

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2016 – 7:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, February 1, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

A. Welcome by 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
Matthew Johnson, Director of Planning
Chuck Banner, Director of Finance
John Dew, Dir. Of Construction/Public Services
Leigh Anne Hunter, Superintendent of Abingdon
Muster Grounds
Tony Sullivan, Police Chief
Kevin Worley, Director of Parks & Recreation
Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism & Economic
Development
Jon Phelps, IT Department

Visitors:

Barry Proctor, Joe LeVine, Nan Harmon, Cindy
Patterson, Jim Moore, Stephen Jett, Stephen
Spangler, Mike & Barbara Owens, Marcy Miller and
others

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Eagle Scout, Adam Lane

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- January 4, 2016 Work Session Meeting
- January 4, 2016 Regular Meeting

On motion by Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, the Council approved the January 4, 2016 Work Session Meeting minutes and the minutes of the January 4, 2016 Regular Meeting with a correction on Page

5 that should have been Oxford Street instead of Cambridge.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

E. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Kelly, Town Manager recognized Connie Duncan for twenty-five (25) years of service at the Wolf Creek Reclamation Facility and Rebecca Cordle for five (5) years of service as a police officer, both were unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Kelly, Town Manager recognized Rick Statzer, Building Inspector, for twenty (20) years of service.

Leigh Anne Hunter, Superintendent of Abingdon Muster Grounds recognized Katie Jessee and Theresa Yates, Teacher Ranger Teachers, who received National recognition from the National Park Service for contributions to the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail.

Leigh Anne Hunter, Superintendent of Abingdon Muster Grounds recognized Adam Lane, Eagle Scout, for volunteer work and kiosk project at The Muster Grounds.

Mayor Morgan thanked Katie Jessee, Theresa Yates and Adam Lane for their leadership and service.

Leigh Anne Hunter, Superintendent of Abingdon Muster Grounds reported the Virginia Chapter of Overmountain Victory Trail Association has received a \$5,000 grant to purchase new matching drum fife equipment.

F. RESOLUTIONS - None.

G. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

1. PUBLIC HEARING - Final Plat for Proposed Subdivision on property, K-VA-T Subdivision; A division of property, owners: K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc.; Stephen Spangler, representative; Located at 351 North Court Street, consisting of 2.668 ± acres and currently zoned OI. Tax Map No. 13-1-1

Matthew Johnson, Director of Planning reported K-VA-T had requested property located at 351 North Court Street be subdivided. They have a purchaser for the property who would like to build a single family resident on the lot. At the January 25, 2016 meeting the Planning Commission voted to recommend the subdivision request.

Mayor Morgan declared the public hearing open and asked if anyone would like to speak.

Hearing no comments, Mayor Morgan declared the public hearing closed.

On motion by Mrs. Lowe seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council approved the Final Plat for Proposed Subdivision on property, K-VA-T Subdivision; A division of property, owners: K-VA-T Food Stores, Inc.; Stephen Spangler, representative; Located at 351 North Court Street, consisting of 2.668 ± acres and currently zoned OI. Tax Map No. 13-1-1 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

H. SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES - None.

I. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS - None.

J. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER - *Greg Kelly, Town Manager*

1. Consideration of FY 2014/2015 Audit

Greg Tucker, CPA with Bostic & Tucker reported on the town's 2014/2015 audit. Mr. Tucker noted that a significant change for this year's reporting included the requirement that all VRS pension liability be captured and included in the audit. Mr. Tucker indicated that the town's VRS retirement is approximately 85% funded. Mr. Tucker noted that reimbursement requests from VDOT were not received in the budget year requested but would be accounted for in the upcoming 2015/2016 audit report. Mr. Tucker commented adequate internal controls were in place and the town, in his opinion, is in solid financial standing.

On motion by Mrs. Lowe seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved the 2014-15 Audit report as presented which has previously been sent to the state auditor.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

2. Consideration of appointment of full-time Fire Chief - At this time, Mayor Morgan noted that Council would convene in Closed Session to discuss Agenda Item J2 later in the meeting.

K. OLD BUSINESS

1. Update on site distance issue at 825 E Main Street, Dollar General

John Dew, Director of Public Services & Construction addressed concerns brought to last month's meeting about the site distance at 825 East Main Street. Mr. Dew visited the site and stated the site distance far exceeds what is recommended by all the standard engineering practices. The left hand turn is in excess of 400 ft., which is adequate site distance.

Mr. Humphreys thanked Mr. Dew for addressing the concern so quickly and Mayor Morgan requested that sidewalks in that area be looked at during future planning. Mr. Dew reported the Board of Viewers were not able to meet because of weather. Mr. Dew hopes the board will be able to meet this week and report at the March meeting on the proposed closing of Rugby Terrace.

L. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- Joe LeVine, 340 & 350 Green Spring Road, recommended and suggested that now the town owns 40.7 acres of The Meadows property, they consider rezoning the property in to the historic district.
- Barry Proctor, Morningside subdivision and owns a business on Main Street, stated he attended the special called meeting on December 28, 2015 for the purchase of 40.7 acres of the Meadows property. Mr. Proctor is very disappointed that the terms of the contract were not disclosed to the public during the meeting.
- Marcy Miller, William King Museum of Art introduced their new Director of Advancement, Chase Mitchell.

M. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Economic Development Authority

Council tabled the appointment of one member to the Economic Development Authority

N. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

- Mr. Humphreys stated he would like to have a Comcast representative come and explain if a 10-24% rate increase is passed.
- Mrs. Lowe inquired about the status of repairs to the second call box on the Virginia Creeper Trail.
- Mayor Morgan recognized the passing of Dr. Janice Gable. Her contributions to our community for 34 years of service, the level of care and the care she provided for those with limited resources was exceptional.

Consideration of appointment of full-time Fire Chief

On motion by Mrs. Lowe seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council went into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, the Council will convene in a closed session for the purpose of discussion of a full time Fire Chief.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council reconvened in regular session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

The Deputy Town Clerk, Tonya Triplett, read the following certification to be adopted by the Council members:

***WHEREAS**, the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia has convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and*

***WHEREAS**, Sec. 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a*

certification by the Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; and

***NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved, that the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from an open meeting requirement by Virginia law were discussed in closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Town Council.*

The certification was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	I so certify
Mr. Howard	I so certify
Mr. Humphreys	I so certify
Mrs. Lowe	I so certify
Mayor Morgan	I so certify

On motion by Mr. Howard seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council approved the

move of John McCormick from part-time status to full-time status as Fire Chief, at \$74,000 a year, with \$32,222.71 coming from Council contingency in the current budget, with a hire date effective March 1, 2016. The Abingdon Fire Department supports the recommendation.

Mr. Howard stated the fire department has been a volunteer organization since 1808, but with the number of calls increasing and limited volunteer time it is difficult to provide adequate coverage.

Mayor Morgan thanked the department and Mr. Howard for their service and for advocating for public safety.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

- Mr. Humphreys thanked public works for a great job with snow removal during last week's snow storm.
- Mrs. Lowe inquired about upcoming agenda items: tourism zones, and a resolution to send to the General Assembly for mental health calls.

Mayor Morgan declared the meeting adjourned.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Tonya Triplett, Deputy Town Clerk