

**Aberdeen City Council Work Session  
May 5, 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  
Matthew Lapinsky, Director of Public Works  
Captain Trabert, Aberdeen Police Department  
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance  
Monica Correll, City Clerk  
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

The Aberdeen City Council Work Session was called to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers by Mr. Miller.

1. Budget

Mr. Miller reported that the Personal Property Tax Rate was reduced from \$0.715 to \$0.70 per \$100 of assessed value, resulting in a \$173,000 revenue reduction. The following line items were adjusted to fund the tax cut from the General Fund.

	<b>Original</b>	<b>New</b>	<b>Addition (Reduction)</b>
<i>Operating Expenditures</i>			
1. Salaries	41,000	30,000	(11,000)
2. Community Promotions	10,000	9,000	(1,000)
3. Appearance & Preservation	26,000	24,000	(2,000)
4. Economic Development	10,000	12,000	2,000
5. Heritage Committee	15,000	12,000	(3,000)
6. Police Overtime	150,000	130,000	(20,000)
7. Contribution to Fire Dept.	110,000	100,000	(10,000)
8. Sidewalk Repair	16,500	15,000	(1,500)
9. Miscellaneous Expense	78,400	53,400	(25,000)
10. Parks Maintenance	13,500	12,000	(1,500)
<i>Sub-total</i>	<b><i>\$470,400</i></b>	<b><i>\$397,400</i></b>	<b><i>(\$73,000)</i></b>
<i>Capital Projects</i>			
1. ID Card Door Pass	7,000	0	(7,000)
2. Rear Load Collector Truck	140,000	47,000	(93,000)
<i>Sub-total</i>	<b><i>\$147,000</i></b>	<b><i>\$47,000</i></b>	<b><i>(\$100,000)</i></b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>\$617,400</b>	<b>\$444,400</b>	<b>(\$173,000)</b>

Mr. Miller reviewed other changes which were detailed on the “Changes to FY 2009 Budget After Initial Introduction” handout which was distributed to the Council and Staff. A copy of this document is attached to these Minutes.

The following are comments from Council Members.

Councilwoman Elliott:

- Eliminate the \$43,00 for a receptionist – this is not a necessary expense
- Eliminate the locker room addition in the amount of \$68,000
- Purchase compact police cars for detectives for a reduction of \$5,000-\$10,000
- Increase the price of Ripken tickets by \$1.00-\$1.50 next year
- Use of pagers, cell phones, etc. check for more control
- Provide a \$0.02 reduction in taxes
- Limit police car usage to City limits when not for duty use
- Cut maintenance and fuel by 50%
- Place more money in the Contingency Fund
- Eliminate the 3% COLA – employees received a large raise in 2006 and 2007.

Councilwoman Young:

- Wants what is the best for the City
- Receptionist position is a positive move for City public relations
- Telephone use should be reviewed and reevaluated
- The Stadium Board needs to find ways to make the Stadium more financially responsible – a detailed report of Stadium funds and their use should be made available to the Council – ticket prices should be increased in the future.

Councilman Kupferman:

- An additional \$.05 can be cut from the Tax rate and sustained for the next year
- Stadium tickets should be raised \$1.00 in lieu of a parking fee – this can generate \$210,000 - \$220,000 per year – there is nothing in the Maintenance Fund
- Receptionist position and locker room improvements are \$.01 on the tax rate
- The Walgreen construction will provide extra funds
- Annexations are on the table for additional tax dollars
- Activity over the next year can provide for the \$.05 tax cut
- Police car usage should be maintained because it is a benefit
- Telephone usage should be decided by the Staff.

Councilman Hiob:

- Favors the receptionist position with an extensive job description
- Agrees with police taking cars home – supports retention and recruitment
- Approves the 3% raise for employees
- Budget cuts and delays will result from the \$0.15 reduction
- Lockers for employees are direly needed
- Additional money is needed for the Rainy Day Fund

- Are funds only for sidewalks? (Mr. Lapinsky said they were.) How many can be done for \$15,000? (Mr. Lapinsky said the cost is \$1,000 per 60 -70 linear ft.) That fund should be \$25,000 because sidewalks are unsafe and need replacement. Larger sections will be less expensive and funds should be increased.
- Supports LEOPS if at all possible
- Keep the Tax Rate at \$0.715.

Mayor Bennett:

- Have been heavily involved in the Budget and cuts – the Council tried not to impact community services
- The \$11,000 was the result of a hiring delay
- A \$.05 tax cut is not possible without a reduction in services to residents
- Locker room improvements are needed for employees who work extra shifts due to emergencies
- Supports the new receptionist position to improve the City image to the community and for providing information to visitors to City Hall
- Favors taking home police cars – a review will be done on the mile limit due to the fuel increases – this cost to the City is \$29,000 per year
- Supports the 3% COLA
- Have Stadium Management Board provide details for money usage
- Encourage use of Nextel phones with Direct Connect feature
- Approves of a Ripken ticket increase which must be phased in
- Will consider suggestions for additional sidewalk replacement.

Councilman Kupferman:

- \$.05 tax reduction is taxpayer money
- \$500,000 was set aside - \$350,000 remains which could be used to reduce the Budget
- Two critical issues facing the City are water and growth
- COLA of 3% is necessary
- The Ripken stadium suggestion is not only to adjust the ticket price but use in lieu of a parking fee.

Councilwoman Young:

- Confused with the position that ticket prices won't increase but in lieu of a parking fee.

Councilman Kupferman:

- Ticket prices will be raised in 2009 in lieu of a parking fee.

Councilman Hiob:

- This will be a “parking fee” but will be collected by Ripken and forwarded to the City

Council President Elliott:

- \$11,100,000 is a critical area – the City must bite the bullet and give the taxpayers a fair shake
- \$68,000 can be put where needed and eliminate the lockers
- Some areas can still be cut.

Mayor Bennett thanked the Council members for their comments. He understands their comments on water and growth. Additional meetings will be held and the public will be kept informed.

## 2. Other

### A. Property at 203 North East Road

Councilman Hiob noted that the Council met in a Closed Meeting regarding property owned by the City at 203 North East Road. The property consists of 1.7 acres which is zoned R-3. Consideration is being given to combining this parcel with an adjoining parcel owned by a citizen and marketing it. The combined area consists of 3.4 acres total. Currently, this parcel costs the City money to maintain and loss of potential property tax. Councilman Hiob stated that this could become a sustainable income in the future.

Councilman Kupferman said the Council has been contacted by a realtor and currently, the City is waiting for an appraisal for both parcels.

Mayor Bennett stated that the City is interested in pursuing this issue.

### B. Ordinance No. 08-2 Amendment to the Development code, Chapter 142, Code of the City of Aberdeen (Townhouses)

The above named document was distributed to the Council and is attached to these Minutes.

Councilwoman Young stated that this recommendation is a compromise on the previous proposal. The house widths and lot sizes have been changed. These changes reduce material waste and will reduce the cost. This will provide the best of both worlds for everyone.

Council President Elliott asked if the Planning Commission has seen the proposed changes. Councilwoman Young said she met with Ms. Grover and Mr. Miller today and the Planning Commission will see this document in the near future.

Councilwoman Young said if this is approved, any other obstacles can be dealt with.

Mayor Bennett indicated that there could be additional thoughts on this issue.

Councilman Hiob stated that the Planning Commission had input on this issue earlier. They think “the wider, the better”. At this point, the Council can act on their own opinion. He is not satisfied with this proposed Ordinance. Currently, there is a 20 ft. minimum and the proposed 24 ft. minimum is a substantial increase. The two widths will be a problem because of the house values being substantially different. This proposal was not passed earlier because of the width regulations and exterior finishes. It was determined that garages are not possible on houses which are 24 ft. wide.

Councilman Kupferman said this is a workable compromise and garage adjustments can be made. End units are always larger than those inside. He congratulated Councilwoman Young on her suggestion.

- Councilman Hiob asked the status of the City Maintenance Code. Mr. Miller said this project will be addressed after the Budget process is finished.
- Council President Elliott stated that some City property is in poor shape, particularly the alleys, and needs to be cleaned up.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.