

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting
August 23, 2010**

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

Absent: Councilwoman Landbeck

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

Mayor Bennett called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. The prayer was led by Mayor Bennett and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Young.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2010 meeting as submitted.

The motion passed with a vote of 4 – yes, 1 – absent.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Presentation by Aberdeen Heritage Trust of Historic Yard Plaques - Ruth Hendricksen

Ruth Hendricksen, Heritage Trust chairperson, and Dr. Nancy Backus, member, presented historic yard plaques to qualifying homeowners whose homes will be recorded in the Maryland Historical Trust National Register of Historic Places. Dr. Nancy Backus invited contributions for a future book titled, "Aberdeen: A Step Back".

2. Presentation by SARC (Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center) - Stacey Beard

Ms. Stacey Beard explained the services offered by SARC which serves Harford County providing a confidential safe house, 24-hour help line, counseling, among many other services. Its goal is to end domestic violence and sexual assault. SARC sends donations of older cell phones to Shelter Alliance, a cell phone recycling company located in Florida. Newer cell phones are given to victims to use to call emergency 911. Mayor Bennett, with the aid of Mr. Lapinsky, presented to Ms. Beard a box of eighty-five inoperative cell phones from the City of Aberdeen to aid this program.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Mr. William Cronin, Mt. Royal Avenue;
Mr. Cronin asked that the second comment section be restored to the agenda.
2. Mr. Michael Hiob, Graceford Drive;
Mr. Hiob asked for the second comment section to be restored to the agenda. He asked the City to request the State Highway Administration (SHA) to complete the work on the Route 22/Beards Hill Road intersection traffic light signals. Mr. Hiob expressed his opinions about hiring special counsel in City matters, especially concerning Aberdeen Proving Grounds and Ripken Stadium.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

1. Resolution No. 10-R-09, Community Legacy Grant FY 2010 (For Introduction and Adoption)

Ms. Phyllis Grover explained that the City is applying to the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development for the Community Legacy Program. Aberdeen has a community legacy area and has used a previous grant for façade improvements. The current grant application is for \$100,000.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Young to approve Resolution No. 10-R-09, Community Legacy Grant FY 2010 up to the amount of \$100,000.

The motion passed with a vote of 4 – yes, 1 – absent.

2. Ordinance No. 10-O-12, Code Adoption (For Adoption)

Mr. Miller said that every ten years it is advisable for the City to undertake recodification of its Codebook which is a modernization and correction process done by City staff through the Code publisher. This does not add or delete any regulations and the Codebook is in compliance with State regulations.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve Ordinance No. 10-O-12, Code Adoption.

The motion passed with a vote of 4 – yes, 1 – absent.

3. Ordinance No. 10-O-14, Repeal and Re-Authorize Borrowing for ENR Upgrade (For Introduction)

Mayor Bennett introduced Ordinance No. 10-O-14.

Mr. Miller explained that in June 2010, the Council adopted an ordinance that allowed the borrowing of up to \$10 million through a State revolving loan fund for Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) Upgrade Technology for the waste water treatment plant. Nine million was the projected amount needed for the upgrade, but the opportunity to reduce the expenditure down to a \$7.5 million obligation is possible through two loans. After ten years of prompt payment, \$1.5 million would be forgiven. The interest rate would be 1% with a \$20,000 per year administrative fee to the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). The indebtedness is paid through the ENR flat fee on the water/sewer bills to be adjusted accordingly. Any changes to construction and the loan amount can be handled by the Mayor.

4. Charter Resolution No. 09-CR-04, 952 Gilbert Road (For Adoption)

Mr. Miller stated that both Charter Amendment Resolutions are ready for adoption and the annexation agreements for each have been passed and also signed by the petitioners. After passage, there is a 45-day period allowing for possible petitions for referendum. If there are no petitions, the resolutions become effective.

Ms. Grover described the property at 952 Gilbert Road which is on Harford County tax map 51, parcel 751, two tracks 926, lots 1 and 2, totally 8.62 acres, and zoning is integrated business district (IBD).

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Garner to approve Charter Resolution No. 09-CR-04, 952 Gilbert Road.

The motion passed with a vote of 4 – yes, 1 – absent.

5. Charter Resolution No. 09-CR-03, Estate of Nellie Virginia Scotten/NC Venture, LLC (For Adoption)

Ms. Grover described the estate of Nellie Virginia Scotten/NC Venture, LLC property which adjoins 952 Gilbert Road, on Harford County tax map 51, parcel 926, lots 3 and 4, contains .434 acres, and zoning is integrated business district (IBD).

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve Charter Resolution No. 09-CR-03, Estate of Nellie Virginia Scotten/NC Venture, LLC.

The motion passed with a vote of 4 – yes, 1 – absent.

BUSINESS OF THE CITY:

1. Unfinished Business – None
2. New Business – None

3. Business from the Director of Planning & Community Development

Ms. Grover said the Planning Commission Meeting will be held on September 15 instead of September 8 at 7:00 p.m.

4. Business from the Chief of Police

The Chief reported on minor thefts and asked residents to lock their cars. The U.S. Marshall invited Aberdeen Police to participate in Badges for Baseball event to be held at Ripken Stadium to mentor at-risk youth.

5. Business from the Director of Finance - None

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

a) Watershed Protection Signs

Mr. Lapinsky explained that the Maryland Rural Water Association and MDE obtained a grant and developed the blue water protection area signs to delineate and show where the wellhead protection areas are located to help save our water. Currently, Aberdeen has sixteen signs in position and four more are planned. Efforts are also being made to replenish the aquifers and educate the community.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller reviewed the history of the City of Aberdeen's ownership and operation of the APG water and sewer systems. About 12 years ago, the City participated in a competitive process and won. The contract was predicated on the fact that the City would own and operate the Chapel Hill Water Treatment Plant with the raw water drawn from Deer Creek. Since then, Colonel Ortiz requested this facility be shut down and that the City obtains the APG water from the Harford County water system; the capital cost for this was paid years ago.

The City is concerned that according to the contract, the City guaranteed to APG a certain flow, pressure, and quality of water and due to the conversion of the system, the City cannot meet basic components agreed to many years ago. On the suggestion of the City attorney, special counsel was hired with expertise in government contracts to work with the Base. This was done to deliver what APG needs as well as protect the City. The City's relationship with the base has been very good and not adversarial.

BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

1. Business from the City Council

Councilwoman Elliott congratulated the Odyssey Hair Salon for 35 years of service.

Councilman Garner attended the Parks and Recreation meeting. Regarding North Deen Park, DPW would place more trash barrels there although this is the responsibility of the County; the Chief was asked for more police patrol for this area. Councilman Garner discussed the pedestrian crossing sign problems near the Fairbrooke Apartments and the process of installing signs and correcting crosswalk issues. A Fairbrooke Apartment representative requested a State flag. Councilman Garner clarified that special counsel was hired by the City for Federal contract help and not for personnel issues. This was confirmed by Mr. Miller.

Councilwoman Young thanked DPW for the cleanup work done to Bel Air Avenue. She encouraged the business owners to help keep the area clean. Councilwoman Young, Councilwoman Elliott, and Councilwoman Landbeck attended the grand opening of the Goldstar Diner Restaurant. Councilwoman Young and Chief Rudy visited Office Eagle Store on Post and discussed the 15-year anniversary of the AbilityOne Base Supply Center Program.

2. Business from the Mayor

The Mayor attended the Maryland Association of Counties (MACo) Annual Conference in Ocean City on behalf of and funded through the Maryland Municipal League (MML). As President-elect, he represented MML President Gary Comegys, who could not attend due to health issues. The MACo President this year is Harford County Executive, David Craig. The Mayor attended the Ripken Stadium Championship Game, then attended a double Eagle Scout ceremony at Webster Church and presented a proclamation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next Council Meeting: Monday, September 13, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Next Council Work Session: Monday, September 20, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Garner to adjourn the meeting. By unanimous agreement the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.