

**Aberdeen City Council Meeting
November 24, 2008**

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

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Matthew Lapinsky, Director of Public Works
Randy Rudy, Chief of Police
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance
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 Pastor Kenneth Telsee of True Joy Ministries and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President Hiob.

The minutes of the November 10, 2008 meeting were approved as submitted.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Eagle Scout Project – Ryan Dowdy, Boy Scout Troop #965

Ryan Dowdy is working on an Eagle Scout Project which consists of landscaping, at the Senior Center, refurbishing two park benches, and adding flower boxes in the Spring. He will hold a car wash as a fund raiser. Ryan asked the City to furnish mulch for the landscaping and stain for the benches. Mayor Bennett noted that a similar project had been done at St. Joan of Arc Church.

The City Council voted unanimously to approve the requested items for the project.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Resolution No. 08-13, The Enterprise Zone (For Introduction)

This Resolution is for the Mayor and City Council to authorize a Real Property Tax Credit Against The City Property Tax Imposed on the Eligible Assessment for Property in the Greater Aberdeen/Havre De Grace Enterprise Zone known as Windy Hill Properties, LLC, aka Walgreens Store #11169, located at 950 Beards Hill Road, Aberdeen, Maryland – Tax Account Number #02 034565.

A motion was made by Councilman Kupferman and seconded by Council President Hiob to approve Resolution No. 08-13 as follows: Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Mayor and City Council, that the property known as 950 Beards Hill Road, Aberdeen Maryland, 21001, receive a real property tax credit against City taxes for Fiscal Year 2009 and continuing for nine (9) consecutive years thereafter.

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

2. Resolution No. 08-6, Annexation Plan for the Presbyterian Home of Maryland, Inc., and Vernon K. Johnson Trust Properties (For Adoption)

Ms. Grover stated that this Resolution was introduced July 28, 2008 and a public hearing was held on September 22, 2008. The Planning Commission held two public meetings, one in May and one in June, 2008. A community information meeting was held in April, 2008. She noted that this action does not grant the petitioner the right to be annexed; it is only the Annexation Plan.

Councilwoman Young inquired about the use of the property. Mr. Bradley Stover, attorney for the petitioner, stated that the property will be located at the front of Presbyterian Homes. An entrance road will be constructed; some units and possibly a security building will be included. This is first of three steps.

Councilman Kupferman asked the number of acres. Ms. Grover responded that there were 11.552 acres. Mr. Miller noted that the Annexation Plan stated that the City will enter into an Annexation Agreement.

A motion was made by Council President Hiob and seconded by Councilman Kupferman to approve Resolution No. 08-6, Annexation Plan for the Presbyterian Home of Maryland, Inc. and Vernon K. Johnson Trust Properties.

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

3. Resolution No. 08-7, Scotten Property Annexation Plan (For Adoption)

Ms. Grover stated that the acreage is .434 and is located by Long Drive and Gilbert Road. The Council received comments from the Maryland Department of Planning

and Harford County Planning and Zoning. There was a question on the continuity and contiguous location of Parcel 926. This issue was resolved by a new title search and reworking the plan by engineers. The request was introduced in July, 2008 and a public hearing was held September 22, 2008. A community meeting was held in June, 2008. The Planning Commission reviewed the request in July and determined that IBD zoning request is consistent with the land use. A wavier is now needed.

Mr. Bradley Stover, attorney for the property owner, stated that they have rights to the center line of Gilbert Road. The .434 acres are part of the Ripken Town Center.

Councilwoman Young asked what the planned use would be with IBD zoning. Mr. Stover said it would be used as part of the entrance to Stadium Town Center.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Council President Hiob to approve Resolution No. 08-7, Scotten Property Annexation Plan.

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

4. Approval of Ripken Stadium Memorandum of Understanding

The City Attorney recommended tabling this action until the next meeting.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Unfinished Business – None
2. New Business – None
3. Business from the Director of Planning & Community Development – None
4. Business from the Chief of Police

A. Introduction of Officer Rufino Garcia

Chief Rudy said Officer Garcia has 26 years service with the Baltimore City Police Department and retired as a sergeant. He has also worked with the Maryland State Police. Officer Garcia is bilingual which will be helpful with his new duties. His family was also introduced to the Council.

Chief Rudy thanked County Executive Craig for fully funding the City School Resource Officer. He also noted that his Department will receive two awards from the Governor in December. He recently attended the IACT Convention to be informed of the Comstat Process. For \$99 per month the Department will have full capability for crime mapping.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

Mr. Jack said the City Audit is being finalized and a report will be available next week.

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

A. Bid Approval, Water Resource Element

Mr. Lapinsky gave a power point presentation on this issue. He noted that this action was required by HB 1141. He is recommending a bid from Davis, Bowen & Friedel, INC. in the amount of \$55,015 without a public meeting or \$68,515 if a public meeting is held. Mr. Lapinsky does not feel a public meeting is necessary.

A motion was made by Councilman Kupferman and seconded by Council President Hiob to approve the Water Resource Element request in the amount of \$55,015, not to exceed \$68,515.

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

B. Mr. Lapinsky gave a power point presentation on the Groundwater Supply Feasibility Study. The Council was informed that this study had an exit point if one was necessary. He is recommended ARRO for the project in the amount of \$21,905.

Councilwoman Elliott asked if this amount is included in the Budget. Mr. Lapinsky said the funds will come from the operating budget.

A motion was made by Council President Hiob and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve \$21,905 for the Groundwater Supply Feasibility Study to ARRO.

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

C. Mr. Lapinsky reported on the following projects:

- Chapel Crossing Addition – Completed
- Bush Chapel Road – Completed
- Asha’s Hotel – Progressing
- Tractor Supply Co. – Work Beginning
- Walgreen’s – Open
- Sidewalk Exension At Catholic Charities – Completed
- Dunkin Donuts – Open
- Washington Street Paving – Complete
- Happy Harry’s Site – Complete

- Northgate Business Park – Groundbreaking
- Plater Street Pump Station – On Line
- Leaf Disposal – Residents are requested to bag leaves.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller said the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning Ripken Stadium will be available at the next meeting on December 8, 2008. Additionally, the letter of credit has been shifted from Cecil Bank to Harford Bank. He asked the Council to consider a Ribbon Cutting for the Plater Street Pump Station. There will be a Work Session on December 15, 2008. No meetings will be held on December 22nd or 29th if Mayor and Council affirmed. The Mayor and Council agreed to the meeting schedule.

8. Business from the Council

Councilwoman Young asked if the new officer was the second bilingual hire. Chief Rudy said that currently, he is the only one on the force. Councilwoman reported on her participation in the following events:

- Attended a Special Presentation for David Simms, a World War II Pilot.
- Nov. 13: represented the City at an APG Groundbreaking for the installation of a track for vehicle testing.
- Nov. 16: attended COPT groundbreaking ceremony.
- Nov. 18: attended a meeting with Mr. Miller and Mayor Bennett in Jarrettsville to present City needs to Delegates from Annapolis.
- Nov. 19: visited George B. Lisby School.
- Nov. 20: attended a presentation by Dr. Grasmick at Halls Crossroads School to Christian Slattery in the amount of \$25,000.
- Attended the Harvest of Quilts Program on Hemming Blessings with Thankfulness so they don't unravel.

Councilwoman Elliott thanked Pat Donovan for helping get additional cable for the Senior Center. She reported the following events for the Senior Center:

- Open House, December 6 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- Presentation on Energy Assistance, December 9.
- Bingo on December 12.
- Christmas Party and Dance, December 17.
- Center Closed: December 18, 25, 26, and 31.

Councilman Kupferman reported that Dave Malkowski the Superintendent of State Roads will have West Bel Air Avenue paved in the sSpring.

Council President Hiob wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

9. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Bennett reported on the following:

- November 17: groundbreaking for COPT Office Park consisting of 749,000 sq. ft. of office space. He thanked the County Executive for help with water issues.
- November 18: met with Harford Delegation for MML support on City water needs and Hotel Tax, changing impervious surfaces from 25% to 50% will hurt revitalization; tax breaks were also discussed.
- November 18: Bakersfield Elementary participated in an MML contest.
- Meetings are being held regarding water options to determine how to proceed.
- Received correspondence regarding House Resolution 7110 regarding the Economic Stimulus Package. Money for the water and waste water projects could be 168 million dollars. The Federal Government is looking for projects which are proceeding to utilize this money; this money includes funds for ENR.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. William Young, 445 Doris Circle;

Mr. Young asked how much money the City would lose by Walgreen not paying their full tax amounts. He sees no reason for tax credits in the City and they should not be subsidized.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Aberdeen Christmas Street Activities 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 6

- * Breakfast with Santa, United Methodist Church 7-11 a.m.
- * Nativity Scene, United Methodist Church 1 – 2 p.m.
- * Aberdeen Senior Center Open House 4 – 7 p.m.
- * Christmas Craft Fair, Fire Hall 9 AM – 2 p.m.
- * Street Entertainment on W. Bel Air Avenue – 2 p.m.
- * Parade Begins 3 p.m.
- * Aberdeen Room 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- * Tree Lighting Ceremony, Festival Park after Parade

Next Council Meeting: Monday, December 8, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
Next Council Work Session: Monday, December 15, 2008 at 4:30 p.m.

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