

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2016 – 5:30
ARTHUR CAMPBELL MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, May 2, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Arthur Campbell meeting room of the Municipal Building.

A. Welcome – Mayor Morgan

B. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present:

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor
Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys
Mr. Robert M. Howard
Mrs. Jayne A. Duehring

Administrative/Town Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile Rosenbaum, Assistant Town Manager
Tonya Triplett, Deputy Clerk
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney
Matthew Johnson, Director of Planning
Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism and Economic Development
Chuck Banner, Director of Finance
Kevin Worley, Director of Parks & Rec.
Floyd Bailey, Director of IT
John Dew, Dir. Of Construction/Public Services
John McCormick, Fire Chief

Visitors:

Steven Spangler, Rich Macbeth, Jennifer Montgomery, Martha Keys, Tim Kuykendall and others

The following was discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order and Matthew Johnson, Director of Planning reviewed the boundary line adjustment for Marathon Realty (021-1-5B) and Town of Abingdon (105-A-39). Mr. Johnson explained the adjustment is almost the same amount of acreage but would allow better separation and would move the property line an additional 160 feet away from the house. Mr. Johnson also explained the Town Manager has the authority to sign off on a boundary adjustment, but because this adjustment involves town property, Council will need to authorize Mr. Kelly, Town Manager to act on behalf of the town. The boundary line adjustment will require rezoning.
2. Steven Spangler, Marathon Realty reviewed the landscape design for the 33-acre Food

City development. The plan includes planters, benches, over 425 trees, 300 shrubs and a variety of grasses. Berms approximately 10 ft. high and 30-40 feet long will be incorporated to shield the Virginia Creeper Trail.

3. Kevin Worley, Director of Parks and Recreation reviewed the sports field assessment. Mr. Worley reported the existing fields are old but functional. The existing fields will continue to be used and the new fields will allow more versatility for local teams, as well as tournaments. Mr. Worley stated we are fortunate to have very strong little league baseball and soccer programs and that the parks and recreation department works closely with both organizations to provide services to the community. Due to growth in the soccer league there is a shortage of soccer fields, which will be remedied by adding multi use fields at the new sports complex. Mr. Worley stated that rugby is becoming more popular and could be another sport that could be added to the activities list.
4. John Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction reported work has begun on the Wolf Creek Restoration Project at the Muster Grounds on Colonial Road. Improvements include installation of rock veins, which will increase water depth and water flow. Matting and plantings have also been added to stabilize the bank and aid with erosion. Weather conditions will determine the finish date of the project.
5. Mr. Humphreys, Council Member thanked Rich Macbeth, along with 42 people from his church and scout group, who cut trees, cut and split wood, restacked the fence, and planted flowers at the Muster Grounds in April.
6. Mr. Howard inquired about the siren in the Country Club section of town. The siren is in place and operational.
7. Mr. Humphreys inquired about mailbox placement and delivery service on Oak Hill Street and asked town staff to contact the Post Master to ask her to honor the long term agreement between the town and post office for delivery in the historic district.
8. Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney reported that Kevin Costello had been helpful in attaining Tracy Ference as a lessee for Summers Law Office, located at 120 Court Street. Ms. Ference is an award winning artist and would like to use the space for a studio and gallery.
9. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager reported two auction companies have been contacted and given information for the sale of town property located on Sappo Road in the county.
10. John McCormick, Fire Chief reported that Washington County would like to pay the fleet automobile, workers compensation and accident and sickness insurance for all emergency service agencies located in the county. By combining the agencies, the county would save \$21,000 per year. The Abingdon Fire Department would still be responsible for the fleet package (equipment) policy at a cost of \$4,868 a year. The total cost for the Abingdon Fire Department would be \$27,425, which would be subtracted from the county appropriated amount of \$70,000, making the amount of the county appropriation \$42,476. Consensus of Council is to have a meeting with

the county to discuss the matter. Mrs. Duehring, Council Member inquired if the fee schedule has been completed and requested it be on the mid-month work session agenda.

Mayor Morgan declared a 5-minute recess for Council and Town staff to reconvene in the Council Chambers for the regular 7:30 meeting.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Tonya Triplett, Deputy Town Clerk