committee, Proposed Annexation Policy and Procedure – Mr. Carl Corse, Chairman

Mr. Corse explained the policy and procedure for filing petitions for annexation. This document was the result of public participation and input from City residents, County residents, and City Staff. He thanked Councilman Kupferman for his input and guidance. The presentation was divided into Goals and Objectives, an Overview of Petition Requirements, Public Participation, Petition Review by the City, an Annexation Agreement, and a Summary and Time Table.

Mr. Corse said the Document will be available for public review in the near future. He thanked Councilman Kupferman, Ms. Grover and the City Council. Mayor Simmons thanked Mr. Corse for his leadership on the project. Councilman Kupferman thanked Mr. Corse on behalf of the entire community.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

Council President Hiob read excerpts from the Rules of Procedure for the City Council which addressed Public Comment and courtesy which should be extended to the Council and other citizens.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Mr. William Young, 445 Doris Circle;

Mr. Young asked that issues be dealt with in a respectful and courteous manner. He cited Iraq and Gaza not being democracies because of omission of respect and courtesy.

2. Mr. Art Koszura, 424 Doris Circle;

Mr. Koszura asked that the Ripken Stadium Board be invited to a Council meeting for an explanation of the Contract regarding parking fees.

Mr. Koszura recommended that there be no gated communities when annexation is again being considered. Property should be donated for public use by developers. He noted that there is no bonding requirement in the document. The percentage of people agreeing to annexation should be raised from

20% to 51%. He also asked that upon annexation referendum, the subject application should not be reconsidered for at least one year.

3. Ms. Ann Glover, 106 Rogers Street;

Ms. Glover thanked the City for the new playground. She said she was very surprised to see that Bel Air was hosting the Ripken Parade and asked why the City was not involved.

4. Minister Tittle, Street, Maryland;

Minister Tittle thanked Mayor Simmons and Chief Rudy for their participation at a meeting to bring a summit to Harford County and for attendance at an NAACP meeting. Unity in the Community is an excellent way to bring safety to the area.

5. Mr. William Cronin, 226 Mt. Royal Avenue;

Mr. Cronin said people do not understand that annexation is a civil engineering project. The presentation tonight was planning and zoning. He noted that the Baltimore City boundary has never been changed. Many western cities receive additional tax bases. Expansion is annexation after this action, then planning and zoning takes place.

6. Mr. Steve Macafee, 113 Poplar Hill Road;

Mr. Macafee thanked the City and the City Council for their participation in the May Unity in the Community Event. There were over 1,000 people in attendance. The budget for this event was increased by the Mayor donating his salary to help with expenses. He mentioned that another Unity in the Community Event will be held on September 15th.

7. Pastor Ken Telsee, 4432 Cary Court;

Pastor Telsee said his church's Scholarship Program awarded twelve \$1,000 scholarships to Harford County students. He thanked the Mayor and City Council for their help. On July 9th teenagers and young adults will bike from Florida to Vermont in a Love for the Lord Project. The Aberdeen Community will provide food and shelter for these people when they pass through Maryland. Pastor Telsee reminded everyone that the Mayor and City Council have a tough job. He thanked them, and noted that Chief Rudy obviously loves the City. This is shown by all of the time and effort he puts into his job.

Mayor Simmons attended the awards ceremony at Aberdeen High School and was very impressed. He hopes that more money will be available next year for the scholarships.

8. Mr. Bob Hartman, 226 Paradise Road;

Mr. Hartman said the schools should be coordinated with the County. He asked who pays for police presence in the schools. The Council was assured that he will oppose action like that taken to increase

the proposed Budget by 1 million dollars in the future. Mr. Hartman asked who will pay the monthly fees for camera maintenance?

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

None

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Unfinished Business – None
2. New Business

A. Final Subdivision Plat for Aberdeen Hotel Limited Partnership – Ms. Grover

Ms. Grover introduced Mr. Bruce Beasman of Fred Ward Associates who presented the Revised Final Subdivision Plat for Aberdeen Hotel Limited Partnership. The property is located between Rt. 22 and Barnett Lane. The subdivision is for two lots; Lot 1 contains the Clarion Hotel, and Lot 2 is the property for the proposed Hampton Inn. The Planning Commission made a favorable recommendation at their March meeting for approval of the subdivision of the land. The zoning is B-3 and meets the City Development Code requirements.

Mr. Beasman said comments from the Planning Commission have been addressed and he is requesting approval of the Council.

Councilwoman Elliott asked if this was a Revised Plat. She was told it was one lot existing and the proposal was to create two lots.

A motion was made by Councilman Yensan and seconded by Council President Hiob to approve the Final Subdivision Plat for Aberdeen Hotel Limited Partnership.

Councilwoman Elliott asked what the water capacity would be. She was told the estimated daily use would be 8,900 gallons.

Council President Hiob noted that this action is only for subdivision.

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

B. Award Truck Bid – Mr. Ranney

Mr. Ranney said details on the two bids submitted by vendors were given to the Council. The vehicle will be used by the Water and Waste Water personnel. This will not be a replacement vehicle but is needed to meet specific needs of the Department. Funding for the vehicle will come from the Water Enterprise Fund. The Department of Public Works is recommending the bid from Plaza Ford in the amount of \$18,430.30 for a Ford Ranger XL 2008.

A motion was made by Councilman Kupferman and seconded by Councilman Yensan for the purchase of a Ford Ranger XL 2008 from Plaza Ford in the amount of \$18,430.30.

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

3. Business from the Director of Planning & Community Development

Ms. Grover reported that Mr. Darnell Brown, the Code Enforcement Officer was extremely busy handling complaints. As a result, a door hanger has been created which, hopefully, will save time and produce positive results. She noted that this notice does not take the place of a citation.

Mayor Simmons thanked Ms. Grover, Mr. Brown and their Department for a job well done.

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Rudy has received several good applicants for the two vacancies on the Police Force. One of the vacancies is the result of an officer being on extended medical leave.

Chief Rudy said a citizen remarked on the poor condition of the train station and tunnel. His department is checking on this problem; additionally, he has sent letters to Amtrak and Marc Trains for help with these issues. This is not the responsibility of the Aberdeen Police Department.

Chief Rudy reported that he will attend a training session in Baltimore City on Comstat.

Chief Rudy thanked Pastor Telsee for the service and dedication held for the Police Department.

Chief Rudy reported that the Camera Grant is *almost* as sure thing. He mentioned that Councilwoman Elliott was given a tour of the camera room and the train station.

Mayor Simmons noted that a young person, in gang colors, was questioned as a result of the camera surveillance.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

Mr. Jack said the Budget amendment of 1 million dollars was not spent foolishly. A loan was paid off in the amount of \$357,000, the Saks judgment in the amount of \$89,000 was satisfied, \$332,000 was for the Stadium Debt, and \$125,000 was used for street cameras. This shows the money was used wisely.

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Hank Selke provided handouts for the APG Generator Preventive Maintenance Contract bids. He said this will cover twenty-four generators at APG. The Operations people reviewed the proposals and provided their recommendations. The recommendation was for the Alban Engine Company in the amount of \$13,965 per year.

Councilman Yensan said he is surprised that no preventive maintenance was done previously.

Councilman Kupferman feels this recommendation reflects good feedback.

Mayor Simmons mentioned that Citystat Meetings showed high savings with proper maintenance.

A motion was made by Councilman Yensan and seconded by Council President Hiob to approve the APG Generator Maintenance Contract from Alban Engine Company in the amount of \$13,965 per year.

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

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller said there will be no meeting on June 25th, because the Council will be attending the Maryland Municipal League Conference, and no meeting on July 2nd due to the July 4th holiday. The next scheduled City Council Meeting will be July 9th.

8. Business from the Council

Councilwoman Elliott said she was impressed with the cameras when she toured the Amtrak station. The location is not as bad as she thought. Hopefully, some housekeeping can be done. The police cameras were impressive with how they showed minute details.

Councilman Kupferman, liaison to the Aberdeen Room Museum, was invited to a luncheon at Beechtree by the Harford County Historical Society. Mr. & Mrs. Cronin were the hosts to recognize those who volunteer. There have been 51,000 volunteer hours since 1991. Councilman Kupferman encouraged everyone, especially locals, to visit the museum.

Councilman Yensan said he has made copies of the Maryland Municipal League Agenda available because the validity of sending representatives has been mentioned. The workshops are very informative and educational and this is money well spent.

Councilman Yensan noted that schools are overcrowded, but developers do not control schools – they are controlled by the County and not the City. The hospitals are also being built at capacity.

Councilman Yensan reported that the Camera Grant is close for the City; the City will pay up front. The end of the year Budget adjustments were necessary.

Council President Hiob thanked Mr. Jack for the clarification on the Budget.

Council President Hiob said he was on the Planning Committee for the MML Conference this year. The Aberdeen Police Department will post Colors and participate in the Parade of Flags; the City's flag will be first.

Council President Hiob said he walked W. Bel Air Avenue from Paradise Road to Beards Hill Road and listed items to be repaired and replaced by the State. The new date for repairs is August 7, 2007.

Council President Hiob reported that Bush Chapel Road improvements are being made.

9. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Simmons said the Hydraulic Study presentation would be made at the July 9th meeting. This report will focus on the City's ability to produce water. The Harford County Executive is very interested in this Study.

Mayor Simmons thanked Council President Hiob for his work on the MML Conference. He also commended two detectives present at the meeting for good work.

Mayor Simmons noted that he takes a two hour walk every day and the people he meets let him know about mistakes made in Budget increases and annexation. They also do not fail to mention the increased safety in the City. This administration is receiving a positive response.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Art Koszura, 424 Doris Circle;

Mr. Koszura asked for clarification on the proposed closing of Gilbert Road. He asked Council President Hiob for information on the macadam sidewalk requested for Beards Hill Road. Council President Hiob said Gilbert Road is a County project and only the stub at Rt. 22 will be affected. A meeting will be scheduled with Ms. Grover on the Beards Hill Road sidewalk.

2. Mr. Bob Hartman, 226 Paradise Road;

Mr. Hartman asked if the Public Works truck is coming from the 2007 or 2008 Budget. He was told the money was coming from the 2007 Enterprise Fund. He asked how many years the APG Generator contract was for and was told it was for one year. He also asked who would pay for the clearances.

3. Mr. William Young, 445 Doris Circle;

Mr. Young referred to something Thomas Jefferson said, "you give up a little bit of freedom for a little bit of security". Money spent on the Police Department prevents the public from having to make that choice.

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

Ms. Young complimented Mr. Litke and would like him to be recommended for additional honors. She also thanked Mr. Corse for his presentation.

Ms. Young said last week Councilwoman Elliott shared a letter with the Council and she has the newspaper version. The article requires public disclosure, disclosure within seven days, and limited campaign donations from potential developers. This resulted in recent legislation in Frederick. Ms. Young noted that other areas could voluntarily follow these guidelines. This would be quite a challenge.

5. Mr. Steven Wright, McCommons Road, Churchville;

Mr. Wright thanked the Council for distributing flags on Flag Day. He noted that this new Council has estimated reserves on a conservative basis without tax increases and debt increases.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m.