

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2011 – 5:30 P.M.  
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, December 5, 2011 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  
Debbie Icenhour, Town Attorney  
Jim Smith, Town Engineer/Dir. of Wastewater Operations  
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. Finance  
John Dew, Dir. of Construction/Public Services  
Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism  
John Phelps, IT Department

Visitors:

Debra McCown

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan noted that Mr. Humphreys was running a few minutes late to the meeting and asked Mr. Jackson to report on the status of the Arthur Campbell award. Mr. Jackson reported that an application for nominations for the award was posted on the town website as well as the town's social media outlets. Mr. Jackson presented two (2) color choices for presentation boxes for the award and the Council indicated that they preferred the black box over the natural wood grain box. Mr. Jackson commented that the deadline for submissions for the award was January 5<sup>th</sup> and Council would be provided with a list of nominees at the January 7<sup>th</sup> work session meeting.
2. Mr. Kelly provided an update on the security measures he was considering for the Council Chambers in the Town Hall. Mr. Kelly reported that he had met with Architect Charlie Day regarding ideas for increasing security as well as increasing office space in the Town Hall. Mrs. Lowe inquired if the Council wanted to consider eliminating dinner at the 5:30 work session and hold the work session meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Discussion ensued and

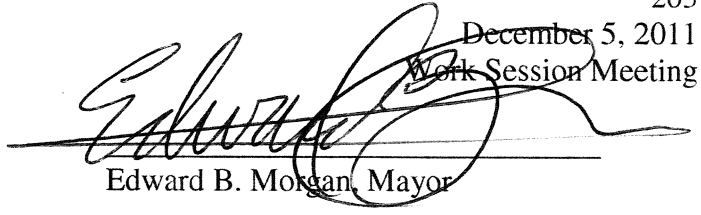
Council members indicated they would like to discuss the matter again at a later time. Mr. Kelly noted that he would be able to report more details from Mr. Day at the Council's December 15<sup>th</sup> work session meeting.

3. Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism presented the Council with a presentation regarding his vision for the Tourism Department as well as the progress of formulating a strategic plan. Mr. Costello reported that he based his vision for the future of Abingdon as a destination marketing organization. Mr. Costello provided a power point presentation detailing his plans and commented on the current progress his group was making in developing a strategic plan. Mr. Berry inquired about marketing plans for areas we don't currently have visitors coming from. Mr. Costello commented on the difficulties associated with navigating the current Tourism website and reported on the contact he had received from a representative with Southern Living Magazine. Mr. Kelly commented that he had met with the representatives of the Virginia Highlands Festival and they were preparing to move their offices to the Convention and Visitors Bureau office. Mr. Costello commented on the designation of "tourism zones" and his goal to increase tourism revenues. Mayor Morgan thanked Mr. Costello for his presentation.
4. Ms. Icenhour, Town Attorney reported on the status of the stormwater drainage project in Country Club Estates. Ms. Icenhour commented that she had learned that the Hazard Mitigation Plan prepared by MRPDC in Marion had been returned for revisions and rewrite. Mayor Morgan commented that he was concerned about the status of the plan and asked Mr. Kelly to contact Dave Barrett, Executive Director of the MRPDC to get an update on the plan and a timeline of when it will be resubmitted to DMME. Ms. Icenhour commented on a meeting that she and Jim Smith, Town Engineer had with two (2) citizens of the affected area in Country Club. Mr. Humphreys inquired about the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Mr. Smith commented that a compromise will have to occur between the residents of the affected area for the plan to work. Mrs. Lowe inquired about the possibility of burying the drainage lines. Mr. Smith responded that he did not feel that design would sustain a 50 year flood event. Discussion ensued about the project and the willingness of the residents to sign the necessary documents to allow the project to proceed. Mr. Smith indicated that the residents he and Ms. Icenhour had recently met with had asked for several items to be addressed and explained that would involve a redesign by the Engineer.
5. Mayor Morgan inquired about upcoming matters of discussion for the regular agenda. Ms. Icenhour commented about the draft of the pneumatic gun ordinance she had provided for Council's review. Mr. Humphreys commented on a change he would like to make in the wording of the ordinance. Council members discussed the appointment to the Redevelopment and Housing Authority as well as agenda item with regard to Sinking Spring Cemetery.

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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.

December 5, 2011  
Work Session Meeting



Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum  
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk