

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2019 – 2:30 PM
ARTHUR CAMPBELL ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 2:30 pm in the Arthur Campbell room 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

- C. PUBLIC COMMENTS –** Please place your name on the sign-up sheet provided and comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person.

- No public comments

D. REPORTS FROM INTERIM TOWN MANAGER –

1. Discussion regarding adoption of policy to handle compensated absence liability per auditor's recommendation – *Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager (VIDEO 2:02:03 - 2:19:59)*

On motion by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Webb, Council went into Closed Session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Council invited Chuck Banner, Director of Finance/Treasurer to join the closed session.

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

On motion by Mr. Webb, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, Counsel instructed the town attorney to rewrite the policy contained in the employee handbook regarding the compensated absence liability per auditor's recommendation for consideration at the February 4, 2019 meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

2. Discussion regarding revision of Resolution adopted July 2, 2018 directing the daily operations and duties of all appointees, department heads and employees be under the direct supervision of the Town Manager – *Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager Manager* (VIDEO 1:48:40 – 2:01:57)

On motion by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Bradley, Council went into Closed Session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

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 Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, 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

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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

On motion by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Ms. Patterson, Counsel instructed the town attorney to rewrite the policy contained in the employee handbook regarding the grievance procedure for consideration at the February 4, 2019 meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

3. Discussion regarding parking at the Creeper Trail (Pecan Street). – *Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager* (VIDEO 36:50 – 45:05)

Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager, stated that a meeting held with the financial institution that holds the lease on this property learning that their lease was \$3,000 annually, together with additional stipulations. Mr. Vittum recommended that Council not pursue this avenue but to look at other alternatives for needed parking, including directional signs and

improvements to the existing Town leased property. Discussion ensued and Council requested the Public Works Department implement a plan for discussion at the next work session.

4. Update regarding Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee meeting – ***Al Bradley, Council member (VIDEO 45:06 – 48:40)***

Mr. Bradley presented Council with a summary of the recent meeting including the need for directional signage as set forth in “*High on Windy Hill*”; addressed beautification; vote not to pursue a columbarium; and relocate a portion of the fence closer to Russell Road.

5. Update on bids to complete climate control at Retirement – ***Jason Boswell, Interim Director of Planning (VIDEO 48:42 – 49:56)***

Jason Boswell, Interim Director Planning updated Council regarding three bids received and stated that he was waiting on the Department of Historic Resources approval. Mr. Boswell stated that once the approval received, it would be placed on the agenda for Historic Properties Review Board then presented to Council. Mr. Boswell stated that the climate control was in the existing budget.

6. Update on costs to complete proposed parking lot and walking path at Muster Grounds – ***Jason Boswell, Interim Director of Planning (VIDEO 49:58 – 53:10)***

Jason Boswell, Interim Director of Planning updated Council stating that the Department of Historic Resources is requiring systematic sub-section sub-surface testing and a bid for archeological study has been prior to moving forward with proposed path with an estimated sixty-day turnaround. Mr. Boswell also presented a proposed change for the parking lot to two tracts that the Town presently owns that has sidewalk, curb and guttering, more level, and easier to access. Mr. Boswell stated that \$2500 needed for the base and approximately \$3000 if Council decided on the brown stones. Mr. Boswell stated that the grand total for the construction of the path and parking lot is estimate to be \$15,000 with the proposed projects are in the existing budget and ready to proceed.

7. Update on condition of Breckenridge Cabin proposed to be relocated at Muster Grounds – ***Jason Boswell, Interim Director of Planning (VIDEO 53:11 – 54:36)***

Jason Boswell, Interim Director of Planning advised that staff has inspected the cabin, which appeared to have no damage. Mr. Boswell felt that the cabin could be reconstructed and would request money in the upcoming budget process.

8. Update regarding Abingdon Comprehensive Plan Kickoff Meeting, January 28, 2019 – ***Jason Boswell, Interim Director of Planning (VIDEO 54:37 – 57:28)***

Jason Boswell, Interim Director of Planning invited Council to participate in the upcoming Comprehensive Plan Kickoff meeting and discussed the schedule for January 28, 2019.

9. Consideration of Biennial Memorandum of Understanding Designated Community 2019-2020 and Memorandum of Agreement by and between the Town of Abingdon and Abingdon Main Street, Inc. – *Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager* (VIDEO 57:36 – 57:57) (VIDEO 1:34:02 – 1:35:38) (VIDEO 2:20:19 – 2:55:12)

Mr. Vittum stated that Council has the changes to the current agreement with Abingdon Main Street for consideration and further discussion in closed session.

On motion by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, Council went into Closed Session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) for the purpose of discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Council invited Jayne Duehring, Director of Tourism and Tonya Triplett, Community Development Coordinator to join them in closed session.

On motion of Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Webb, 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.*

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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

10. Presentation by Martha Keys with the Historical Society of Washington County. – **Cindy Patterson, Vice Mayor (VIDEO 11:49 – 17:46)**

Martha Keys with the Historical Society of Washington County presented Council and guests with information regarding an upcoming fundraising campaign on February 7, 2019 at Barter Theatre titled "*Conversation with Thomas Jefferson*".

11. Discussion regarding Elected Officials training in April, 2019 sponsored by Mount Rogers Planning District Commission – **Wayne Craig, Mayor (VIDEO 58:02 – 1:01:22)**

Mayor Craig announced that Mount Rogers Planning District Committee proposed a local Newly Elected Officials Workshop and questioned whether if any of the Council members had an interest in attending. Discussion ensued. Mayor Craig instructed the Clerk to notify Mr. Blevins and Mr. Sizemore that the Council would like to participate.

12. Discussion of the sports complex and Green Spring Road budgets. – **Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager (VIDEO 1:01:22 – 1:29:19)**

Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager updated Council regarding the two budgets for the sports complex and Green Spring Road stating that these figures are thirty-days in arrears and have not been updated. Mr. Vittum stated that addition of the Washington Crossings would add an additional \$300,000 to the budget depending on the property acquisition estimate. Mr. Vittum further added that AMT has requested an additional \$50,000 for inspection services and CHA has requested an additional \$50,000 for geotechnical work.

Mr. Vittum further stated that Stephen Steele with CHA provided an update on the build out for the sports complex with Phase I costing \$7.5 million with a total budget of \$8.3 million, which includes the \$100,000 splash pad. Mr. Vittum estimated a \$1.4 million shortfall exploring private fundraising and a \$75,000 grant with Appalachian Electric Power. Further discuss ensued.

13. Discussion regarding additional courts for pickleball – *Kevin Worley, Director of Outdoor Parks and Recreation (VIDEO 17:50 – 36:14)*

Kevin Worley, Director of Outdoor Parks and Recreation, announced suggested sites considered for additional courts for pickleball and would continue to work on a solution. Greg Case addressed Council and thanked them for their consideration of additional courts, which he felt, would be a benefit to everyone and an added outdoor attraction for citizens and tourist. Pete Lauzon, Ambassador for USA Pickleball Association, addressed Council stating that it is a growing sport for all ages and additional courts needed. Melisha Wynn, Co-Director of Indoor Parks and Recreation, requested that Council consider an additional gymnasium, however offered one tennis court as an alternative pickleball court. Council agreed to refer this matter to the Recreation Advisory Committee and provide a report at the next Council meeting.

14. Discussion regard possible conflicts with February 14, 2019 and April 16, 2019 work sessions – *Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager (VIDEO 1:29:19 - 1:33:47)*

Due to scheduling conflicts Council rescheduled the February 14, 2019 to February 20, 2019 at 2:30 pm and the April 16, 2019 meeting to April 25, 2019 at 2:30 pm

15. **POSSIBLE CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO §2.2-3711(A)(3) OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA, AS AMENDED, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OR CONSIDERATION OF THE ACQUISITION OF REAL PROPERTY FOR A PUBLIC USE, OR OF THE DISPOSITION OF PUBLICLY HELD REAL PROPERTY, WHERE DISCUSSION IN AN OPEN MEETING WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE BARGAINING POSITION OR NEGOTIATING STRATEGY OF THE PUBLIC BODY. (VIDEO 2:55:13 – 3:24:37)**

Mr. Vittum stated that he would like to receive some direction with regard to Fairview Farms as to how the Council would like to proceed.

On motion by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Webb, Council went into Closed Session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for the purpose of discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public use, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Council invited Kevin Worley, Director of Outdoor Parks and Recreation, to join them in closed session.

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

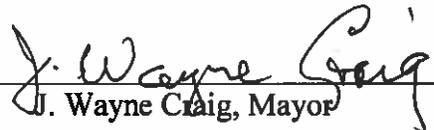
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The certification was as follows:

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

Mayor Craig adjourned the meeting.



J. Wayne Craig, Mayor



Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk