

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, April 1, 2013 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
Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor
Mr. Jason N. Berry
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys
Mr. Robert M. Howard

Administrative Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Garrett Jackson, Asst. Town Manager/Dir. of Planning
Jim Smith, Town Engineer
John Dew, Dir. of Construction/Public Services
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of IT Department
John Phelps, IT Department
Kevin Worley, Director of Parks and Recreation
Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police

Visitors:

Rich Macbeth

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Ms. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk asked the Council members and staff to join in wishing the Mayor and Mrs. Morgan a Happy 40th Wedding Anniversary.
2. Floyd Bailey, Director of Information Technology provided an update on the Alert Abingdon system and the installation and testing of the new warning sirens purchased by the Town. Mr. Bailey indicated that the alert system for the town will now be called "Alert Abingdon". Mr. Bailey noted that call speed for notifications has been improved and utilization of notifications through phone text have worked well. Mr. Bailey noted that the residents of Southview area of town could not hear the siren located at the Coomes Center. Discussion ensued and Mr. Bailey commented he would work towards a solution and eventual purchase of an additional siren if necessary for that area.
3. Chief Sullivan and Kevin Worley, Director of Parks and Recreation provided their revised plans for the annual 4th of July celebration and fireworks at the Coomes Center. Chief

Sullivan commented that the police department staff struggled with crowd maintenance and public intoxication and commented on several incidents that took place on the Coomes Center grounds that resulted in arrests. Mr. Worley commented on the volume of people celebrating at the Coomes Center pool and the issues the staff had in controlling the crowd and dealing with disruptive behavior. Mr. Worley presented a new plan for the 4th of July that will involve closing the Coomes Center early, closing street access near the Coomes Center, traffic flow reconstruction and potential new site for launching of the fireworks. Discussion ensued about alternative locations for the fireworks launch and Mr. Worley indicated he would work with Mr. Kelly to confirm the safest location.

4. Mr. Jackson, Assistant Town Planner updated the Council on the future development of the Bristol Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and the town's participation in the organization. Mr. Jackson noted that participation would be mandatory and based upon the census and commented that he would find out how many representatives the town will be allowed to have on the board.
5. Mrs. Lowe mentioned the annual Mount Rogers Planning District dinner in Bristol and noted that she was unable to attend.
6. Ms. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk noted that she had inquired about dates of availability for the annual Arthur Campbell Awards Dinner and noted that Heartwood only had available Saturday, October 12th for the dinner. Council members agreed on the date and Ms. Rosenbaum indicated that she would be sending out the press release for nominations by the end of the week.
7. Ms. Icenhour, Town Attorney commented on her findings relative to sewer line warranty insurance. Ms. Icenhour noted that she had talked with a locality who had offered the insurance and been in contact with several local insurance agents who indicated that policy owners needed to check their current policies to see if it is already available to them. Ms. Icenhour noted that the use of the town seal could create problems if future vendors wanted to offer a similar product. Council members agreed to check their current policies to see if this type of coverage was already included in their policy.
8. Mr. Kelly provided the Council with a proposed budget for FY 2013/2014. Mr. Kelly noted that the budget should be viewed as a roadmap that includes revenue, expenditures, borrowing plans and the implementation of the Capital Improvement Plan projects. Mr. Kelly commented that he expected the Council should consider some finance restructuring this year and hoped that a retreat would be held to more closely consider all options. Mr. Kelly noted that the budget was presented in accordance with the state code, the budget was presented balanced, and confirmed that tax rates had not been increased for the upcoming fiscal year. Mrs. Lowe inquired about health insurance coverage for employees and discussion ensued regarding the development of a survey that employees could access to comment on their health insurance needs. Mr. Kelly advised that he would have Mr. Jackson develop such a survey and send it out to town employees at a future date.
9. At this time, On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, **the Council went into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for the consideration and discussion of the acquisition and/or disposition of publicly held property.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mr. Berry	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

The motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council reconvened in regular session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mr. Berry	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mr. Morgan	Aye

The motion carried.

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**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. Howard    | I so certify |
| Mr. Humphreys | I so certify |

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>    | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>    | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b> | <b>I so certify</b> |

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Mayor Morgan declared a 5 minute recess for Council and Town staff to reconvene in the Council Chambers for the regular 7:30 meeting.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk