

**Aberdeen City Council Meeting
September 17, 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: 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 noted that a Closed Session was held prior to tonight's meeting and a report will be presented at a later date.

Mayor Simmons called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by Bishop Clarence Barnes of Highway Holiness Church and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Boy Scout Troops No. 234 and 965.

The minutes of the September 10, 2007, Council Meeting were approved as submitted.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Troops No. 234 and 965, Citizenship in the Community Badges – Councilman Yensan

There were 28 boys present who are currently working on Merit Badges. Mayor Simmons, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilman Kupferman, Council President Hiob and Councilman Yensan presented the Scouts with City Coins and offered to remain after the meeting to answer questions on the operations of City government.

Mr. Lapinsky, who was a Scout Master, and his son earned the Eagle Scout designation told the boys the City had projects available which could fill some of the requirements for their badges.

Councilman Yensan offered to make himself available to help with the Scouting projects.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Mr. Bob Hartman, 226 Paradise Road;

Mr. Hartman requested answers to some questions prior to the vote on the Bond adoption. He asked where the 2.7 million dollars would be going, and also questioned the loan amount of 2.9 million dollars.

Mr. Jack said 2.9 million dollars was the cost of the project and the borrowed money would be used to pay the contractors. The loan will be for 3.4 million dollars. The loan payments per year would be \$271,000.

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

Ms. Heavey referred to a letter to the Editor of the Aegis on public rights. Residents should be allowed to speak at City Meetings. She noted that the Planning Commission does not always allow citizens to speak. A letter was read after the ruling was made. It does not seem fair that no one is allowed to speak before a ruling is made. Ms. Heavey said this is a very confusing situation. The public was asked to submit remarks prior to meetings; she would like some clarification on this issue.

Council President Hiob said the document submitted consisted of several pages. The decision to allow or disallow speakers is made by Commissioner Swisher.

Mayor Simmons said if an issue is stopped in the Planning Commission, it should be brought to the Council. Ms. Grover and Mr. Miller will take issues back to them; the Council is interested in hearing questions.

3. Mr. Steve Macafee, 113 Poplar Hill;

Mr. Macafee gave a special thank you to the City and the Mayor for the success of the Unity in the Community project. He presented a plaque to the Mayor and the City and distributed T-shirts to the Council.

Mayor Simmons said this was a great event for the City with upscale music.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Ordinance No. 732-07 Infrastructure Loan Bonds (For Adoption)

Mr. Miller stated that this is the Ordinance which allows the City to participate in the Infrastructure Loan Program from the Department of Housing and Community Development. The request is to borrow up to 3.4 million dollars for various water projects. The Ordinance was introduced on August 20th and a Public Hearing was held on September 10th and is ready for adoption tonight.

A motion was made by Councilman Yensan and seconded by Councilman Kupferman to adopt Ordinance No. 732-07, Infrastructure Loan Bonds.

Councilman Kupferman noted that this money would be placed in the Enterprise Fund for use on water and sewer projects.

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

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Unfinished Business – None

2. New Business

A. Preliminary Subdivision Plan for comfort Suites (Gilmer Property) – Ms. Grover

Ms. Grover said two plans are being considered tonight; the first is the Preliminary Subdivision Plan. The property is located on the north side of Barnett Lane and consists of 21.23 acres which is zoned B-3. Lot 3 is 2.54 acres, Lot 4 is 18.53 acres. A right of way dedication is included consisting of .16 acres. The Planning Commission recommended approval at the July 11th meeting. Mr. Gilmer is in the audience tonight. Mr. Kevin Small of Frederick Ward Associates gave a brief presentation.

Councilwoman Elliott noted that there was no allocation of water or sewer indicated.

Mayor Simmons has had discussion with Mr. Lapinsky about further development along Barnett Lane which would require improvements to Beards Hill Road.

Mr. Lapinsky said the area is becoming more and more congested and he is unsure of the traffic flow. Currently, 2 or 3 more projects are coming and relief is needed.

Councilman Yensan noted that the tipping point has been reached in that area. The intersection is very congested and he is concerned about future development in the area until improvements are made.

Ms. Grover noted that a traffic impact study has been done.

Mayor Simmons said senior citizens are barely able to walk across the intersection at this time.

Council President Hiob noted that other projects are being delayed because the traffic is horrendous. The Staff recommends placing this project on hold.

Councilman Kupferman asked the number of units being requested for the hotel; he was told there were 75.

Council President Hiob said the Hampton Inn is in the planning stages with 100 rooms.

There was no action taken on this request.

- B. Preliminary Site Plan for Comfort Suites (Gilmer Property) – Ms. Grover

There was no action taken on this request.

3. Business from the Director of Planning and Community Development

Ms. Grover reported on the following meetings:

Board of Appeals – Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

Heritage Trust – Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Special Planning Commission – Wednesday, 7:00 p.m.

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Rudy showed a picture of Officer Tim Helf serving in Iraq. Weekly updates are received.

Chief Rudy said simunitions training is ongoing and is being used by the Police. Training demonstrations are available to the public. Call Chief Rudy for schedules of the demonstrations.

Chief Rudy reported having lunch with the State Grants Coordinator. Currently, there are three slots for a fellowship in that office and the City has been nominated to receive one of them.

Chief Rudy noted that the Police were involved in a shooting at Ken's Motel. The subject was taken to Shock Trauma and will survive. The case is currently under investigation; thus, no further details are available.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

None

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Lapinsky said new Parks and Recreation benches are being installed.

Mayor Simmons noted that the Pavilion is non-smoking and he would like the entire park to be a non-smoking facility.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller said there will be no Council Meeting on September 24th. October 1st will be a regular meeting, and the meeting on October 8th will be a work session.

The Certificates of Candidacy are due by 5:00 p.m. on October 5th. Forms are available from the City Clerk. The Election will be held on November 6th from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

8. Business from the Council

Council President Hiob agrees with no smoking in Festival Park. He would like to see no smoking in all parks.

Council President Hiob asked if the Public Service Commission should be contacted regarding Bush Chapel Road. Mr. Miller has a letter in draft form cataloging these issues. A final will be ready by Wednesday.

8. Mayor Simmons reported that the Governor was in Harford County and designated Bel Air as Capital for a Day. Meetings were held with the City Staff. The State administrators are available and meet regularly with Aberdeen Officials.

Mayor Simmons is glad to see Festival Park being used on a regular basis. He recently spoke with at least 600 people from Bethel and True Joy Ministries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Statement of Closed Session:

On September 17, 2007 at 5:00 p.m. in City Hall, a closed session was held by the Mayor and Council. The session was held pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Section 10-508 (a) (1) to review the appointment, removal, resignation, and acceptance of appointees for the Volunteer Committees. In addition to the Mayor and Council, Douglas Miller, City Manager and Monica Correll, City Clerk were in attendance. The Mayor and Council agreed to make appointments of certain committee members and delay appointments for others.