

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2018 – 7:15 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 7:15 pm in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building.

- A. WELCOME- *Mayor Craig***
- B. ROLL CALL – *Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk***

Members of Council Present:

Mr. Bradley
Mrs. Quetsch
Mr. Webb
Ms. Patterson
Mayor Craig

Administrative/Town Staff:

Tony Sullivan, Interim Town Manager
Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk

Chuck Banner, Treasurer/Director of
Finance
Floyd Bailey, Director of IT

- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – *Donna Quetsch, Council Member***
- D. PROCLAMATION (Video 9:52 – 13:44)**

1. Proclamation designating October 4, 2018 in honor of Jan Hurt for donation of the “*Love from Abingdon*” Postcard to the Town of Abingdon. – ***Mayor Craig***

Mayor Craig read the proclamation into record and then presented the framed proclamation to Jan Hurt and thanked her for all her contributions to the Town.

E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Video 13:48 – 14:37)

- September 4, 2018 Regular Meeting
- September 10, 2018 Work Session
- September 18, 2018 Public Comments/Input and Work Session
- September 26, 2018 Special Called Meeting

On motion by Mrs. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Bradley, Council approved the minutes regarding the September 4, 2018 Regular meeting; September 10, 2018 work session; September 18, 2018 Public Comments/Input and Work Session; and September 26, 2018 Special Called meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Ms. Patterson	Aye
Mayor Craig	Aye

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Please place your name on the sign-up sheet provided and comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person. (Video 14:39 – 40:44)

- Connie Daggs
- Henry McCarthy
- Derek Duetcher
- Linda Summers
- Donna Bailey
- Sigrid Phillips
- Edison Jennings
- Rick Humphreys
- Steve Jett
- Terry Simon

G. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR PURSUANT TO §2.2-3711(A)(39) OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OR CONSIDERATION OF INFORMATION SUBJECT TO THE EXCLUSION IN §2.2-3705.6 RELATED TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. (Video 40:45 – 52:00)

Mr. Shuman stated that the presentation should be in open session. Kenny Shuman, Chairman of the Economic Development Authority, presented to Council a summary report of interviews with locally owned or managed businesses to determine the plans for the future Economic Development Authority's actions or recommendations. Mr. Shuman presented five common themes from their interviews as follows:

- It is very difficult to work with the town to start a business or modify an existing structure;
- This being the first time anyone has ever reached out to solicit thoughts on economic development;
- The town has been complacent in terms of efforts for economic development; the town has rested on its reputation for too long;
- The restrictive nature of the Historic Properties Review Board has discouraged investment in the historic district while at the same time there are properties out of compliance with the requirements. This area along with the first point drew the most ire of the respondents; and
- It is hard to locate information on rental housing.

Mr. Shuman also presented the Authority's recommendations as follows:

- Better communication of what is expected, in terms of rules and requirements and what businesses need to open;
- Consider offering incentives for businesses;
- Don't be afraid to say, "we want your business here and we are going to help you.";
- Consider maximizing use of Barter Green to establish a bustling Town Square atmosphere;
- Continue to offer façade improvement opportunities in partnership with business owners and/or building owners to improve aesthetics that will attract additional customers as well as additional businesses;
- Work with banks or other financial institutions to identify sources for capital for prospective businesses or business expansions;
- Involve local businesses, commercial real estate owners, potential businesses, commercial lenders and investors in a cooperative atmosphere to foster new growth.
- Recommend a review of the Historic Preservation Review Board guidelines to make more clear, realistic and promote growth in the historic district; and
- Update website.

Discussion ensued. Mayor Craig questioned if a member of the EDA would be interested in serving on a committee to discuss updating ordinances. Mr. Bradley thanked the EDA for their work.

H. POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION WITH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR PURSUANT TO §2.2-3711(A)(5) OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION CONCERNING A PROSPECTIVE BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY WHERE NO PREVIOUS ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN MADE OF THE BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY'S INTEREST IN LOCATING OR EXPANDING ITS FACILITIES IN THE COMMUNITY. (Video 52:05 – 1:14:39)

On motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Webb, Council went into Closed Session pursuant to pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-

3711(A)(5) for the purpose of discussion concerning a prospective business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Ms. Patterson	Aye
Mayor Craig	Aye

On motion of Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Bradley, the Council reconvened in open session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Ms. Patterson	Aye
Mayor Craig	Aye

Kim Kingsley, Clerk, read the following certification to be adopted by the Council members:

***WHEREAS**, the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia has convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and*

***WHEREAS**, Sec. 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a certification by the Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; and*

***NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved, that the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from an open meeting requirement by Virginia law were discussed in closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Town Council.*

The certification was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	I so certify
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Mrs. Quetsch	I so certify
Mr. Webb	I so certify
Ms. Patterson	I so certify
Mayor Craig	I so certify

I. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES –

1. Consideration of proposed utility easement to Washington County Service Authority, a political entity chartered under the Water and Waste Authorities Act by Washington County, on property situate in the Taylor Magisterial District of Washington County, Virginia being identified as “Virginia Creeper Trail”, consisting of a twenty-feet (20’) permanent water line easement and a forty-foot (40’) temporary construction easement, each centered on the water line, for the use, installation, maintenance, operation of water line and serviced line up to and including the meter. – **Matt Bolick, Director of Public Services and Construction (Video 1:14:39 – 1:19:16)**

Matt Bolick, Director of Public Services and Construction, advised the Council that the Washington County Service Authority were conducting repairs and upgrades and requested a twenty-feet (20’) permanent water line easement and a forty-foot (40’) temporary construction easement, each centered on the water line, for the use, installation, maintenance and operation of the water line and serviced line up to and including the meter. Mr. Bolick agreed to pay for the advertisement costs and recording fees. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Craig declared the public hearing open. Having heard no comments, Mayor Craig closed the public hearing.

On motion by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Webb, Council authorized the Town Manager to enter into an agreement and dispense with a second reading.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Ms. Patterson	Aye
Mayor Craig	Aye

J. SECOND READINGS – NONE

K. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution for Health Insurance Credit Program for Local Government Employees as provided in the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 51.1-1402 for eligible current and future retirees as defined in Article 5, Chapter 1 of Title 51.1 of the Code of Virginia. – **Stacey Reichler, Director of Human Resources (Video 1:19:26 – 1:25:19)**

Stacey Reichler, Director of Human Resources and Chuck Banner, Director of Finance/Treasurer presented information to Council regarding the retiree health care stipend where the Town currently pays \$120 per quarter for thirty-nine (39) retirees. Stacey Reichler stated that because of the liability of the retiree stipend the auditors presented two solutions and recommend that the Council consider a resolution for Virginia Retirement Services to manage the retiree program.

Stacey Reichler read the proposed resolution. Ms. Patterson questioned whether the Town attorney had reviewed the Resolution at which time Stacey Reichler advised that the resolution came from Virginia Retirement System. Mr. Bradley disqualified himself stating that he was a recipient of these funds and a retired employee of the Town.

On motion by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Webb, Council approved the Resolution as read and as recommended by staff.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	Abstained
(Recipient of funds and a retired employee of the Town of Abingdon)	
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Ms. Patterson	Aye
Mayor Craig	Aye

2. Resolution in Support of the Virginia Department of Transportation Highway Safety Improvement Program and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan projects. – **Matt Bolick, Director of Public Services and Construction (Video 1:25:22 – 1:29:39)**

Matt Bolick, Director of Public Services and Construction, stated that this resolution was in support of application to the Virginia Department of Transportation Highway Safety Improvements Program and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan projects; including sidewalks along Clark Street from Whites Mill Road to Court Street; sidewalk to connect existing sections along East Main Street between Rugby Terrace and Hutton Street along the north-side of East Main Street; pedestrian improvements along West Main Street from Patton Street to Holston Street, along the North-side of West Main Street; pedestrian improvements along Preston Street from West Main Street along the East-side to connect to Urban Trail; and Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

on Russell Road to install a high-visibility crosswalk connecting the now existing parking lot to the fields used by the Little League. Mr. Bolick read the proposed resolution.

On motion by Mr. Bradley seconded by Ms. Patterson, Council approved the Resolution as read.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Ms. Patterson	Aye
Mayor Craig	Aye

L. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS - NONE

M. REPORTS FROM THE INTERIM TOWN MANAGER

1. Arborist Tree Report regarding Emerald Ash Borer – *Kevin Sigmon, Town Arborist (Video 1:29:52 – 1:39:37)*

Kevin Sigmon, Town Arborist, presented information with regard to the Emerald Ash Borer and the combined efforts with the Virginia Department of Forestry for treatment programs. Discussion ensued.

2. Discussion regarding negotiation of lease agreement with regard to Fairview Homestead – *Al Bradley, Council member (Video 1:39:46 – 1:46:50)*

Mr. Bradley referred to the current 2013 Comprehensive Plan particularly the protection of resources and unique features stating that Abingdon's historical and cultural resources must be protected and preserved. Mr. Bradley stated that the Town did not fund Fairview Homestead this budget year resulting from a lease not renewed. Ms. Patterson stated that she felt it was the responsibility of the Town to continue to invest in the property. Mrs. Quetsch requested Mayor Craig explain where the money comes from and Mr. Craig discussed. Mr. Webb questioned what was previously funded. Mr. Craig stated that he remembered funding \$13,000. Further discussion ensued. (CORRECTED 11-15-18)

On motion by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Ms. Patterson, Council approved funding the Olde Glade Antique Tractor Association \$8,000 from the Town Council contingency funds to take care of the Town's historic and personal regard as far as Fairview is concerned.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye

Mr. Webb	Aye
Ms. Patterson	Aye
Mayor Craig	Aye

N. OLD BUSINESS/MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (Video 1:46:50 – 1:56:17)

Ms. Patterson conveyed that she would like to explore avenues to make Abingdon a business friendly Town including customer service to make the process of opening or expanding a business a pleasurable experience.

Mr. Webb added that each member should promote to each committee/board they serve on the commitment of making this process easier.

Mr. Bradley requested that this information be provided to the various Town committees and boards. Discussion ensued. Joe LeVine addressed the Council.

(VIDEO 1:56:18 – 2:10:54)

On motion by Mr. Webb, seconded by Ms. Patterson, Council went into Closed Session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the purpose of discussing the appointment of an Interim Town Manager.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Ms. Patterson	Aye
Mayor Craig	Aye

On motion of Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Bradley, the Council reconvened in open session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Ms. Patterson	Aye
Mayor Craig	Aye

Kim Kingsley, Clerk, read the following certification to be adopted by the Council members:

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia has convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Sec. 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a certification by the Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from an open meeting requirement by Virginia law were discussed in closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Town Council.

The certification was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	I so certify
Mrs. Quetsch	I so certify
Mr. Webb	I so certify
Ms. Patterson	I so certify
Mayor Craig	I so certify

(VIDEO 2:10:59 – 2:11:40)

On motion by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Ms. Patterson, Council employed The Berkley Group of Bridgewater, Virginia in the person of Mr. Kenneth Vittum effective October 12, 2018 at 5:00 pm and authorize the Mayor to enter into any mutually satisfactory agreement for that purpose.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	Aye
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Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Ms. Patterson	Aye
Mayor Craig	Aye

O. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (Video 2:11:41 – 2:13:00)

Mayor Craig thanked Tony Sullivan for his service to the Town in the spur of the moment during a very difficult circumstance and the Council felt that he had done a tremendous service to the Town.

Mr. Sullivan thanked the Council stating that it has been an honor and pleasure

Mayor Craig adjourned the meeting.



J. Wayne Craig, Mayor



Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk