



***A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGARDING THE WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE***

WHEREAS, the Washington County governing body caused a referendum to be placed on the November 5, 2019 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the question to be determined by the voters is “Shall the courthouse be removed to 300 Towne Centre Drive, and shall the Board of Supervisors be permitted to spend \$30 million for purchase and renovation expenses therefor?”; and

WHEREAS, 300 Towne Centre Drive is generally known as the former Kmart site; and

WHEREAS, if the existing courthouse is moved to the former Kmart site, then traffic to access the moved courthouse will result in additional traffic along Cummings Street, which is already a very congested roadway; and

WHEREAS, a recent traffic study commissioned by the Town of Abingdon indicates that two additional lanes will be required at the Cummings Street / Cook Street intersection when The Meadows Development is completed; and

WHEREAS, funding is not currently available for the additional two lanes; and

WHEREAS, Washington County has not included the funds for this roadway improvement in its \$30,000,000 courthouse estimate; and

WHEREAS, the two additional lanes of roadway are estimated to cost between \$2 million and \$3 million; and

WHEREAS, the extension of Cook Street, which is included in the Town’s Comprehensive Plan as well as a recent VDOT frontage road study, will need to be considered in conjunction with the development of the property and will increase the cost of the project; and

WHEREAS, a courthouse at the former Kmart site will be inconsistent with the land use plan contained in the Town’s Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the former Kmart site is in a commercial zoning district (B-2), where a courthouse is not a permitted use; and

WHEREAS, traffic flows freely at the existing courthouse; and

WHEREAS, Washington County has received a Needs Assessment report from Thompson & Litton, which includes an option for full renovation and expansion of the existing courthouse facilities at an estimated cost less than the option contained in the referendum; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Abingdon has pledged by Resolution to work cooperatively with Washington County if it chooses to renovate the existing courthouse and construct parking facilities; and

WHEREAS, there are no land use concerns related to the renovation and expansion of the existing courthouse facilities; and

WHEREAS, relocation of the courthouse from its current location will have a negative economic impact on historic downtown and erode property values in the Town of Abingdon and Washington County; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Council of Abingdon, Virginia opposes the relocation of the Washington County Courthouse to the former Kmart site and supports renovation and expansion of the existing courthouse facilities.

TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA

BY: J. Wayne Craig
Mayor

BY: James Maroni
Town Manager

The undersigned Clerk of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia (the "Town") hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Council held on September 3, 2019. I hereby further certify that such meeting was a regularly scheduled meeting and that, during the consideration of the foregoing resolution a quorum was present. I further certify that the minutes of such meeting reflect the attendance of the members and the voting on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Member	Attendance	Vote
Wayne Craig, Mayor	Yes	Aye
Cindy Patterson, Vice Mayor	Yes	Aye
Al Bradley	Yes	Aye
Donna Quetsch	Yes	Aye
Derek Webb	Yes	Abstain

WITNESS my hand and seal of the Town of Abingdon as of September 3, 2019.

(SEAL) Kimberly Kingsley
Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk