

**Aberdeen City Council Meeting  
February 23, 2009**

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

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

**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 Diane Welch, of the Breath of God Christian Fellowship Church and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Young.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Upper Chesapeake Health – Mr. Lyle Sheldon, President & CEO

Mr. Sheldon presented the Vision of Culture which included the following:

- Excellence in Vision
- Ranked in the top 5% of hospitals in America 3 years in a row
- General surgery is ranked #2
- Joint replacement is ranked #1 in Maryland
- Stroke center accredited 5 years from MIEMSS
- Emergency Angioplasty Program began in 2008
- Cancer program accredited by the American College of Surgeons
- Maryland Emergency Medical Network initiated
- New construction increased accommodations in most areas of treatment
- Harford Memorial Hospital is one half the size of Upper Chesapeake and has recently been renovated.

He thanked the City of Aberdeen for their interest in medical care in the City and Harford County.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

1. Ordinance No. 09-O-01, FiOS Franchise Agreement (For Introduction)

Mr. Miller said this Ordinance is being introduced tonight and the first possible date for it to be voted on for adoption is March 9, 2009. This action will make FiOS available to Aberdeen residents and grant access to public ways for 15 years. The City will receive a 3% negotiable fee which may be renegotiated and is allowed to go as high as 5%. FiOS service will be provided free to City government facilities.

**BUSINESS OF THE CITY:**

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

Ms. Grover said the Planning Commission meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Rudy reported that two members of the police department are completing a course on Crisis Intervention which is being held in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department, the Bel Air Police Department, and the Havre de Grace Police Department.

5. Business from the Director of Finance - None
6. Business from the Director of Public Works

A. Disposal of City Property

1. Old Vactor Truck Excess – Mr. Lapinsky said this vehicle has been replaced with a new truck and is no longer needed by the City.
2. WWTP Glass House Excess – Mr. Lapinsky said this structure needs to be declared excess due to its deteriorating condition.

A motion was made by Council President Hiob and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to declare the Old Vactor Truck and the WWTP Glass House excess and approve the disposal of both items.

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

Mr. Lapinsky said the Water Resource Element Kick-Off was well attended. The first draft will be available in a few weeks and a copy will be available at the April Planning Commission meeting.

7. Business from the City Manager

A. Approval – 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment, Harford County Water Agreement

Mr. Miller stated that the City has a Harford County Water Agreement which is available for a 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The agreement is to purchase 100,000 gallons of water a day for BRAC- related projects in 20,000 gallon increments at approximately \$19.00 per gallon in FY 09 and close to \$20 per gallon if purchased in FY 10. The cost will be paid by the users. A booster station will be needed at a cost of \$850,000. There will be no rate increase to City residents.

Council President Hiob noted several items which should be reviewed. In particular, he expressed concern about the portion of the agreement on page 7 concerning “building permits or use and occupancy permits”. Mr. Miller said that this needs to be reviewed and that an amendment could be added to the motion.

Councilwoman Young asked if payment for the water would be made to Harford County by the City or to the County by the customer and would the City be notified of the types of payments. She felt that the City should not have to track this down. Mr. Miller said the City is negotiating with the primary customers regarding a reporting schedule about their needs and payment schedule. There is a separate agreement in process for this.

A motion was made by Council President Hiob and seconded by Councilman Kupferman to approve the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment of the Harford County Water Agreement.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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

Ms. Heavey confirmed that the price for one gallon of water was \$19.00 in the agreement discussed. She thought the Upper Chesapeake Health information was interesting. She also felt that City employees using cell phones while driving was unsafe.

**BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. Business from the Council

Councilwoman Elliott had no comments.

Councilman Kupferman said he would like SHA called to see when W. Bel Air Avenue will be paved. Mr. Lapinsky said the paving was scheduled for the Spring. An article in *The Record* said Councilman Kupferman was against 2- year terms for members of the City Council. It should have said he was concerned with the 2-year residency requirement. Councilman Kupferman remarked that, in response to a public comment during the last Council meeting about the 2006 Referendum results, he wanted to clarify that he understood this to mean that the voters do not want R-3 growth in that area of the City and that they were unhappy with the elected officials.

Councilwoman Young was happy that residents will not have to bear the cost for the water allotments. The new rates will promote conservation. The Fix-It-Up program in Harford County through Habitat for Humanity still has funds available. Their number for aid is 410-638-4434. *The Aegis* article of February 13 stated that the United Way has funds available to help with utility bills. Their number is 410-612-9909.

Council President Hiob said that in response to earlier public comment concerning the water purchased from Harford County, the cost for water is not per gallon used, but for the production capacity; initial outlay. He stated that the Property Maintenance Ordinance will be brought back modified and reconsidered at a future date.

## 2. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Bennett attended the Maryland Mayors Association Winter Conference on the Economic Stimulus Package on February 12 and 13. He also met with two members of the Governor's staff. Fourteen projects for stimulus money were signed in the amount of \$33,000,000. Some of the stimulus money will be for the bigger projects such as \$11,000,000 for ENR and approximately \$6,000,000 for Swan Meadows infrastructure. The following employees were commended and thanked for their work on these projects: Kate Talanehzar, Rob Krause, and Rick Kosko.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next Council Meeting: Monday, March 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.  
Next Council Work Session: Monday, March 16, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.