

**Aberdeen City Council Meeting  
March 26, 2007**

**OPENING:**

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

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

**Absent:** Councilwoman Elliott

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

Mayor Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by Chief Rudy and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Kupferman.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes of the March 12, 2007 meeting were approved as submitted.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Chief Rudy – Introduction of Officer Todd Duncan

Chief Rudy introduced Officer Duncan, a new member of the Aberdeen Police Department. Officer Duncan served four years in the Navy and four years in the Marines. His past employment includes the APG Police Department and Morgan State University Police. He attended Chaminade University in Hawaii and CCBC. Officer Duncan is married and has three children.

Mayor Simmons welcomed Officer Duncan to the City Police Department.

2. Mr. Miller introduced Ms. Monica Correll, the new City Clerk. She is a resident of Harford County and a great addition to the City Staff.

Mayor Simmons also welcomed Ms. Correll and alluded to the long days the City employees are working. He agreed she will be a great asset to Aberdeen.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Ms. Ruth Ann Young, 445 Doris Circle

Ms. Young referred to her request for an automatic door opener for the front door of City Hall. She recently saw the same person at a store which prompted her to repeat the request to the Council. Ms. Young asked the lady how long she had been disabled. She was told the person had polio since she was 2 ½ years old. Ms. Young asked that this obstacle at City Hall be removed for the handicapped.

Mayor Simmons said he is checking on a price for the automatic door opener.

Mr. Miller is also looking into systems for this year or next year's budget.

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

None

**BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. Unfinished Business – None
2. New Business

- A. Induction of Mrs. Jane Gevecker-Mello and Mrs. Raetta Mullins to the Aberdeen Appearance & Preservation Committee

A motion was made by Council President Hiob, liaison to the Appearance & Preservation Committee, to approve the induction of Mrs. Jane Gevecker-Mello and Mrs. Raetta Mullins to the Appearance & Preservation Committee.

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

**Ayes – Mayor Simmons, Council President Hiob, Councilmen Kupferman and Yensan**

**Absent – Councilwoman Elliott**

- B. Induction of Matt Lane – New Member Economic Development Committee

Councilman Yensan introduced Mr. Lane, who lives in the City and is a Real Estate Appraiser. It was noted that there was no vacancy on the EDC; however, there is no maximum for the number of members. The EDC voted unanimously to have Mr. Lane as a member of their committee.

Mayor Simmons noted that Rt. 40 revitalization is going very well.

A motion was made by Councilman Yensan and seconded by Councilman Kupferman to approve the induction of Matt Lane – a new member of the Economic Development Committee.

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

**Ayes – Mayor Simmons, Council President Hiob, Councilmen Kupferman and Yensan**

**Absent – Councilwoman Elliott**

3. Business from the Director of Planning & Community Development

None

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Rudy said several members of the Police Department and Fire Department received medals from the City for saving lives in the apartment fire at Rogers Street and Market Street. He submitted their names to Maryland Law Enforcement Officers, Inc. for recognition. These officers were recognized at a dinner and award ceremony and the City was presented with a plaque in their honor.

Chief Rudy reported that the City Police Department is working with the Police in Elkton due to an increase in drug and prostitution in that area. The Aberdeen Rapid Response Team will be conducting stings to help alleviate these problems. It is apparent that these crimes are moving to Elkton due to the enforcement taking place in Aberdeen.

Chief Rudy received a letter from a retired Army officer who was waiting for a train at the Aberdeen Train Station. Officer Alexander, of the Aberdeen Police Department, was commended for his professionalism in carrying out his duties. The City was commended for hiring the Officer.

Mayor Simmons said the Havre de Grace Citizens Advisory Group invited City officials and representatives of the Police Department to meet and help them with crime in that area.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

A. Approval of Audit Services Contract to McGladrey and Pullen, CPAs

Mr. Jack reported that the City requested bids for the upcoming audit. Two proposals were received and he is supporting the bid from McGladrey and Pullen CPAs in the amount of \$53,500.

Councilman Yensan said he knows of the firm and supports the request.

A motion was made by Councilman Yensan and seconded by Council President Hiob to approve the Audit Services Contract for McGladrey and Pullen, CPAs in the amount of \$53,500.

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

**Ayes – Mayor Simmons, Council President Hiob, Councilmen Kupferman, and Yensan**

**Absent – Councilwoman Elliott**

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Lapinsky said the work on the stormwater management facility at William Powell Court was started this week.

BGE is currently clearing the right of way on Bush Chapel Road.

An estimate has been received from Verizon.

Mr. Lapinsky reminded everyone that Earth Day will take place on April 21, 2007.

Mayor Simmons noted that progress is being made on identifying a new source of water and the study is almost complete. The City is collaborating with APG and the Department of Defense and information should be available within the next few weeks. This study is very expensive and very detailed. He said an agreement must be reached by all three entities before details can be released. Negotiations are ongoing and completion is near.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller said the audit firm selected has a very good reputation and is easy to work with.

Mr. Miller reported on the 2007 Budget progress. The General Fund Budget is on schedule, but the Enterprise Fund is running behind schedule.

8. Business from the Council

Councilman Kupferman asked Mr. Lapinsky if pothole repairs are on schedule; he was told they were. He reported that the Annexation Committee has held several more meetings and will have another this coming Thursday. Recommendations from this Committee will be forthcoming in the near future.

Councilman Yensan said the study on the Phillips Army Airfield is not as simple as it seems to be. Operation and security issues are involved; this information is being processed for release at the current time. As soon as information is available to the City, it will be released to the residents. Councilman Yensan noted that last Wednesday he had an automobile accident which required police and ambulance help. The Police Department and Fire Department were thanked for their professionalism in handling the matter.

Council President Hiob reported that the House of Delegates passed the Hotel Tax Bill and capped it at 1%. He urged everyone to contact their Senators to vote yes for Bill 402. Ocean City, Maryland is concerned about the tax if it was passed at 3%. Currently Worcester County charges a 4% Municipal Tax. Council President Hiob referred to an article in **The Record** from Mr. John Feroli regarding the Councilman's "unexpected" vacation and a meeting being cancelled. The meeting was not cancelled for this reason.

## 9. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Simmons said people at APG are making BRAC decisions. Ms. Judith Wettig is the person currently in this capacity who held the meeting which produced good information. They favor extending Rt. 715 to I-95 which would alleviate some traffic problems. A meeting was also held with Delegate James and the City Manager on this issue which would be beneficial to the City.

A meeting was also held with a man who has a permit to operate a hovercraft ferry system which could run from New Jersey to Aberdeen in a time under 20 minutes. He is considering the ferry stop on Swan Creek. The COPT development will consist of 3,000 people who could benefit greatly from this service.

Mr. Jay Young is representing principals who own the multimodal parcel located on Rt. 7 past Ferrell Fuel Company. The facility would contain some retail for the convenience of people using trains, buses, taxis, etc. and for those working at APG. An RFP has been signed by the Black Oak Group who has interests in Baltimore County and Carroll County. The Governor is also interested in these projects.

Mayor Simmons and Chief Rudy visited Free State ChalleNGe Academy for a productive meeting.

A meeting was held with COPT who is still very interested in locating in the area.

Meetings were held with Ripken representative about the revenue streams which are difficult compared to expenses. Originally land was to be sold at \$50,000 per acre with \$30,000 per acre for infrastructure. When the infrastructure was installed, the cost was \$63,000. The complex was to include a theater, restaurant, and high-end retail which were to be completed during 2006-2007. If this had been completed, the City would have had one million dollars additional income. The \$800,000 which was in the fund has been spent, thus revenue streams must be cut. The City will try to work with them to help eliminate some losses.

Mayor Simmons met with the Governor and Lt. Governor at the County Executive Office. The BRAC Committee briefed those in attendance on issues involved with the move. It was good for the City representatives to be present. The Governor cares about City water, traffic, infrastructure, and other problems resulting from BRAC. He indicated that he is willing to reshuffle allocations to help with these issues. Areas surrounding BRAC are of utmost consideration.

Mayor Simmons thanked Ms. Roxanne Lynch from the County Executive Office for being present.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

#### 1. Mr. Don Kempler, 411 Grace Lake Way

Mr. Kempler asked for the cost of the water study. Mr. Miller said the water allocation study was contingent on APG participating in the cost of the study. The cost was approximately \$100,000.

Mr. Kempler wanted to know the status of the Planning Commission moratorium on new projects. It was noted that the Ripken project was not initiated by the current administration. He hopes this administration learns a lesson with regard to the "rose colored glasses" worn by previous appraisers, etc.

Mayor Simmons replied that there are projects worth billions of dollars in the Mayor's office which are not currently in the budget.

Mr. Kempler asked the date for the Marriott Hotel opening; he was told it would be sometime within a month.

Mr. Kempler asked if the Governor would give some help with the Senate Bill. Council President Hiob said he made the same request.

Mr. Kempler asked if there would be any revenue received because the Ripken Project was not being completed. He was told there was none.

2. Mr. Bob Hartman, 226 Paradise Road

Mr. Hartman said a business owner on Howard Street recently had a break-in. Business owners have not been contacted regarding emergency numbers. Chief Rudy will have them contacted.

Mr. Hartman mentioned many reasons why he was opposed to Rt. 715 being used to carry traffic to I-95. He would like to see Rt. 22 used instead.

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

Ms. Heavey reviewed the Finance sheet distributed several weeks ago and found the numbers to be confusing on Public Works and Public Works Projects. Mr. Jack said the first report included funds from last fiscal year which were spent this year. In the most recent report, the funds had to be moved to the year in which they were applied.

4. Ms. Boyson, Century 21 Realty

Ms. Boyson spoke with Ms. Betsy Champion from the Stadium Management Board. She was told that Councilwoman Elliott, who is the liaison for the Council, has attended only two or three meetings. Ms. Boyson asked if someone will replace her. The stadium should be sold as a for-profit entity which could add \$134,000 to the tax revenue. The homes in Rock Glenn pay tax bills in the amount of \$8,000 per year. City residents should not be responsible for stadium improvements. Ms. Boyson noted that the new hotel is on City property. She was told there was a land lease which would begin billing in April and they will also be paying property taxes. In 2005, the City placed \$880,000 in a CD which had to be cashed in due to the shortfall. Some land also had to be sold to help with this issue. Ms. Boyson mentioned that Ms. Fender was very concerned because the season was initially scheduled for 78 games. She was told the shorter season increases attendance at each game.

5. Ms. Ruth Ann Young, 445 Doris Circle

Ms. Young asked that a fact sheet for Ripken Stadium be provided to residents. There has not been much in writing recently.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Earth Day at Aberdeen Festival Park will be held on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- The Big Event 10K Fun Run/Walk will be held at Aberdeen Festival Park, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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