

**Aberdeen Council Meeting
March 9, 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 Mayor Bennett and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Kupferman.

The minutes of the February 9, 2009 meeting and the February 23, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted with a vote of 5 – yes.

PRESENTATIONS: None

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

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

Ms. Heavey does not favor House Bill 1017 which provides a property tax exemption for Continuing Care Communities in Harford County. She asked the Council not to support this project.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Statement of Intent to Repeal and Reenact the Charter of the City of Aberdeen

Mr. Miller stated that the Council has been working on the revision of the Charter by a Blue Ribbon Committee. Two drafts have been presented and some amendments are still needed. Although one reading is required by State Law, the Council would like to make the process more transparent to the public. There will be a copy of the latest draft available to the public as well. The following actions are scheduled on this document:

April 13, 2009	Public Hearing at the Council Meeting.
April 20, 2009	Comments to be discussed and amendments considered.
April 27, 2009	Votes taken on each amendment to be included.

May 11, 2009 Approval of the document.

After May 11, 2009 there will be a timeframe of 40 days to petition the decision and the document. After this time expires, there will be 10 days before the document is effective.

July 2, 2009 Effective date of the Charter of the City of Aberdeen.

Chapter 3 of the Election Code will require changes as dictated by the Charter revisions.

2. Charter Amendment Resolution No. 09-CR-03, Scotten Property Annexation (Introduction)
The introduction of this resolution was provided by Mayor Bennett.

3. Charter Amendment Resolution No. 09-CR-04, 952 Gilbert Road Annexation (Introduction)
The introduction of this resolution was provided by Mayor Bennett.

4. Ordinance No. 09-O-01, FiOS Franchise Agreement (For Adoption)

Mayor Bennett introduced several representatives from Verizon who were in the audience. He gave a brief update on the services to be provided by FiOS to the residents and the City government.

A motion was made by Council President Hiob and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve Ordinance No. 09-O-01, FiOS Franchise Agreement.

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

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 has been changed to March 25, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. A Work Session is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on that same date to discuss the Sectional Map Amendments and Parking Regulations. The Board of Appeals Meeting is scheduled for March 18, 2009.

Ms. Grover stated that at the March 23, 2009 Council Meeting an Ordinance will be introduced for Critical Areas for the City and adoption for that will follow.

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Rudy said dispatchers are being sent to an EOC seminar to help reduce liability to the City. Grant money applications have been submitted for the Mobile Unit. He is scheduled to attend the Chiefs' Seminar which is a free event.

5. Business from the Director of Finance - None

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

The design package for the Enhanced Nutrient Removal for the Waste Water Treatment Plant is being reviewed. The City has submitted twenty-four proposals to MDE in the amount of \$71,000,000. A list of awards will be posted on the internet after decisions have been made.

Friday “walk-arounds” have continued and showed the following needs: storm water basins need care, sidewalk maintenance is needed, some clean-out caps are missing, etc.

A meeting will be held with Maryland Environmental Services to discuss an I & I model.

The following financial allocations have been made: MDE award – Aberdeen receives \$150,000; DBED - \$75,000 grant. Mr. Lapinsky provided handouts showing the five companies who submitted bids for the GIS contract. He reminded the Council that the funds being used are OEA money.

A motion was made by Councilman Kupferman and seconded by Council President Hiob to approve Awarding RFP 09-08 Summary to HRG Company in the amount of \$169,900.

Councilwoman Young asked if the City has done business previously with this company. Mr. Lapinsky said no, but this company is known to be one of the best in the business. Mr. Miller noted that HRG is experienced with this type of project and the City has dealt with them before.

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

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller reminded the Council that their docket is becoming more intense because of annexations, the Charter, and the budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Ms. Pat McGrady, 1527 N. Stepney Road;

Ms. McGrady reported that the Harford County Property Managers group has a session scheduled for March 19th at the Edgewood Senior Center. The Marylanders for Fair Property Taxation group will hold a meeting on March 29th at the Bel Air American Legion to discuss rising property costs in Harford County, the assessment process, the appeal process, and establishing equitable state and local tax caps for property owners.

2. Mr. Dan Lambrose, 3023 James Run Road;

Mr. Lambrose stated that in regard to Presbyterian Homes and property taxes, he does not feel it is fair for residents to be required to support another legacy cost for the City and its citizens. He believes that they should be given a break while building, but not forever. Mr. Lambrose hopes for the same beneficial treatment that Presbyterian Homes has been granted when he is ready to ask the City to help him with his business project.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

Councilman Kupferman made no comments.

Councilwoman Elliott requested that the ILU (Individual Living Units) tax exemption be placed on the next public meeting agenda with public comment and a vote taken.

Councilwoman Young reminded everyone about the program sponsored by Habitat for Humanity for home repairs is available and the contact phone number is 410-638-4434. In regard to Presbyterian Homes, there would be benefits such as the ability of senior citizens to stay in this area; their own private roads, private transportation, and snow and trash removal. They require no schools. If 220 units were built by Presbyterian Homes, there would be a shortfall of \$2,640,000 based on the water and sewer hookup fee of \$14,400 per unit based on today's rate. No documents have been received which would guarantee a water tower at no cost to the City.

There will be a hearing in Annapolis on Senate Bill 821 on March 11 at 1:00 p.m. and its companion bill, House Bill No. 1017 on March 18 at 1:00 p.m. The toll free number to call to express opinion at the State level is 800-492-4122, ext. 3289. The blue pages in the phone book may be used as reference to ascertain the proper representative. Councilwoman Young then reviewed the income levels of the local populace and the Presbyterian Homes proposed entrance fees/monthly fees for senior citizens wishing to enter their facility. The statistics indicate that local residents could not afford this facility. She does not support this project.

Council President Hiob noted that the Charter Draft will be available on the website and a paper copy available from City Hall. He has received a request for support for the CCRC Tax Abatement and letters of intent are on file from Presbyterian Homes.

BUSINESS FROM THE MAYOR:

Mayor Bennett reported on the following events:

- 2/28 – Attended a ceremony at the VFW Post in Perryman and presented a Proclamation to Mr. Frank D. Brown for his service in World War II and for visiting the Perry Point Hospital weekly.
- 2/28 – Attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Steven Peters and presented him with a Proclamation.
- 3/5 – Breakfast with Major General Paul Izzo for a briefing for “BRAC and Beyond”.
- 3/5 – Attended the ribbon cutting for the Abingdon Water Plant Upgrade.
- 3/5 – Hosted the Harford County Elected Officials Meeting.
- 3/10 – There will be a press conference for the signing of the 5th Amendment to the Water Agreement between the City and the County and Lt. Governor Brown will attend.
- 3/11 – He will attend the MML meeting in Annapolis with Mr. Miller.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

Next Council Meeting: Monday, March 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

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