



## **TOWN OF ABINGDON COUNCIL CODE OF ETHICS**

**(Adopted July 2, 2018)**

Recognizing that those who hold public office have been given a public trust and that the stewardship of such office demands the highest levels of ethical and moral conduct, any person serving in an elected or appointed office in the Town of Abingdon shall adhere to the following Code of Ethics:

1. Uphold the Constitution, laws and regulations of the United States and of all governments therein and never knowingly be a party to their evasion.
2. Place loyalty to the highest moral principles and to the people of the Town of Abingdon, as a whole, above loyalty to individuals, districts, or particular groups.
3. Expose through appropriate means and channels: corruption, or neglect of duty when discovered.
4. Give a full measure of effort and service to the positions of trust for which stewardship is granted; giving earnest effort and best thought to the performance of duties.
5. Seek to find and use the most equitable, efficient, effective and economical means for getting tasks accomplished.
6. Adopt policies and programs that are in accordance with the Town's EEO policy, and that support the rights and recognize the needs of all citizens regardless of race, age, religion, creed, country of origin or handicapping conditions.
7. Ensure the integrity of the actions of the Mayor and Town Council by avoiding discrimination through the dispensing of special favors or unfair privileges to anyone, whether for remuneration or not. A member should never accept for himself or herself or for family members, favors or benefits under circumstances, which could be construed by reasonable persons as influencing the performance of governmental duties.
8. Make no private promises of any kind binding upon the duties of any office, because a public servant has no private word, which can be binding on public duty.

9. Avoid a conflict of interest. A member should recuse himself or herself from participating in deliberations or voting on issues, which render personal gain for himself or herself or for family members. Engage in no business with the Town of Abingdon government either directly or indirectly, which is inconsistent with the State and Local Government Conflict of Interest Act or the Public Procurement Act.

10. Never use any information gained confidentially in the performance of governmental duties as a means of making private profit.

11. Adhere to the principle that the public's business should be conducted in the public view by observing and following the letter and spirit of the Freedom of Information Act.

12. Recognize that interaction with the media is a vital link in maintaining good communication with the public. Town Council comments to the media should be in a courteous, statesmanlike manner and should maintain the propriety of the Council when speaking to public issues, or to opinions of colleagues and individuals. However, if any member uses unfair and/or unethical means, it shall be duty of other Councilmembers to expose and censure the member(s) who do so.

13. Make sure, when responding to the media, that a clear distinction is made between personal opinion or belief and a decision made by the Mayor and Town Council.

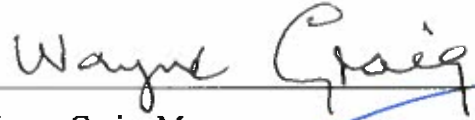
14. No member may disclose or use confidential information without appropriate authorization. Confidential information includes discussions during executive or closed sessions and certain economic development information.

15. Review each of these principles orally and in public session at the bi-annual organizational meeting.

16. Pledge to honor and uphold these principles, ever conscious that public office is a public trust.

17. It is the duty of each Council member to ensure the Code of Ethics is fulfilled. If violation of any is noted, a Council member should first discuss the matter privately with the other Council member, and if no resolution is found, then brought before the Council as a whole for discussion.

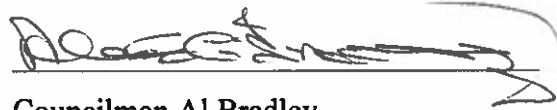
Acknowledged and accepted this the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of July, 2018.



Wayne Craig, Mayor



Cindy Patterson, Vice-Mayor



Councilman Al Bradley



Councilwoman Donna Quetsch



Councilman Derek Webb