

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 – 6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Regular Council meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

A. WELCOME - Mayor Lowe

B. ROLL CALL – Kim Kingsley, Acting Town Clerk

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
Deborah C. Icenhour, Town Attorney
Jon Phelps, IT Department
Chuck Banner, Director of Finance
John McCormick, Fire Chief
Matt Bolick, Dir. of Public Services/Const.
Kim Kingsley, Paralegal/Deputy Treasurer

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Aden Woods and Ethan Parks.

- Scott Sikes, President of Abingdon Main Street, introduced the new Director of Abingdon Main Street, Carrie Baxter. Mrs. Baxter stated that she was honored to be named the new Director and was excited to work with the downtown merchants, town employees, and the Town Council.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (VIDEO 15:24 – 15:50)

On motion by Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council, approved the minutes of the August 5, 2017 Regular meeting as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

E. Public Comments (Video 15:52 – 1:02)

Residents who provided comments were:

- Robert Gilmer, 238 Barter Drive
- Jimmy Woods, 1085 Canterbury Lane
- Chris Parks, 2000 Florist Drive
- Howard McElroy, 160 Crestview Drive
- Matthew Lane, 310 West Valley
- Bruce McNulty, 16538 Fleenors Memorial Road, Bristol VA
- Stephen Spangler, Food City Circle
- Karen Buddington, 169 Stonewall Heights
- Mindy Bonin, 555 Sams Way
- Nan Harmon, 498 Green Spring Road
- Joe LeVine, 350 Green Spring Road
- Jill Harless (no address given)
- Brock Blankenship (via email)
- Justin Ferguson (via email)
- April Lane (via email)
- Autumn Boggs (via email)
- Robert Bonin (via email)

**F. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS, AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES -
NONE**

G. SECOND READINGS – None

H. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS (VIDEO 1:02:26 – 1:05:25)

1. Consideration of bids for bridge Deck Repairs and Overlay on Cummings Street

Matt Bolick, Director of Public Services and Construction stated the bids on the project were received and noted that Crossroad Bridge in Marion, Virginia was the

lowest bidder with a bid amount of \$71,844.50. Mr. Craig and Mrs. Patterson inquired about the specifications of the project.

On motion by Mr. Craig, seconded by Mrs. Patterson, the Council awarded the contract for the Cummings Street deck repairs and overlay to Crossroad Bridge, Marion, Virginia for the amount of \$71,844.50 and further authorized the Town Manager to execute any and all documents necessary for the contract.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

I. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER/ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER

1. Consideration of request to form a citizen board for the purpose of examining FOIA requests. (VIDEO 1:05:34 – 1:28:07)

Mrs. Patterson suggested that the Town look at the development of a citizen board for examining FOIA requests and to build a framework policy. After discussion, it was decided that a work session would be held on November 15th at noon in the Arthur Campbell Room to discuss the matter in greater detail.

2. Update on the Urban Path Project (VIDEO 1:28:11 - 1:31:16)

Matt Bolick, Director of Public Works/Construction advised the Council that the plans for the Urban Path Project had cleared Bristol District VDOT Office and VDOT Central Office and had now been submitted to the Federal Highway Administration for final approval. Mr. Craig questioned as to whether the Park Street Project and the Urban Path project were going to overlap each other. Mr. Bolick explained that the 2 projects do overlap in that part of the Urban Path Project is now in the scope of plans for the Park Street project. He indicated that the plan was to remove the Park Street section of the Urban Path Project and put it in the scope as it is planned for the Park Street project. Mr. Kelly affirmed that from a cost standpoint, this plan would give the town the “most bang for their buck”. Mr. Kelly also noted that this does not mean there will be a gap in the Urban Path Project but the Park Street section will be completed as part of the Park Street project.

3. Consideration of changing time of regular monthly Council meetings to 6:30 pm and dispensing with the 5:30 work session meeting. (VIDEO 1:31:21 – 1:35:09)

Mayor Lowe asked Council to consider changing the time of the monthly regular Council meetings from 7:30 p.m. to 6:30 pm and dispense with the 5:30 work session. Mayor Lowe noted that most of the same matters were discussed during both meetings, the staff often had twelve (12) hour days on regular meeting day, and the Town Charter allowed the time to be designated by the Council. Mr. Craig stated he was agreeable to the suggestion but would like to receive more reports on the capital projects, including Urban Path, Park Street project, and information regarding the temporary sports fields.

On motion by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Patterson, the Council agreed to move the regular monthly Council meeting to 6:30 pm and dispense with the 5:30 pm work session meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

J. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES (VIDEO 1:35:27 -

Mayor Lowe requested that the Council go into closed session without her to consider the appointment for the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator Board as she is the Director for the Incubator. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager, indicated that Council did not have to convene in closed session for the other appointments unless they preferred to do so.

1. Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator

Appointment to fill the unexpired term of Dr. French Moore, Jr.

2. Tourism Advisory Committee (VIDEO 1:35:27 – 1:38:46)

Allison Mays from the Washington County Board of Supervisors has notified Jayne Duehring, Dir. of Tourism she is now able to serve as the BOS representative.

On motion by Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, Council appointed Allison Mays as a representative from the Washington County Board of Supervisors to serve on the Tourism Advisory Committee.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

3. Sustain Abingdon

Appointment to fill vacancy due to some members resigning.

On motion of Mr. Craig, seconded by Mr. Howard, 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 Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator and Sustain Abingdon. The roll call vote was as follows:

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

On motion of Mrs. Patterson, 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

Kim Kingsley, Acting 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	Abstained

Mrs. Lowe stated she addressed the Council members regarding the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator and left the closed meeting stating that she is employed as the Executive Director of the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator.

On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Craig, the Council tabled the appointment to the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Craig, the Council tabled the appointment to Sustain Abingdon. (VIDEO 2:11:52 – 2:12:26)

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 (VIDEO 2:08:26 – 2:21:48)

Mrs. Patterson stated she was attending her meetings and thanked the citizens for coming to see her and their input on the sports complex matter.

Mr. Humphreys invited the Council to Fairview to attend an FFA event. The Muster Grounds will be hosting the Overmountain Victory Trail Celebration Days.

Mayor Lowe expressed her sympathy on behalf of the Town Council to Danny Freeman's family and police family. Mayor Lowe also thanked the Town staff for all their hard work in taking care of the Town and the citizens.

Mr. Howard expressed his sympathy on behalf of the Town Council to Leroy Lowe, Engineer for the Abingdon Fire Department.

Mrs. Patterson requested that we keep the folks and victims in the Texas hurricane in our prayers.

Mr. Humphreys stated that William King Museum of Art was hosting a reception on September 12th and invited everyone to attend.

Mrs. Patterson inquired as to when the VML program was being held and the location and stated that she would like to attend.

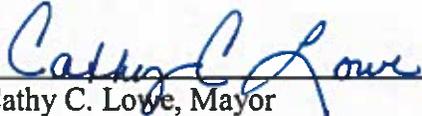
Mayor Lowe suggested that since the VML program is scheduled at the same time as the October Council meeting that it be rescheduled for October 16th at 6:30 pm.

On motion of Mrs. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Craig, the Council moved the October 2016 Council meeting from October 2nd to October 16th at 6:30 pm. (VIDEO 2:21 – 2:21:40)

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Mayor Lowe declared the meeting adjourned.



Cathy C. Lowe, Mayor



Kimberly Kingsley, Acting Clerk