

**TOWN OF ABINGDON COUNCIL
WORK SESSION MONDAY,
JANUARY 4, 2016 – 6:00
ARTHUR CAMPBELL MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, January 4, 2016 at 6:00 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
Matthew Johnson, Director of Planning
Chuck Banner, Director of Finance
John Dew, Dir. Of Construction/Public Services
Jon Phelps, IT Department
Kevin Worley, Director of Parks & Recreation
Kevin Costello, Dir. Of Tourism and Economic
Development

Visitors:

Rich Macbeth, Donna Quetsch, Laurel Beth Hale

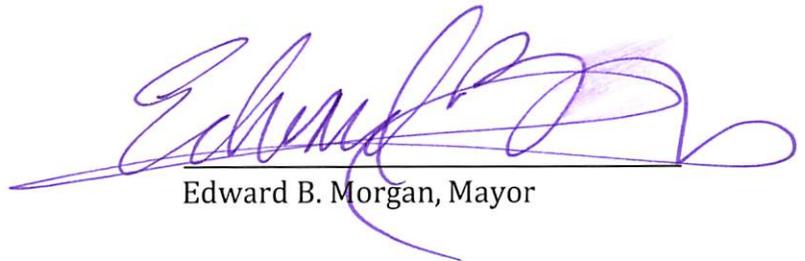
The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Kevin Worley, Director of Parks and Recreation reported that due to changes and construction at the Coomes Recreation Center, the facility is no longer a suitable location for the July 4th fireworks. Mr. Worley indicated that he had searched for a suitable and safe location and could not find an alternative location. It is his recommendation that the town not host fireworks in 2016. Consensus of Council is to check on the possibility of reducing the size of the show, as well as the size of the firework shells and inquire about the cost of increased insurance and work on a plan for another family friendly event during the July 4th holiday.
2. Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism and Economic Development presented a powerpoint on tourism zones. Tourism zones would provide incentives such as reductions in permit and user fees, and a reduction of any type of gross receipts tax that would encourage tourism businesses to open in the designated zone. Zones and incentives would be determined by Council. There are also state grants

available, but the town must have local tourism zones and ordinances in place in order for the state to consider applicants. Mr. Kelly, Town Manger stated the town needs a strategic plan in place, that would ensure everyone is on the same page. Consensus of Council is that Mr. Costello and staff check with other communities to see what has and has not worked, lay out the framework and make suggestions on how the process should work.

3. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor, reviewed the Virginia Initiative for Growth and Opportunity, (Go Virginia Coalition) commitment form and asked that it be considered on the agenda at Regular Meeting.
4. Jayne Duehring, Council Member reviewed the appointee evaluation process and stated the self-evaluation forms will serve as a guideline for both Council and the appointees. Mrs. Duehring asked that the forms be completed and turned into Council by January 13. Council will meet on January 20, 2016 at 5:00pm to complete the evaluations.

Mayor Morgan declared a 5-minute recess for Council and Town staff to reconvene in the Council Chambers for the regular 7:30 meeting.



Edward B. Morgan, Mayor



Tonya Triplett, Deputy Town Clerk