

TO: Mayor Craig and Town Council
FROM: Kenneth Vittum, Interim Town Manager
DATE: April 26, 2019
RE: Council Report for April 22-26, 2019

- **YWCA Award** – Sara Saavedra, Abingdon’s Event Coordinator, is a recipient of the YWCA Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia Tribute to Women Award. The award recognizes women for community impact and commitment to the vitality of the region. She was recognized for the Abingdon Music Experience being named as a Top 20 event by Southwest Tourism Society, one of 27 events she organizes each year. Congratulations, Sara.
- **Fields-Penn** – The RFP for the foundation stabilization will be advertised this week.
- **Fire Department** – There was a fire April 19 at Abingdon Mobile Home Park that destroyed three manufactured homes. There were no injuries. Staff is looking at ordinance requirements, particularly setbacks between homes and may recommend changes to the code.
- **Findlay House** – Brochure racks have been installed outside for assisting tourist when the house is closed. The O. Winston Link Photograph exhibit has been reinstalled in the building.
- **Recycling** – The town will suspend recycling in the near future due to no longer having a place to take the collected material. Staff continues to explore options and this service will be resumed once a location to take the material is identified.
- **New Manager Meet and Greet** – A public meet and greet is being planned for Monday, May 6 from 4-5:30 pm at the Findlay House to introduce James Morani as the new town manager. This event is open to the public and is scheduled prior to the regular Town Council meeting.
- **GIS Position** – Emily King has been hired as the new GIS Technician. She is graduating from JMU with a Major in Geographic Science. She has a dual concentration in Applied Geographic Information Systems and Environmental Conservation, Sustainability, and Development. She will begin her full time role with the town on May 13. Staff is excited about her capability to move the GIS system forward and integrate it into all town department.
- **Plumb Ally** – Construction continues on the replacement of manholes and lines along two blocks of Plumb Ally.
- **Colonial Square Plat** – The Planning Commission approved the final plat to divide Colonial Square into two lots prior to renovation of the center. This will now go to council for final plat approval.
- **McDonald’s Renovation** – The Planning Commission tabled action on this project. The applicant was asked to consider altering plans to more appropriately meet the entry corridor requirements.
- **Ribbon Cutting** – Berkshire Hathaway – Jones Property Group held a ribbon cutting at their newly remodeled offices on West Main Street. Congratulations and a great renovation job.
- **Green Spring Road** – Progress continues on the road construction despite the heavy rain last Friday. This will extend the time required to dry materials being placed on the Sports Fields. Curb and gutter and sidewalks are being formed. Staff presented a Change Order to council for temporary traffic poles. This will allow all other construction to move forward without delay. Substantial Completion is still July 3. All work should be complete at that date except for switching out the temporary and permanent traffic poles. Not taking this approach would delay

opening the new street and incur substantial remobilization costs. This work is eligible for VDOT 50% reimbursement. Staff also met with AEP and the contractor to work out differences between the bid requirements and additional AEP requirements for electrical installation.

- **VDOT Projects** - Unfortunately, the Town was not selected for any of the three projects we submitted through the Smart Scale program. However, we were awarded a project through the Highway Safety Improvement Plan (HSIP). This project is new sidewalk along Preston Street from the Urban Trail to West Main Street.
- **Best of Abingdon** – The contest is completed and winners will be announced May 6 and awards presented May 7-10.
- **Stone Mill Tech Park** – Tonya Triplett is compiling information about available lots and space available in the Tech Park.
- **Hanging Flower Baskets** – These are ready and in the green house. Plans are in place to put up 64 baskets in mid-May.
- **April Events** – April 27 Little League Jamboree – Creeper Fest – National Day of Service
April 28 – Wounded Warrior Softball Game at Latture (2-8 pm)
- **Green Springs Road** – Council approved a Change Order to put up temporary traffic poles at Cummings and Cook. The permanent poles are delayed to mid-June and impact the contractor's ability to complete the project. The temporary poles will allow substantial completion by June 30 with only the switch to permanent poles remaining. The cost is \$58,118.76 and is split with VDOT 50/50. This also is partially offset by avoiding potential remobilization costs. The delay was caused by flooding in Nebraska.
- **Ribbon Cutting** – Congratulations to the Abingdon Community Center on cutting the ribbon for the Greasy Bean Café.