

**Aberdeen City Council Work Session
October 8, 2007**

OPENING:

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning & Community Development
Matthew Lapinsky, Director of Public Works
Randy Rudy, Chief of Police

Mayor Simmons called the Work Session to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION:

1. Annexation Policy and Procedures – Phyllis Grover

Ms. Grover distributed a handout on the proposed revisions to the Annexation Policy and Procedures for consideration. The minor comments from the Planning Commission as well as Staff comments are included in this document. The Planning Commission made their recommendations public at the August meeting.

Ms. Grover will present the proposed changes to the document as an Ordinance Introduction next Monday at the regular City Council Meeting. The Ordinance will be an Amendment to the Development Code, Section 14, Zoning of Annexed Areas.

Mr. Carl Corse, 35 Hillen Court;

Mr. Corse said he completely agrees with the comments on Items 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6. He is concerned with Item 3, E. The Committee intentionally made this a broad issue. Specificity is being avoided because it opens arguments on what the appearance of the unit will be. Mr. Corse appreciates the input from the Planning Commission.

Councilman Kupferman thanked Mr. Corse and the entire Committee for their work on this project. Seven or eight sessions were held. He noted that annexation can take as long as 7 ½ months to be completed. However, it can also be completed in a much shorter time.

Councilwoman Elliott asked if the spike strip was included in this document and Ms. Grover told her it was on Page 2.

Councilman Yensan said requiring that much data up front on an annexation request will require the developer to spend a large amount of money on land that may or may not be annexed. This requirement could be hazardous for all involved.

Councilman Yensan stated that requiring all persons involved with the developer be identified may not be legal. He would like additional legal information on this issue. Mr. Corse said the City Attorney and one other attorney were on hand to review the document. The Committee felt that this decision was made because people with power over procedure could be involved. Councilman Yensan would like the City to look for other ways to do business because there could be a problem with legal issues.

Councilman Kupferman said there was extensive conversation on this issue. Names should be published; there should be no problem with this requirement.

Ms. Grover indicated that she will get an opinion from Mr. Stark.

Councilman Yensan also asked that Mr. Miller get an opinion from MML.

Council President Hiob thanked Mr. Corse and the Committee for their work on this project.

2. Safety Needs – Mr. Litke

Mr. Lapinsky noted that the Safety Project evolved over the last 16 months. The Safety Program requires a Safety Evaluation for all City employees. Mr. Litke is the Safety Manager and Ms. Lori Shaw, and Mr. Fred Monath are on the Committee.

Mr. Litke gave a power point presentation to show the potential hazards the employees could face. He said the DPW employees face many potential hazards on a daily basis. The City is required to comply with OSHA and MOSH Standards for training, safety equipment, and high visibility clothing. There is formal training available to the employees. The Safety Committee meets on a monthly basis.

Ms. Shaw noted that awards are given quarterly and annually. The incentives are gifts, luncheons, and drawings.

Mr. Litke and Mr. Monath commented on safety items that the City is using that are not being replaced on a regular basis. Some of these items are hard hats, oil spill kits, high visibility clothing, high visibility signs, and cones. He stated that City crews are limited on the work they are able to perform due to lack of safety equipment. Replacement of equipment for trenching to meet OSHA requirements will cost approximately \$38,000.

Mr. Litke said some of the hazards are confined space entry, trenching, working with asbestos transite pipe to meet MDE requirements, water tower safety training, and water tower inspection.

Mr. Lapinsky distributed copies of the Safety Budget for Council consideration. He noted that asbestos training is now underway. He said funding for the streets will come from the General Fund and water and waste water will come from the Enterprise Fund.

Mayor Simmons said the total needed is approximately \$82,801. The breakdown is: \$49,196 from the Water Fund; \$26,446 from the Waste Water Fund; and \$7,160 from the General Fund.

Councilman Yensan feels this is money well spent.

3. Project Status – Mr. Lapinsky

Mr. Lapinsky reminded everyone that the new sewer camera truck was outside City Hall, prior to the meeting, for inspection. This is a state-of-the-art vehicle. Human Resources is posting a job for a technician to operate the truck and check the infrastructure.

Mayor Simmons and Mr. Lapinsky recently visited Harford Tech for a tour of their facilities. It was decided to outsource some of the City projects to the school. Mr. Lapinsky would like to co-op with them for hiring future graduates.

Councilwoman Elliott supposes the \$83,000 is needed, but there should be more accuracy with the Budget. The information on the water tower inspection and trench box are interesting.

OTHER MATTERS:

Councilman Kupferman called Ms. Betsy Champion of the Stadium Board and she faxed numbers which were forwarded to Mr. Jack. Information on this issue will be available next week.

Council President Hiob asked for a Bush Chapel Road update. He was told BGE and Comcast have completed their work. Verizon is almost finished; upon completion, they will remove their poles.

Mayor Simmons said there was a Dream Catcher Rally at Ripken consisting of motorcycles, bands, and the attendance of G. Gordon Liddy. Proceeds will be donated to the Boys & Girls Club.

Councilwoman Elliott asked for an update on the Skate Board Park. Mr. Lapinsky said nothing has taken place yet. The City will assess the situation in the near future and contact the City Attorney for more information.

Councilman Yensan suggested getting Harford County Parks and Recreation involved in the issue.

Councilwoman Elliott said the Senior Center automatic door opener needs to be moved. Mr. Lapinsky noted that there were large expenditures for the heating and cooling problems. Replacement of the requested freezer will exhaust the Senior Center Budget. Councilwoman Elliott said more funds are needed; she asked if the City could put more money into their account. Mr. Lapinsky said several thousand additional dollars would be required.

Mayor Simmons would like to have credible input when the Senior Center Budget is submitted. He asked where the money should be taken from.

Councilwoman Elliott said money seems to be available for other things. The seniors have given a lot to the City.

Mayor Simmons stated that the budget process must be followed.

Councilwoman Elliott asked if there were cameras at the train station and Washington and Edmund Streets. Chief Rudy said there were cameras at these locations as well as City Hall and one at the entrance to Swan Meadows.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.