

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
WORK SESSION  
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019 – 2:00 PM  
ARTHUR CAMPBELL ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 2:00 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. RESOLUTIONS (VIDEO 19:43 – 23:00)**

1. A Resolution of the Council for the Town of Abingdon honoring and recognizing Marion Watts upon his retirement as a Town employee. – ***Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager***

Kenneth Vittum, Interim Town Manager read the proposed Resolution recognizing Marion Watts upon his retirement.

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

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Bradley</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Patterson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Craig</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Mayor Craig and Council thanked Marion Watts for his service

**E. REPORTS FROM INTERIM TOWN MANAGER –**

1. Presentation from Regina Fields, Price & Ramey Insurance, regarding increase of health insurance premium from Local Choice – ***Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager (VIDEO 42:38 – 55:47)***

Regina Fields with Price & Ramey Insurance informed Council of a 10.3% increase in health insurance premier from Local Choice. Ms. Fields strongly suggested participants seek Live Health Online versus emergency room visits and promote the wellness/annual yearly exam.

Stacey Reichler, Director of Human Resources suggested to Council that the percentage of Town/employee be 90/10 Employee only; 85/15 Employee and Child; and 80/20 Other with a total costs of \$120,747 increase for the Town to absorb. Discussion ensued. Chuck Banner, Director of Finance/Treasurer stated that April 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for renewal.

2. Discussion regarding adopting Resolution offering healthcare coverage to elected officials through Local Choice Health Benefits Program – ***Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager (VIDEO 55:47 – 1:00:13)***

Kenneth Vittum, Interim Town Manager advised Council that Local Choice Health Benefits Program offers coverage to elected officials through the adoption of a Resolution. Ms. Patterson questioned whether it was mandatory. Mr. Vittum responded that it was elective coverage. Ms. Patterson read the resolution into the record.

**On motion by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Webb, Council adopted a Resolution offering healthcare coverage to elected officials through Local Choice Health Benefits Program.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Bradley</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Patterson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Craig</b>	<b>Aye</b>

3. Presentation regarding *National Travel and Tourism Week* and Abingdon's Convention and Visitors Bureau activities and future plans – ***Amanda Livingston, Marketing Manager (VIDEO 1:00:29 – 1:08:26)***

Amanda Livingston, Marketing Manager presented to Council information regarding National Travel and Tourism Week of May 5 – 11, 2019. Mrs. Livingston invited Mayor Craig

to welcome “front line workers” and Council to join them during the May 9<sup>th</sup> Thursday Jams at the VIP tent.

4. Presentation of agreement, including work plan, by and between the Town and Carrie Baxter, Director of Abingdon Main Street, regarding Biennial Memorandum of Understanding Designated Community 2019-2020; and Memorandum of Agreement by and between the Town of Abingdon and Virginia Main Street – ***Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager (VIDEO 1:08:27 – 1:19:12)***

Kenneth Vittum, Interim Town Manager stated that he had met with Carrie Baxter, Director of Abingdon Main Street in an attempt to get a work plan together for presentation to the Council. Mrs. Baxter then presented her work plan and answered questions from the Mayor and Council members. Mr. Webb stated that he was not comfortable with renewing the two-year lease and asked to explore a one-year lease. Mayor Craig suggested that the Council further discuss the matter in a closed session.

5. Presentation of agreements regarding property known as “Fairview” located at 908 Hillman Highway, Abingdon, Virginia, Tax Map No. 106-A-2, consisting of 8.6 acres, more or less, by and between the Town and (1) James D. Moore, Jr. Family Limited Partnership (2) Fairview Farm and Homestead Foundation, Inc. (3) Old Glade Antique Tractor Association, Inc.; and (4) Old Glade Antique Tractor Association, Inc. for Nonprofessional Services – ***Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager (VIDEO 1:19:16 – 1:41:18)***

Kenneth Vittum, Interim Town Manager thanked Kevin Worley, Director of Outdoor Parks and Recreation for his dedication and hard work in getting this matter on track.

Cameron Bell, Counsel updated Council stating that the Town owns 4.6 acres and James D. Moore, Jr. Family Limited Partnership owns 8.6 acres, which is the subject property of the expired lease. Mr. Bell stated that is a situation where one works with the other and the links are Old Glade Antique Tractor Association and Fairview Farm and Homestead Foundation, Inc. Discussion ensued. Kevin Worley, Director of Outdoor Parks and Recreation advised Council that Old Glade Antique Tractor Association moved from a non-departmental budget item to an item under his department with an allocation of \$10,000. Mr. Bell also explained to Council that Town’s agreement with Moore had a reversion clause and that avenue explored if Council did not want to pursue the discussed leases.

**On motion by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Webb, Council directed the Town Manager or his designee to enter into agreements as presented.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Bradley</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Patterson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Craig</b>	<b>Aye</b>

6. Presentation of agreement entered into by the Town with David Millsap regarding property located at Harmony Hills Lane, Tax Map No. 086-12-5, consisting of 24.185 acres, more or less - *Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager (VIDEO 1:41:22 – 1:47:25)*

Kenneth Vittum, Interim Town Manager updated Council on the bid for agricultural lease for the Town's property located at Harmony Hills Lane resulting in one bid from David Millsap of Millsap Farms.

**On motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Ms. Patterson, Council directed that an agreement be entered in by the Town Manager, consistent with the RFP, to which Mr. Millsap responded, for a period of one year, beginning March 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Bradley</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Patterson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Craig</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Cameron Bell, Counsel requested a recess. (VIDEO 1:47:24 – 1:56:51)**

**Cameron Bell, Counsel requested that Council revisit Items B5 and B6 to clarify that the items were not approved as you cannot enter into these agreement until there is a public hearing, which will be held at the April 1, 2019 meeting. (Part 2 – VIDEO 11:07 – 11:58)**

7. Discussion regarding repurposing existing Wayfinding Signs from Main Street to areas along the Urban Pathway – *Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager (VIDEO 1:56:51 – 2:02:15)*

Kenneth Vittum, Interim Town Manager communicated to Council that staff feel the existing wayfinding signs are not visible and under-utilized. Staff recommends the relocation of

some signs to the Urban Pathway. Mr. Bradley suggested that staff review Wytheville's study regarding signage, as it is very successful. Council agreed to the recommendation as presented.

8. Update regarding notice from Sunset Fiber that effective April 1, 2019 the rate for Local Retransmission Fee will increase by \$4.00 and the rate for Basic Video will increase by \$2.00; customers receiving services on a promotional basis, or under a minimum term agreement with a specific rate, as of March 31, 2019, will not be impacted by the price changes during the applicable period – ***Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager (Part 2 - VIDEO :34 – 2:31)***

Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager discussed a notice he received regarding increases for services offered by Sunset Fiber. Discussion ensued.

9. Update on sewer service agreement by and between the Town of Abingdon and Washington County Service Authority – ***Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager (Part 2 – VIDEO 2:31 – 11:07)***

Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager provided update regarding discussions to update the sewer service agreement between the Town and Washington County Service Authority. Mr. Vittum advised Council that he recommends a Joint Called Meeting with the Washington County Board of Supervisors and Washington County Service Authority during the Board of Supervisor regular meeting on April 9, 2019 at 6:30 pm to present and adopt the agreement. Discussion ensued regarding the specifics of the agreement.

10. Update on change order to Green Spring Road – ***Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager (Part 2 – VIDEO 12:03 – 13:07)***

Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager announced that there would not be a change order regarding the Green Spring Road and the possibility of Washington Crossing connector. Mr. Vittum also advised that the Town was in negotiations with AMT regarding an addendum submitted and staff was attempting to renegotiate.

11. Introduction of Rick Statzer as Director, Building Inspections – ***Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager (VIDEO 2:02:20 – 2:03:21) (Part 2 VIDEO :00 – 33)***

Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager announced that Rick Statzer, who has twenty-three years of experience, will step into the role on Director of Building Inspections effective April 1<sup>st</sup>.

12. Discussion regarding Noise Ordinance amendment – mixed use district – ***Ken Vittum, Town Manager (VIDEO 23:14 – 42:36)***

Jason Boswell, Director of Planning advised Council that the current noise ordinance does not define “noise”. Mr. Boswell emphasized the add exemption of “Commercial establishments

located in areas zoned for mixed use as defined herein between the hours of 7:00 am and 12:00 am”. Discussion ensued.

Cameron Bell, Counsel advised Council that an issue arose in a mixed-use zoning. Mr. Bell stated after researching other localities that an amendment to the Town’s noise ordinance considered. Mr. Bell further recommended the addition of “discernable” to mean that the sound is sufficiently distinct such that its source can be clearly identified.

Mike Ferracci addressed the Council concerning a situation at his business, White Birch Juice Company.

Jayne Duchring, Director of Tourism, thanked the Council for the planning of mixed-use in the downtown, which adds atmosphere, hospitality and economic vitality.

Discussion continued and Council agreed to place this matter on the April 25, 2019 agenda to discuss further.

13. Discussion regarding the budget – ***Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager (Part 2 – VIDEO 13:07 – 17:05)***

Chuck Banner, Director of Finance/Treasurer stated that the initial budget had a deficit of \$4.3 million and reduced to \$590,000. Mr. Banner advised Council that putting historic properties in a bond issue. Mr. Banner further stated that the funding for a paid fireman and to complete the requested street paving revenue be funded through a real estate tax increase suggesting a .02 cent increase on the dollar. Ken Vittum, Interim Town Manager advised Council that the fireman position at \$47,000 yearly and the additional \$100,000 paving costs would be covered by the \$150,000 revenue raised by the .02 cent increase.

**On motion of Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Webb, the Council convened in Closed Session pursuant to §2.2-3711(A)(29) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for the purpose of discussion 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. (Part 2 VIDEO 17:23 – 1:03:41)**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Bradley</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Patterson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Craig</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Council invited Tonya Triplett, Community Development Coordinator to join the closed session.

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

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Bradley</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Ms. Patterson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Craig</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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.*

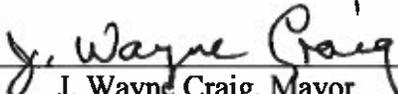
**The certification was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Bradley</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mr. Webb</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Ms. Patterson</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mayor Craig</b>	<b>I so certify</b>

**F. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (Part 2 – VIDEO 1:03:48 – 1:05:58)**

Ms. Patterson shared information regarding the splash pad advising Mr. Vittum that the United Way Bristol Speedway Foundation may have grants available to assist with \$50,000 funding.

Mayor Craig adjourned the meeting.

  
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J. Wayne Craig, Mayor

  
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Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk