

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2012 – 10:00 A.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on June 4, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Council chambers of the Municipal Building.

- A.** Mayor Morgan welcomed everyone in attendance in Abingdon, Virginia as well as those participating via Wi-Fi from Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, England.
- B. ROLL CALL** – *Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk called the Roll from Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, England*

Members of Council Present in: Edward B. Morgan, Mayor  
Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor  
Mr. Jason N. Berry  
Mr. Robert M. Howard

***Council Member Participating via Wi-Fi from Abingdon-on Thames, Oxfordshire, England***

*Richard E. Humphreys*

Administrative/Town Staff: Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Mgr./Dir. Of Planning  
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  
Jon Phelps, Information Technology Dept.

***Admin/Town Staff participating via Wi-Fi from Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, England:***

*Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager  
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk  
Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney  
Tenille Montgomery, Marketing/Social Media Coord.*

***Visitors via Wi-Fi from Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, England:***

*Cllr Monica Lovatt, Mayor, Cllr Andrew Todd, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Sandy Lovatt, Nigel Warner, Abingdon-on-Thames Town Clerk, Cllr Alice Badcock, Cllr Alison Rook*



**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Jason Berry.



**D. Recognition of Special Visitation of Town Staff, Council, and Distinguished Guests from Abingdon-on-Thames via Wi-Fi.**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager via Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom asked Cllr Mayor Monica Lovatt to introduce the group assembled representing Abingdon-on-Thames and they were as follows:

- Cllr Andrew Todd, Deputy Mayor
- Cllr Sandy Lovatt
- Cllr Alison Rook
- Cllr Alice Badcock
- Nigel Warner, Town Clerk

Mr. Kelly commented that Town Clerk, Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Attorney, Deb Icenhour and Tenille Montgomery, Marketing and Social Media Coordinator were present as well from Abingdon-on-Thames.

- **Authorization of presentation to Abingdon-on-Thames of Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly, House Joint Resolution No. 511, Commending Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom.**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager read the Proclamation by the Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly, House Joint Resolution No. 511, Commending Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom as follows:



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 511

Commending Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, March 7, 2012  
Agreed to by the Senate, March 9, 2012

WHEREAS, Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom, will host the mayor, town council members, staff members, and town residents of Abingdon, Virginia, June 2-5, 2012, during The Queen's Diamond Jubilee; and

WHEREAS, Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom, and Abingdon, Virginia, began a civic exchange in 1962, when Abingdon-on-Thames Mayor Constance Cox traveled to Abingdon; and

WHEREAS, Abingdon shares a close connection to Abingdon-on-Thames as the Virginia town traces its name to Willoughby Bertie, the 4th Earl of Abingdon; and

WHEREAS, the civic exchange remained informal for several decades until Abingdon Mayor Lois Humphreys traveled to Abingdon-on-Thames in 2006 on the occasion of the town's 450th anniversary and received a Certificate of Reaffirmation of Friendship; and

WHEREAS, when Abingdon residents travel to Abingdon-on-Thames in June of 2012, they will participate in the town's civic celebrations marking The Queen's Diamond Jubilee; and

WHEREAS, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Britain's second-longest-serving monarch, assumed the throne in 1952 upon the death of her father, King George VI; and

WHEREAS, Abingdon visitors will join Abingdon-on-Thames residents at such events as a Jubilee Ball, civic church service, and traditional bun throwing event, and view the Queen's Jubilee Flotilla on the Thames; and

WHEREAS, Abingdon visitors to Abingdon-on-Thames look forward to renewing and making new friendships while joining in the celebratory festivities marking The Queen's Diamond Jubilee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom, as it welcomes the mayor, town council members, staff members, and town residents of Abingdon, Virginia, June 2-5, 2012, during The Queen's Diamond Jubilee; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare copies of this resolution for presentation to the mayor of Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom, and the mayor of Abingdon, Virginia, as an expression of the General Assembly's appreciation for Abingdon-on-Thames' rich history and continued friendship and hospitality to Abingdon, Virginia.

House Patrons: Johnson and O'Quinn  
Senate Patron: Carrico

  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

- **Authorization of presentation to Abingdon-on-Thames of the “Town Crier Wolf” as well as other items from Abingdon, Virginia**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager commented that the “Town Crier Wolf” and other gifts had not arrived with the shipped items and he would speak to Mayor Lovatt after the meeting to advise her of the gifts.

- **Consideration of Resolution of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Supporting the First Ever Electronic Meeting with Abingdon-On-Thames, Oxfordshire on the Occasion of Their Celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee.**

Mayor Morgan asked Vice Mayor Lowe to read the body of the Resolution Supporting the First Ever Electronic Meeting with Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire on the occasion of their Celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA  
SUPPORTING THE FIRST EVER ELECTRONIC MEETING WITH ABINGDON-ON-  
THAMES, OXFORDSHIRE, ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR CELEBRATION OF QUEEN  
ELIZABETH II'S DIAMOND JUBILEE**

**WHEREAS**, the towns of Abingdon-On-Thames, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom and Abingdon, Virginia have maintained a friendly exchange of visitors since the early 1960s, with the visit of Past Mayor Constance Cox to Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, through the years, the exchange of visitors, post correspondence and phone calls have kept our towns linked, if only in name; and

**WHEREAS**, the creation of the world wide web and the use of electronic mail and social media has greatly increased this communication, allowing inhabitants of either town to "visit" the other, whenever they may wish; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1995, by Act of the Virginia General Assembly, Abingdon, Virginia became the only municipality in the Commonwealth allowed to create its own broadband internet services, and one of the first in the Commonwealth to provide free, town-wide wireless internet service; and

**WHEREAS**, always on the cutting edge of technology, Abingdon, Virginia is one of the few local governments in the Commonwealth of Virginia to provide electronic agendas only, through the use of tablet and software technology; and

**WHEREAS**, modern advancements have given us yet another medium to correspond with our Civic partners, one which will allow us to "meet" both audibly and visually, in a real time experience; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Abingdon, Virginia is pleased to hold the first ever electronic meeting with Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, on the occasion of their celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee, allowing those whom we share a Civic Friendship, the opportunity to view and participate in a Town Council meeting, 3,920 miles (6,309 km) away and five hours behind; and

**WHEREAS**, it is believed that this momentous occasion is the first electronic meeting between a local government in the Commonwealth of Virginia with a Sister City, Twin Town or such; and

**WHEREAS**, the June 4, 2012 regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia was called to order in Abingdon, Virginia by Mayor Edward B. Morgan and the roll was called of the

Council members present at said meeting by Town Clerk, Cecile M. Rosenbaum electronically from Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom. Council members present at roll call were Edward B. Morgan, Mayor, Cathy C. Lowe, Vice Mayor, Jason Berry, Council Member and Bob Howard, Council Member. Also present and participating in the meeting was Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager; and

**WHEREAS**, a delegation of Council and staff from the Town of Abingdon, Virginia, namely, Richard E. Humphreys Council Member, Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager, Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk, Deborah C. Icenhour, Town Attorney and Tenille B. Montgomery, Marketing and Social Media Coordinator are appearing at the Abingdon, Virginia regular Council Session on June 4, 2012 at 10:00 am Eastern standard time via electronically from Abingdon-On-Thames, Oxfordshire.

**WHEREAS**, certain members of the Council and staff, namely Cllr Monica Lovatt, Mayor, Cllr Andrew Todd, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Sandy Lovatt, Cllr Alison Rook, Cllr Alice Badcock, and Nigel Warner, Town Clerk, from Abingdon-On-Thames, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom, are likewise appearing and participating in the said Abingdon, Virginia regular Council meeting on June 4, 2012 at 3:00 pm; and

**NOW THEREORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Town Council does hereby formally recognize and preserve this historic occasion of the use of modern technology for allowing transatlantic participation in its June 4, 2012 Regular Council Meeting.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk shall preserve this historic resolution in the official Town of Abingdon, Virginia records and further transmit an official copy to our sister town, Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom.

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

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

<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Humphreys</b>	<b>Absent</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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At this time, Mr. Humphreys, Council Member presented Mayor Lovatt with the framed Proclamation, read earlier in the meeting, for display at their town hall, The Old Abbey House, Abbey Close.

Mayor Lovatt expressed her thanks to the Council and town staff for the Proclamation and commented that she was honored to receive such a wonderful tribute to the Queen on the occasion of her Diamond Jubilee.



At this time, Greg Kelly, Town Manager presented Nigel Warner, Town Clerk with a knife and wooden display that was handmade by Public Works Department employee, Thad Finney. Mr. Kelly commented that the knife was crafted from a railroad spike that had been part of the Virginia Creeper Trail Trestle #7 which was destroyed in a tornado event of April, 2011. Mr. Kelly indicated that the knife was symbolic to both gentlemen in trying to “cut through all the political red tape”.

Mr. Warner thanked Mr. Kelly for the gift and commented that he was honored to have something representative of the Abingdon, Virginia’s beloved Creeper Trail.



Mayor Lovatt introduced guest Cllr Alison Rook, leader of the opposition party and invited her to speak to the Abingdon, Virginia Council members. Ms. Rook commented on her prior trips to Abingdon, Virginia and indicated she hoped to return for a visit.

Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager commented that he hoped that the Abingdon, Virginia staff was enjoying Abingdon, England as much as he had during his visits there and wished everyone a great trip.

Mayor Morgan commented that the town staff members who were participating from Abingdon, England paid all their own expenses to make the trip.

Ms. Icenhour, Town Attorney commented about her monthly report and indicated she would get the full version of the report to Council upon her return to Virginia.

Mr. Berry commented that Delegate Joe Johnson had sponsored the Proclamation from the General Assembly and was much honored to do so on the occasion of the Queen’s Jubilee.

Bob Howard inquired how town staff was able to get the knife overseas for presentation to Clerk Warner.

Mrs. Lowe asked that town staff send her regards to Mike and Maggie, residents on Abingdon-on-Thames.

Mayor Morgan thanked the town staff for organizing the transatlantic broadcast and noted that it was a historic event for both towns and perhaps the first of its kind ever conducted in the Commonwealth.



## **E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- May 7, 2012 Work Session Meeting
- May 7, 2012 Regular Meeting
- May 18, 2012 Special Called Meeting

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Berry, the minutes of the May 7, Work Session were approved as presented with one addition to page 76, paragraph 4, “Mrs. Lowe noted that she would like for Cooper Planning to include special occasion events to be included in uses for Town owned properties”, the minutes of the May 7, 2012 Regular Meeting were approved with one correction on page 88, add to Mr. Berry’s comments, . . .government transparency, “boundary adjustment and its impact on the tax base”, as an additional item of frequent comment he heard from voters, and the minutes of the May 18, 2012 Special Called Meeting as presented.

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

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|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Absent</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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**F. EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – None.**

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

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**H. SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES**

- 1. Second Reading– An Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Proposing a Budget for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and to Make Appropriation for the Current Expenses of the Town and to Fix A Rate Upon Real and Personal Property, To Fix Other Local Tax Rates and Fees and Rates on**

**Utility Services for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2012 and Ending June 30, 2013.**

Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager commented on the Budget proposed for FY2012/2013. Mr. Jackson noted that the property tax rate remain unchanged and a modification of the budget voted on by Council at the May 7<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting would need to be rescinded due to an error in payroll calculations due to a mandated change by the Virginia Retirement System. Mr. Jackson asked Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer he could come forward and explain the oversight.

Mr. Godbey commented that the Virginia Retirement System had mandated in May that municipal employees would have to begin contributing 5% of their salary to their VRS account. Mr. Godbey noted that the total contribution rate of 14.31 % was already in the proposed 2012/2013 budget. 9.31% would be paid by the town and remaining 5% would be paid by the employee which comprised the 14.31% total. Mr. Godbey noted that it was not necessary for the Council to appropriate funds from reserves cover the additional cost associated with the 5% mandate as discussed during the May 7, 2012 Regular meeting.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Berry, Mr. Howard, rescinded his motion of May 7, 2012 that read as follows:** *the Council approved the FY 2012/2013 budget as presented with the modification of the mandated change from Virginia Retirement System; the Council also agreed to take the employees mandated 5% contribution out 1% each year for the next five (5) years; and further agreed to revisit the budget at the January 2013 meeting to consider the Town Manager's discretionary fund with regard to bonuses he had requested for town employees.*

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

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved An Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Proposing a Budget for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and to Make Appropriation for the Current Expenses of the Town and to Fix A Rate Upon Real and Personal Property, To Fix Other Local Tax Rates and Fees and Rates on Utility Services for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2012 and Ending June 30, 2013, and totaling \$15,066,347.**

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



## **I. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS**

### **1. Consideration of bids for Train Station building currently housing the Washington County Historical Society.**

Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager commented that Council had approved a bid, submitted by Glade Construction, at the April 2012 Regular meeting, for renovations to the roof of the passenger section of the Train Station building. Mr. Jackson noted that the Virginia Department of Transportation had to approve the bids as they had awarded enhancement funds to the town for this project back in 2002. Mr. Jackson stated that VDOT had rejected the awarded bid and asked that the project be re-bid. Mr. Jackson noted that the VDOT funds expired at the end of June, so it was necessary to move forward with the project. Glade Construction had submitted the only bid on the re-bid of the project at a cost of \$296,400 which was \$46,400 over the VDOT enhancement fund amount of \$220,000. Mr. Jackson noted that the overage could be covered by town funds for the project.

**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council awarded the bid for the renovation of the roof of the passenger section of the Train Station Building to Glade Construction in the amount of \$296,400.**

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



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

**1. Consideration of excess Council contingency funds (FY 2011/2012)**

- Veterans Memorial Park, Emmitt F. Yeary, Chairman of the Park Committee commented that the group had contracted to build 5 picnic pavilions in the park to honor each branch of the military and had experienced a \$30,000 shortfall in funds to pay for the completion of the shelters. Mr. Yeary asked the Council to consider appropriating additional funding to pay for the completion of the shelters already under construction at the park.
- Abingdon Senior Center, Daveena Sexton, Director of the Senior Center asked the Council to consider appropriating any additional funds to the Center to assist with debt retirement related to the construction of the Virginia Ballroom facility.
- Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority, Michelle Holden, Director and Mike Rush board member of the ARHA asked the Council to consider providing additional financial support for the Housing Authority.

Mr. Jackson, Assistant Town Manager commented that the Council Contingency line had \$48,969.00 and the Mayor's Contingency line had \$907.75.

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- Mr. Jackson noted that the heat pump at the Train Station Building was no longer functional and needed to be replaced. Mr. Jackson indicated that per terms of the town's lease with the Historical Society, each party was responsible for one-half (1/2) the cost of replacement.

Mrs. Lowe commented that funds needed could come from an excess amount in the Board of Architectural Review line.

No action was required by Council on this item.

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Discussion resumed about the earlier requests by representatives of the Veterans Park, the Abingdon Senior Center and the Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Mrs. Lowe inquired if the Mayor would be willing to combine the funds in the Mayor's Contingency with the Council contingency line. Mayor Morgan agreed and Mrs. Lowe noted that they could divide the total of \$49,877.15 equally between the three (3) agencies.

Mr. Berry commented that the immediate need for the Veterans Park Committee was \$20,000.

Ms. Sexton with the Abingdon Senior Center indicated that they had learned of cuts to the budget from United Way and the County and asked the town for funds and noted that her board was committed to debt retirement.

Mike Rush indicated that the Housing Authority had requested \$150,000 for the FY2012/2013 and would appreciate any funding amount the Council could allocate to their organization.

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council agreed to allocate \$20,000 to Veterans Memorial Park, \$14,938.58 to Abingdon Senior Center, and \$14,938.58 to the Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority from the combined Council Contingency amount and Mayor Contingency amount totaling \$49,877.15 from the FY2011/2012 budget and further requested that these agencies be considered for additional funding at the Regular August Council meeting.**

<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Humphreys</b>	<b>Absent</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 authorization to negotiate a contract with an engineering firm to prepare the engineering plans for the replacement of Trestle #7 on the Virginia Creeper Trail.**

John Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction reported that he had received four (4) proposals for engineering design services for the replacement of Trestle #7 on the Virginia Creeper Trail. Mr. Dew indicated that a committee consisting of himself, Greg Kelly, Town Manager, Kevin Worley, Director of Parks and Recreation, and Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager had reviewed the proposals and the committee recommended that the Council authorize Greg Kelly, Town Manager to negotiate the contract with Tysinger, Hampton & Partners.

Mayor Morgan inquired about the time table for construction once the engineering design services are completed.

Mrs. Lowe inquired why the local firm of Bundy Architecture and Engineering had not been selected. Mr. Dew responded that the committee considered qualifications and prior experience and the groups recommendation was Tysinger, Hampton & Partners.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council authorized Greg Kelly, Town Manager to negotiate the contract for the engineering design services with Tysinger, Hampton & Partners for the replacement of Trestle #7 on the Virginia Creeper Trail.**

<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Humphreys</b>	<b>Absent</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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#### **K. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS**

**1. Consideration of Resolution of the Council of the Town of Abingdon regarding Virginia Retirement System Employer Contribution Rate.**

Deborah Atkins-Vance, Director of Human Resources informed the Council that the Virginia Retirement System had required a Resolution from each locality confirming their contribution rate for FY2012/2013. Ms. Atkins-Vance reported that the town's portion would be 9.31% with the employee paying the remaining 5% for a total contribution of 14.31%.

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

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA  
CERTIFYING THE VIRGINIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM (VRS) EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION  
RATE AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER AND TOWN TREASURER TO CARRY  
OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THE RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town of Abingdon, Virginia 55300 does hereby acknowledge that its contribution rates effective July 1, 2012 shall be based on the higher of a) the contribution rate in effect for FY2012, or b) seventy percent of the results of the June 30, 2011 actuarial valuation of assets and liabilities as approved by the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees for the 2012-2014 biennium (the "Alternate Rate") provided that, as its option, the contribution rate may be based on the employer contribution rates certified by the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees pursuant to Virginia Code §51.1-145(I) resulting from the June 30, 2011 actuarial value of assets and liabilities (the "Certified Rate"); and

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that the town of Abingdon 55300 does hereby certify to the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees that it elects to pay the following contribution rate effective July 1, 2012:

✓ **The Certified Rate of 9.31%**

**BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, that the Town of Abingdon 55300 does hereby certify to the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees that it has reviewed and understands the information provided by the Virginia Retirement System outlining the potential future fiscal implications of any election made under the provisions of this resolution; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the officers of the Town of Abingdon 55300 are hereby duly authorized and directed in the name of the Town of Abingdon to carry out the provisions of this resolution, and said officers of the Town of Abingdon are authorized and directed to pay over to the Treasurer of Virginia from time to time such sums as are due to be paid by the Town of Abingdon for this purpose.

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|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Absent</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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**2. Consideration of Resolution of the Council of the Town of Abingdon regarding Virginia Retirement System Member Contributions by Salary Reduction**

Deborah Atkins-Vance, Director of Human Resources commented that the second Resolution with regard to the new VRS mandate is before Council for consideration. Ms. Atkins-Vance indicated that this resolution confirms to VRS how the 5% mandate of employee contribution will be handled by the locality either by 1% over 5 five year period or 5% at the onset. Ms. Atkins-Vance indicated that the town staff recommended that the 5% mandate be taken out at the onset.

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

**A RESOLUTION BY THE COUNCIL OF THE  
TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA  
REGARDING MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS BY SALARY REDUCTION FOR COUNTIES,  
CITIES, TOWN AND OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS  
(In accordance with Chapter 822 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly (SB497))**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Abingdon 55300 employees who are Virginia Retirement System members who commence or recommence employment on or after July 1, 2012 (“FY2013 Employees” for purposes of this resolution), shall be required to contribute five percent of their creditable compensation by salary reduction pursuant to Internal Revenue Code § 414(h) on a pre-tax basis upon commencing or recommencing employment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Abingdon 55300 employees who are Virginia Retirement System members and in service on June 30, 2012 shall be required to contribute five percent of their creditable compensation by salary reduction pursuant to Internal Revenue Code § 414(h) on a pre-tax basis no later than July 1, 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, such employees in service on June 30, 2012, shall contribute a minimum of an additional one percent of their creditable compensation beginning on each July 1 of 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016, or until the employees’ contributions equal five percent of creditable compensation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Abingdon 55300 may elect to require such employees in service on June 30, 2012, to contribute more than an additional one percent each year, in whole percentages, until the employees’ contributions equal five percent of creditable compensation; and

**WHEREAS**, the second enactment clause of Chapter 822 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly (SB497) requires an increase in total creditable compensation, effect July 1, 2012, to each such employee in service on June 30, 2012, to offset the cost of the member contributions, such increase in total creditable compensation to be equal to the difference between five percent of the employee’s total creditable compensation and the percentage of the member contributions paid by such employee on January 1, 2012.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that the Town of Abingdon 55300 does hereby certify to the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees that it shall effect the implantation of the member contribution requirements of Chapter 822 of the 2012 Acts of Assembly (SB497) according to the following schedule for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012 (i.e., FY2013):

Type of Employee	Employer Paid Member Contribution	Employee Paid Member Contribution
Plan 1	9.31%	5%
Plan 2	0	0
FY2013 Employees	0%	5%

(Note: Each row must add up to 5 percent.); and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that such contributions, although designated as a member contributions, are to be made by the Town of Abingdon in lieu of member contributions; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that pick up member contributions shall be paid from the same source of funds as used in paying the wages to affected employees; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that member contributions made by the Town of Abingdon under the pickup arrangement shall be treat for all purposes other than income taxation, including but not limited to VRS benefits, in the same manner and to the same extent as member contributions made prior to the pickup arrangements; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that nothing herein shall be construed so as to permit or extend an option to VRS members to receive the pickup contributions made by the Town of Abingdon directly instead of having them paid to VRS; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that notwithstanding any contractual or other provisions, the wages of each member of VRS who is an employee of the Town of Abingdon shall be reduced by the amount of member contributions picked up by the Town of Abingdon on behalf of such employees pursuant to the foregoing resolution.

**NOW THEREFORE**, the officers of Town of Abingdon 55300 are hereby authorized and directed in the name of the Town of Abingdon to carry out the provisions of this resolution, and said officers of the Town of Abingdon are authorized and directed to pay over to the Treasurer of Virginia from time to time such sums as are due to be paid by the Town of Abingdon for this purpose.

<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Humphreys</b>	<b>Absent</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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3. **Consideration of Resolution of the Council of the Town of Abingdon authorizing the Town Manager to enter into a Lease-Purchase Agreement for a Truck-Mounted Combination Vacuum/Jetter Sewer Cleaning Unit.**

Jim Smith, Town Engineer commented that the Council had previously approved the Lease-Purchase Agreement for a truck mounted combination vacuum/jetter sewer cleaning unit and the following resolution was required to complete the contract.

**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved the following resolution as presented:**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA  
AUTHORIZING THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE THE LEASE-PURCHASE  
AGREEMENT AND ESCROW AGREEMENT WITH LEASING 2, INC.**

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia has determined that a true and very real need exists for the acquisition of the Equipment described in the Lease-Purchase Agreement by and between Lessee and **Leasing 2, Inc.** dated **May 30, 2012** and presented to this meeting;

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia has further determined that the equipment will be used solely for essential governmental functions and not for private business us; and

**WHEREAS**, the Lessee has taken the necessary steps, including, without limitation to compliance with legal bidding requirements, under applicable law to arrange for the acquisition of such equipment; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED**, by the Council of the Town of Abingdon that the terms of said Lease –Purchase Agreement and Escrow Agreement are in the best interest of Lessee for the acquisition of such Equipment, and the governing body of Lessee designates and confirms that Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager is authorized to execute and deliver the Lease-Purchase Agreement and Escrow Agreement and any related documents necessary to the consummation of the transactions contemplated by the Lease-Purchase Agreement and Escrow Agreement.

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Absent</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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#### **L. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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#### **M. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

- Mrs. Lowe commented on the funds in the Town Manager’s discretionary line of the FY 2012/2013 proposed budget in the amount of \$150,000. Mrs. Lowe indicated that these funds had been requested by the Town Manager to provide full time employees with a bonus and she recommended that the bonus funds be divided equally between each full time employee. Mrs. Lowe commented that she felt this was a good will gesture from the Council to the employees sending the message that each employee’s job is important. Mrs. Lowe and Mayor Morgan recommended that this proposal be considered at the Regular August meeting.

At this time, Mrs. Lowe commented that Daveena Sexton, Director of the Abingdon Senior Center had one item to address before Council. Ms. Sexton indicated that she had a second request of Council to lift the restrictions placed on the special use permit for the Virginia Ballroom facility which is part of the Senior Center. Ms. Sexton indicated that the restrictions were placed on the Senior Center that no alcohol would be sold by the Center and no employees of



the Center would be handling alcohol at events held at the Ballroom. Ms. Sexton commented that “You can teach a man to fish, but she hoped the Council could help her get a better fishing pole”.

Mr. Jackson, Assistant Town Manager commented that Ms. Sexton would need to complete some paperwork and the matter would be heard before the Planning Commission and then heard additionally at a public hearing before the Town Council.

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At this time, Mayor Morgan inquired if anyone present had questions for the Council. Anne Newman, Horticulturist for the town commented on the 5% VRS mandate that Council had discussed earlier in the meeting. Ms. Newman noted that the 5% increase in employee salary would put the employee in a higher bracket making it difficult for employees who would not see an increase in salary

Mr. Jackson, Assistant Town Manager commented that the VRS change of employees now having to pay 5% toward their retirement was a mandate by the state that had to be complied with. Mr. Jackson noted that Mr. Kelly, Town Manager did have funds in the proposed budget to provide employees with a bonus which would offset the funds lost to increase in FICA and Medicare tax. Mrs. Lowe commented about the mandate and her hope that the bonus that employees will receive will help with the lessening of paycheck amounts. Mayor Morgan commented that the Council and town staff were complying with a mandate that all localities across the state were bound to uphold and emphasized that the Council and staff tried to find solutions that impacted employees the least. Ms. Atkins-Vance, Director of Human Resources indicated that she was already planning employee meetings to inform employees of the change and give them a chance to ask questions.

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Rich Macbeth of 1139 Panorama Drive, Abingdon inquired about the VDOT meeting scheduled for June 19<sup>th</sup> at the Coomes Center. Mr. Dew confirmed that the meeting was planned as scheduled. Mr. Macbeth also inquired if the property for sale behind the Exxon Station had sold.

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Mr. Jackson introduced Rebecca Moody who is currently interning in the Planning Department and noted that Ms. Moody was interested in studying the feasibility of a mass transit system in Abingdon.

Mr. Jackson also introduced Jason Beasley who is interning with Greg Kelly in the Town Manager’s office. Mr. Jackson noted that Mr. Beasley is an MPA student at Virginia Tech and will be focusing on the town’s comprehensive plan.

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Mrs. Lowe introduced John Legard, the newest member appointed to the Industrial Development Authority Board.

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**N. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

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**O. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

1. *Board of Zoning Appeals*

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Berry the Council reappointed Scott Wilson to the Board of Zoning Appeals.**

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

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Absent</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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Mayor Morgan commented that it had been a remarkable meeting for Abingdon, Virginia Town Council as well as Abingdon-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, United Kingdom.

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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