

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2016 – 6:00
ARTHUR CAMPBELL MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 6:00 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
Kim Kingsley, Deputy Treasurer
Matthew Johnson, Director of Planning
Floyd Bailey, Director of IT Department
Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism and Economic Development
Kevin Worley, Director of Parks & Recreation
John Dew, Dir. Of Construction/Public Services
Stacey Reichler, Director of HR

Visitors:

Sam Brown, Stevie Steele, Rich Macbeth, Joe & Donna LeVine, Jennifer Montgomery, Main Street Director

The following was discussed by Council:

1. Sam Brown, Employee Benefits consultant for Local Choice Insurance, reported there will be no rate increase in health insurance premiums this year for town employees. Benefits will expand for autism spectrum disorder from 2-6 years old to 2-10 years old. LiveHealthOnline.com will be available to employees in 2016-17, and there is a slight increase in the specific claim stop loss. Mr. Brown recommended Council approve the renewal for the contract for FY 206-17. Mrs. Lowe inquired about the renewal deadline and Mr. Brown indicated the renewal date is April 1st.
2. Stevie Steele, with Clough Harbour and Associates, (CHA) a design firm from Blacksburg, VA, reviewed the Sports Complex options and discussed the information collected at the input workshops. Option F was the most popular option. The next step is putting

together an actual design and/or 30% plans which will include power, lighting fixtures and drainage. Mrs. Duehring inquired about a plan for existing fields in town. Consensus of Council is for Kevin Worley, Director of Parks and Recreation, to work with the Recreation Advisory Commission to discuss and make recommendations about the actual design of the new sports complex and a plan for the existing fields.

3. Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism and Economic Development presented information on strategies, creating tourism zones, a downtown improvement plan, situational and gap analysis, and available grants and incentives if tourism zones are formed. Mr. Costello suggested Council consider the current Arts District area as a tourism zone and that a strategic plan for the town is needed.
4. Kevin Worley, Director of Parks and Recreation and Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism and Economic Development reported that on Saturday, July 2, 2016 a celebration is planned that will include a parade, blues music at the Market Pavilion and fireworks display at Latture Field. Mr. Worley noted that these plans were made in response to Council request that the town hold an event July 4th weekend now that the large fireworks display at the Coomes Center is no longer being held.
5. Floyd Bailey, Director of IT reported the call box on the Virginia Creeper Trail is not working and will cost \$2,500 to replace. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager stated there is money in the budget to cover the replacement.
6. Floyd Bailey, Director of IT discussed two options for the placement of a siren in the Country Club Section of Town. The first option, would place the siren on Glen View Drive and would be the most expensive option. The second, and best option would place the siren on County Club Drive which would cover Country Club residents, as well as the new KVAT/Sports Complex development once it is constructed. The cost is \$17,618. Mr. Kelly noted that Council would have to appropriate funds from their own contingency during the regular meeting to cover the cost of the siren and installation of same.

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