

**City of Aberdeen**  
**Council Work Session**  
**February 7, 2012**

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

Absent: None

Also Present: Douglas Miller, City Manager  
Matthew Lapinsky, Director of Public Works  
Henry Trabert, Chief of Police  
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
  - a. Organization of the Council; Repeal of Council Liaisons

Mr. Miller said the Council has liaisons for Economic Development Commission, Heritage Trust, Parks & Recreation, and the Planning Commission. He asked for input from the Council regarding the need for liaisons from the Council.

Councilwoman Young stated that she attends many meetings and sees no need for a liaison person. Councilwoman Landbeck felt that no liaison is needed since they have no voting power. A provision is necessary for cooperation between the Planning Commission and the Council because they should work together. She suggested that the Planning Commission send a liaison to the Council Work Sessions.

Mayor Bennett noted that the Committee Chairperson or an appointee should report to the Council Meeting regularly, at least one time per quarter with issues and updates. This is particularly important when City funding is being requested. Councilwoman Landbeck said the Council uses documents sent by the Planning Commission and may need their input on some issues. Councilwoman Elliott asked if minutes will still be sent to the Council as required and the Mayor answered in the affirmative.

- b. Retreat

Mr. Miller reported that the Council Retreat will be held March 3, 2012, from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 3:00 p.m. in the Cal Ripken, Sr. Yard Board Room.

The Council members should be ready to discuss what they wish to accomplish including multi-year projects, other Committee objectives, involvement of the Planning Commission, and the vision of the Council for the next three years.

c. Suggested Changes to Election Chapter

Mr. Miller presented suggestions be considered at a later Work Session.

d. Discussion of Public Comment on Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna (HHS) Tax Ordinance

Mr. Miller reported that during the 2011 General Assembly, the Council was granted the power through enabling legislation, HB 558, to grant HHS tax forgiveness.

Councilwoman Elliott asked if a total of 100% forgiveness is required. Mr. Miller will check to see if reduced taxes can be awarded. She also noted that the City should not be paying for water and sewer related charges. Councilman Garner asked the approximate costs of property acquired by HHS. Mr. Miller estimated these cost and said that the City receives yearly reports from HHS containing this information.

e. Planning Commission Agenda

Mr. Miller said that the Council renders decisions based on the Planning Commission recommendations and sometimes the Council does this without adequate information. The current petitions, annexations, etc. were summarized.

f. FY 13 Budget Schedule

Mr. Miller discussed the FY 13 budget schedule. The Council was informed that Aberdeen was reassessed and that property values were down and as a result, taxes would be lower. He noted that these are difficult budget times. Mayor Bennett said budget information will be shared at weekly meetings.

g. Trash Collection Schedule and Flier

A preliminary schedule was distributed to the Council and Mr. Lapinsky said the final draft would be available soon.

h. Tobacco Free Facilities

Mr. Miller noted that smoking is not allowed in City-owned vehicles or inside City buildings, but there are designated smoking areas available. Harford County does not permit smoking in the County-owned indoor or outdoor facilities. This will be reviewed by the Council relative to the park area, etc.

i. APG/Harford County/City of Aberdeen Water Agreement

Mr. Miller noted that there is activity on the Enhanced Use Lease at APG and that more water is required. Harford County has agreed to loan them up to 500,000 gallons of water to APG per day. Building 250 is to be online in about 5 years to serve APG. The City is involved in a 3-way Memorandum of Understanding for the County to loan water to APG through Aberdeen.

j. Foresting Wellfield

Mr. Miller reported that the forested wellfield area has not been managed in the past. This is an ecologically sensitive project that the City wants to maintain. The timber identified will be sold. These 3 steps will be used: 1) identify forest area with field identification of trees to be cut; 2) Council will be informed of the number of trees indicated and their value; 3) the Council will declare the trees surplus and solicit bids. There will be no initial cost to the City.

3. Other Business

The Council discussed a traffic study report with Chief Trabert who responded that no study was done but only a street-by-street evaluation. He noted that priority is being given to school areas. The Council expressed concern over the Rt. 22 from Beards Hill Road to APG area speed limit which is exceeded most of the time. They are afraid that children will be harmed or killed. Mr. Miller will work with a State Engineer to address this issue because this is a State road.

4. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.