

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011 – 7:30 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on December 5, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council chambers of the Municipal Building.

**A. ROLL CALL**

Members of Council Present:

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor  
Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor  
Mr. Jason N. Berry  
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys  
Mr. Robert M. Howard

Administrative/Town Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager  
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk  
Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney  
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. of Finance  
Jim Smith, Dir. Of Wastewater Operations/Town Eng.  
Garrett Jackson, Dir. Of Planning  
Jim Cowart, Dir. of Econ. Dev/Grants Writer  
Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police  
Kevin Worley, Dir. of Parks & Recreation  
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism

Visitors:

Richard Luce, Mike Dahl, Leigh Ann Hunter, Charles Seaver, Barbara Farris, Carolyn Lee and others

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**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police.

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**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council approved the minutes of the November 7, 2011 work session meeting and the November 7, 2011 Regular meeting with the following corrections:**

- **Item #6 on the Work Session minutes, page 187 additional wording should be added stating “the Town Manager will report back to Council with an update before he proceeds further with the project”**
- **Item #L3 should be changed to reflect that Mr. Berry abstained from the vote as he is an employee of the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Humphreys</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Berry</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Lowe</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Morgan</b>	<b>Aye</b>

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#### **D. PRESENTATIONS AND SERVICE AWARDS**

1. **Presentation of Muster Grounds painting purchased by the Town of Abingdon from Artist Richard Luce to be displayed at Retirement.**

Artist Richard Luce appeared before the Council members to present a painting that he recently completed that was purchased by the Town to be displayed at the Muster Grounds site in the Interpretive Center. The painting depicts the 1780 Muster of the Washington County militia. Mr. Kelly commented on its quality and beauty and the additional asset that it would be to the Muster Grounds project. Mayor Morgan recognized various members of the Overmountain Victory Trail Association who were in attendance during the presentation.

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2. **Recognition of Jim Hicks, Director of Human Resources/Safety on his retirement effective January 1, 2012 and honoring him for his years of service to the Town**

Mr. Kelly, Town Manager presented Jim Hicks, Director of Human Resources/Safety with an engraved clock as well as a framed Town Seal bearing the Council members' signatures to honor his upcoming retirement. Mr. Kelly thanked Mr. Hicks for his years of service and dedication to the Town.

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**E. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – None.**



**F. SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES – None**



**G. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS – None.**



**H. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

- 1. Consideration of request from Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee to appropriate funds from the Cemetery fund for use in construction of a columbarium at the Cemetery.**

Charles Seaver, Chairman of the Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee addressed the Council members to comment on the committees request to pursue the plans for a columbarium. Mr. Seaver indicated that the committee felt the best site for the columbarium was near Latture Field and that they had discussed using bricks that the Town currently has in storage. Mr. Kelly commented that there were adequate funds available in the Cemetery fund to cover the costs and Mr. Kelly and added that the Board of Architectural Review would need to review the plans for approval and Council would need to formally accept the plans for the design.

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Berry the Council members authorized Greg Kelly, Town Manager to use the funds currently in the cemetery fund to pursue the design plans for a columbarium at Sinking Spring Cemetery.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>  | <b>Aye</b> |



2. **Consideration of scheduling of January Regular Council Meeting as Monday, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012 is a state holiday and Town offices will be closed.**

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Howard the Council members set the date of Tuesday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. as the date for the regular January meeting and indicated that they were be no work session meeting prior to the regular meeting.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>  | <b>Aye</b> |



## **I. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS**

1. **A Resolution of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Commending the Farris Family of Abingdon for Their Contributions to the “A Call To Arms” Colonial Education Program.**

Mr. Jackson, Director of Planning and member of the Muster Grounds Committee indicated that the Council members, town staff and committee members wished to publicly acknowledge the contributions of the Farris Family to the “A Call to Arms” Colonial Education Program. Barbara Farris and her daughter Kim Farris Luke came before the Council members and Mayor Morgan read into record the following Resolution:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA  
COMMENDING DAVID AND BARBARA FARRIS AND FAMILY OF ABINGDON FOR THEIR  
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE “A CALL TO ARMS COLONIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM”**

**WHEREAS**, the Farris family has served the Abingdon community for over four (4) generations with a pledge to create and maintain a high level of professionalism in the community’s funerary needs; and

**WHEREAS**, their efforts to go beyond what is expected is a mantra they live by in their family business and in the community as our neighbors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Abingdon, the Overmountain Victory Trail Association, Black's Fort Chapter-Daughters of the American Revolution, General William Campbell Chapter-Sons of the American Revolution and countless Colonial re-enactors have educated the public and more importantly our region's school children since 2005 through the "A Call to Arms Colonial Education Program"; and

**WHEREAS**, the Abingdon Muster Grounds, on Colonial Road, has been the location for this outreach program since its founding; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the entities mentioned above, this program has not been possible without the help of the neighboring community, especially the Farris family, whose property at the corner of Holston Street and Colonial Road has been the site of re-enacting events, dining tents for the participants and a safe place for vehicular parking; and

**WHEREAS**, their efforts have assisted in the education and outreach of close to ten-thousand (10,000) school children and thousands of adults from our region, across the nation and around the world, since 2005.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council of the Town of Abingdon commends and extends its sincere appreciation to David and Barbara Farris and Family for their contributions to the "A Call to Arms Colonial Education Program" and as honorable and distinguished stewards of the greater community interests of the Town of Abingdon.

**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council members adopted the Resolution Commending the Farris Family of Abingdon for Their Contributions to the "A Call To Arms" Colonial Education Program.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>  | <b>Aye</b> |

At this time, Mr. Kelly presented Mrs. Farris with a hand carved wooden bowl by artist Nicola "Nick" Aloisio. Mr. Kelly noted that the wood for the bowl was from a tree that was taken down on the Muster Grounds site.

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**J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.**

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**K. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA- None.**

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**L. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

- Mr. Humphreys congratulated Susan Howard of Advance Abingdon for the Little Howlers Scavenger Hunt; encouraged everyone to visit the Festival of Trees at the Fields Penn Museum and donate canned food items; reported on a brochure being developed for the Muster Grounds Interpretive Center that highlights the role of the Hispanic soldiers during the Civil War; wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- Mrs. Lowe commented on the annual Christmas Parade and the great community spirit.
- Mr. Howard wished everyone Merry Christmas.
- Mr. Berry provided an update on the King College Medical School Project and indicated that all legal aspects as well as fundraising efforts were moving forward.
- Mayor Morgan commented on the King College Medical School update provided by Mr. Berry.

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**M. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

1. *Appointment of one (1) person to serve on the Abingdon Redevelopment Housing Authority Board*

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council appointed Betty Ferrier to serve on the Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

**Mr. Howard            Aye**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Morgan</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |

**The motion carried.**

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Mayor Morgan declared the meeting adjourned.

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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk