

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017 – 7:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Regular Council meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, March 6, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

A. WELCOME BY MAYOR LOWE

B. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present:

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

Administrative/Town Staff:

Greg Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile Rosenbaum, Asst. Town Mgr/Town Clerk
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney
Jon Phelps, IT Department
Chuck Banner, Director of Finance
John McCormick, Fire Chief
Kevin Worley, Dir. of Parks & Rec
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism
John Dew, Dir. of Public Services/Const.
John Holbrook, Lt., Abingdon Police Dept
Kim Kingsley, Paralegal/Deputy Treasurer
Tonya Triplett, Comm. Development Coordinator

Visitors:

Richard Rose, Edison Jennings, Janan Hurst,
Leslie Bradley, Al Bradley, Margaret Gregg,
Stephen Jett, Marjorie Smith, Barry L. Proctor,
Michael A. Trepiccione, Rich Macbeth, Sigrid
Phillips, and others

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Eller Budding, Local Government Student.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion by Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council, approved the minutes of the February 6, 2017 work session minutes as presented; the February 6, 2017 regular meeting with the correction "that Council recommended that Jennifer Montgomery, Abingdon Main Street Director, meet with the Town Manager and review the agreements with Virginia Main Street, Abingdon Main Street, and the town"; and the February 8, 2017, recessed meeting with the correction "that Mayor Lowe did not participate in the conversation regarding employee health insurance as her employer, Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator, mirrors the town's benefits".

Mr. Craig inquired about his motion during the February 6, 2017 Regular meeting relative to a request to have the Town Manager put out an RFP to review the Air Quality in the area of Exit 17. Mayor Lowe informed Mr. Craig that she had reviewed the matter and Mr. Craig did not mention RFP in his motion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Craig	Aye
Mrs. Patterson	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mayor Lowe	Aye

At this time, Cecile Rosenbaum, Assistant Town Manager commented to Council that she had received notification from the IT staff that the live video feed of the meeting was not working and that they hoped it would be restored in a few minutes.

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following addressed Council:

- Richard Rose, 262 Bradley Street
- Edison Jennings, 247 E. Main Street
- Janan Hurst, 185 Long View Drive
- Leslie Bradley, 143 Stonewall Heights
- Al Bradley, 143 Stonewall Heights
- Margaret Gregg, 113 Trailview
- Stephen Jett, 333 Court Street

- Michael A. Trepiccione, 289 Lowland Street
- Rich Macbeth, 1139 Panorama Drive
- Sigrid Phillips, 445 Circle Drive

F. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – None

G. SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES - None

H. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS – None

I. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER AND ASST. TOWN MANAGER

1. Discussion regarding Warren Harris request to have signature(s) removed from petitions presented to the Council by Friends of Abingdon – Greg Kelly, Town Manager

Mr. Kelly, Town Manager, reported to Council that Mr. Harris had contacted him via email regarding a request to blur or black out the signatures on a group of petitions that the Friends of Abingdon presented to Council during the January 11th, 2017 meeting. Mr. Kelly noted that Mr. Harris was concerned that his signature could be used for identity theft. Mr. Kelly commented that the petitions had been placed on the town's website and he had requested that Town Attorney, Deb Icenhour, research the matter and issue a written opinion to Council. Ms. Icenhour opined that the town was under no obligation to remove the signatures as the petitions were presented at a public meeting and were on record in the Town Manager's office for viewing by the public. Mr. Kelly noted that the matter had been discussed at length during the prior work session and asked Council to make a motion regarding Mr. Harris' request.

Mr. Harris commented that Mayor Lowe had informed him prior to the meeting that he could speak about the issue for 3 minutes and he commented that the signature(s) be "blacked out" not blurred and the request was a matter of common sense.

Mr. Humphreys inquired about the removal of signatures and its relation to Freedom of Information Act. Ms. Patterson commented that she had spoken with an attorney at VML regarding the matter and she did not support promotion of identity theft. Mr. Craig noted that he felt removing the petitions from the website was a step in the right direction.

On motion by Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council authorized Greg Kelly, Town Manager to remove the petitions from the Town's website and preserve the original petitions for viewing by the public in his office in Town Hall.

Mr. Craig	Aye
Mrs. Patterson	Aye

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mayor. Lowe	Aye

2. Consideration of Letter of Agreement between Abingdon Main Street and Virginia Main Street – Jennifer Montgomery, Director of Abingdon Main Street

Mayor Lowe noted that this matter had been discussed during the work session meeting and would be back on the agenda for the April 3, 2017 work session.

J. RESOLUTIONS - None

K. OLD BUSINESS OR MATTERS NOT COVERED AT WORK SESSION

At this time, Mayor Lowe noted Council was able to discuss several work session items and would review those now.

- **Update on Sound/Video costs projections for Arthur Campbell meeting room**

On motion by Mrs. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council authorized Greg Kelly, Town Manager, to invest in new audio and video equipment to record all meetings in the Arthur Campbell meeting room and further authorized Mr. Kelly to spend up to \$5,000 from Council contingency for the costs.

Mr. Craig	Aye
Mrs. Patterson	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mayor Lowe	Aye

- **Update RFP for Town’s liability insurance**

On motion by Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Craig, Council authorized Greg Kelly, Town Manager, to execute any documents necessary to accept the quote from Virginia Association of Counties (VACORP) for the town’s liability insurance.

Mr. Craig	Aye
Mrs. Patterson	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mayor Lowe	Aye

- **Employee health insurance renewal**

On motion by Mr. Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council authorized Greg Kelly, Town Manager, to execute any and all documents necessary to renew the town's employee health insurance with Local Choice for another year.

Mr. Craig	Aye
Mrs. Patterson	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mayor Lowe	Abstained

- **Update on the tennis court air dome at the Coomes Center**

Mayor Lowe stated that this matter had been discussed at last month's meeting. She advised that the air dome had been a gift to the Town, however the Town was not aware of the electric utility costs associated with operating the air dome. The dome will not be utilized and the Town will make arrangements to return it and/or forward it to another organization that may be interested.

- **Update on Tourism Zone project**

Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism, advised Council that he has been working to develop an incentive district to areas between the new Dollar General on the east end of town to Old Jonesboro Road. Mayor Lowe noted that an Ordinance establishing the Tourism Zones would have to be passed by Council and that Ms. Icenhour would be developing that for review by Council at a later meeting.

Mayor Lowe reported that Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism had notified the Town Manager that he had accepted another position in his home state of New York and he and his family would be moving up there in late spring. Mr. Costello noted his last day at work would be March 24, 2017. Mayor Lowe thanked Mr. Costello for his service to the town and wished his family all the best for the future.

L. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mrs. Patterson, Council went into closed session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2.-3711(A)(1) for the purpose of considering applications to fill open positions on the Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Planning Commission, and Historic Preservation Review Board. The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Craig	Aye
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Mrs. Patterson	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mayor Lowe	Aye

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

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Craig	Aye
Mrs. Patterson	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mayor Lowe	Aye

Cecile Rosenbaum, Clerk, 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:

Mr. Craig	I so certify
Mrs. Patterson	I so certify
Mr. Howard	I so certify
Mr. Humphreys	I so certify
Mayor Lowe	I so certify

On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved the reappointment of Monica Appleby to the Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Craig	Aye
Mrs. Patterson	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mayor Lowe	Aye

On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved the appointment of Jayne Duehring to the Planning Commission.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Craig	Aye
Mrs. Patterson	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mayor Lowe	Aye

On motion of Mrs. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council approved the appointment of Byrum Geisler to the Historic Preservation Review Board.

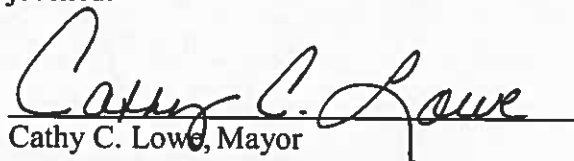
The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Craig	Aye
Mrs. Patterson	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mayor Lowe	Aye

M. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

- Mr. Craig reported that he had attended the Bristol Virginia Utility Board meeting;
- Ms. Patterson reported that she had attended the board's regular meetings;
- Mayor Lowe reported that she participated in the Read Across America event.

Mayor Lowe declared the meeting adjourned.


Cathy C. Lowe, Mayor


Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk

