

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016 – 6:30
ARTHUR CAMPBELL MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Arthur Campbell meeting room of the Municipal Building.

A. 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
Stacey Reichler, Director of Human Resources
Matthew Johnson, Director of Planning
Chuck Banner, Director of Finance
Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism and Economic Development

Visitors:

Cindy Patterson, Rich Macbeth, Joe Levine, Several Members of the Abingdon Police Department

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan asked Town Manager, Greg Kelly to provide introductory comments on the proposed budget for FY 2016/2017. Mr. Kelly reviewed his budget message and reported that cuts in each department had been set out in red line by line. Mr. Kelly reported that two (2) requests he wished to discuss came from the Police Department and the Fire Department. The Police Department asked the Council to consider increasing base pay grades for officers and participation in the LEOS program through the Virginia Retirement System. Mr. Kelly confirmed his support for both requests but noted that the funding was not available in the upcoming budget unless Council considered cutting funds in other lines and/or non-departmental requests and/or increasing taxes. Mr. Kelly asked Ms. Rosenbaum and Mr. Banner to report on a conversation they had with Virginia Retirement System regarding the town's participation in the LEOS program. They explained that VRS

April 11, 2016

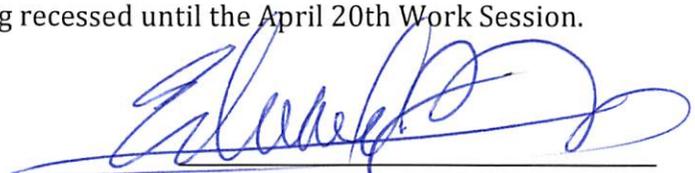
Work Session Minutes

had done an actuarial study on the town and it did not appear that the town's current funding level in VRS was sound enough to support the addition of LEOS at this time. The town is currently funded at 85% and they would recommend that the percentage be higher before participation in the program as it is a perpetual financial commitment for the town. Mr. Banner noted that VRS didn't refuse the town's participation but expressed concerns about the soundness of the town's funding status at present time.

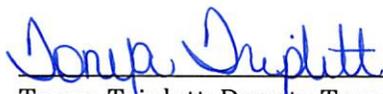
The second issue Mr. Kelly reported on was a request from the Fire Department for four (4) full time officers. Mr. Kelly reported that he fully supported the need but was again, unable to find the funding for these additional staff members. Mr. Kelly noted that full-time positions with the town have a base salary and an approximate cost of \$15,000 in fringe benefits.

Mr. Kelly advised Council that both of these requests could be considered in future budget cycles and further advised that he would work on and present a plan for how to attempt to fund these programs. Mr. Kelly noted that some funding sources could present through attrition of retiring employees, departmental cutbacks, and possible increases in tax revenues.

Mayor Morgan declared the meeting recessed until the April 20th Work Session.



Edward B. Morgan, Mayor



Tonya Triplett, Deputy Town Clerk