

**Aberdeen City Council Meeting  
May 12, 2008**

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

**Present:** Mayor Bennett, Council President Elliott, Councilwoman Young, Councilmen Kupferman, and Hiob

**Also Present:** Douglas Miller, City Manager  
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning & Community Development  
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance  
Matthew Lapinsky, Director of Public Works  
Randy Rudy, Chief of Police  
Monica Correll, City Clerk  
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. The prayer was led by Mayor Bennett and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Young.

The Minutes of the April 28, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Proclamation in Recognition of Ronald Wooden, Harford County 2008 Teacher of the Year

Mayor Bennett introduced Mr. Wooden who teaches at the George D. Lisby Elementary School. Mr. Wooden was commended for going above and beyond what is expected of a teacher. He has initiated two after school programs for “at risk students” which are very successful. Mayor Bennett presented him with a Proclamation from the City and Councilwoman Young presented him with a hand-made basket with the State Seal and City Seal on the bottom. Pictures were taken with some of Mr. Wooden’s students, principal, and coworkers.

2. Proclamation, MD Chiefs’ Challenge, “Click-It or Ticket” Campaign – Sgt. Severn

Sgt. Severn stated that seat belts are the single most reason for fewer and less severe injuries in automobile accidents. They also prevent many deaths. Mayor Bennett proclaimed May 1 through May 31, 2008 Click-It or Ticket Month.

3. Aberdeen Police Department Annual Report – Chief Randy Rudy

Chief Rudy began his power point presentation stating that there were 52,466 calls for service in 2007. He illustrated the four areas serviced by his department and the

number of calls for each area. A summary of the types of calls was also presented. It was noted that the City had no homicides during 2007. There were a total of 1,167 adult arrests and 252 juvenile arrests. Details for the Rapid Response Team were provided. Traffic citations totaled 7,375 for the year – this number was 1,861 higher than 2006. A report was included on the Auxiliary Police Activities for 2007. Chief Rudy noted financial attainments for the Police Department to total \$174,400 for the past year. The Police Department is still involved with the Oncology Department at Sinai Hospital and provides a Christmas Party for the children.

4. Aberdeen Lions Club Presentation for the Earth Day Committee – Mark Schlottman

Mr. Mark Schlottman presented a check to the City Council from the Lions Club for use by Mr. Jim Litke for the next Earth Day. The check was in the amount of \$1,000.

5. Special Presentation – Mayor Bennett

Mayor Bennett presented a plaque to Councilman Kupferman for 30 years of dedicated service to the City of Aberdeen.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

1. Ms. Ann Glover, 106 S. Rogers Street;

Ms. Glover asked if the City could have a Clean-Up Day. There is much clutter and junk in the City which should be removed. She asked if the City could contact residents with obvious trash issues to make them aware of the clean-up taking place.

2. Mr. Cliff Giles, 140 Osborne Road;

Mr. Giles would like to see the International Property Maintenance Code put into effect to eliminate cluttered property in the City. Homes, which are for sale, are being impacted by this issue.

3. Mr. Jerry Clark, 414 S. Philadelphia Boulevard;

Mr. Clark addressed the proposed change in townhouse widths. He noted that the upgrades to 24 ft. and 28 ft. width townhouses will be less affordable due to the sizes. Builders need flexibility with sizes. He suggested making interior units smaller and end units larger. He asked if there was a minimum depth.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Setting the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2008-2009; Budget Ordinance No. 08-1 (For Adoption)

Mr. Miller provided a handout for Ordinance No. 08-1 the FY 2008-2009 Budget. The Property Tax Rate has been reduced from \$.71.5 to \$.70 per \$100 assessed value. The General Fund has been reduced by \$73,000 and Capital Projects have been reduced by \$173,000. The water rates are: minimum usage 3,500 gallons - \$14.50 and over 3,500 gallons \$4.38 per 1,000 gallons. The sewer rates have increased from \$13.65 to \$16.52 for the first 3,500 gallons and over 3,500 gallons from \$3.90 to \$4.71 per 1,000 gallons.

Mr. Miller stated that the Budget was introduced on April 14<sup>th</sup>, a Public Hearing was held on April 28<sup>th</sup>, and Public Comment was heard on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The Budget as submitted tonight is ready for adoption.

Councilman Hiob suggested leaving the tax rate at \$.71.5 because the difference is only \$45 per year per household. This would give the City a total of \$165,000 sustainable income. There are numerous sidewalks which could be replaced with this money.

A motion was made by Mayor Bennett and seconded by Councilman Hiob to adopt the Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget for the City of Aberdeen. Mayor Bennett requested further discussion.

A motion was made by Councilman Hiob to approve the Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 Budget for the City of Aberdeen with a Property Tax Rate of \$.71.5. There was no second to the motion; thus, no vote was taken.

Councilman Kupferman recommended reducing the tax rate to \$.67. He reminded everyone that the Rainy Day Fund is made up of taxpayer money.

**The motion was passed with a vote of 4 – yes and 1 – no to adopt the amendments to the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Budget.**

**Ayes – Mayor Bennett, Council President Elliott, Councilwoman Young, and Councilman Kupferman**

**Nays – Councilman Hiob**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Young and seconded by Council President Elliott to approve Ordinance No. 08-1, Aberdeen City Council Budget for Fiscal Year 2008 – 2009 as amended.

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

**BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. Unfinished Business – None

2. New Business

A) Charter Review Committee Appointments

The following people are being considered for Appointment to the Charter Review Committee:

Mr. Chuck Doty – Chairman  
Dr. Nancy Backus  
Mr. Patrick Faircloth  
Mr. Bruce Garner  
Ms. Norma Ford  
Mr. Franklin Bradley  
Mr. David Yensan  
Ms. Karen Heavey

A motion was made by Councilman Kupferman and seconded by Council President Elliott to approve the above listed nominees to the Charter Review Committee.

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

3. Business from the Director of Planning and Community Development

A) 3-Year Community Development Block Grant

Ms. Grover stated that Harford County has been an entitlement jurisdiction since 1996 and has been receiving funds from HUD through the Community Development Block Grant program. A handout was provided to detail the projects which were provided by this money. She recommended that Aberdeen stay with this program for the three-year entitlement period.

A motion was made by Councilman Hiob and seconded by Councilman Kupferman to approve the Three-Year Renewal with Harford County Government for the Community Development Block Grant.

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

B) Revised Final Subdivision Plat for Harford Habitat for Humanity/Holloway Lane

Ms. Grover stated that the request is to create two residential lots off of Holloway Lane located near West Bel Air Avenue. Lot 109 contains an

existing dwelling which will be removed. Habitat for Humanity will construct new dwellings on this site. This proposal was approved by the Planning Commission in January, 2008.

A motion was made by Council President Elliott and seconded by Councilman Kupferman to approve the Revised Final Subdivision Plat for Habitat for Humanity on Holloway Lane.

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

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Rudy reported that the Police Department has completed its cycle of in-service training for Crime Scene Evidence Collection. The municipality of Havre de Grace has been incorporated in this training.

In 1998, the Aberdeen Police Department began sending their supervisors to a Law Enforcement Executive Development course which is sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in conjunction with the local Sheriff's Office. Chief Rudy attended this program and is pleased with its results.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

None

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

A) 2916 Pump Station Upgrade (APG) – For Approval

Mr. Lapinsky stated that this pump station was built in a swale and storm water runs into the pump station flooding it. The request is to raise the side walls to reroute the flood waters. Two bids were received and the recommendation is to approve the bid from Johnston Construction Co. in the amount of \$47,988. Mr. Lapinsky noted that this project is being funded through APG.

Councilman Hiob asked if the request is to replace the pump station. Mr. Lapinsky answered that it is only to build side walls. Councilman Hiob asked if the area could be regraded. Mr. Lapinsky said this is not a possible solution.

A motion was made by Councilman Kupferman and seconded by Council President Elliott to approve the 2916 Pump Station Upgrade which is being funded by APG. The contract will be awarded to Johnston Construction Co. in the amount of \$47,988.

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

B) City Project Update

- A) Mr. Lapinsky read a letter from a resident, Mr. A. Lee Dunham, thanking the DPW workers for their prompt attention to his problem with a sewer backup.
- B) Mr. Lapinsky reported the following projects are in process: Asha's Hilton Gardens, Dunkin Donuts – Kleins, Happy Harry's, WaWa, and Walgreens.
- C) The following are pending projects: Chapel Crossing Addition, G.Y. Trading, Hampton Inn, Tractor Supply, and Sunnyside Drive.
- D) The following are City projects: Plater Street Pump Station, Moyer Drive Sewer Line Replacement, Bush Chapel Road Improvements, Old Philadelphia Road Drainage Repairs, and Roosevelt Avenue Water Line Replacement.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller noted that there will be no Council meetings on May 19<sup>th</sup> or May 26<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting will be held on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

8. Business from the Council

Council President Elliott asked if the following projects at the Senior Center would be completed by the end of the fiscal year: floors, windows, door, and automatic door opener. Mr. Miller stated the following: the automatic door openers are ready for installation, the type of floor is being determined, the windows will be replaced after the pollen has decreased, and the back window is scheduled for replacement.

Councilman Kupferman received a question from a resident regarding the legality of painting addresses on curbing. Ms. Grover said it is legal but the contractor must be licensed and have a permit. It also required that houses have addresses posted.

Councilwoman Young questioned the 911 call trend. Chief Rudy said the calls have been increasing; each call must receive a Police Department response.

Councilwoman Young noted that she is still working on the Townhouse Requirements and will submit additions at a later date.

Councilwoman Young said the Baltimore City tax rate is \$2.26 per \$100 of assessed value. The City's tax rate doesn't seem too bad in comparison.

Councilwoman Young commended Mr. Wooden for his teaching accomplishments and dedication. She referred to the Acorns-to-Oaks Program which involves working with youths who need direction. Mr. Wooden is obviously a successful classroom teacher.

Councilman Hiob thanked Chief Rudy for his report. He asked if the reason for the decline in the 2007 calls for service was due to the increase in fines. Chief Rudy said this is probably the reason.

Councilman Hiob asked if the three water services on Bush Chapel Road were still scheduled for May. Mr. Lapinsky said the weather would be a factor but the work should be completed within the next week or two.

Councilman Hiob asked if there were any problems with all of the rain. Mr. Lapinsky mentioned an I & I problem and some sanitary sewer overflow.

Councilman Hiob reported a loud sound at 3:00 a.m. last night which turned out to be a transformer blowing up.

Councilman Hiob referred to Councilwoman Young mentioning the Baltimore City tax rate but these residents do not pay two taxes.

Councilman Hiob congratulated the newly elected Havre de Grace City Council members.

9. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Bennett attended a press conference at the Abingdon Road Water Treatment Plant. The County Executive announced that the three municipalities are applying for a \$300,000 Grant from the OEA to study the feasibility of a Regional Water Sewer Authority. This study should take approximately six months. Everyone signed a document to signal interest in this project.

Mayor Bennett asked everyone to visit the new City Website for City events and news.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Mr. Bob Hartman, 226 Paradise Road;

Mr. Hartman stated that every time the City is involved with the County on a project Aberdeen gets the “short end of the stick”. He feels the City should not be involved with the County. Meetings held for property tax increases turned into a pep rally for County employees.

Mr. Hartman asked what the sewer rate increase would be. Currently, the City has an 11 million dollar debt to pay. Mayor Bennett said he is unsure of the increase.

Mr. Hartman asked if there could be a special rate for filling a swimming pool because the water is not going to be discharged.

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

Ms. Heavey has used 6,000 gallons less water by installing a new toilet in her home. Could there possibly be grant money for this?

Ms. Heavey checked the taxes for all municipalities in Maryland and Aberdeen's taxes are in the middle.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- 2008 Aberdeen Free Summer Concert Series – Festival Park from 7 p.m.- 8:00 p.m. every Tuesday, June 10 – August 19
- **COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, June 9** **7:00 p.m.**
- **WORK SESSION: Monday, June 16** **4:30 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.