

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

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, March 5, 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
Deborah Atkins-Vance, Director Human Resources
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of Information Technology
Daniel Kidd, IT Department
John Phelps, IT Department

Visitors:

Debra McCown, Rich Macbeth, Steve Buston, Donnie Necessary, Sam Brown, Kimley Horne Representatives, and others

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Donny Necessary of VDOT Bristol District office, and Carroll Collins and Carlin Hebert of Kimley-Horn and Associates, VDOT's Transportation Consultants provided a power point presentation regarding the Exit 14 study including connector roads on Stonemill and French Moore, Jr. Boulevard. The team presented a plan that would improve traffic flow in and around the Exit 14 area and provide a re-design of several intersections in the area. The plan also included additional signalization, signage and overall infrastructure improvement. Mr. Necessary indicated that the Exit 14 project is scheduled to be advertised in February 2015 with construction to begin in 2015. Mayor Morgan inquired about planned improvements for Exit 17 and commented the Council

continued to be concerned about congestion and volume of traffic in that area. Mr. Necessary commented that the second phase of the Exit 19 study will begin in the next few days and they hoped to hold a public forum regarding the study during the mid summer months.

2. Sam Brown, the town's health insurance consultant reported on the status of the town's annual policy renewal contract for employee health insurance. Mr. Brown commented that the claims had gone down a slight bit in the plan year and rates would hold and/or reduce for town's contract. Mr. Brown indicated that the town needed to advise the current health insurance carrier of plans to renew the contract by April 1st. Mr. Kelly recommended that Council approve the plan during the regular meeting and authorize him to notify the current carrier of intent to renew the plan. Mr. Kelly thanked Mr. Brown for his assistance and commented about the positive aspect of having the insurance plan term follow the fiscal year format.
3. Mr. Kelly provided an update on a meeting he had with representatives from William King Museum and Cornerstone Academy. Mr. Kelly indicated that the Academy had expressed interest in acquiring the William King Museum property for their school, through a purchase or a long term lease arrangement. Mr. Kelly noted that the Cornerstone Academy representative had asked for permission for the school to use the sports fields located adjacent to the current Museum property.
4. Mr. Kelly asked the Council members to establish two (2) dates for budget work sessions during the month of April. Council members agreed to hold a budget work session on April 11th at 5:30 to consider the general fund and a second meeting on April 18th at 5:30 to consider requests from non-departmental agencies.
5. Garrett Jackson provided a report and background on the establishment of the Arthur Campbell Award. Mr. Jackson reviewed the criteria for the award Mayor Morgan indicated that he had a plan for Council to determine who the recipients of the award would be. Mayor Morgan asked that Council consider the nominations received and be prepared to consider the recipients at the April meeting.
6. John Dew reported on a paint truck in the Public Works Department that he requested be declared surplus and sold. Mr. Dew reported that the truck does not meet the current needs of the Public Works Department due to age and condition of the vehicle. Council members agreed that the truck would be declared surplus.
7. Ms. Icenhour reported that she had included a draft of the Solid Waste Ordinance with changes and/or modifications and indicated that it would be before Council for consideration and public hearing at the April meeting. Mr. Kelly indicated that the Ordinance was in need of revision in order to include new language and establish consistency for customers affected the town's solid waste services.
8. At this time, **On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Howard the Council convened in Closed Session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for the consideration and discussion of the acquisition or disposition of publicly held property.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

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| Mr. Howard | Aye |
| Mr. Humphreys | Aye |
| Mr. Berry | Aye |

Mrs. Lowe **Aye**
Mayor Morgan **Aye**

The motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council reconvened in regular session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

The Town Clerk, Cecile Rosenbaum, read the following certification to be adopted by the Council members:

***WHEREAS**, the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia has convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and*

***WHEREAS**, Sec. 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a certification by the Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; and*

***NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved, that the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from an open meeting requirement by Virginia law were discussed in closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Town Council.*

The certification was as follows:

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|----------------------|---------------------|
| Mr. Howard | I so certify |
| Mr. Humphreys | I so certify |
| Mr. Berry | I so certify |
| Mrs. Lowe | I so certify |
| Mayor Morgan | I so certify |

9. Mrs. Lowe inquired about the minutes for Planning Commission and the Board of Architectural Review.

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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.

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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk