

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting  
April 12, 2010**

**Present:** Mayor Bennett, Council President Young, Councilwoman Elliott,  
Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Landbeck

**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 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by Pastor Melvin Taylor of Word of Faith Outreach Ministries and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Landbeck.

**PRESENTATION:**

Ms. Jennifer Phelps with the Harford County Department of Community Services presented the Annual Action Plan Update. The details of the plan are available on their website and copies are at Harford County Public Libraries. The financial allocation for the City of Aberdeen for the fiscal year 2011 is \$108,300.

Council President Young thanked Ms. Phelps and noted that she is interested in seeing the difference after the 2011 Census is completed. Ms. Phelps stated that some families go through several of the agencies for help and said that courses are available for those interested in purchasing homes, obtaining additional education, etc.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2010 Council meeting as submitted. The motion was passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

1. Repeal and Enactment of the Charter of the City of Aberdeen

Mr. Miller reviewed the process for changing the Charter by Charter Amendment Resolution. One reading is required in order for the document to be adopted then a 40-day period is required for possible petition for referendum. If there is no

referendum, the document is effective 50 days after the passage. No public hearing is required, however, the Council decided to conduct one.

The City Manager and the Council discussed the proposed Charter changes: term of office and candidacy age requirements for the Mayor and Council members; the function of the Mayor as Chief Executive for the City; the function of the City Manager as Chief Operating Officer; appointment and removal of department heads; appointment and removal of the City Manager; the Mayor as primary signatory and City Manager as signatory if designated by Mayor; the Council President title eliminated; recall of elected officials; mandatory advertising procedures; qualifications of the City Manager; Clerk/Treasurer changed to Treasurer and City Clerk position; non-interference clause for elected officials; miscellaneous election changes; and budget submission clarification.

**Public Comment:**

1. Mr. Steve Johnson, Chair -Economic Development Commission;  
Mr. Johnson was in favor of the changes. The Charter must change with the City to give the City Manager, Mayor and City Council the authority to run the City.
2. Mr. Mike Hiob, Graceford Drive;  
Mr. Hiob agreed with most of the changes including 4-year terms but prefers staggered terms. He feels the City Manager should be able to remove an employee with cause with the approval of the Council and he wants the Council President title to remain.
3. Mr. Lance Hirsch, Titan Terrace;  
Mr. Hirsch favored the changes especially pertaining to the City Manager and 4-year terms. The checks and balances protect future generations.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Ms. Karen Heavey, W. Bel Air Avenue;  
Ms. Heavey asked if there would be an application fee when registering for the recoupment fee and what the Council responsibility would be on this issue.
2. Mr. Mike Hiob, Graceford Drive;  
Mr. Hiob announced various Aberdeen events.

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

1. Ordinance No. 10-O-05, Recoupment Legislation (For Adoption)

Mr. Miller noted that this action mirrors the one which is in effect in Harford County. When a private developer builds infrastructure and others use it, the original developer can recoup a portion of their cost. This enables the City to have

infrastructure built with private dollars. He noted that, currently, there is no application fee but the matter is being studied. The fees would be determined by the types of development involved.

A motion was made by Council President Young and seconded by Councilman Garner to approve Ordinance No. 10-O-05, Recoupment Legislation.

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

**Ayes: Mayor Bennett, Council President Young, Councilwoman Landbeck, and Councilman Garner**

**Nays: Councilwoman Elliott**

**BUSINESS OF THE CITY:**

1. Unfinished Business – None
2. New Business – None
3. Business from the Director of Planning & Community Development
  - a. Final Subdivision Plat for the Lands of CSX Transportation, Inc.

Ms. Grover stated that the subject property's address is 404 W. Bel Air Avenue. Preliminary approval was received in January to determine the location of Lot 1. The Planning Commission approved B-3 zoning, Highway Commercial. Mr. Joseph Welsh, the engineer on the project, noted that 1/3 acre of land was donated by CSX. The donation was to the Harford County Historical Society and the Aberdeen Room.

Council President Young asked who owns the property. Mr. Welsh said CSX was the owner who deeded the property to the Historical Society.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve the Final Subdivision Plat for the Lands of CSX Transportation, Inc.

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

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Rudy reported on current crime. He also stated that all in-service training had been completed by the Aberdeen Police.

5. Business from the Director of Finance

Mr. Jack submitted a request to the Council for approval of the FY 2010 Budget Amendments.

General Fund (Snow Removal)	\$92,129	Funded with Rainy Day Funds
Water Fund	\$522,000	Funded with CDA Loan
Carry-over of FY 2009 Water Infrastructure Projects		
Sewer Fund		
Feasibility Study	\$75,000	Funded with grant from the State
Feasibility Study	\$15,000	Funded with grant from the State

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve the Budget Amendment.

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

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Lapinsky distributed copies of the sweeper schedule and noted that it is available on the website.

a. Water and Sewer Master Plan Update

Mr. Lapinsky reviewed the Spring 2010 Water and Sewer Master Plan for the Council and residents. This report included tables of inventory of existing community and multi-use sources (treatment plants and distribution centers); planned water works (immediate, 5-year and 10-year priorities); planned capital sewerage projects (immediate, 5-year and 10-year priorities).

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller said the Work Session on April 19 will address the City Charter and the FY 2011 Budget.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Ms. Karen Heavey, W. Bel Air Avenue;  
Ms. Heavey made positive comments about the Water and Sewer Master Plan presentation and the new website.

**BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. Business from the City Council

The Council members reported on their activities, conferences, and events attended.

2. Business from the Mayor

Mayor Bennett reported on some of the meetings he attended along with other Council members such as a Chesapeake Science Security Corridor meeting, Northern Maryland Technology Council luncheon, opening of the John H. Myers & Son lumber yard, and the opening of Sherwin-Williams Paint store. The Mayor announced that the City received a grant totaling \$26,650 to enable energy efficiency in low to moderate households.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Next Council Work Session: Monday, April 19, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

Next Council Meeting: Monday, April 26, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

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