

**City of Aberdeen
Council Work Session
January 20, 2010**

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager
Opiribo Jack, Director of Finance
Phyllis Grover, Director of Planning and Community Development
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
2. Work Session: Matters of Council Discussion

- a. Financial

Mr. Jack and Mr. Miller reviewed the following financial issues facing the City:

- 1) Schedule for ENR Upgrade
- 2) Reviewed Amortization
- 3) Financial Explanation to Rate Payers
- 4) City Attorney presentation of Water Allocation Policy
- 5) Capital Connection Fee Update
- 6) FY 10 Budget Amendment
- 7) Police items to be added to Budget from the General Fund.

The General Fund increased by \$15,365; the General Fund increased by \$521,686; and the Water Fund increased by \$1,327,907. There will be a FY 2010 Budget Amendment which will be funded with grants and loans and not require funding by the City. The City of Aberdeen is scheduled to lose \$614,407 in State and County Revenue.

- b. Planning

1. Ms. Grover and Mr. Miller presented issues regarding proposed Auction Houses in the City.

Mayor Bennett noted that the property in question is the Gilmer Property. Currently, there are approximately 250 vehicles at this location. Ms. Grover stated that the Board of Appeals can set requirements to improve appearance. Amendments could be put in place for the future, not the current case. Parking was also mentioned as a potential problem. Ms. Grover listed the following

issues which should be addressed: parking for bidders, screening for outside storage, and a Board of Appeals Special Exception.

2. Preliminary Discussion on Hiob Lane Annexation Agreement

Mr. Miller noted that an Annexation Agreement is not mandatory and is a simple contract which can be recorded in the Land Records of Harford County. Prior to HB 1141 this could be done administratively.

c. Planning

1. Subdivision and Site Plan Approval

Mr. Miller stated that Subdivision and Site Plan approval final decisions would be made by the Planning Commission. An appeals process could be set up for the future. This process could save approximately 30 – 60 days compared to the current process.

Ms. Grover indicated that the City Code could be amended for the Planning Commission to implement this change. The City Council would still receive copies of the proposals being submitted for a decision by the Planning Commission.

2. Code of Conduct

Mr. Miller said the Code of Conduct for an Elected Body could split the Executive function between the Mayor and City Manager.

3. Ethics Revision

Chapter 9 in the Code is antiquated and is being revised.

4. Appointments and Liaisons

Mayor Bennett announced the following appointments:

- Appearance and Preservation – Council President Young
- Economic Development Commission – Mayor Bennett
- Architectural Review – Ms. Grover
- Elections – Ms. Correll
- Ethics – Ms. Correll
- Heritage Trust – Councilwoman Elliott
- Parks & Recreation – Councilman Garner
- Ripken Management Board – Councilman Garner
- Fire Department – Mayor Bennett
- Appeals Board – Pastor Melvin Taylor

5. Council Docket

A copy of the proposed Council Docket and FY 2010 Budget Schedule was distributed.

d. Legal

1. Water Allocation Policy - No action.

3. Other Matters

- a. The Harford County Elected Officials Meeting is scheduled in Havre de Grace tonight.
- b. Harford County Night in Annapolis is scheduled for January 21.
- c. Delegate Riley will be introducing two bills on the hotel tax. One will be mandatory and the other will be for the authority to impose a 5% tax.
- d. The City of Aberdeen will be awarded the Banner City Award at a work session in February.
- e. On Tuesday, January 21, the City will open bids for the Enhanced Nutrient Removal Upgrade.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.