

**Aberdeen Council Meeting
May 26, 2009**

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

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Matthew Lapinsky, Director of Public Works
Captain Kenneth Cox, Aberdeen Police Department
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance
Monica Correll, City Clerk

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. The prayer was led by Pastor Diane Welch, Breath of God Christian Fellowship Church and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Elliott.

The minutes of the May 11, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously as submitted.

PRESENTATIONS: None

PUBLIC HEARING: None

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Resolution No. 09-R-04, Regional Law Enforcement Compact (Introduction and Adoption)

Mayor Bennett introduced and read Resolution No. 09-R-04, a resolution of the Mayor and City Council of Aberdeen, Maryland for the purpose of endorsing the Mutual Aid Agreements/Compacts among the Harford County Sheriff and the Town of Bel Air, and the cities of Aberdeen and Havre de Grace.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Kupferman to adopt Resolution No. 09-R-04.

The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Setting the Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, and the Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010, Budget Ordinance No. 09-O-02 (Adoption)

Mayor Bennett presented his budget amendments:

Budget Amendment Part #1; General Fund Revenue; Property Tax

1. Reduce the Real Estate Property Tax Rate from \$0.70 per \$100 of assessed value to \$.6875 per \$100 of assessed value.
2. Reduce the General Fund Revenue line item "Real Estate Taxes" from \$8,441,878 to \$8,287,825, or by \$154,053.
3. Reduce Utility Personal Property Tax from \$262,670 to \$262,638.
4. Total decrease in revenue = \$154,085.

Budget Amendment Part #2; General Fund Expenditure; Legislative

1. Add \$2,500 to Volunteer Appreciation from \$0 to \$2,500.

Budget Amendment Part #3; General Fund Expenditure; General Government

1. Add \$11,000 to Boys and Girls Club from \$20,000 to \$31,000.

Budget Amendment Part #4; General Fund Expenditure; Police

1. Add \$6,000 to Overtime Line Item from \$123,000 to \$129,000.

Budget Amendment Part #5; General Fund Expenditure; Payroll Related

1. Reduce Medical Insurance from \$1,340,370 to \$1,166,785 or by \$173,585.

A motion was made by Mayor Bennett and seconded by Councilwoman Young to adopt these amendments as presented.

The Amendments as presented by Mayor Bennett to Budget Ordinance No. 09-O-02 was passed with a vote of 4 – yes and 1 - no.

Ayes: Mayor Bennett, Council President Hiob, Councilman Kupferman,
and Councilwoman Young

Nays: Councilwoman Elliott

Councilwoman Elliott motioned to not exceed the Constant Yield Tax Rate by reducing the real property tax rate to \$0.654 per \$100 of assessed value and to make deductions on the budget to meet the \$594,672 difference. She presented her amendments to the Council. Councilman Kupferman seconded the motion after which the Council followed with discussion.

The Amendments as presented by Councilwoman Elliott to Budget Ordinance No. 09-O-02 were not passed with a vote of 1 – yes and 4 – no.

Ayes: Councilwoman Elliott

Nays: Mayor Bennett, Council President Hiob, Councilman Kupferman,
and Councilwoman Young

Mr. Miller said the Ordinance itself deals with four budgets: Stadium, Sewer, Water, plus the General Fund. The General Fund will be amended to the \$0.6875 tax rate and affected by the expenditure adjustments as amended.

A motion was made by Council President Hiob and seconded by Councilwoman Young to adopt Budget Ordinance No. 09-O-02 as amended.

Budget Ordinance No. 09-O-02 as amended was adopted with a vote of 4 – yes and 1 - no.

Ayes: Mayor Bennett, Council President Hiob, Councilman Kupferman,
and Councilwoman Young

Nays: Councilwoman Elliott

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. Bill Thompson, Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) #128;
Mr. Thompson stated his Budget concerns regarding the Police Department.
2. Mr. Dan Gosnell, FOP #128;
Mr. Gosnell also stated his Budget concerns regarding the Police Department.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Unfinished Business - None
2. New Business - None
3. Business from the Director of Planning and Community Development - None
4. Business from the Chief of Police

Captain Cox substituted for Chief Rudy. He stated that the Police Department is striving to sustain and maintain what they currently use in uniforms.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

Mr. Jack reported that the auditors for the preliminary field work will be here June 8 and 9.

6. Business from the Director of Public Works (DPW)

Mr. Lapinsky provided an update on the enhanced nutrient removal system for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. He is pleased with the design work and it is on schedule for January's start date. There are scheduled meetings to finish the water resource element portion which is important to finishing the master plan for the City.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller suggested that the Council return to their normal schedule; cancel the June 1 Council Meeting, hold the June 8 Work Session and June 15 Council Meeting. The Council agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Ms. Sandi Easton, 65 Green Street;
Ms. Easton was not in agreement with the outcome of the Budget regarding the Police Department.
2. Mr. Craig Gentile, 103 Edmund Street;
Mr. Gentile suggested that the City default on the Stadium loan to help with the Budget.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council

The City Council calendar included attendance at the Memorial Day Ceremony at Veterans Park, a Economic Development Awards Luncheon by the Aberdeen Chamber of Commerce, Science and Mathematics Academy Graduation at Aberdeen High School, Military Appreciation Luncheon at APG, a meeting with the Aberdeen Communities Together group, and the 2009 Good Scout Award hosted by the Boy Scouts of America. On behalf of Delegate James, State Scholarship money will be distributed to graduates at Aberdeen High School in the form of checks and certificates of achievement at an upcoming ceremony.

To clarify information given at a previous Council Meeting, Councilwoman Young stated that a portion, not the entirety, of the \$65 million the State of Maryland designated for BRAC-related projects, comes to Harford County. She read the commencement speech given to the 2009 graduates of the Science and Mathematics Academy at Aberdeen High School. Council President Hiob reported that he and Delegate Daniel Riley met to discuss train station redevelopment options, hotel tax status, and a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes, "PILOT" or "PILT") program between the State of Maryland, Harford County, and APG.

2. Business from the Mayor

The Mayor added that the PILOT program would enable the Middle Gate at APG to reopen which will aid in the revitalization of Aberdeen and the Route 40 corridor. In addition to some of aforementioned events, the Mayor attended the Armed Forces Day Celebration at APG, the True Joy Ministries Scholarship Service, and a Military Appreciation Luncheon at APG. Lt. Governor Brown, County Executive Craig, State Officials, Staff from Harford County, the State, and City Staff met here for the Aberdeen BRAC Enhancement and

Revitalization Zone presentation followed by a tour of the proposed BRAC Zone project areas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Monday, June 1, 2009 Council Meeting:	Cancelled.
Police Department Public Auction:	June 6, 2009, Aberdeen Fire House, 10:00 a.m.
Next Council Work Session:	Monday – June 8, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.
Next Council Meeting:	Monday – June 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.