

**City of Aberdeen**  
**Council Work Session**  
**May 17, 2010**

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

**Also Present:** Douglas Miller, City Manager  
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance  
Monica Correll, City Clerk  
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

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

1. Matters of Immediate and Urgent Business - None

Mr. Miller noted that introduction was to have taken place regarding the borrowing of \$9 million dollars for the Waste Water Treatment Plant; however, the City is still conferring with the City Attorney.

2. Work Session; Matters for Council Discussion

Fiscal

Mr. Miller said budget discussions will take place at this meeting and if everything meets with the Council's approval a vote will be taken at the next Council meeting.

The following are Council comments and issues discussed on the budget.

Councilwoman Elliott:

- MML (Maryland Municipal League) Conference expenses too high
- Eliminate the volunteers dinner
- Legal Counsel should have a contract
- IT for Government Buildings
- Increase in insurance premiums
- Boys & Girls Club funds should be reduced
- Aberdeen Room funds should be restored
- Army Alliance
- Health & safety costs
- Police Department expenses excessive
- Public Works.

Councilman Garner:

- Current expenses to the City for the Stadium
- Availability of funds for Stadium improvements
- Police overtime reductions
- Health insurance increases.

Councilwoman Young:

- General cuts cannot be made without cutting services
- Aberdeen Room receives much more money than \$2,000
- Stadium was not affordable initially – money is needed for upcoming repairs.

Councilwoman Landbeck:

- Council cannot make cuts in budget without justification
- MML is essential
- Volunteer dinner necessary
- Other expenses cannot be predicted.

Mayor Bennett stated that the Maryland Municipal League (MML) Convention consists of classes, meeting with peers on similar issues, and viewing new equipment. These contacts are essential to keeping informed and being able to obtain County, State and some Federal funds. He favors keeping the volunteer dinner. Cuts in this budget are \$452,239 less than last year and he is comfortable with this budget.

Councilwoman Landbeck suggested that organizations which receive money must submit an accounting on how the funds were spent. When they request money for the next year they must detail how it will be spent. She asked if Police overtime money could be transferred if any remains. Mr. Miller stated that this can be done in the fourth quarter.

Mr. Miller said the City's goals are not to reduce services and to keep employees working without layoffs or furloughs. He noted that 63% of budget costs relate to people.

Councilman Garner recently had a discussion during a MML meeting with Dave Malkowski, a State engineer, and as a result, the City is having spaces striped free of charge. Additionally, they are not paying engineering fees for this project. Councilman Garner said this proves that interaction with people at the MML meetings is worthwhile for helping the City.

Councilwoman Elliott is recommending that the Homestead Credit be reduced to \$123,000.

Mayor Bennett asked why this request is just being made. The State funds paid to the City are being reduced by \$615,000 in addition to Police cuts. He asked how an additional \$123,000 could be cut.

Mr. Miller noted that more discussion on the Budget was necessary and would be continued at the Council meeting on Monday.

### 3. Other Matters - None

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.