

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2009 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, August 3, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Municipal Building.

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present: Mayor Edward B. Morgan
Dr. French H. Moore, Jr., Vice Mayor
Mrs. Lois H. Humphreys
Mr. Jason N. Berry

Absent: Mrs. Cathy Lowe

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Debbie Icenhour, Town Attorney
Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning
Jim Cowart, Economic Development Coordinator
Rob Case, IT Department
Jim Smith, Town Engineer/Dir. of Wastewater Operations
John Dew, Dir. of Public Services/Construction
Myra Cook, Director of Tourism

Guests: Bob Howard, Dan Matthews, Eddie Icenhour and L.B. Atkins

Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order and Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk called the roll.

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan invited Dan Mathews, member of the Sports Complex Committee, to report on the properties the group has investigated as potential sites for a sports complex. Mr. Mathews reported the committee had spoken with Washington County School Board about property they own that might be suitable. He further reported on a piece of property owned by the Phipps family on Elementary Drive, property owned by Jim Brown, property owned by the Cumbow family and property known as Thunder Hill. Eddie Icenhour reported on the current statistics for the Abingdon Little League programs informed the Council members that the Little League State Tournament for 9 and 10 year olds will be held next summer in Abingdon. Mr. Mathews reported also on a piece of property owned currently by the Airport Commission and the Council

- members, by consensus, authorized Mr. Mathews and committee to speak with them about the potential of their property for a sports complex.
2. Myra Cook, Director of Tourism and Jim Cowart, Economic Development Director gave a presentation to the Council recapping their trip to Asheville, North Carolina to meet with their Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Department. Ms. Cook reported that members of the Virginia Tourism Commission would be in Abingdon in October for hospitality training with wait staff who work in that area. Mr. Cowart reported that there would be a Food Institute taking place in Asheville in September. Mr. Morgan commented that he wanted Appalachian Sustainable Development and the Tourism Advisory Committee to work together in the coming months with regard to advertising and tourism in the Town.
 3. Mr. Kelly reported to the Council that Jim Moore had communicated with Town Attorney, Deb Icenhour that he would like to end his lease with the Town for the Fairview property. Ms. Icenhour reported that Dr. Moore expressed his dissatisfaction with the rate of progress on the project as well as the lack of the utilization of the land and the remodeling of the log cabins that had been donated to the project. Mr. Kelly reminded the Council that Fairview was on the Regular Council agenda for establishment of an advisory committee and asked if the Council would like to discuss who could potentially serve on this board. Council agreed to proceed with the appointments during the regular meeting.
 4. Mr. Kelly reported that Jim Smith had received an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for Veterans Park and inquired if the Council felt the Committee needed to go through the normal chain of approval even though the property is technically by the Town. Council members agreed that the Veterans Committee should go through the prescribed channels for approval.
 5. Mr. Kelly reported to the Council that he felt the Town was close to a final draft agreement with the Washington County Service Authority on the 201 service agreement.
 6. Ms. Icenhour reported that should be arguing a matter in Court on Friday regarding the Todd Hargroves matter involving his Summer Street property.

At this time, on motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council went into closed session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for discussion and consultation with legal counsel.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Berry	Aye
Mrs. Humphreys	Aye
Dr. Moore	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

The motion carried.

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On motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Humphreys, the Council reconvened in regular session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Berry **Aye**
Mrs. Humphreys **Aye**
Dr. Moore **Aye**
Mayor Morgan **Aye**

The motion carried.

The Town Clerk, Cecile Rosenbaum, 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. Berry **I so certify**
Mrs. Humphreys **I so certify**
Dr. Moore **I so certify**
Mayor Morgan **I so certify**

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At this time, Mr. Morgan declared the meeting recessed so that Council could reconvene in the Council chambers for the regular meeting.

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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk