

**Aberdeen Council Work Session
April 6, 2009**

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

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Randy Rudy, Chief of Police
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

The work session was called to order by Mayor Bennett in Council Chambers at 4:30 p.m.

1. Matters of Immediate Concern – None

2. Work Session:

A. Byrne Grant Review

Mr. Miller introduced Chief Rudy who gave the following presentation.

Chief Rudy requested the support of the Mayor and City Council in applying for the Byrne Grant for the purchase of nine (9) car digital test cameras. Currently, the Department is testing one of these items. They have been found to be officer-friendly and an aid in the investigation of automobile crashes. Other municipalities are currently being contacted for their opinions of this product. Police officers and other employees are proficient in the use of this system. Public input is welcomed on the website.

Chief Rudy informed the Mayor and City Council that the Police Department is applying for additional grants.

Mayor Bennett said the State Police have had good results with this system.

Council President Hiob asked if the system was permanently installed or portable. Mayor Bennett said it was permanently installed in the vehicle and would only be removed when the vehicle was taken out of service.

Councilwoman Young asked if a few would be available on each shift to which Chief Rudy responded that he hoped to do so.

B. Sprinkler System Exemption; Mobile Homes of Specific Definition

Mr. Miller stated that the City has been proactive with single family home sprinklers. However, there is concern with the mobile home industry because they said these systems are impossible to install. There is not enough room in the roof cavity for installation.

Council President Hiob said State and local Fire Departments have endorsed the installation of sprinkler systems in individual homes. These decisions have been good for occupant safety and Fire Department safety. The industry has been given one year to comply with the requirements. The City has two mobile home parks. He recommends leaving the City Code as it is.

Councilwoman Elliott asked what other areas have mobile home sprinklers. She asked if sprinkler systems could be installed after the unit was manufactured. Mayor Bennett said they could.

Mr. Miller said the object tonight was to decide whether the Council would like mobile home manufacturers to come before them for discussion.

Council President Hiob said that manufacturers are trying to save money over safety.

Mayor Bennett indicated that the question is whether the builders should present conversation on this issue. Currently, there are no new homes in the City parks due to the new regulations; only used units are being installed. It is a good idea to get all those involved in discussion on this issue. If this requirement stays in force, the mobile home parks will have to install new water lines. This issue could be scheduled for a summer meeting.

Councilwoman Young supports bringing the groups together for more in-depth discussion on Federal Codes, etc.

C. Budget

Mr. Miller noted that the FY 2010 Budget is the toughest one yet. Mr. Jack provided handouts: FY 10 Budget Highlights General Fund (As of April 6, 2009) and City of Aberdeen Operating and Capital Budgets Preliminary (Out of Balance) Fiscal Year 2010.

Mr. Miller did a line-by-line review of the FY 10 Budget Highlights for the General Fund. He emphasized the fact that there would be no employee raises and no layoffs or furloughs. Additionally, there would be no tax increases anticipated.

Councilwoman Elliott wants to see recent abatement arguments.

Council President Hiob asked the amount of the insurance increase. Mr. Miller will get the rate increase figures. He said the increase was due to the fact that the City was grossly underinsured.

Councilman Kupferman asked if the swimming pool and Ripken Stadium were for sale. Mr. Miller said not currently.

Councilwoman Elliott noted that the Ripken parking lot only has one layer of paved surface. Mr. Miller stated that he hopes a hotel tax (if passed) could be used for the Stadium. The current budget uses resources for the City and its residents, not the Stadium.

Councilman Kupferman indicated that there is no money in the “sinking fund” because approximately \$700,000 in property tax and A & A tax near Ripken Stadium never materialized.

Councilwoman Young stated that decisions were made based on this potential income, but never happened. The City was never able to afford the Stadium. Now the City must live with previous discussions and find positive ways to live with them.

Councilman Kupferman noted that in these economic times the City should get rid of the Stadium.

Council President Hiob said hindsight is 20/20 and some people are against everything. Decisions should be based on the best information available at the time.

Councilwoman Elliott feels the Council should listen to the people.

Mr. Miller presented the following meeting schedule:

April 28, 2009	Introduction of the Budget
May 11, 2009	Public Hearing on the Budget
June 1, 2009	Adoption of the Budget
June 11, 2009	Last Possible Date for Budget Adoption

3. Other Matters

Council President Hiob said there would be a Planning Commission Meeting on April 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Additionally, he will be attending a Fire Department Board Meeting tonight as the Council liaison. He asked when the Property Maintenance Code would be discussed. Mr. Miller said possibly in early summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.