

**City of Aberdeen Council Meeting  
November 29, 2010**

**Present:** Mayor Bennett, Councilwoman Elliott, Councilman Garner,  
Councilwoman Landbeck, 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  
Captain Henry Trabert, 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 Father William Foley, St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Young.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve the minutes of the November 15, 2010 Council meeting as submitted.

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

**PRESENTATIONS:**

1. Ripken Stadium Management Board 2009 Annual Report – John Gessner

Mr. John Gessner, Chair of the Ripken Stadium Management Board (RSMB), presented an Annual Report summation. He explained that revenues were down due to the economy but that the Bob Dylan Live concert helped revenues. The time-consuming Stadium maintenance plan negotiations yielded a good comprehensive plan. Even though the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) goal of generating at least \$55,000 per year from Stadium events was not reached, the Board decided to keep the MOU in place. The Board is concerned about the ability to provide for future capital improvements and major maintenance. The Council followed with comments.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

1. Mr. Avery Mabe, Bernice Terrace, Aberdeen;  
Mr. Mabe remarked on the responsibility issues concerning a backup which occurred at his house. The Mayor explained that the homeowner is responsible for the area from the house to the main and that his backup was within this area, specifically the cleanout.

2. Mr. Bernard Callahan, Stepney Road;  
Mr. Callahan expressed his dissatisfaction on a recent sobriety checkpoint.
3. Ms. Karen Heavey, West Bel Air Avenue;  
Ms. Heavey asked for clarification on Ordinance No. 10-O-04 amending the Aberdeen Police Department pension plan regarding military service eligibility.

**LEGISLATIVE SESSION:**

1. Ordinance No. 10-O-16, Identity Theft Prevention (For Adoption)

Mr. Miller explained that it is federally mandated that we adopt theft identification procedures relative to credit card payments. The City accepts credit card payments for water and sewer bills.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilman Garner to approve Ordinance No. 10-O-16, Identity Theft Prevention.

**The motion was passed with a vote of 5 – 0.**

2. Resolution No. 10-R-04, Aberdeen Police Department (APD) Pension Plan Amendments (For Introduction and Adoption)

Mayor Bennett introduced the Resolution. Mr. Miller explained that this resolution would create three provisions: 1) the distribution of the APD employee's contribution into the plan if the officer separates from the City before retirement; 2) allows for some of the employee's military service to be added to the officer's tenure; and, 3) provides for death and disability benefits for an officer if called to active duty.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve Resolution No. 10-R-04, APD Pension Plan Amendments.

The Council clarified that this would not be an additional expenditure to the City.

**The motion was passed with a vote of 5-0.**

3. Resolution No. 10-R-17, Resolution to Ratify the Appointment and Tenure of the City Clerk (For Introduction and Adoption)

Mayor Bennett introduced the Resolution. Mr. Miller explained that the City is in the process of borrowing \$9 million through Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) for the enhanced nutrient removal (ENR) technology upgrade of the waste water treatment plant. MDE bond counsel has certain loan qualification requirements and requested the ratification of Monica Correll's appointment as City Clerk on March 19, 2007.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve Resolution No. 19-R-17, Resolution to Ratify the Appointment and Tenure of the City Clerk.

Councilwoman Elliott, the only elected official in office during that period of time, confirmed Ms. Correll's tenure as City Clerk.

**The motion was passed with a vote of 5-0.**

**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 471 Paradise Road

Ms. Grover stated there is an existing home on the property and the two exiting lots are being reconfigured for the location of the lot lines. They are zoned R-1, single family residential and the two newly created lots meet development code requirements for the R-1 zoning districts. The preliminary subdivision plat was approved by the Council in September, 2010 and the final subdivision plat was recommended by the Planning Commission at their November, 2010 meeting. Mr. Welsh of Welsh Engineering was present for questions from the Council. There were no questions of Mr. Welsh. All conditional changes were fulfilled per Mr. Lapinsky. The Council discussed the snow removal and trash pickup.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Landbeck and seconded by Councilwoman Elliott to approve the Final Subdivision Plat for 471 Paradise Road.

**The motion was passed with a vote of 5-0.**

Ms. Grover announced that the City will receive \$40,000 from the 2010 Empowering Clean Energy Communities Grant and the money will be available early next year to assist eligible homeowners make their homes energy efficient.

4. Business from the Chief of Police

Chief Trabert will meet with Mr. Callahan regarding his complaints during public comment.

5. Business from the Director of Finance
  - a. Request for Bid Approval

Mr. Jack requested bid approval for Capital Software, Inc. in the amount of \$33,426 for the purchase, installation, configuration, and training for a Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Application. The current system is thirteen years old and the new one will provide more functionality, flexibility, and total control of the tax process rather than depending on Harford County Government. This was followed by Council discussion.

A motion was made by Councilman Garner and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to approve the bid award to Capital Software, Inc. in the amount of \$33,426.

**The motion was passed with a vote of 5-0.**

6. Business from the Director of Public Works

Mr. Lapinsky reported on a future ENR update meeting and that Swan Meadows work has been started. He asked the public to stay a safe distance away from work zones.

7. Business from the City Manager

Mr. Miller said that there is one planned Council meeting on December 20, 2010 which includes the Christmas Street awards followed by refreshments. January and February, 2011 Council meeting dates will be altered.

**BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

1. Business from the City Council

The Council encouraged patronizing the Lions Club Christmas tree sale. Congratulations were extended to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cromwell on their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. The Council clarified that the Ripken Stadium Maintenance Plan was in place and that mold and waterproofing work will be performed. The current administration is responsible for getting the maintenance plan in service.

2. Business from the Mayor

The Mayor invited everyone to attend the next Council meeting on December 20 and to join them afterwards for refreshments. He will miss the Christmas Street events on Saturday, December 4, for the first time due to attending the National League of Cities Conference in Denver, Colorado.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Christmas Street Celebration: Saturday, December 4, 2010

Next Council Meeting: Monday, December 20, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Councilwoman Elliott and seconded by Councilwoman Landbeck to adjourn the meeting. By unanimous agreement the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.