

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting/Work Session
October 4, 2010**

Present: Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilman Garner,
Councilwoman Landbeck, and Councilwoman Young

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Monica Correll, City Clerk
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order in the Council Chambers at 4:00 p.m.

Under matters of immediate and urgent business, Councilman Garner motioned to close the meeting under the Open Meetings Act, Section 10-508 (a): (1) (i) the appointment, employment assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; and, (ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to close the meeting.

Attendance was confirmed by roll call. Roll call was then taken to close the meeting.

The motion was passed with a vote of 4 – yes and 1 – no.

**Ayes: Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilman Garner,
Councilwoman Landbeck**

Nays: Councilwoman Young

The Mayor deferred the closed session until after the work session items were concluded.

Work Session: Matters of Council Discussion

1. Harford Habitat for Humanity

Ms. Joann Blewett, Executive Director of Harford Habitat for Humanity, presented information on some new programs being initiated. She reported that 6 homes have been made available in Aberdeen. This year Habitat for Humanity has worked on 10 new homes and repaired 60 homes.

This Saturday, Oak Grove Baptist Church will sponsor the dedication for a new house. On October 22nd, another home will be ready for dedication. She provided a handout illustrating family histories.

Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative will be launched. Revitalization and Improvement programs are being made available for neighborhoods. Ms. Blewett asked for suggestions on

other neighborhoods which might need work. Suggestions from the Council were welcomed along with community volunteers. She noted that the Staff has suggested Washington Street as one area needing improvement. Some improvements available were: disability ramps, heating and air conditioning repairs, hot water heaters, etc.

Councilwoman Elliott commented on the great job done on Dorsey and Washington Streets. She asked the number of occupants in one residence. Ms. Blewett said there is no limit because the people own the homes and occupancy cannot be regulated.

Mr. Miller noted that Habitat is not responsible for the home after the person takes ownership.

Ms. Blewett added that inspection checks are done during the first 3 years. To date there are 51 homes with no foreclosures.

House Bill 850 is being considered to exempt taxes during construction and repairing homes.

Mayor Bennett asked the Council to submit their ideas for properties and land.

2. Emergency Management: Tropical Storm Nicole

Mr. Miller reported that the waste water treatment plant is rated for 4 million gallons per day. The current storm produced 6–9 inches of rain and the plant handled 13.5 million gallons per day. The workers were complimented and have one of the best operations in the State. Aberdeen is very proud of their work. Employees worked long hours during the storm. These issues are resulting in review of Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) in Aberdeen.

Councilman Garner asked if the State or County was contacted regarding the holding ponds at Mt. Royal Avenue.

Council President Young thanked Mr. Miller and City workers for staying all night during the storm.

3. Ethics: Adoption of Bowie-like Ordinance

Mr. Miller reported that the City is reviewing Codes throughout the State to be applied by the State Ethics Commission. A handout from Bowie was given to the Council for their review and Mr. Miller suggested using the Bowie document as a guide/model for Aberdeen. He asked the Council to review the Bowie Code for discussion at the next Work Session. Mayor Bennett stated that Senate Bill 315 requires the Ethics Law to meet or exceed State law.

4. Other Matters – None

The Council adjourned to Executive Session at 4:40 p.m., second floor administrative conference room.

Statement of Closed Session:

On October 4, 2010 at approximately 4:50 p.m. at City Hall, a closed session was held by the Mayor and City Council in the second floor administrative conference room. Members present were: Mayor Michael E. Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Landbeck, and Councilwoman Young. All members, with the exception of Councilwoman Young, voted by roll call in the affirmative to close the session. Also in attendance were: Douglas R. Miller, City Manager, and Monica A. Correll, City Clerk.

The session was held pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, Section 10-508 (a): (1) (i) the appointment, employment assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; and, (ii) any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. During this meeting the Mayor and City Council discussed the employment contract of Chief Randy Rudy for contract year starting January 24, 2011.

The following actions were taken during the session. A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilman Garner for non-renewal of Chief Randy Rudy's employment contract. By roll call, the following vote was taken: Mayor Bennett, Councilman Garner, and Councilwoman Landbeck voted yes; Councilwoman Elliott and Councilwoman Young voted no. The motion passed with a vote of three (3) in the affirmative and two (2) in the negative.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Monica A. Correll
City Clerk