

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
WORK SESSION MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2016 - 5:30 PM
ARTHUR CAMPBELL ROOM MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work Session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 5:30 p.m. in the Arthur Campbell Room of the Municipal Building.

Welcome by Mayor Lowe

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present:

Mrs. Cathy C. Lowe
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys
Mr. Robert M. Howard
Mrs. M. Cindy Patterson
Mr. J. Wayne Craig

Administrative/Town Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile Rosenbaum, Assistant Town
Manager/Town Clerk
Tonya Triplett, Deputy Clerk
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney
Matthew Johnson, Director of Planning
Chuck Banner, Director of Finance
John Dew, Dir. Of Construction/Public Services
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism & ED
C.J. McGlothlin, IT Department
Kevin Worley, Director of Parks & Recreation

Visitors:

Martha Keys, Rich Macbeth, Damean Mathews,
Joe & Donna Levine and others

The Council discussed the following:

1. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager stated there has been some interest in adding beach music to the 2017-18 music events lineup. Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism and Economic Development shared and reviewed a return on investment and an economic impact study that was determined by surveying attendees of the music events. Consensus of Council is to have Mr. Costello and staff explore adding beach music or a ticketed beach music weekend event at Latture Field.

2. John Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction reported the need to declare two town trolleys 702 - 81 model Chevy bus, IGBC621F4BV134093 and 703 -- 81 model Chevy bus, IGBC621F2BV134092 as well as Drafting Table, File cabinets - Various, Hanging Plans Rack, Pictures and Frames - Various as surplus property and to auction the items online. After Council discussion, the consensus was to declare all the aforementioned items surplus.
3. Kevin Worley, Director of Parks & Recreation reported he advertised a request for proposal for tennis court resurfacing at the Harry L. Coomes Recreation Center and received two bids. PPMarkings— Dave Harless for \$38,400 who would have to outsource some of the work and Court Works for \$22,000, who has the ability and resources to do all the required work in house. Mr. Kelly noted that this matter was on the regular agenda for approval. Mrs. Patterson inquired if both companies priced high quality sealer and equivalent materials.
4. Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney reported on a recent meeting with town staff, members of the Historical Society of Washington County and William King Museum. Martha Keys stated the Historical Society Board is asking the town for the 5-year lease renewal, but indicated the group would be willing to look at other options. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager stated he will schedule a meeting with David Hutton, Counsel for the Historical Society to discuss extending the lease and to also discuss William King Museum as a possible location for the Historical Society in the future.
5. Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney reported that Local Government Attorneys of Virginia has a model sign ordinance that could be used to update the town's code of ordinances. Discussion took place about a comprehensive ordinance update and the cost of doing the update "in house" vs. hiring a consultant. Consensus of Council is to have a consultant look at the code and give an estimate of cost for a complete update. Mrs. Patterson inquired why the cost was so high and Mr. Kelly stated that in order to get the best product, a local government attorney should review it and that could be costly.
6. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager explained the process for procuring final conceptual designs and complete design services for the proposed sports complex property. First, RFPs would be sent to firms. Once proposals are received a vetting committee would be formed to negotiate the firm and the price. Mr. Kelly stated he would need authority to begin the process and authority to execute the necessary documents to procure the engineering services. Mr. Kelly noted that this matter would be on the regular agenda for approval.

7. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager reported a request for sponsorship for American Energy Society Local Energy America's Power Summit planned for December 5-6 at Emory & Henry College. Consensus of Council is to gather more information about the conference and place the item on the October agenda.
8. Chuck Banner, Director of Finance and Cecile Rosenbaum, Assistant Town Manager/Town Clerk reported on new Virginia Open Government Financial Transparency software. Mr. Banner reported that a representative from the software company will conference call during the regular meeting to give an overview. The software is cutting edge technology, up to date, easy to navigate and free for the public to access. Mrs. Rosenbaum noted that town staff are planning some training sessions at the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator computer lab, in the near future that will assist in learning how to navigate the software.
9. Wayne Craig, Council Member reported the BVU Board is working with Cumberland Plateau Planning District on the sale of BVU Optinet. Mr. Craig also reported he is working on a fundraising project with the Abingdon Community Center.
10. Mrs. Patterson reported she had attended a USDA roundtable meeting, volunteered at ~~both~~ Feeding America and **attended events** at the Abingdon Community Center.
11. Vice Mayor Humphreys reported that 150 Future Farmers of America students visited Fairview Homestead for a tour of the property and to see demonstrations of antique farm equipment.
12. Greg Kelly, Town Manager reported that Counts Auction Company sent out sealed bids and a tremendous amount of literature on town owned property located at Harmony Hills Lane, Lot # 5 parcel # 086— 12-5 but did not receive any bids. Greg Kelly, Town Manager reported he will contact Interstate Realty and Richards Realty to get rates on the sale of the tech park property as well as the Sappy Road property.
13. Mayor Lowe reported she also attended the USDA roundtable meetings and reported that the SCC hearing for the Virginia Highlands Airport overlay/Appalachian Power has been set for October 17. Mayor Lowe reported a Facebook post from a town resident stating she would like to see the work session meetings on video.
14. Vice Mayor Humphreys reported on a special called meeting of the Planning Commission to discuss the Transportation Plan by the Bristol Metropolitan Planning Organization on September 12 at 5:30pm. The plan area includes Kingsport, Johnson City, Bristol and Abingdon.
15. John Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction stated the original design for the Urban Pathway Project will be rerouted on Park Street near Holston Mountain

Artisans because of difficulty obtaining the necessary easements from surrounding property owners.

16. John Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction reported VDOT now has an Abingdon office and one of the main focuses is the maintenance of the exit ramps and entrances to the town.

17. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager reported the property owners near the Watauga parking section of the Virginia Creeper Trail have agreed to sell their properties to the Town. Mr. Kelly noted that this project has been ongoing over eight (8) years but appears to be moving towards a conclusion. Mr. Kelly reported that revenue sharing funds approved by VDOT will be used for the project and any overages on land purchase, not approved by VDOT, will be paid by the Town over the next 2 years.

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

Cathy C. Lowe, Mayor

Tonya Triplett, Deputy Town Clerk