

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, February 6, 2012 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
Garrett Jackson, Asst. Town Manager/Dir. of Planning
Jim Smith, Town Engineer/Dir. of Wastewater Operations
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. Finance
John Dew, Dir. of Construction/Public Services
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of Information Technology
Daniel Kidd, IT Department
John Phelps, IT Department

Visitors:

Debra McCown, Rich Macbeth, Todd Christensen

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager reported that he had met with a group who was interested in building a sports complex facility in Abingdon. Mr. Kelly indicated that the proposed facility would be open twelve (12) months out of the year and would be a “for profit” entity requiring about 40,000 square feet. Mr. Kelly commented that this project would be well suited for a public/private partnership. Mr. Howard commented that he would like to see the Council move forward on an option to purchase a piece of property in town that has been reviewed by the Sports Complex Committee and deemed an appropriate site for a sports complex. Mayor Morgan commented that he felt the public is anxious to see the town move forward on this project. The Council members agreed that Mr. Kelly should make contact with the landowner of the chosen site for the facility and pursue an option agreement for the property. Mr. Kelly indicated he would

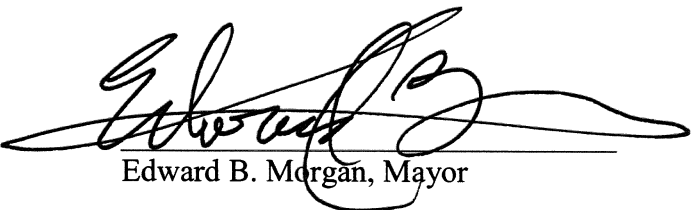
- report back to Council with the status of the option agreement. Mrs. Lowe commented on the involvement of the representatives of the economic development group.
2. Mr. Kelly inquired if the Council would like to establish a date for the banquet honoring the recipients of the Arthur Campbell Award. The Council members agreed that the banquet would be held on October 7th, 2012 and further agreed to take action at the March meeting with regard to naming the recipients of the award.
 3. At this time, Mr. Kelly introduced Deborah Atkins-Vance the town's new Director of Human Resources. Mr. Kelly commented that Council would need to take action during the regular meeting to confirm Ms. Atkins-Vance's hire.
 4. Mr. Jackson commented on the invitation from Abingdon, England to attend festivities planned to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in June. Mr. Jackson indicated he would need to know who from the Council and town staff was planning to attend by the end of March so he could make contact about accommodations for guests. Mayor Morgan commented that those persons attending would be responsible for all the costs associated with their trip. Mr. Jackson reported that the town would not need approval from the General Assembly to hold a meeting in Abingdon, England but suggested that the Council have a Resolution adopted by the General Assembly acknowledging the Queen's Jubilee which can be presented to the Mayor of Abingdon, England.
 5. Mrs. Lowe inquired if appointments with legislators had been set for the VML legislative day trip to Richmond. Mr. Berry commented on a bill that would affect the BPOL calculations for the localities.
 6. Ms. Icenhour and Mr. Smith reported on the status of the easement acquisitions for the Country Club Stormwater project. Ms. Icenhour confirmed that the Hazard Mitigation Plan from MRPDC had been approved by VDEM and forwarded to FEMA for final determination. Ms. Icenhour asked the Council to consider approving a Resolution that would adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan as approved by VDEM during the regular meeting under Matters Not On the Agenda.
 7. Mr. Bailey, Director of Information Services gave an update on the town's continuing Wi-Fi project and commented that the tower at the Coomes Center had been constructed.
 8. Mrs. Lowe commented that she liked the new ipad's issued to Council and being able to access the Council packet electronically. Mrs. Lowe inquired if the insurance for the town buildings was sufficient to cover the costs of events at town owned properties without the event sponsor having to purchase additional insurance coverage. Mr. Humphreys commented on the additional insurance and Mrs. Icenhour indicated she would review the matter and report back to Council.
 9. Mr. Humphreys inquired about the inclusion of the Fairview report in the Council packet and commented on the plans for a restroom facility at the site. Mr. Humphreys reported that he had been contacted about the lack of a steakhouse restaurant in Abingdon.
 10. Mayor Morgan reported on the report received regarding the town's tree program. Mayor Morgan also commented that he had attended a meeting at Johnston Memorial Hospital and that the CEO had requested to make a presentation at the March Council meeting.
 11. Mr. Kelly commented on the committee reports generated by Mr. Howard and reported that they are helpful with maintaining the flow of communication and information to the Council.
 12. Mayor Morgan expressed his thanks to Debra McCown of the Bristol Herald Courier for her recent article on Veterans Memorial Park.

13. Mrs. Lowe inquired about additional information she had requested from Greg Tucker regarding the town's most recent audit and reported it had not been received. Mr. Kelly confirmed that the Council could delay the acceptance of the audit until the March meeting.

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Mayor Morgan declared a 20 minute recess for Council and Town staff to reconvene in the Council Chambers for the regular 7:30 meeting.

  
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk

  
Edward B. Morgan, Mayor