

**City of Aberdeen
Council Work Session
July 19, 2010**

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
Theresa Hartman, Human Resources
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

2. Work Session: Matters of Council Discussion

A. Planning

1. Property Maintenance Code – Phyllis Grover

Ms. Grover referred to Ordinance No. 10-O-11. She stated that there are multiple code places for property issues, i.e., demolition and liability. The existing City Code and the International Property Maintenance Code can be combined for the exterior of properties only. Other provisions can be added as suggested. Ms. Grover said a sound document is being submitted with provisions and items for approval.

Mayor Bennett asked what would happen if the police determined the interior of a house to be unhealthy and unlivable. Ms. Grover stated then it could be referred to the Health Department, Social Services, etc.

Councilwoman Young indicated that the following should be noted in the document: wood pile dimensions, grass being blown into the street, tall weeds at the end of streets, maintenance of storm water ponds, etc.

Mayor Bennett said the Economic Development Committee is sending letters to businesses regarding maintenance of the area around their stores and offices.

Councilwoman Elliott mentioned the following issues: wood piled next to a house, vacant properties not being maintained, site distance problem with weeds, etc.

2. Camera Installation at the Time of Subdivision

Mr. Miller stated that the installation of a closed circuit observation room in the Police Department never materialized. He asked the Council to determine if developers should still be required to install cameras in their developments.

Councilwoman Young said high risk areas should definitely have cameras installed.

B. Personnel

1. Amendments to Police Pension System – Theresa Hartman

Mr. Miller reported that currently, the City has three retirement systems, two of these are the ICMRC which has defined guidelines and is a Contribution Plan, the Police Pension System is a defined benefit program. An amendment is being considered which would allow an officer to buy into the system if they are hired by the City from another law enforcement system. This will help with recruitment and long-term employment.

Ms. Hartman stated that Resolution No. 10-R-04 is administrative and the 5th amendment suggests changes. There should not be a cost to the City and is for retirement purposes only.

Councilwoman Landbeck noted that this is not an unusual occurrence.

Councilwoman Young asked how many officers this would involve. Ms. Hartman said only seven or eight. Councilwoman Young asked how long the officers would have to pay the money. Mr. Miller indicated that no time period has yet been determined. He noted that this would be discussed and returned to the Council at a later date.

2. General Discussion on Benefits at Separation

Mr. Miller discussed the reimbursement for sick and vacation time at the time of retirement. The possibility of offering “early outs” with incentives could also be considered.

Mayor Bennett indicated that these offerings need more consideration and should be pursued.

C. Announcements

1. Closing of DHCD Loan

The issue of purchasing water from the County is coming to a close.

2. ENR Loan Principal Forgiveness

The amount of money from the Disadvantaged Commission Designation has been reduced from \$9,000,000 to \$7,500,000.

3. Executive Session (August 2)

a. Annexation Agreement; Hiob Lane Annexation

The Bosworth Hiob Lane issue will be considered at this meeting.

b. Sale of Real Estate

The sale of the property located at Rt. 22 and Old Post Road will be discussed.

4. August Schedule

Executive Session – August 2, 2010

Work Session Cancelled – August 16, 2010

Council Meeting Cancelled – August 30, 2010

5. Mayor Bennett mentioned having a Branding Kickoff to attract new businesses.

6. Mr. Miller requested approval of the Council for the purchase of a new pool vehicle. He said a used vehicle would be considered in lieu of a new one.

Councilwoman Young asked how much money would be required. Mr. Miller indicated that the cost could be between \$22,000 and \$23,000.

4. Other Matters

Councilman Garner received a letter signed by eight homeowners on Dorsey Street who are upset because of low income housing coming to their area.

Councilwoman Landbeck said this issue may be illegal.

Mayor Bennett noted that the residents would receive a letter from the City.

Councilwoman Young was concerned with annexations being part of an LLC. She felt that all parties involved should be identified. The City attorney will be asked for an opinion on this issue. She also mentioned that the City needs an adequate public facilities ordinance. The bell, previously hung in the Council chambers, should be offered for sale for more than \$200.

5. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.