

**Aberdeen City Council Meeting  
January 26, 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 & 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 Pastor Steve Lyons of the Bread of Life Ministries and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Elliott.

The minutes of the January 12, 2009 City Council Meeting were approved as submitted.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Mayor Bennett welcomed Colin Stewart and his father, Tommy Stewart. Colin is attending the meeting because he is working on a school project about government.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION:** None

**BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. Unfinished Business – None

2. New Business

A. Appointment of Ripken Stadium Management Board Chair (RSMB)

Mayor Bennett introduced Mr. John Gessner, an attorney with Gessner, Snee, Mahoney, and Luche who will be assuming the position of Chairman of the Ripken Stadium Management Board. Mr. Gessner would replace Ms. Betsy

Campion to whom Mayor Bennett thanked for her tireless hours serving in this capacity. Mayor Bennett also asked for the reappointment of Ms. Betsy Campion and Mr. Glenn Gillis for a term of 3 years on the RSMB.

A motion was made by Councilman Kupferman and seconded simultaneously by Councilwomen Elliott and Young to approve Mr. John Gessner as Chairman of the Ripken Stadium Management Board and the reappointment of Ms. Betsy Campion and Mr. Glenn Gillis for a term of 3 years.

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

3. Business from the Director of Planning & Community Development

A. Update: Building Permit Statistics 2008 / Infraction Statistics 2008

Ms. Grover provided a handout which detailed the following information:

Total Residential Permits	281	\$7,087,018
Total Commercial Permits	108	\$17,545,773
Total All Permits	389	\$24,632,791
Fee Value for Permits	Residential	\$12,165.45
	Commercial	\$13,117.82
	Total	\$25,283.27

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Rudy discussed detailed information on the Police Officer Line of Duty Death Statistics for 2008 and statistics for Professional Affiliations for Victim Officers. The total deaths in the line of duty were 132 for the year 2008.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

A. Revised Budget for the Fiscal Year 2009

EXPENDITURES:

Original Budget:	\$19,913,514
Revised Budget:	\$23,789,463
Increase	\$ 3,875,949
% Change	19.5%

REVENUES:

Original Budget:	\$19,913,514
Revised Budget:	\$23,789,463

Increase:	\$ 3,875,949
% Change	19.5%

A motion was made by Council President Hiob and seconded by Councilman Kupferman to approve the City of Aberdeen Budget Amendment (Revision) Operating and Capital Budgets for the Fiscal Year 2009.

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

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Lapinsky reported that five companies have expressed an interest in submitting estimates for the GIS System which will be financed by an OEA Grant. The cold weather has resulted in 180 hours overtime for water main breaks having to be repaired. Mr. Lapinsky stated that a question from the previous Council Meeting concerning fire hydrants in need of repair on Post Road did not present a true picture of the situation. The out-of-service hydrant was clearly marked as out-of-service and the Fire Department did not try to hook up to it. All other fire hydrants were in working order.

7. Business from the City Manager - None

8. Business from the Council

Councilman Hiob:

- Thanked Mr. Gessner for accepting the Ripken Appointment.
- Volunteer Appreciation Dinner invitations were sent out for the February 10, 2009 dinner.
- Harford County was holding a budget meeting at Aberdeen High School this same night.
- A house located on Roberts Way, near Beards Hill Road was falling apart. The City should reconsider the Property Maintenance Code.
- Read his letter concerning the Record newspaper (available for inspection at City Hall).

Councilwoman Young:

- Attended the Winter Concert at the George Lisby Elementary School.
- Also interested in continuing with the Maintenance Code.
- The Harford County Fix-It-Up Program still has some funds available with some qualifications to be met; telephone number is 410-638-4434.
- With the coming of BRAC, the City needs some legislation for lobbying which should be considered by the Mayor and Council.

Councilman Kupferman:

- Thanked Ms. Champion for her leadership on the Ripken Stadium Management Board and to Mr. Gessner for taking over this position.

- The Comprehensive Plan needs work; there are 17 areas for possible growth and development in the City and development needs some adjustment.

Councilwoman Elliott:

- Interested in getting the Maintenance Code back because some property in the City needs improvement.
- Concerned with a recent Record newspaper article concerning the Glengarry Annexation. She pointed out that Aberdeen government is following State law which mandates that any annexation must go through a process. The paper should get the facts straight.

9. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Bennett:

- Attended the Maryland General Assembly opening with Mr. Miller where there was a training session. Attended a Maryland Municipal League function at the Maryland Inn.
- Some Council members attended a ground breaking for the firehouse on Rt. 22 which will house larger equipment.
- On January 17, 2009 the City became part of history when President-Elect Obama's train went through Aberdeen where 300-400 people viewed this event. Aberdeen Middle School performed songs and an outstanding job was done by the City's Department of Public Works.
- Attended the Aberdeen Fire Department Banquet where Firefighter D. Bennett Smith, Jr. received a certificate as high responder for responding to 760 out of 768 total fire calls for 2008.
- Ms. Judy Hinch of the Aberdeen Police Department was recognized as the high EMS responder with 299 ambulance calls for the year.
- On January 19, 2009 attended a NAACP Chapter breakfast honoring Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- On January 21, 2009, attended Harford County night in Annapolis with Council President Hiob, Councilman Kupferman, City Staff and members of the Aberdeen Economic Development Commission. He met with Harford County Delegates and Senate President Mike Miller.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next Council Work Session: Monday, February 2, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.  
Next Council Meeting: Monday, February 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.