TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2016 – 7:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

A. Welcome by Mayor Morgan

B. Roll Call – Tonya Triplett, Deputy Clerk

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 Chuck Banner, Director of Finance Matthew Johnson, Director of Planning John Dew, Dir. Public Services/Construction Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police Floyd Bailey, Director of IT Kevin Worley, Director of Parks & Recreation Aaron Phillips, Assistant Director of P & R Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism & Economic Dev.
Visitors:	Rich Macbeth, Donna Quetsch, Anne Hutton, Laura Beth Hale, Tom O'Neal, Nick & Barry Proctor, Stephen Jett, Cindy Patterson, Steven Spangler

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Greg Kelly, Town Manager

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 7, 2015 Regular Meeting
- December 16, 2015 Work Session Meeting
- December 28, 2015 Special Called Meeting

On motion by Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, the Council approved the December 7, 2015 minutes, with a spelling correction of Kreps on page 175, December 16, 2015 Work Session Meeting minutes and the minutes of the December 28, 2015

Special Called Meeting as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	**Aye**
Mr. Howard	**Aye**
Mr. Humphreys	**Aye**
Mrs. Lowe	**Aye**
Mayor Morgan	**Aye**

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E. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Kelly, Town Manager reported that Tonya Triplett, Deputy Clerk received her Certified Municipal Clerk Certificate and would be working toward Master Municipal Clerk.

F. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

1. **PUBLIC HEARING –Purchase of property, 1980 square feet, more or less, being a portion of Tax Map No. 018-9-A-6, currently owned by John W. and Louise S. Crigger, 138 Williams Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24211**

John Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction stated that the purchase of the property is necessary in order to complete the Urban Path Project and is critical in the continuity of the project. The purchase price is $7,000 and Mr. Kelly, Town Manager stated there are grant funds left in the budget to purchase the property. Mr. Humphreys questioned the property line near the Epling property and inquired if parking would be lost. Mr. Dew stated the trail will be 10 feet wide and would likely affect parking on the right-of-way.

Mayor Morgan declared the public hearing open and asked if anyone had comments. Hearing none, Mayor Morgan declared the public hearing closed.

On motion by Mrs. Lowe and seconded by Mr. Howard the Council authorized Mr. Kelly, Town Manager to purchase and execute all necessary documents for the purchase of 1980 square feet, more or less, being a portion of Tax Map No. 018-9-A-6, currently owned by John W. and Louise S. Crigger, 138 Williams Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24211.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	**Aye**
Mr. Howard	**Aye**
Mr. Humphreys	**Aye**
Mrs. Lowe	**Aye**
Mayor Morgan	**Aye**

2. **PUBLIC HEARING – Petition from property owners to consider a proposed partial road closure of Rugby Terrace and consideration of appointment of Board of Viewers.**

John Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction reported concerns about safety and cut through traffic on Rugby Terrace from citizens as far back as 2002. A petition was received from residents in July, the temporary closing of the East leg of Rugby Terrace was

approved and town staff was asked to conduct a traffic study. Mr. Dew reported the closure decreased cut through traffic 50-80% making it safer and having a positive impact on the residential neighborhood. Mr. Dew also stated the temporary closure did not affect the traffic on Main or Valley Streets. If the road is closed, the town will not relinquish the right-of-way and will install removable bollards in case emergency vehicles need access.

Mayor Morgan opened the public hearing and asked if anyone had comments.

- Doc O'Neal, 480 Valley Street stated cut through traffic and speeding created safety issues. The temporary closure has taken care of those issues, the residents are very pleased with the closure. Mr. O'Neal asked Council to consider the partial closure of Rugby Terrace.

- Laura Beth Hale, 483 Valley Street stated that it is difficult for residents to back out of their driveways and she support the partial closure of Rugby Terrace.

- Nick Proctor, 11092 Treeline Drive supports the closure.

- Anne Hutton, 101 A Valley Street is opposed to closing Rugby Terrace and stated it would hinder her ability to access her property. Ms. Hutton suggested the speed limit be reduced and enforced as an alternative to closing Rugby Terrace.

Mayor Morgan declared the public hearing closed.

Mrs. Lowe questioned how many residents live on ~~Cambridge~~ Oxford and stated the streets are very narrow and there are no sidewalks.

On motion by Mr. Humphreys and seconded by Mrs. Lowe the Council appointed a Board of Viewers to look at the information for the partial closing of Rugby Terrace consisting of: Monty Vernon, Jim Smith and Stephen Jett with Al Bradley as an alternate member. The Board of Viewers will receive the written information that was presented to Council and make a recommendation at the February Council Meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	**Aye**
Mr. Howard	**Aye**
Mr. Humphreys	**Aye**
Mrs. Lowe	**Aye**
Mayor Morgan	**Aye**

G. SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES

1. **Second Reading of Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to Repeal, Amend, and Reenact Chapter 34, Fire Prevention and Protection, Article III, Section 34-511 through Section 34-58 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Abingdon.**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager reviewed updates to the Fire Prevention and Protection Ordinance

The updates allows the town to hire staff, approve fees for services, allows local certified fire officials to carry out annual inspections and to implement and update the code, which will improve the town's rating and reduce fire insurance premiums for business owners and residents.

Mr. Humphreys questioned how the community will be informed of fees and inspections.
Mrs. Rosenbaum stated that once staff is hired they would make face to face contact with business owners.
Mrs. Duehring noted the inspections will warrant a cost savings on insurance premiums.

On motion by Mr. Howard and seconded by Mrs. Lowe the Council approved the Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to Repeal, Amend, and Reenact Chapter 34, Fire Prevention and Protection, Article III, Section 34-511 through Section 34-58 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Abingdon on second reading effective February 4, 2016.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	**Aye**
Mr. Howard	**Aye**
Mr. Humphreys	**Aye**
Mrs. Lowe	**Aye**
Mayor Morgan	**Aye**

2. **Second Reading of Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to Repeal, Amend and Reenact Article II, Chapter 82, Section 82-26 through Section 82-69 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Abingdon to Amend and Update Requirements for the establishment, licensure, and operation of a taxicab service within the town.**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager reviewed the updates that include changes to the current ordinance that would provide a service and business opportunity, addresses insurance, penalties, ADA and DMV requirements, inspections and background checks.

Mrs. Lowe stated the October 1-15 application period had not been removed as requested.

On motion by Mrs. Lowe and seconded by Mr. Humphreys the Council approved the Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to Repeal, Amend and Reenact Article II, Chapter 82, Section 82-26 through Section 82-69 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Abingdon to Amend and Update Requirements for the establishment, licensure, and operation of a taxicab service within the town, omitting the October 1-15 application period.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	**Aye**
Mr. Howard	**Aye**
Mr. Humphreys	**Aye**
Mrs. Lowe	**Aye**
Mayor Morgan	**Aye**

H. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS -None.

I. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

1. **Confirmation of satisfaction of the archeological requirement for the Marathon Realty commercial development property**
Greg Kelly, Town Manager reported that the archeological survey showed there is no evidence of intact archaeological deposits on the 33 acres and that Marathon Realty has requested the archeological requirement be lifted from the rezoning. The report showed there are some sites on the 40 acres now owned by the town and the house is eligible for placement on the National Historic Registry listing.

   On motion by Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Lowe the Council consider the requirement of the archeological study that was placed as a contingency of the rezoning of Marathon Realty commercial property from AFOS to B2 to be deemed fully complied with and removed at this time as any further requirement of the rezoning.

   The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	**Aye**
Mr. Howard	**Aye**
Mr. Humphreys	**Aye**
Mrs. Lowe	**Aye**
Mayor Morgan	**Aye**

2. **Recommendation of consultant review of the design of the Sports Complex facility**
Matthew Johnson, Director of Planning stated that three bids have been received for the development of the sports complex design which includes: Cooper Carry - $34,000, Hill Studio - $22,500 and CHA - $22,300. Mr. Johnsons reported that CHA's experience in municipal recreation, coupled with their familiarity with the Town, leads the staff to recommend them for award of a contract to assist the town with the development of a master plan for the new sports complex. Their experience with municipal recreation is evident as they have developed over 100 municipal recreation parks in Virginia and around the nation. CHA has voiced their commitment to the preservation and constructive reuse of the "Meadows" farmhouse and associated structures for incorporation into the overall master plan for the sports complex. The scope of work included: assist in developing a master plan, provide direction to preservation, mitigate any perceived impacts on the Creeper Trail, provide staff for public input workshops and deliver a master plan, associated graphics, and baseline budget for costs to develop the facility as proposed.

   On motion by Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mrs. Duehring the Council upon the recommendation of Mr. Johnson, Director of Planning to hire lower bidder, CHA to oversee the design of the sports complex and to pay $22,300.00 from Council consulting line item which includes assists in developing a master plan, provide direction to preservation, mitigate any perceived impacts on the Creeper Trail, provide staff for public input workshops and deliver a master plan, associated graphics, and baseline budget for costs to develop the facility as proposed.

   The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	**Aye**
Mr. Howard	**Aye**
Mr. Humphreys	**Aye**
Mrs. Lowe	**Aye**
Mayor Morgan	**Aye**

J. RESOLUTIONS - None.

K. OLD BUSINESS

Matters Not On the Agenda

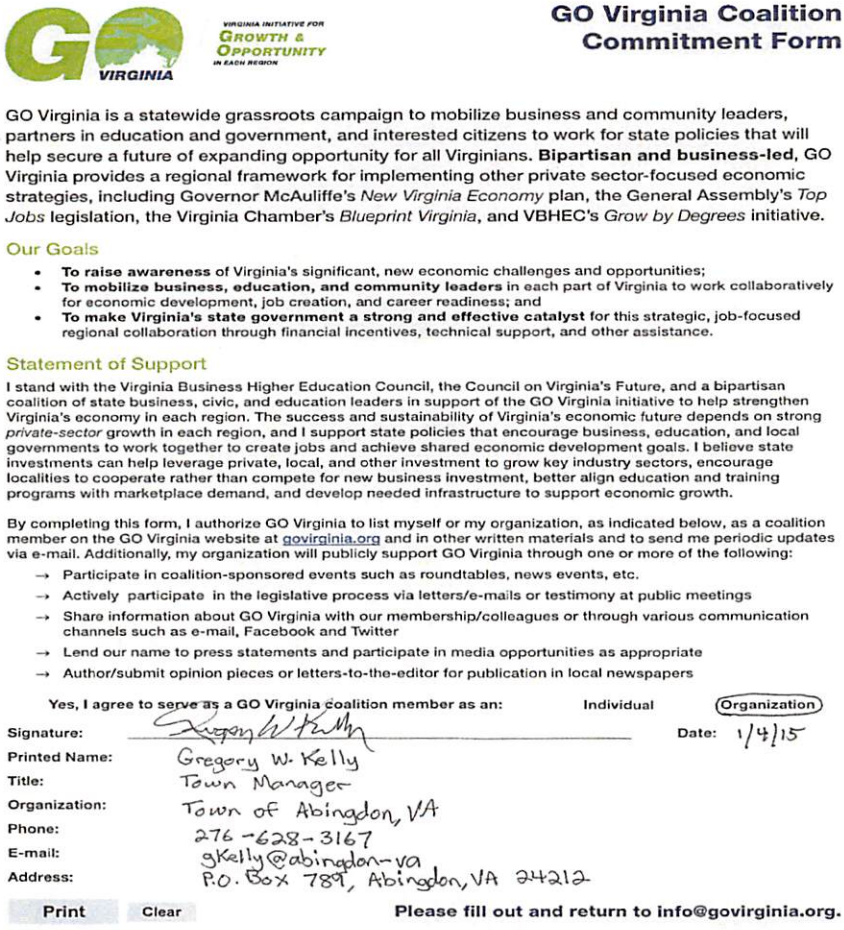
Mrs. Lowe reported there is a new statewide grassroots bipartisan and business-led coalition that has been formed, GO Virginia (Virginia initiative for Growth & Opportunity) which provides a regional framework for implementing other private sector-focused economic strategies, including Governor McAuliffe's New Virginia Economy plan, the General Assembly's Top Jobs legislation, the Virginia Chamber's Blueprint Virginia, and VBHEC's Grow by Degrees initiative. The goals are to raise awareness, mobilize business, education and community leaders and to make Virginia's state government a strong and effective catalyst. The statement of support states a stance with the Virginia Business Higher Education council, the Council on Virginia's Future, and a bipartisan coalition of state business, civic, and education leaders in support of the GO Virginia initiative to help strengthen Virginia's economy in each region.

The coalition is not asking for any monetary contribution and anyone can join the coalition.

On motion by Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mrs. Duehring the Council authorized Mr. Kelly, Town Manger to sign the Growth & Opportunity Virginia Coalition Commitment Form on behalf of the Town of Abingdon.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	**Aye**
Mr. Howard	**Aye**
Mr. Humphreys	**Aye**
Mrs. Lowe	**Aye**
Mayor Morgan	**Aye**



GO Virginia Coalition Commitment Form

GO Virginia is a statewide grassroots campaign to mobilize business and community leaders, partners in education and government, and interested citizens to work for state policies that will help secure a future of expanding opportunity for all Virginians. **Bipartisan and business-led**, GO Virginia provides a regional framework for implementing other private sector-focused economic strategies, including Governor McAuliffe's *New Virginia Economy* plan, the General Assembly's *Top Jobs* legislation, the Virginia Chamber's *Blueprint Virginia*, and VBHEC's *Grow by Degrees* initiative.

Our Goals

- **To raise awareness** of Virginia's significant, new economic challenges and opportunities;
- **To mobilize business, education, and community leaders** in each part of Virginia to work collaboratively for economic development, job creation, and career readiness; and
- **To make Virginia's state government a strong and effective catalyst** for this strategic, job-focused regional collaboration through financial incentives, technical support, and other assistance.

Statement of Support

I stand with the Virginia Business Higher Education Council, the Council on Virginia's Future, and a bipartisan coalition of state business, civic, and education leaders in support of the GO Virginia initiative to help strengthen Virginia's economy in each region. The success and sustainability of Virginia's economic future depends on strong *private-sector* growth in each region, and I support state policies that encourage business, education, and local governments to work together to create jobs and achieve shared economic development goals. I believe state investments can help leverage private, local, and other investment to grow key industry sectors, encourage localities to cooperate rather than compete for new business investment, better align education and training programs with marketplace demand, and develop needed infrastructure to support economic growth.

By completing this form, I authorize GO Virginia to list myself or my organization, as indicated below, as a coalition member on the GO Virginia website at govirginia.org and in other written materials and to send me periodic updates via e-mail. Additionally, my organization will publicly support GO Virginia through one or more of the following:

- → Participate in coalition-sponsored events such as roundtables, news events, etc.
- → Actively participate in the legislative process via letters/e-mails or testimony at public meetings
- → Share information about GO Virginia with our membership/colleagues or through various communication channels such as e-mail, Facebook and Twitter
- → Lend our name to press statements and participate in media opportunities as appropriate
- → Author/submit opinion pieces or letters-to-the-editor for publication in local newspapers

Yes, I agree to serve as a GO Virginia coalition member as an: Individual (Organization)

Signature: Gregory W. Kelly Date: 1/4/15

Printed Name: Gregory W. Kelly

Title: Town Manager

Organization: Town of Abingdon, VA

Phone: 276-628-3167

E-mail: gKelly@abingdon-va

Address: P.O. Box 789, Abingdon, VA 24212

Print Clear

Please fill out and return to info@govirginia.org.

Mr. Kelly, Town Manger introduced and welcomed Aaron Phillips, Assistant Director of Parks & Recreation.

Rich Macbeth, 1139 Panorama Drive expressed traffic and safety concerns near Dollar General at 825 East Main Street. The area has no sidewalks and making left hand turns out of the Dollar General drive is difficult because of limited vision.

L. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Fairview Committee

On motion of Mr. Humphreys seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council appointed Mark Hagy to replace James Hagy on the Fairview Committee.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mrs. Duehring	**Aye**
Mr. Howard	**Aye**
Mr. Humphreys	**Aye**
Mrs. Lowe	**Aye**
Mayor Morgan	**Aye**

Sinking Spring Cemetery

Mr. Kelly stated that research of the by-laws has shown the terms were originally staggered and after the first year should have been three year terms. Mr. Kelly, stated he, Mrs. Rosenbaum and Mrs. Triplett are in the process of researching the records to determine whose terms have expired, how many positions are available and recommended Council take no action at this time.

M. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

- Mr. Humphreys commented on the new cameras in Council Chambers which will improve online viewing.
- Mrs. Duehring reported she had attended the annual Fire Department dinner, was impressed by the passion and commitment of a 200-year-old volunteer organization and thanked the members for their service.
- Mrs. Lowe reported the 2016 Business Challenge will begin January 26. Prizes include over $25,000 in cash, as well as legal services from Penn Stuart and CPA services from Spiegler Blevins & Company CPAs for new or expanding businesses in Washington County.

Mayor Morgan declared the meeting adjourned.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Tonya Triplett, Deputy Town Clerk