

**Aberdeen City Council Work Session
October 20, 2008**

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

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Matthew Lapinsky, Director of Public Works
Randy Rudy, Chief of Police
Monica Correll, City Clerk
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

Mayor Bennett called the Work Session to order at 4:30 p.m.

1. Matters of Urgent Business – None

2. Work Session

A. ENR

Mr. Miller reported that the “flush tax” was passed in 2004 by the Maryland Legislature. This action added \$2.50 per month to sewer bills and \$30 annually to septic system owners. He reviewed the two technologies which will help to reduce nutrients in waste water treatment plant effluent. They are Biological Nutrient Removal and Enhanced Nutrient Removal. A handout was provided to detail the financial responsibility of the City of Aberdeen for these projects. There are expensive penalties for non-compliance: administrative - \$1,000 per occurrence per day up to \$50,000; civil - \$10,000 per occurrence per day with a 3-year limit; and criminal - \$50,000 plus potential jail time (“willful and wanton” disregard). The City has been approved for a State revolving loan to finance this project.

The Council members had numerous questions most of which were of a financial nature. The main concern was the cost to the citizens of Aberdeen. Council President Ruth Elliott requested that the City ask the State for additional funds for this project, pull back the milestones, and have the State pay for the project totally because of economic hard times since the State had made this commitment. Mayor Bennett said the State just awarded Aberdeen an additional 3 million dollars and no additional funds would be forthcoming. He has appealed to MDE on three different occasions. This is a mandate by the State of Maryland. Mr. Miller said Stearns & Wheler engineers will be at the next Council meeting with a power point presentation.

B. County/City Water Purchase Agreement

A handout was provided for the Fifth Amendment to the City/County Water Purchase Contract. The FY 2009 costs per 20,000 GPD = \$374,400 and FY 2010 GPD - \$396,906. Once the first 20,000 GPD is requested and paid for, the City must increase its minimum water purchase from the County from the current 250,000 GPD to 350,000 GPD. Mr. Lapinsky said the new booster station would be located near Rt. 40 and Edmund Street. The question was asked why the City had to bear the cost and not COPT. Mr. Miller said the costs would be assigned by dates because initially COPT would not be using water. Mr. Lapinsky said the water must be obtained now because of availability; the City can draw the water and sell what is not used. No figures are available yet on the cost to residents. Questions raised: 1) can water capacity be sold back if the City becomes self-sufficient; 2) is there a 1.5 million dollar APG 10 year water purchase agreement?

C. MML Legislative Conference

Mr. Miller, Mayor Bennett, and Councilwoman Young will be in Cambridge, Maryland for the MML Legislative Conference. Some issues on the agenda will be speed cameras, preserving, and enhancing State shared revenue. Councilman Hiob asked if this included the Hotel Tax. Mr. Miller said it did not fit with State issues. Mayor Bennett noted another opportunity will be possible in November.

D. Ft. Monmouth Visit

Mr. Miller reported that a contingent from APG, Harford County, and Cecil County would be going to Ft. Monmouth for several days.

E. FY 09 Revenue

Mr. Miller stated that the FY 09 Revenue from the State Highway User Money will be reduced for FY 09. He noted that the City is watching the budget "nervously".

3. Liaison Reports

Councilman Kupferman reported that the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce will be relocating. There are three locations being considered.

Councilman Kupferman said the Boys and Girls Club will have a new Executive Director.

Councilman Kupferman stated that the Stadium Management Board has addressed the addition of a parking fee to the price of baseball tickets at Ripken Stadium. The City attorney said this is not legal unless Ripken agrees. The alternative would be the City charging \$2.00 per car and take charge of collecting the fees at each game.

Councilwoman Young reported that the Appearance & Preservation Committee is planning the Christmas Parade for the first Saturday in December.

Councilman Hiob reported that the Planning Commission is completing work on the Comprehensive Plan and has held two Public Work Shops. The next Planning Commission meeting will be held on November 12th. Currently, there are two items on the agenda; Ferrell Fuel and DBB, LLC.

Councilman Hiob reported that approval is imminent for Fire House #3. Fire House #1 will be getting a new roof at a cost of \$350,000. It will be a steel roof with a 50-year guarantee. The cost will be funded by Harford County and the Aberdeen Fire Department.

Mayor Bennett noted that Ms. Grover will attend the EDC meetings at Ft. Monmouth. Ideas are being submitted to rebrand the City to draw more people.

The Department of Parks and Recreation is looking at new programs in addition to helping with funding for the Skateboard Park.

4. Other

Chief Rudy thanked Council President Elliott and Councilwoman Young for attending the Police Department Inspection.

Council President Elliott asked if the property facing Rt. 22 was obtained in a land swap with COPT. She also wanted to know if the City purchased this property from the State. Mr. Miller said this land must stay in public use and the State must renegotiate with the City.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.