

**Aberdeen Council Meeting
September 21, 2009**

Present: Mayor Bennett, Council President Hiob, Councilwoman Elliott,
Councilman Kupferman, and Councilwoman 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 Leonard Alston of New Beginning Christian Church and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Young.

The minutes of the August 24, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted with a vote of 5 – yes.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Aberdeen Girl Scout Community #76 Presentation, Becky Cook

Ms. Cook informed those in attendance that Girl Scouts are dedicated to serving, camping, fun activities, and community service. She reminded everyone that they raise funds for activities by selling cookies.

2. CAPER – Harford County Department of Community Services – Jenn Phelps, Coordinator

Ms. Phelps gave a brief report on the purpose of CAPER and noted that it was mandated by using Federal funds through HUD. In the years 2004 – 2008, the Bush Chapel Phase II Project was the recipient of these funds.

3. Proclamation in Recognition of Family Day

Mayor Bennett read a Proclamation declaring the 4th Monday of every September as Family Day. He noted that more interaction is needed between family members to help reduce many problems, especially substance abuse.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Dwayne Dixon, 304 Brevard Court;
Mr. Dixon commented on verbal and physical abuse by certain officers of the Police Department in Aberdeen. He asked all concerned citizens in the audience to stand. He asked Chief Rudy for help in the matter.
2. Ms. Jeanette Butler, 113 Hanover Street;
Ms. Butler expressed her concern and asked for the dismissal of a particular officer.
3. Ms. Janice Grant, 428 Law Street;
Ms. Grant agreed with Mr. Dixon on these issues.
4. Ms. Adele Patterson, Riverside;
Ms. Patterson's son, who is bi-racial, was stopped for speeding in Aberdeen and harassed.
5. Mr. Steve Johnson, Chairman, Economic Development Commission;
Mr. Johnson said the EDC voted to approve the 6th Amendment Water document because without water, the City would not receive the benefits of BRAC. The Council was asked to support this document.
6. Mr. David Orr, President, Orr Partners;
Mr. Orr is the developer who is hoping to build 32 townhouses. He asked the Council to approve the 6th Amendment Water Agreement.
7. Ms. Sandra Pierce, 436 W. Bel Air Avenue;
Ms. Pierce noted that approval had been given for an extension on the Helton Property. The approval expired July 10, 2009 and the extension was granted in August 2009. The Aberdeen Development Code states that the Board of Appeals must grant the extension, not the Director of Planning & Community Development. The preliminary site plan and zoning change have not yet been approved.
8. Mr. Don Curry, 520 S. Rogers Street;
Mr. Curry supports the 6th Amendment Water Agreement and asked that "The Home of Opportunity" logo be used.
9. Ms. Hattie Rapsky, Girl Scout Leader;
Ms. Rapsky has 21 girls in her troop. One of them has been busy working on obtaining help for the homeless. However, a budget cut of \$10,000 made their job much more difficult. The City is being asked for any help they can give.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Resolution No. 09-R-08, Annexation Plan of Hiob Lane (For Introduction)

Ms. Grover said this is for the Chapel Estates development off of Bush Chapel Road. It consists of 9 properties totaling 70 acres which are zoned R-1 and R-2. The request is for 150 single family homes and will be an extension of Kretlow Drive.

Mayor Bennett indicated that this is the introduction for the resolution and the voting process will take place in the near future.

Council President Hiob mentioned that, while this property has his last name on it, he and his family are in no way involved.

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

1. Unfinished Business

A. 6th Amendment, Harford County Water Purchase Agreement (For Approval)

Mr. Miller said this Agreement with Harford County is to purchase a total of 900,000 gallons of water. The charge for the first 300,000 gallons would be just over \$5M when the water is available from the Abingdon plant. The expanded Abingdon Road water plant is anticipated to be online in November, 2011. An additional 600,000 gallons will be at our option if and when the County can get another raw water allocation from Baltimore City for the Abingdon plant. The Agreement was tabled until tonight for a decision.

Council President Hiob commented that regarding this Agreement, several members of the City Council were not given the opportunity to be involved yet, Art Helton, the developer, did attend the meetings. The first Agreement was tabled for these reasons: lack of time to review, change a due date on the Amendment in order have time to secure the loan, and to have a buy back clause added. With the changes that have been made, he is now in agreement with the Amendment.

Councilwoman Young thanked Mr. Miller and Mr. Lapinsky for their time and attention to detail which were involved with this issue.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the 6th Amendment, Harford County Water Purchase Agreement.

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

2. New Business – None

3. Business from the Director of Planning & Community Development

A. Preliminary Site Plan, Hampton Inn

Ms. Grover said this request is for a 105 room hotel which will be located next to the Clarion Hotel. The request was approved in 2006 by the Council. The Planning Commission gave their approval August, 2009.

Mr. Kevin Small with Fred Ward Associates said that approval was given September 2006 and has expired. Currently, the Subdivision work is moving forward. The Clarion Hotel rooms will number 130 and Code changes are the only ones on this Plan. Additional parking was required and has been added. Landscaping plans have been resubmitted to the Planning Commission for review.

Mayor Bennett asked if the Fire Department has approved this request. Ms. Grover said they have.

Council President Hiob asked about the impact to Barnett Lane. Mr. Small showed the area where the road would be widened on the hotel side and curbs and gutters added.

Councilwoman Young asked if water would be available for the sprinkler system. Mr. Small noted that water would be on site at all times. She stated that traffic off of Beards Hill Road is extensive and a safety problem. Mr. Small said most of the traffic would use Hospitality Way and Barnett Lane. Councilwoman Young asked how the storm water would be handled. Mr. Small said they would use sand filters.

A motion was made by Council President Hiob and seconded by Councilman Kupferman to approve the Preliminary Site Plan for the Hampton Inn.

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

B. Update on Community Development Block Grant – Use of Funds

Ms. Grover provided a handout showing how Block Grant Funds have and will be used from 1998 – 2010. After these repairs are made, a balance of \$96,356 will remain. The requirements for the projects were shown in order for them to qualify for the Block Grant Funds. Additionally, Ms. Grover recommended the following roads for paving: Morgan Alley from Roosevelt south to end, Baldwin Alley from Rigdon Road to end, Botts Alley from Brannan Road to Baldwin Alley, Baltimore Court from Baltimore Street to end, Grove Street from Old Post Road to Emerson Road, Williams Street from Baker Street to Mt. Royal Avenue. Also, funds appropriated for 2010 should be used for the Swan Meadows Conceptual Design for the infrastructure upgrades.

A motion was made by Council President Hiob and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the Update on Community Development Block Grant – Use of Funds.

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

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Rudy stated that the Police Department was to receive \$14,000 in Byrne Grant Funds for the SWAT Team. Captain Henry Trabert successfully completed a class taken with the FBI. Chief Rudy asked the residents who made public comment regarding the police officers to please meet with him after the meeting.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

Mr. Jack reported that Aberdeen is experiencing a reduction in State funding of \$525,000; as a result of this action the proposed Budget will need amending. He informed everyone that auditors were on site.

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Lapinsky reported that on September 10th, he met with representatives regarding a Maintenance Agreement. A meeting will be held on October 20, 2009, with City, County, and State representatives on the impact that Rt. 715 has on the City.

Mr. Lapinsky stated that the degasifiers were set last week and the plumbing is being completed.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller said the reduction in State Aid of \$525,000 may not be a final figure. Recommendations for reduction in spending will be held until a final amount is received. He reported that some employees have submitted very good ideas for cutting the Budget.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Ms. Adele Patterson, 1302 Rigby Hall Road;

Ms. Patterson asked that all complaints be considered. She is asking the Council to try to reconcile this situation. The Community and the Police must work together to fight crime.

2. Ms. Janice Grant, 428 Law Street;
Ms. Grant stated that she called Chief Rudy to relay the incident. She received calls from residents and told them to file complaints. They were told that this action could not be taken.

Ms. Grant reported that Harford County Christian groups have homes for men and women coming from the Detention Center. The groups are looking for clothes for these individuals to wear for job interviews.

3. Mr. Dwayne Dixon, 304 Brevard Court;
Mr. Dixon expressed appreciation with Chief Rudy's efforts to resolve these issues. He also thanked the Council and Staff for their help.
4. Ms. Karen Heavey, 634 W. Bel Air Avenue;
Ms. Heavey asked the Council to have the development scale meld with the areas of the City involved and that the Development Code may need to be changed.
5. Mr. Steve Johnson, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission;
Mr. Johnson said that regarding the CSX property there were four public meetings. The residential homeowners were aware they purchased homes next to a manufacturing lot which is in the Comprehensive Plan and within the Revitalization Zone.
6. Sandra Pierce, 436 W. Bel Air Avenue;
Ms. Pierce stated that she is not concerned with property rights. She feels that since M-1 zoning calls for a 100 ft. setback, any buildings on this property should adhere to this rule. She has no intentions of selling her home unless the structure is 25 ft. from her house.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council:

Councilwoman Elliott asked if the ENR Loan papers have been submitted.
Mr. Miller said he and Mr. Lapinsky along with engineers are reviewing the design issues and there is no final cost at this time.

Councilman Kupferman said the new Panera Bread Restaurant is an asset to the City. He noted that Rt. 22 and Beards Hill Road traffic would benefit from the extension of Middleton Lane. Currently, Rite Aid is building a store and the road would be extended.

Councilwoman Young stated that the Chapel Estates documents show several LLC's which should be identified. Ms. Grover said she has this information.

Councilwoman Young stated that the Consolidated Performance Document has been advertised in the newspapers. The Sectional Map Amendments were advertised in the Record about four times with a large advertisement. Councilwoman Young attended a board meeting last week with Harford Community Action Community regarding available services. The Energy Assistance Program helped 741 households in Aberdeen and there were other additional services available.

Council President Hiob noted that Mr. Helton owns the Johnson Pharmacy building and grounds. He attended the following; September 2 - attended a meeting with States Attorney General Gansler; September 12 - Unity in the Community, Festival Park; September 19 - attended Ball Drop Kick-Off; October 3 - dinner for the Boys and Girls Club.

2. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Bennett attended a meeting with the MML on September 18th in Emmitsburg regarding the state of the State of Maryland. Work is being done in cooperation with the State for funding requirements which are hitting the City hard. Every municipality is having the same problems which are huge issues for the State.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Council Meeting	Monday, October 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
Next Council Work Session	Monday, October 19, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.