

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, February 4, 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. Jason N. Berry
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys
Mr. Robert M. Howard

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Garrett Jackson, Asst. Town Manager/Dir. of Planning
Jim Smith, Town Engineer
John Dew, Dir. of Construction/Public Services
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of IT Department
John Phelps, IT Department
C.J. McGlothlin, Code Enforcement Officer

Visitors: Rich Macbeth, Susan Howard, Debra Mcown, Mike Brown

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan welcomed Susan Howard, Director of Advance Abingdon and Board President, Mike Brown. Mr. Kelly commented that the Town's agreement with Advance Abingdon was for a time period of five (5) years and inquired of the requirements of the Council now that agreement had expired. Mr. Kelly noted that the Town was providing office space for the organization at the Convention and Visitors Bureau and they were included in the appropriations made annually by the Council. Mrs. Howard commented on the programs that Advance Abingdon had sponsored and noted that they were not a member based organization. Discussion ensued relative to the funding amounts that other localities provided for their Main Street programs. Mrs. Howard asked the Council members for clarification with regard to the mural project that Advance Abingdon currently has underway. Discussion ensued regarding the removal of the concrete pads at the park location as well as the restroom facility that is in the current fiscal budget for construction. Mrs. Lowe asked that the Advance Abingdon group provide recommendations to the Council on how they can provide assistance and encouragement to the local business owners. Mr. Humphreys inquired about

- a Merchants Association. Mr. Kelly noted that grants were available for facade improvements to the downtown buildings but the owners of the buildings had to be the applicants, not the merchant tenants. Mr. Brown commented Advance Abingdon's struggle to define their mission as well as their funding needs but hopes to have those items more clearly defined in the near future. Mayor Morgan inquired if a formal Resolution of support for the organization was needed and asked that town staff work together to see what documents are needed for Council's continuation of support.
2. Rich Macbeth of Panorama Drive renewed his request from the January Council meeting to have the Town Council elections moved to the November cycle instead of the month of May. Mr. Macbeth noted that he felt the May elections lacked advertising and voter turnout was low. Mr. Howard and Mr. Humphreys noted that their preference was to leave the elections as they are in the May cycle. Mr. Kelly commented on an initiative he assisted with through Virginia Local Government Management Association to have the first week of April declared as Local Government week. Mayor Morgan asked town staff to work on a proposal to increase voter turnout for May Council elections and present those for discussion at a later meeting.
 3. Mr. Jackson, Assistant Town Manager updated the Council on a possible appeal that could come before the Council relative to the approval of a Certificate of Appropriateness for the Kroger Gas N Go station. Mr. Jackson noted that the COA had been approved by the Planning Commission but with the exception that the delivery of fuel be limited to the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. Mr. Jackson noted that the official appeal from the Kroger representatives had not been received yet but felt he should make the Council aware of the possibility that the matter could be before them for consideration at a future meeting.
 4. Mr. Kelly commented that the Town's FY 2013/2014 budget would need to be considered in the month of March and asked Council members to consider designating dates for budget meetings. Council members agreed that the dates of March 20th and 21st and 27th and 28th would be the dates for budget work sessions.
 5. Mr. Humphreys commented that he had spoken with Charlie and Steve Smith, brothers whose farm land is home to the Creeper Trails' Trestle #7. Mr. Humphreys indicated that the Smith's would like for the Council members to assemble on their property for a tour of the area before the Trestle construction begins.
 6. Mr. Berry noted that he had received a call from a member of the Abingdon Fire Department regarding a change in their 1099 forms due to the increase in payroll taxes. Mr. Berry commented that this member requested they receive a W-2 instead of a 1099.
 7. Mrs. Lowe commented that she had received phone calls regarding the town's online bill pay and the status of the construction of the Country Club Stormwater Management project. Mrs. Lowe also noted that the changes she requested for the proposed Solid Waste Ordinance were not addressed in the revised Ordinance.
 8. Mayor Morgan inquired about the proposed Pawnbroker Ordinance and noted that he and Mr. Humphreys had visited the shop and spoken with the owner, Kevin Canter.

~~~~~

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