

**Aberdeen Council Meeting  
March 23, 2009**

**Roll Call:** The Aberdeen 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 Jeffrey Elwood of the Evangelical Assembly of God and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Elliott.

The minutes of the March 9, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted with a vote of 5 – yes.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

1. Charter Amendment Resolution No. 09-CR-01, Annexation for Glengarry

Ms. Grover stated that Glengarry consists of 497.21 acres and the Annexation Petition was submitted September 29, 2006. Two citizen meetings were held in 2008. The request was reviewed by the Planning Commission and they recommended R-1 zoning. The request was for R-2 zoning which is medium density. A public hearing is required by Ordinance No. 736-08. It was advertised for four consecutive weeks. Planning areas 9 and 10 have designations of low and medium density residential. The Harford County zoning is for AG and R-2 zoning would exceed the 50% density limit as required by House Bill 1141. A wavier would be required by Harford County Government in the future.

- a) Jacquelyn Seneschal, KCI Technology, Inc.;
- Ms. Seneschal said she spoke last year on this issue. The handout is consistent with Smart Growth as the R-2 Density indicates. This action would help with revitalization of the Aberdeen downtown area and the Rt. 40 corridor. She thanked the Council and the residents for their input on this issue.

- b) Mr. Bob Hartman, 226 Paradise Road;  
Mr. Hartman stated that the citizens of the City voted to disapprove this issue. It is not applicable for BRAC because schools are overcrowded at this time.
- c) Mr. Chuck Doty, 306 Edmund Street;  
Mr. Doty read a letter opposing the Annexation of Glengarry from the ACT group (Aberdeen Communities Together). He said the request was for the same number of homes as previously requested. This action would not benefit the residents. This action could result in a tax increase to City residents. He urged growth of the commercial base.
- d) Ms. Frances Randles, 624 Locksley Manor Drive;  
Ms. Randles noted that she travels to New Jersey with her job and the New Jersey Governor is currently discussing their budget. Currently, they have a property tax crisis. This Annexation will move the City in the wrong direction. She is opposed to this Annexation.
- e) Ms. Rosemary Queen, 614 Locksley Manor Drive;  
Ms. Queen agrees with all comments previously made. This Annexation will not be beneficial to the City. Commercial would be more profitable to Aberdeen. The area is zoned AG. She opposes the Annexation for many reasons and asks the Council for their support.
- f) Mr. Gary Desch, 2098 Titan Terrace;  
Mr. Desch supports the Annexation. The area needs more upscale homes and the development would help relieve the tax burden. Currently, BRAC people are relocating to other areas because of the lack of upscale homes. This Annexation would help create new jobs in the area.
- g) Mr. David Yensan, 608 North Gate Road;  
Mr. Yensan favors the Annexation. This municipality needs to grow. The school situation is the responsibility of the County and State. Eventually, the County will approve this Annexation if the City does not.
- h) Ms. Pat McGrady, 1527 N. Stepney Road;  
Ms. McGrady agrees with Mr. Doty, Ms. Randles, and Ms. Queen and is also opposed to this Annexation.
- i) Ms. Karen Heavey, 634 W. Bel Air Avenue;  
Ms. Heavey is opposed to this Annexation. The subject property is outside the development envelope and open areas should be maintained. A large development will strain the resources of the City, i.e., schools, police, fire, etc. The City can grow inwardly with developments currently on the books. The citizens previously voted 2 to 1 against this Annexation.

j) Mr. Robert Price, 615 Gilbert Road;  
Mr. Price agrees with those against this Annexation.

k) Ms. Louise Costello, 122 William Powell Court;  
Ms. Costello stated that people at Ft. Monmouth are concerned because of the lack of housing and water. Annexation will certainly bring New Jersey people to Aberdeen. Senior citizens cannot afford their homes because of the increases in services and taxes. Annexation will definitely help.

2. Charter Amendment Resolution No. 09-CR-02, Annexation for the Vernon K. Johnson Trust and Presbyterian Homes of Maryland, Inc. Properties

Ms. Grover said the petition was submitted to the City on December 5, 2006 for the Annexation of 11.552 acres. This request was reviewed at several Planning Commission meetings in 2008. The Planning Commission recommendation was for Integrated Business District (IBD). The property is located in Comprehensive Planning Area 11 which requires upscale office and additional recommended uses. The Harford County zoning is AG. The proposed zoning will exceed the 50% density requirement and needs a Harford County waiver for Annexation.

a) Mr. Bob Hartman, 226 Paradise Road;  
Mr. Hartman opposes this Annexation. It is being “grandfathered” and water hookups will take a long time.

b) Ms. Pat McGrady, 1527 Stepney Road;  
Ms. McGrady is opposed to this Annexation.

c) Ms. Karen Heavey, 634 W. Bel Air Avenue;  
Ms. Heavey is opposed to this Annexation. Due to the fact that this property will not pay property taxes, there will not be any money coming into the City. The request should be reconsidered at a later date.

d) Mr. Bradley Stover, 11 S. Main Street;  
Mr. Stover is the attorney for the applicant. The property consists of 11.5 acres, 9 acres will be used for Presbyterian Homes and 2 acres by the Vernon K. Johnson Trust. It is located west of Long Drive. Approximately 1/3 of the subject property is wetlands.

e) Ms. Susan Shea, 400 George Court;  
Ms. Shea is the CEO of Presbyterian Homes. She stated that a large portion of the land will use the driveway as a buffer which will have a security gate. Currently, there are 296 interested parties for the proposed units. Construction will begin in 2010 and occupancy is anticipated in 2013.

f) Mr. Patrick McGrady, 1527 Stepney Road;  
Mr. McGrady is opposed to the proposed Annexation.

3. Resolution No. 09-R-06, BRAC Revitalization and Incentive Zone Application

Ms. Kate Talanehzar is submitting a proposal for the addition of a BRAC Zone to be added to the City. This would be a Priority Funding Area because it is within ½ mile of the train station. Additional money would be brought into the City with this addition. The current Enterprise Zone would not be affected. The Harford County Government supports the BRAC Zone. Applications for this endeavor are due April 14, 2009. Such an addition would be a future stepping stone for Aberdeen.

a) Ms. Karen Heavey, 634 W. Bel Air Avenue;

Ms. Heavey asked why so many areas of the City were not included in this request.

Ms. Talanehzar stated that some businesses and a few residences appeared to be outside the ½ mile area. Ms. Heavey asked what the role of the County would be and what infrastructure would be needed. She opposes this issue as it is now presented.

b) Mr. Jim Richardson, Pylesville;

Mr. Richardson is the Director of Economic Development for Harford County. He stated that the County supports the City's application. Infrastructure issues are addressed as well as others which will benefit the City.

Councilwoman Elliott asked if any other Harford County communities are looking at this type of incentive. Mr. Richardson said none were. He indicated that the City's plan met all of the County's requirements. Councilwoman Young asked if the ½ mile issue had been checked. Mr. Richardson said it had.

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION:** None

**BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. Unfinished Business – None

2. New Business

a) Ethics Commission Appointment – Ms. Myra Fender

Mayor Bennett introduced Ms. Myra Fender who was recommended for an appointment to the Ethics Commission.

A motion was made by Councilman Kupferman and seconded by Councilwoman Young to appoint Ms. Myra Fender to the Ethics Commission.

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

3. Business from the Director of Planning & Community Development

Ms. Grover informed the Council and citizens that there would be no Planning Commission meeting for the month of March.

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Rudy attended a Chiefs of Police Training Session in Virginia on the subject of Children being Abducted and other issues involving children. This organization has many services available to help local Police Departments solve crimes of abduction, abuse, etc.

On another matter, Chief Rudy reported that there was an incident near the Boys & Girls Club and that a local organization filed a complaint with the Harford County Sheriff regarding how it was handled by the Aberdeen Police Department. An investigation is being conducted by the Sheriff's Office.

5. Business of the Director of Finance

Mr. Jack reported that the water billing system is in place and working well.

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Lapinsky asked that the Old Compost Screen be declared excess because it is very old and not efficient. A replacement is now available to more efficiently handle the compost jobs.

A motion was made by Council President Hiob and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to declare the Compost Screen excess property.

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

Mr. Lapinsky reported on the following issues:

- The new street sweeper will be put into use beginning April 13, 2009; a schedule of its use is available.
- The old Vac Truck is for sale for a minimum amount of \$25,000.
- Immediately after the agreement was signed with Harford County Government for an additional 100,000 gallons of water, COPT began working on the new water line to their proposed office site. Residents are asked to be patient as the old pipes are being replaced.
- The new water plant design is under way and information should be available by June.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller stated that the meeting schedule has changed and there will not be a meeting on Monday, March 30, 2009.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Ms. Linda Adams, 64 E. Bel Air Avenue;  
Ms. Adams asked about the new water line's direction and Mayor Bennett informed her of the route.
2. Mr. Bob Hartman, 226 Paradise Road;  
Mr. Hartman said contractors are complaining that it is difficult for them to obtain permits from the City. He asked the Council to look more closely at this situation to help the contractors complete their work. He said City residents pay their taxes but receive few amenities. Residents should get some type of tax break if Presbyterian Homes gets a tax break. He stated that he has asked many questions but not received any answers. Mayor Bennett asked him to forward a letter containing his unanswered questions.
3. Mr. Daniel Wright, 141B Hanover Street;  
Mr. Wright read a letter regarding gun violence and street violence on the East side of the City. Additionally, housing conditions are not good. He is asking the City leaders to help the youth. He also noted that April 4, 2009 will be Clean-Up Day in that area and he hopes for participation by the City.
4. Ms. Lillian Ishibishi, 739 Walker Street;  
Ms. Ishibishi asked for more information on the BRAC Zones. Ms. Talanehzar told her how to obtain the requested information.
5. Ms. Karen Heavey, 634 W. Bel Air Avenue;  
Ms. Heavey said she lives in the City on a State Road. West Bel Air Avenue is in terrible shape. Additionally, the sidewalks are in need of paving. Mayor Bennett noted that he will furnish information on the proposed paving of West Bel Air Avenue and paving the sidewalks.

**BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

Councilwoman Elliott asked that handouts be provided for the BRAC Zone Program.

Councilman Kupferman said the City was 117 years old yesterday. Councilman Kupferman attended a Chamber of Commerce luncheon and brought some helpful information away from this gathering.

Councilwoman Young has researched the Presbyterian Homes Project. The City is providing forgiveness for the water and sewer hookups as well as tax forgiveness. The shortfalls to the City will be in millions of dollars. The City has not received a guarantee for not having to pay for the proposed water tower. She asked what role Bruce Bereano has in this project.

Councilwoman Young attended the funeral for Mary Delaney-James' mother. She also attended the Harford County Commission for Women where the featured speaker was

Dr. Rosemary Bonsack. Harford Habitat for Humanity still has funds available in the Fix-It-Up Program.

Council President Hiob stated that he supports the Presbyterian Homes Project. He announced that the Aberdeen Lions Club will be holding a Pancake function March 24<sup>th</sup>, from 4 – 7 p.m.; the Harford County Habitat for Humanity will have a groundbreaking on April 1, 2009 and volunteers are needed; and there will be a meeting at Aberdeen High School on April 21<sup>st</sup> for the Harford County Comprehensive Zoning Review.

**BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR:**

Mayor Bennett reported the following events and information:

- March 10<sup>th</sup> he attended a press conference along with Executive Craig for the Water Agreement for BRAC's project (COPT). The Maryland Lt. Governor Brown was in attendance.
- He thanked *The Aegis* and *The Record* for attending the press conference.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Water Issue is being addressed.
- On March 11<sup>th</sup>, he attended the MML Legislative Committee meeting which was also attended by Governor O'Malley. Those in attendance were informed of additional budget cuts including Highway User funds reduction.
- On March 10<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>, there were in- house meetings for FY 2010 Budget preparations and Counties Together Meetings.
- He thanked all who expressed their concerns at tonight's meeting and that e-mails are welcome and will be answered.
- He and Mr. Lapinsky are committed to projects using Stimulus Funds for the City.
- Thanks to Mr. Miller, Mr. Art Helton, Mr. Lapinsky, Mr. Rick Kosko, Ms. Kate Talanehzar, and Mr. Bob Krause for preparing the grants for submission.
- There will be a BRAC meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup> at Aberdeen Middle School.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next Council Work Session:	Monday, April 6, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.
Next Council Meeting:	Monday, April 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.