

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2016 – 12:00 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Special Called meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, December 19, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

Welcome by Mayor Lowe

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present:

Mrs. Cathy Lowe
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys
Mr. Robert M. Howard
Mrs. M. Cindy Patterson

Members Absent:

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
Floyd Bailey, IT Department

Visitors:

Damean Mathews, Mickey Hines and Sherri
Hiter

Mickey Hines, Director of Virginia Highlands Airport and Sherri Hiter, Attorney for the Airport Authority reported that after excessive strain due to the polar vortex last winter Appalachian Power announced the need for a new 138 Kv transmission line. Mr. Hines reported that the preferred route plan for the lines and towers would interrupt the flight path and limit the aircraft able to land at the airport. Mr. Hines noted that the airport has spent millions on an expansion to extend the runways in order to attract additional types of aircraft. Appalachian Power has offered three options and the Airport Authority has met and is recommending AEP Option 3. Option 3 would require lines to be placed underground and the estimated cost for the project would be approximately \$10M.

Greg Kelly, Town Manager stated that Virginia Highlands Airport is an economic driver for Abingdon and the project could also affect three other businesses, Dutt & Wagoner, Pioneer Chevrolet and Comfort Inn. Option 3 is safer, less harmful to businesses and more aesthetically pleasing.

Mrs. Patterson inquired if the Town has any contracts with Appalachian Power and if the town would be required to spend any money on this project.

Mr. Kelly stated that there are no contracts with AEP and that the project is an AEP project and will not cost the Town any money.

Mayor Lowe stated two public hearings have been held in Abingdon and that if the resolution is passed, it would be sent to the State Corporation Commission.

Mayor Lowe read the resolution (see below).

On motion Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved the resolution relative to the Town's support of the Virginia Highlands Airport Authority and the Washington County Board of Supervisors' choice of Appalachian Power Company's Proposed Underground Option 3 relative to their proposed South Abingdon 138Kv transmission line project as presented, to be submitted to the State Corporation Commission.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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



A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA TO SUPPORT THE VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND WASHINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' IN CHOOSING APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY PROPOSED UNDERGROUND OPTION 3 RELATIVE TO THEIR PROPOSED SOUTH ABINGDON 138kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

WHEREAS, Appalachian Power Company filed an application with the Virginia State Corporation Commission for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for authority to construct and operate its proposed South Abingdon 138kV Transmission Line Project; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Highlands Airport Authority, Washington County, and the Town of Abingdon intervened as participates in the Virginia State Corporation Commission proceeding to oppose the preferred route because it would negatively impact aviation safety and air traffic volumes at the Airport, impair the economic development value of the airport to Washington County and the Town of Abingdon, violate local Airport Safety Zoning Ordinances, and infringe upon navigation and obstruct removal easements owned by Virginia Highlands Airport Authority; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to settle the dispute and to expedite the Virginia State Corporation Commission's consideration of its application, Appalachian Power Company recently presented to Virginia Highlands Airport Authority, Washington County, and the Town of Abingdon various alternatives to the preferred route. These alternatives follow the same route but utilize undergrounding or grading to mitigate the negative impacts of the transmission line; and

WHEREAS, Appalachian Power Company has requested that Virginia Highlands Airport Authority, Washington County, and the Town of Abingdon evaluate the alternatives presented and, if they determine that one of the alternatives fully addresses their concerns, publicly support this alternative before the Virginia State Corporation Commission staff and the Virginia State Corporation Commission; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2016, Appalachian Power Company presented proposal Underground Option 3 to the Washington County, Virginia Board of Supervisors, the Virginia Highlands Airport Authority, and representatives from the Town of Abingdon Council and staff as follows:

- Install the proposed 138kV double circuit transmission line underground (from proposed structures 9 to 18)
- Approximately 4,500 feet of underground transmission line (impacts six landowners - already impacted by overhead option)
- Crosses underneath West Main Street, Old Jonesboro Road and Jonesboro Road

- Riser structures will be located in the vicinity of proposed structures 9 and 18
- Addresses the FAA Part 77.19(a) Horizontal Surface penetration
- Addresses the One Engine Inoperable (OEI) surface concern

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia that after investigation and consideration of each option presented, Virginia Highlands Airport Authority has selected Underground Option 3 as the option that most fully addresses and mitigates its concerns about the project; that the Council does hereby affirm its support for Underground Option 3, as presented by Appalachian Power Company; and further agrees to support the Virginia Highlands Airport Authority and Washington County Board of Supervisors before the State Corporation Commission.

TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA

By: Cathy C. Lowe
Mayor

By: Gregory W. Kelly
Town Manager

The undersigned clerk of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia (the "Town"), hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a Special Called meeting of the Council held on December 19, 2016. I hereby further certify that such meeting was a Special Called meeting and that, during the consideration of the foregoing resolution, a quorum was present. I further certify that the minutes of such meeting reflect the attendance of the members and the voting on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE	VOTE
Cathy C. Lowe, Mayor	Present	Aye
Richard E. Humphreys, Vice Mayor	Present	Aye
Robert M. Howard	Present	Aye
J. Wayne Craig	Absent	-
M. Cindy Patterson	Present	Aye

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Town of Abingdon as of December 19, 2016.

(SEAL)

Donna Driphett
Deputy Clerk, Town of Abingdon

Mrs. Patterson repeated her question to Mr. Kelly about the cost of the project to the Town. Mr. Kelly affirmed that the project was totally up to AEP and would not cost the town government any money. Mr. Kelly noted that the expense for the project would be proportionately distributed to the AEP customers throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.


Mrs. Patterson inquired if this meeting was open to the public or a closed session and reported that some citizens were confused about the special called meeting.

Mrs. Triplett, Deputy Town Clerk explained that if the meeting had been a closed session it would have to be clearly stated and this was not a closed session.

Mr. Humphreys stated that the town might use videos or the blog to education citizens on different types of meetings.

Mayor Lowe declared the meeting adjourned.


Tonya Triplett, Deputy Town Clerk


Cathy C. Lowe, Mayor