

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 – 5:30 P.M.  
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Tuesday, September 8, 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  
Mrs. Cathy Lowe  
Mr. Jason N. Berry

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

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

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Greg Kelly, Town Manager, informed the Council members that he had been notified by the Kiwanis Club of a change in the Christmas Parade they wished to make. Mr. Kelly explained that he approved their parade permit request earlier in the year but indicated they had come back with a request to move the parade to Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> and hold it during the morning hours instead of at night. Mr. Kelly also indicated that the Kiwanis representative had also proposed making the parade route shorter to end at Wall Street. After discussion with the Council, it was the consensus that the Town Manager approves the move of the parade to Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> in the morning hours. The Council further commented that the route should remain the same as it has been in years past.
2. Mr. Kelly reported to the Council that he had met with representatives of the Virginia Highlands Festival and they have indicated that they need additional space for the 2010 Festival. The festival representatives have inquired if the Martha Washington Inn would be willing to allow them to use the grounds behind the Inn as space for the arts and crafts for next

year. In addition, they have asked to explore the use of the Market Pavilion and Municipal Parking Lot, the use of Remsburg Drive and the use of Latture Field as possible alternate sites. They also indicated that the festival would remain at the same length of two (2) weeks and three (3) weekends; that the antiques would remain another year at the campus of the Community College and that the youth events would be held again at Veterans Memorial Park. Mr. Kelly commented that he would keep Council posted as to the status of their search for additional space.

3. Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning, commented that the Board of Architectural Review would be evaluating the gates at the Martha Washington Inn for compliance since they have been changed in recent months to say "members only".
4. Dr. Moore inquired about the status of the property located at 245 Bradley Street. Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney, indicated that she had received a letter from the property owner outlining his plans for the cleanup of the property and his time line for accomplishment of the work.
5. Mrs. Lowe inquired about the status of the CITGO station on Cummings Street. Ms. Icenhour reported that it had gone to foreclosure and the bank was trying to sell the property.
6. Mrs. Icenhour reported on the status of blighted property on Leonard Street and informed the Council that the most outspoken citizen about the condition of the property was now not willing to participate in the process for fear of upsetting his neighbors.
7. Mayor Morgan asked if anyone had questions about the public hearings on the agenda and discussion ensued about the map outlining the arts and cultural district. Mrs. Lowe questioned the phrasing of a "qualified" artist and Mrs. Icenhour said she felt the language of the ordinance put the burden on administration for that clarification but indicated that the language was taken from the state code. Mayor Morgan inquired if the Ordinance would affect businesses already in existence and Mrs. Icenhour reported that it would be applied to new businesses only.
8. Mayor Morgan commented on the arboretum presentation on the agenda and reported that the Community College had secured a major benefactor for the project.
9. Council members briefly discussed the Cave House relocation efforts and Mayor Morgan commented that one site for consideration, the old Sheriff's office building, might be a suitable location. Mr. Berry commented that the BAR had delayed sending blight letter to the owners of the Cave House property but now may wish to proceed.
10. Mr. Kelly reported briefly on the Pisces Award and the ceremony in Richmond he and Dr. Moore and town staff attended.
11. Mayor Morgan asked John Dew to comment on the resolution for revenue sharing funds that was included in the agenda for consideration by the Council. Mr. Dew noted a change in the amount of funds applied for and asked that a change be made from \$947,500 to \$997,500. The Council discussed the areas that were included in the resolution. Mr. Berry commented that he had spoken with Bernard Neese about sidewalks on Whites Mill Road and Mrs. Lowe commented on McBroom Street. The Council agreed that McBroom Street was not part of the recollection of the CIP plan and the staff reported that if the grant was approved, locations could be changed or modified.
12. At this time, Mrs. Lowe inquired about the Empire Drive area and asked Mr. Dew about a traffic study for that area.
13. Mayor Morgan asked if anyone had comments on the agenda item for public hearing involving the PUD status of the Wall Development off of Stonybrook Drive. Mr. Jackson commented

that the Planning Commission had approved Mr. Wall's request and that it provided less units and more open space.

14. Mayor Morgan inquired if anyone had comments about the board and commission appointments listed on the agenda. Mr. Kelly indicated that Mark Graham, BZA member, had moved into the County and would not be able to continue to serve on that committee. Mr. Kelly also commented that Nick Safay did not wish to serve on the Fairview Committee but Tom Peterson of Appalachian Sustainable Development would be willing to serve.
15. At this time Mr. Jackson commented about Fairview and explained that the committee was looking at estimates for winterization of the existing cabin and explained that the cost for the process would run approximately \$10,500.
16. Mayor Morgan asked Mr. Jackson to comment on the bids for the Muster Grounds Visitors Center and he indicated that one bid had come in well below the projected estimate. Mr. Jackson further stated that the work should begin on the Visitors Center on or about October 1<sup>st</sup> and be completed by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Mrs. Lowe inquired about the parking issue at the Muster Grounds.
17. Mr. Berry and Mrs. Lowe commented on the ongoing stormwater management issues in Town and the status of the Army Corps of Engineers involvement. Mrs. Lowe requested that contact be made with Congressman Boucher's office about a letter in support of a grant through the Army Corps of Engineers for the Town's stormwater management study. Mr. Kelly indicated he would make that contact and report back to Council.

~~~~~

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

---

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

---

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk