

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR MEETING
FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2019 – 7:15 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Friday, January 4, 2019 at 7:15pm 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:

Kenneth Vittum, Interim Town Manager
Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk

Chuck Banner, Treasurer/Director of
Finance
Floyd Bailey, Director of IT
Chief Tony Sullivan, APD

- C. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –** *Donna Quetsch, Council Member*
- D. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES (VIDEO 1:37 – 4:38)**

- November 28, 2018 Special Called Meeting
- December 3, 2018 Regular meeting
- December 11, 2018 Work Session
- December 12, 2018 Retreat

On motion by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Webb, Council approved the minutes regarding the November 28, 2018 Special Called Meeting; December 3, 2018 Regular Meeting and the December 12, 2018 Retreat as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Ms. Patterson requested that the minutes of the December 11, 2018 Work Session minutes be amended to include the following: (page 189; item D-5)

Tyler Vencill, Engineer advised Council that staff had reviewed the proposed seventy-five space parking lot for the Muster Grounds and Retirement. Mr. Vencill and staff agreed that the Town's Public Works department could undertake the approximately 1,600 feet trail project at an estimate cost of \$6,500 for materials. Mr. Vencill further advised that a private firm could exceed \$20,000. *(Corrected January 4, 2019) Ms. Patterson questioned to save money why would you have to do an RFP if our Town employees, what kind of equipment will you need to put the trail in?* Jason Boswell, Interim Director of Planning advised Council that he would contact Department of Historic Resources and provide them with the information needed to request approval.

On motion by Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Bradley, Council approved the minutes as corrected regarding the December 11, 2018 Work Session as proposed.

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 (VIDEO 4:40 – 7:00)

- Richard Macbeth

G. RESOLUTIONS – NONE

H. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES - NONE

I. SECOND READINGS – NONE

J. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS – NONE

K. REPORTS FROM THE INTERIM TOWN MANAGER

1. Consideration of dates for interviews for Town Manager – *Mayor Wayne Craig*
(VIDEO 7:25 – 9:51)

After discussion, Council agreed on March 19, 2019 to schedule interviews for the Town Manager position. Mayor Craig stated that he is expecting to interview four or five candidates for the position.

1. Consideration of dates for budget meetings – *Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager*
(VIDEO 10:01 – 17:57)

After discussion, Council scheduled March 5 and 6, 2019 for departmental budget meetings in the Arthur Campbell room. Council advised the Interim Town Manager and Treasurer to schedule the time for the meetings in the near future.

Council scheduled March 20, 2019 at 1:00 pm in Council Chamber to hear non-departmental budget requests over \$10,000.

Council scheduled work sessions for February 14, 2019 at 2:00 pm; March 14, 2019 at 2:00 pm; and April 16, 2019 at 2:00 pm.

1. Discussion regarding amendments to Town's Charter – *Wayne Craig, Mayor*
(VIDEO 18:03 – 23:43)

Cameron Bell, Counsel advised the Council members that the Resolution passed on July 2, 2018 with regard to the daily operations of appointees be supervised by the Town Manager. Mr. Bell pointed out that the employee manual would need revision with regard to the grievance procedure. Mr. Bradley suggested that consideration should be given to appointing the new Town Manager as Treasurer and Clerk also and duties be delegated as the Town Manager chooses. Mayor Craig stated that he did not feel that the Charter needed changed at this time.

1. Discussion and acceptance of gifted property from John K. and Kimberly G. Nicewonder, specifically 1.82 acres, more or less, and being a portion of tax parcel number 105-A-35. – *Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager* (VIDEO 23:47 – 29:07)

Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager briefed Council regarding a possible gift of 1.82 acres from John K. and Kimberly G. Nicewonder which should enhance the proposed sports complex and fields. Mr. Vittum added that the Nicewonders stated that the property mowed once yearly, has no value to them personally and is located on the same side as the Creeper Trail. Ms. Patterson stated that it was very gracious of the Nicewonders to offer but questioned the costs to move more dirt and would that property

require build. Cameron Bell replied that the additional acreage would be an assistance in the construction slope.

On motion of Mr. Bradley, seconded by Ms. Patterson, Council authorized the Town Manager and Town Attorney to take any necessary steps to accept the said property.

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 sell of trolleys – *Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager* (VIDEO 29:08 – 30:49)

Mr. Vittum stated that no immediate action was necessary as he was bringing it before Council for consideration at this time. Mr. Vittum stated that there has been some private interest in purchasing and at this time, the trolleys are not operable and maintenance is costly. Mr. Webb requested that the staff investigate the value. Mr. Vittum stated that he would ask staff to investigate details and will present the details at later date.

3. Discussion regarding alternative election of mayor and council at November general election in cities and towns – *Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager* (VIDEO 30:51 – 53:41)

Council discussed the proposed alternative election of mayor and council at November general elections in cities and towns pursuant to Section 24.2-222.1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. Topics discussed was potential increase in voting, alleviate the costs of a separate election including whether the citizens of Abingdon should vote on this matter during a referendum. Richard Macbeth addressed the Council with regard to his concerns also. Cameron Bell, Counsel also addressed the Mayor and Council.

On motion of Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Webb, Council tabled this matter.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Mayor Craig

Aye

4. Recognition of Emmitt Yeary, Dr. Ellison Conrad, Dr. James Moore, Mark Hurt, Esq. and Betsy White for serving on the Fields-Penn 1860 House Museum to determine possible uses and suggested plans for repair to the structure – ***Cindy Patterson, Vice Mayor (VIDEO 55:54 – 1:01:57)***

Ms. Patterson thanked the members of the committee for agreeing to serve and providing them with a basis to move forward. Mr. Bradley also thanked the members for their involvement.

5. Consideration of stabilization and foundation repair to Fields-Penn 1860 House Museum with necessary funding – ***Kenneth Vittum, Interim Town Manager (VIDEO 53:47 – 55:53)***

Kenneth Vittum, Interim Town Manager updated the Council pertaining to the geotechnical report that contained micro piles would be added to the two story section only of the Fields-Penn House. Mr. Vittum stated that the next step would be Request for Proposals for contract work and the pre-report price for that work estimated to be \$164,000. Chuck Banner, Director of Finance/Treasurer stated if it was under 1% that it could be included in this fiscal budget.

L. OLD BUSINESS/MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (VIDEO 1:26:52 – 1:30:20)

Ms. Patterson reported that she had attended some ribbon cuttings and attending the events related to Washington County Leadership and would be graduating in May.

Mrs. Quetsch thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve the citizens.

Mr. Bradley stated that he had attended several meetings in December.

Mr. Webb stated that he also had attended several meetings, participated in the Christmas parade and was thankful for the opportunity to serve.

Mayor Craig stated that he and Mr. Vittum meet with the County regarding cooperation concerning \$19 million sewer improvement project.

N. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES (VIDEO 1:02:00 – 1:03:31)

1. **Sustain Abingdon**

- Appointment to fill the unexpired term of Barbara Williamson
- Appointment to fill a vacant position on committee

On motion of Ms. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Webb, Council appointed Anita Manuel and Matt Doan to the Sustain Abingdon committee.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

(VIDEO 1:03:33 – 1:26:51)

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)(3) for the purpose of discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held 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

On motion of Mr. Bradley, seconded by Ms. Patterson, 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, to rescind the motion adopted at the December 3, 2018 meeting to authorize the Town Manager to place the Summers Law Office up for auction and authorize Town Attorney to prepare a deed with appropriate covenants for historic preservation of the building in the Historic District.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye

Ms. Patterson	Aye
Mayor Craig	Aye

Mr. Bradley stated in the best interest of the Town for getting the best buy, best bargain, best price for the Summers Law Office and of not having a potential cloud of the title from the four-fifths majority question that we ran into, I am willing to change my vote on the Summers Law Office sale and therefore make the following motion.

On motion by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Ms. Patterson, Council authorize the Town Manager to place Summers Law Office up for auction and authorize Town Attorney to prepare a deed with appropriate covenants for historic preservation of the building in the Historic District with the understanding that the net proceeds will be applied to restoration and/or other renovation of other Town historic properties.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

O. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Craig adjourned the meeting.



J. Wayne Craig, Mayor



Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk