

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, December 2, 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. Richard E. Humphreys
Mr. Robert M. Howard
Mrs. Jayne A. Duehring

Administrative Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney
Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. of Finance
Jim Smith, Town Engineer
John Dew, Dir. of Construction/Public Services
Floyd Bailey, Dir. Of IT Services
Kevin Worley, Dir. Of Parks and Recreation

Visitors:

Rich Macbeth

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Representatives from Pennoni & Associates provided a presentation and update on the Sports Complex Feasibility Study they have been preparing for the town. Susan Wolford with Pennoni reported on the methods of data collection, site inspections and demographics they compiled to form the study. The Pennoni Associates commented that sports complex venues typically do not make money and are considered successful if they can break even. They commented further that localities should focus on determining whether a sports complex facility is a community asset or an economic driver and noted that flexibility is key when considering what type of facility would meet the most important needs. The Pennoni Associates commented on the sites that the town had identified as possible locations for a sports complex facility and noted the challenges that each site had relative to grade, water access, slope, and conduciveness to sports fields. Discussion ensued among the Council, staff and Pennoni representatives and it was agreed that Pennoni would include in the study a

recommendation on another potential site mentioned in an earlier meeting by the Town Manager. Mr. Howard noted his desire for a consolidated concept to allow for families with children in multiple sports to be in one location. Mr. Humphreys commented on the Young Strategies study which has been provided to the Pennoni group.

2. John Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction commented on 2 petitions he had received from K-Va-T Food Stores requesting right of vacations on 2 streets adjacent to their property on Court Street. Mr. Dew described the process for the right of way vacation and recommended that Council appoint Monty Vernon, Dan Matthews, and Al Bradley to the Board of Viewers to make a recommendation to Council regarding the vacation request. Mr. Dew noted that the Board of Viewers would have a recommendation to Council at their regular January meeting.
3. Mr. Dew reported on the status of the Academy Drive widening project. Mr. Dew noted that the erosion and sediment control plan and the specifications for the design of the project should be completed by the end of December. Mr. Dew commented that town crews would be doing some demolition work on the street in preparation for the construction and indicated that the project should begin in earnest in mid February or first of March.
4. Mr. Kelly reported that he had a meeting with Martha Keys with the Historical Society of Washington County relative to the Council's decision not to fund the Society's request for \$4,000 in the FY 2013/2014 budget. Ms. Duehring commented on the ability of a non-profit organization to maintain a reserve fund and noted that Council may want to re-visit the request during the regular meeting.
5. Mr. Kelly commented that he had been contacted by the representatives from Holston Mountain Artisans who have requested that the Council consider acquiring the old jail property adjacent to their building on Park Street. Mr. Kelly noted that the current debt service on the property was approximately \$6,000 per year. Mayor Morgan commented that the building may have value in the materials that could be salvaged from its demolition.
6. Mr. Dew reported on the status of the Country Club Stormwater Management project and noted that it is nearly complete. Mayor Morgan expressed his appreciation for the town staff's work on the project and noted that he wanted Council and staff to tour the area once the project is completed.
7. Mr. Dew reported on the Whites Mill Road/Court/Oakhill pedestrian improvement project and commented that he was continuing to work with utility relocations. He noted that he hoped to bid the construction in January or February and award the bid in March.
8. Mr. Dew reported on the status on the construction of Creeper Trail Trestle #7 and noted that the crews were making progress but had been hindered by difficulty in getting timbers delivered.
9. Mr. Humphreys inquired about the demolition of the Tree Service building on Russell Road and Mr. Dew noted that he was reviewing the asbestos report.
10. Mrs. Lowe inquired if the town's computer lab, located within the Incubator, could be rented.
11. Mayor Morgan reported on the LEGO group from Abingdon Elementary School who will be present at the regular meeting.

12. 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 or disposition of publicly held property.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

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

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mrs. Duehring	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mayor 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:**

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Duehring</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