

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2012 – 7:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on February 6, 2012 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
Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Mgr./Dir. Of Planning
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. of Finance
Jim Smith, Dir. Of Wastewater Operations/Town Eng.
Jim Cowart, Dir. of Econ. Dev/Grants Writer
John Dew, Dir. Public Services/Construction
Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police
Kevin Worley, Dir. of Parks & Recreation
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism
Debbie Atkins-Vance, Dir. of Human Resources
Tenille Montgomery, Marketing/Social Media Coord.
Kim Kingsley, Administrative Assistant
Aaron Widener, CVB Manager
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of Information Technology
Daniel Kidd, Information Technology Dept.
John Phelps, Information Technology Dept.

Visitors:

Rich Macbeth, Todd Christensen, Susan Howard,
Carolyn Lee, John McCormick, Quinn Craughwell,
Dene Peterson and members of the Abingdon Trail Team
and others

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**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Russell Olmstead, Member of Troop 1 at Pleasant View United Methodist Church.



### **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council approved the minutes of the December 15, 2011 Work Session meeting, the January 3, 2012 Regular meeting and the January 7, 2012 Work Session Meeting as presented.**

**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> |



### **D. SPECIAL EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

- 1. Recognition of Aaron Widener, Visitor Center Manager for his five (5) years of service to the Town.**

Mr. Kelly, Town Manager recognized Aaron Widener for his five (5) years of service as the Manager of the Visitor Center and thanked him for his service to the town.



- 2. Recognition of Kristopher Lett, Maintenance 2, Assistant at Wolf Creek Water Reclamation Facility for his five (5) years of service to the Town.**

Mr. Kelly recognized Kris Lett for his five (5) years of service as Maintenance 2 Assistant at the Wolf Creek Water Reclamation Facility and thanked him for his service to the town.



### **E. SPECIAL STUDENT PRESENTATION**

- 1. Consideration of presentation by the Abingdon Trail Team.**

Mayor Morgan indicated this matter would be heard later in the evening to allow the team members time to gather in the Council Chambers.



**2. Consideration of proposal for Eagle Scout Project at The Muster Grounds.**

Russell Olmstead, Member of Troop #1 at Pleasant View United Methodist Church came before the Council members to present a power point presentation on his Eagle Scout project. Mr. Olmstead indicated that he would like to construct picnic tables on the Muster Grounds site and noted that he had spoken with Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager to confirm the best location for the tables.

**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council approved the Eagle Scout project presented by Russell Olmstead with regard to the installation of picnic tables on the Muster Grounds site and further authorized the Town Manager, Greg Kelly, to sign any paperwork necessary for the project.**

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> |



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



**G. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES**

- 1. Consideration of an Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to Repeal, Amend and Reenact Chapter 50, §50-6(a) & (b), Discharge of Firearms; and §50-7(a), Use of Air Guns, Slingshots, Grit Shooters; Throwing missiles of the Code of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia.**

Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney commented that this Ordinance was before Council for second reading. Ms. Icenhour reported that the changes in the Ordinance were necessary in order to make the language consistent with that of the State Code thereby making it consistent with State law. Ms. Icenhour indicated that the Ordinance would become effective on March 6<sup>th</sup> 2012 if approved.

Mayor Morgan inquired about the exclusion for special historical events and Ms. Icenhour confirmed that she had included that language in the proposed Ordinance.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council approved, on second reading, the Ordinance to Repeal, Amend and Reenact Chapter 50, §50-6(a) & (b), Discharge of Firearms; and §50-7(a), Use of Air Guns, Slingshots, Grit Shooters; Throwing missiles of the Code of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia.**

**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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H. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS – None.

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#### **I. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

##### **1. Consideration of the Audit Report for the Town of Abingdon as of June 30, 2011**

Greg Tucker, of Bostic & Tucker, CPA's, appeared before the Council to report on the town's audit. Mr. Tucker indicated that the town had been managed well considering the difficult economic times and remained in very stable financial condition. Mr. Tucker commented that the town's real estate values had remained constant in today's market.

Mr. Tucker indicated that he would provide additional materials requested by Council for the regular March meeting for Council action on the audit report.

*No action was taken on this matter by Council.*

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At this time, Mayor Morgan invited the members of the Abingdon Trail Team (Agenda Item E1) to come before Council to make their presentation. Dene Peterson, Representative for the team indicated that the Trail would extend from Abingdon High School to E.B. Stanley Middle School and eventually to an area adjacent to Walden Road. The Trail Team members, Preston Lawson, Audry Easterly, John Lambert and Sonny Kennedy gave a power point presentation showing details of their project. The team members reported they would like to name the trail "Panacella Trail".

Mr. Kelly reported that he was working with Jim Sullivan, Superintendent of Schools on an urban trails project which would include the Trail Team's project. Mr. Kelly indicated that grant funding had been applied for this project and he would keep the team informed about the funding determination.

Mrs. Lowe commented that the Trail Team should make a request for funding assistance to the Abingdon Rotary Club for their project.

No action was required by Council.



2. Presentation and update by Advance Abingdon regarding the plans for the downtown park across from the Post Office.

Susan Howard, Director of Advance Abingdon reported that she had been working on plans for the Main Street park area across from the Post Office. Quinn Craughwell of Graham Landscape Architecture presented the design concept for the park which would include several children's activities, mature plantings to attract wildlife, a restroom facility and a water feature. Ms. Craughwell indicated that the approximate cost for the concept as presented would be \$250,000.

Ms. Howard also noted that she was working on a concept for a mural on the wall of the building facing Main Street that currently houses Brandywine Antiques which would be incorporated into the overall theme of the park. Ms. Howard commented that she was pursuing grant funding through the Virginia Commission for the Arts that could be used to develop the mural.

No action was required by Council on this matter.



3. Presentation and update regarding Heartwood, Southwest Virginia's Artisan Gateway

Todd Christensen, Executive Director, Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Commission came before the Council member to provide an update on Heartwood which is located at Exit 14 in Abingdon. Mr. Christensen reported that Heartwood had hosted thousands of visitors to the Center and had made over \$300,000 in sales from featured artwork. Mr. Christensen indicated that Heartwood was partnering with the Virginia Highlands Festival to host a wine festival event and hoped to begin featuring two (2) dimensional works of art. Mr. Christensen expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the town's Tourism staff and commented that Heartwood had proven to be an asset for Abingdon, Washington County and the entire Southwest Virginia region.

No action was required by Council on this matter.



4. Consideration of report on the Festival of Trees Event held at the Fields Penn House during December

Donnamarie Emmert, Guest Service Attendant for Fields Penn House reported on the success of the recent Christmas Tree event at the Fields Penn House. Ms. Emmert noted that the event brought in over 1,000 guests to the house and 6,195 items of food were collected and donated to a local charity.

No action was required by Council on this matter.



5. Consideration of the i-Tree Ecosystem Analysis report for the Town of Abingdon

Mayor Morgan indicated that Mr. Sigmon, Town Arborist was unable to attend the meeting and requested that the item be placed on the March agenda.



6. Consideration of authorization for reallocation of Community Performance Program funds previously made to the Barter Theatre

Greg Kelly, Town Manager reported that the Community Performance Project had to be cancelled and that the Barter would be returning the funds the town had previously allocated for the project. Mr. Kelly commented that the current expansion project between the Barter Theatre building and the Town Hall building required a portion of funding from the town and asked the Council members to consider reallocating the Community

Performance funds to the Barter to go towards the town's portion of the expansion project costs.

On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council directed that funds totaling \$50,000 previously allocated to the Barter Theatre for the Community Performance Project be reallocated to the Barter for the expansion project between the Barter Theatre building and the Town Hall.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

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**7. Consideration of confirmation of Deborah Atkins-Vance, Director of Human Resources for the Town of Abingdon**

Mr. Kelly, Town Manager, reported that Deborah Atkins-Vance had been hired to fill the position of the town's Director of Human Resources. Mr. Kelly noted that pursuant to the Town Code, the Council must confirm all department head hires.

**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council confirmed the hire of Deborah Atkins-Vance as the town's Director of Human Resources.**

**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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8. Consideration of date for the banquet honoring the recipients of the Arthur Campbell Award

Mr. Kelly, Town Manager commented that the Ordinance establishing the Arthur Campbell Award required that the date for the banquet honoring the recipients be determined by Council in February of each year.

On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council confirmed that the date for the Arthur Campbell Award banquet would be Sunday, October 7th, 2012.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

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**J. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS**

**1. Consideration of Resolution of support for the Town of Abingdon's application requesting designation as an Appalachian Trail Community.**

Tenille Montgomery, Marketing and Social Media Coordinator appeared before the Council to report on the town's application to be designated as an Appalachian Trail Community. Ms. Montgomery indicated that the project was being sponsored by the Go Green Committee and requested that the Council adopt the Resolution as presented.

Mayor Morgan read the Resolution into the record as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA  
SUPPORTING THE APPLICATION TO BECOME AN APPALACHIAN TRAIL COMMUNITY**

**WHEREAS**, in conjunction with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy designation program, it is necessary for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia, to construct a resolution of support for this nomination; and

**WHEREAS**, The Appalachian Trail Community designation would act as a catalyst for enhancing economic development, engage community citizens as Trail visitors, aid our local municipality



and region with conservation planning and encourage local community members see the Trail as a resource and asset; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Abingdon Go Green committee will support and participate in the application process for Appalachian Trail Community designation to help encourage eco-friendly education and awareness while helping with trail conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and the Abingdon Go Green committee will hold an event each year to promote awareness and appreciation among the community of the Appalachian Trail and its unique resources; and

**WHEREAS**, local teachers participating in the Trail To Every Classroom initiative within the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, will benefit from the designation to engage our youth in the importance of the trail and the wildlife that lives within the region; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Abingdon Virginia with this designation will help preserve and manage the Appalachian Trail, ensuring the beauty and heritage will be enjoyed by many for years to come; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia does hereby support the application for the Appalachian Trail Community designation and authorizes the Town Manager to execute any and all documents required for the filing of this application.

**On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved the Resolution of support for the Town of Abingdon's application requesting designation as an Appalachian Trail Community.**

**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> |

Mayor Morgan commented that his son, Peter Morgan, had hiked the Appalachian Trail several years earlier and his trail name was "Porkchop".

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K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None.
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**L. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

1. Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney reported that a document essential to the Country Club Estates Stormwater Management project had been granted final approval from FEMA and in order for the project to proceed, it was necessary for Council to adopt a Resolution with regard to the plan.

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council approved the following Resolution as presented:**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA  
TO ADOPT THE PRE-DISASTER HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE  
OF THE MOUNT ROGERS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION**

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Commonwealth of Virginia's Department of Emergency Management, and the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission agree that a regional Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan shall be developed for the Mount Rogers Planning District; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission has completed the necessary tasks required by the agreement between the Virginia's Department of Emergency Management and the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission; and

**WHEREAS**, the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan contains risk assessments and potential losses of each of the identified hazards, a mitigation strategy to reduce or eliminate the risk of damage from future incidents, and a process to update the plan every five (5) years, thereby making the Town of Abingdon, Virginia, a jurisdiction of the Mount Rogers Planning District, eligible for hazard mitigation grant assistance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia does hereby support the Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan.

**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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Mr. Humphreys commented that a copy of the proposed By-Laws for the Fields Penn Oversight Committee had been presented to Council and recommended that they be adopted by Council as presented.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Lowe the Council approved the By-Laws of the Fields Penn Oversight Committee.**

**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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- Rich Macbeth of 1149 Panorama Drive, Abingdon inquired about property near the intersection of Empire Drive; the ongoing VDOT study for the Exit 19 area; indicated that he would be seeking election for Town Council.
- Gary Wilder of 100 Wonderland Drive, Abingdon reported on the residents in his neighborhood feeding deer and inquired why the town did not have an ordinance prohibiting such activity.

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#### **M. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

- Mr. Berry reported that King College School of Medicine is an official applicant for LCME.
- Mrs. Lowe reported that the Rotary Frolics would be held at the Barter Theatre on February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

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N. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. **Consideration of two (2) appointments to the Industrial Development Authority Board**

On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council appointed Rachel Fowlkes to serve the unexpired term of Izik Crispin on the Industrial Development Authority Board.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard Aye

Mr. Humphreys Aye

Mr. Berry Aye

Mrs. Lowe Aye

Mayor Morgan Aye

** Council asked that the second appointment to the Industrial Development Authority Board be continued to the March regular meeting.



Mayor Morgan declared the meeting adjourned.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk