

**City of Aberdeen
Council Work Session
February 7, 2011**

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
Henry Trabert, Chief of Police
Monica Correll, City Clerk
Doris Manner, Recording Secretary

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

1. Matters of Immediate and Urgent Business - None
2. Work Session: Matters of Council Discussion

A. Planning

1. Mayor Bennett mentioned that meetings were held in Annapolis with Delegates James and Impallaria regarding the hotel tax. Senator Jacobs is a supporter of this tax. Mayor Bennett stated that additional details will be available at a later date because this issue is a “work in progress”.
2. Discussion of Public Comment; ATC Annexation

Mr. Miller stated that public hearings have been held on the Aberdeen Technology Campus, LLC and Rt. 22 Properties (ATC) annexation plan. The petitioner does not want to build the core water and sewer which is required. An annexation agreement would guarantee a specific amount of water for use.

Councilwoman Young was troubled by the proposed changes, i.e., billing fairness, information submitted to homeowners, etc. She envisions change with construction across from homeowners. Mr. Snee, attorney for the developer, stated that these homes may not need annexation.

Councilwoman Landbeck stated that Mr. Snee wants the City to pay for water and sewer along Rt. 22. There is no State of Maryland designation. The City should determine if the subject property should be involved. The Planning Commission disagrees with Mr. Snee’s proposal and feels that the houses across the street must be involved in the annexation process.

Mr. Miller noted that a vote could be taken on the Annexation Plan on February 14, 2011.

3. Discussion of Public Comment; Fortune-Telling

Mr. Miller said that fortune-telling is not currently permitted in the zoning district, but could be designated as a specific use.

Ms. Grover stated that a building permit could not be issued for this purpose.

Mayor Bennett mentioned that the Council's decision is based on legal issues. The Council discussed various concerns including about permits, signage, hours of operation, and objectors to the business.

Mr. Miller noted that this item will be before the Council at the February 14 Council meeting.

4. Update; Merritt Properties Project

Ms. Grover noted that this property is located on Middleton Lane and Route 22. The request was approved by the Mayor and Council in 2009. The buildings are being marketed for retail, restaurants, and an athletic club.

Mr. Miller stated that this is a professional group and has been great to work with.

B. Public Works

1. I & I Update/Sump Pumps

Mr. Miller indicated that 50% of Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) is from private systems and owners are being requested to correct these issues and Mr. Lapinsky said the private sources are easy to correct.

Mr. Quesenberry gave a PowerPoint presentation showing system smoke testing and that private sources include uncapped clean-outs, sump pumps, foundation drains, etc. cause drainage problems which result in flooding. Several studies confirm that private residences are a major problem. Maryland Environmental Services (MES) requires a plan to correct this issue. By solving these issues, the Waste Water Treatment Plant could increase its capacity. Mr. Lapinsky stated that the City could benefit financially by fixing this problem.

Councilman Garner was surprised by the large number of clean-outs which are uncapped.

C. Personnel

1. APD Pension Revisions

This item was deferred to the next work session.

2. Salary Increase Authorization

Mr. Miller said that any Council salary increase would be applied to their successors who will have 4-year terms. They discussed a possible salary cap and organizing a citizen committee.

D. Legislation

1. Ethics Chapter

Mr. Miller asked if the Council wanted to suggest changes tonight or would like more time. The Council needed more time on this issue.

3. Other Matters

Mayor Bennett said the Auto Auction agreed to place slats in their fence so cars would not be visible from the outside. Mr. Miller will check on this problem.

Mayor Bennett reported that Maryland Municipal League (MML) leadership will meet with Governor O'Malley regarding highway user funds being reduced and the resulting problems.

3. Adjournment

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