

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2011 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Wednesday, October 12, 2011 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
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
Jim Cowart, Dir. of Economic Development/Grants

Visitors:

Col. Bradley, Lee Saunders, Emmitt Yeary, Debra McCown, Peyton Boyd, Mary Ann Holbrook, Howard McElroy, Jayne Duehring

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan invited Col. Bradley to come forth to provide a presentation on the status of the construction plans for Veterans Memorial Park. Col. Bradley indicated that 5 new pavilions were planned for the park and provided photographs of what they will look like once the construction is complete. Mayor Morgan inquired if the group had the funding in place for the construction project and Col. Bradley confirmed that they did have the funds and were ready to proceed. Mayor Morgan further inquired about the condition of the playground equipment and Col. Bradley noted that it would be addressed in the very near future. Mr. Kelly commented that the work had been authorized and no further action was required by Council. Mr. Yeary reported that the Veterans Day Celebration will be on Friday, November 11th and the theme for this year was War on Terrorism and Remembrance of the victims of the September 11th attacks.

2. Michael Haslam with Peyton Boyd's Architect firm provided a presentation on a proposed expansion project for the Barter Theatre. Mr. Haslam reviewed the overall plans and reported on the structural impact that it would have on the adjacent Town Hall building should Council approve the project. He indicated that the two buildings would be combined by a stairwell and the visual impact to both buildings would be minimal. Mr. Kelly commented that the plans would have to be approved by the Board of Architectural Review before the project could move forward. Mayor Morgan commented that the Council had already adopted the budget for the 2011/2012 budget and did not have the funding to allocate towards the project. Stuart Parker with Burwil Construction commented that they had estimated the total cost of the project at approximately \$500,000, of which the town's share for renovations would be approximately \$40,000 to \$60,000. Mayor Morgan thanked the parties involved in presenting the expansion plans project and commented that Council would wait to hear how the Barter wishes to proceed in light of the funding shortage. Mr. Kelly asked that they consider allowing the town to gain the storage space shown on the top level of the building. He also requested that they do a rendering of what the building would look like with a separate fire exit.
3. Charlie Fugate attorney for K-Va-T food stores reported on the construction plans for the Johnston Memorial Hospital site which will serve as the corporate headquarters for the company. Mr. Fugate indicated that the present hospital building will be demolished with the exception of the parking garage and it will remain. Mr. Fugate reported that the plans for the building had not been finalized but would keep Council apprised as the plans developed. Mr. Fugate inquired if the Council had considered K- Va-T's prior request to lift the restrictive covenants currently in place with regard to the hospital property. Mr. Fugate noted that they are interested in developing an entrance off of Oakhill Street but the current restrictions would prevent them from proceeding with that plan. Discussion ensued and it was determined that a traffic study would need to be done for that area and once that was complete, the Council could consider the request to lift the restrictive covenants.
4. John Dew, Dir. of Public Services/Construction reported on a traffic complaint that he had received with regard to the Washington County Fair traffic. Mr. Dew reported that the complainant lived on Hill Street and was concerned about the increased number of vehicles routed out his street during the Fair. Mr. Kelly reported that the Tobacco Commission had provided funding to the Washington County Fair group for a street improvement project that would help with fair traffic. Mr. Kelly noted that it was his hope that the Fair group would complete the street improvement project before the 2012 fair event and the Hill Street exit route would not be necessary.
5. Mr. Dew reported on a petition for right of way vacation that he had recently received. Mr. Dew indicated that he brought this to Council's attention as a citizen had recently commented that the Town should be compensated for the property vacated in a right of way case. Discussion ensued and Mr. Kelly suggested that the Council consider placing a hold on right of way vacation requests until the urban paths/trails can be established.
6. Ms. Icenhour reported on the status of the ongoing Country Club Stormwater Drainage issue. Ms. Icenhour confirmed that the Hazard Mitigation plan from the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission had been forwarded to VDEM for review. Mayor Morgan suggested, in light of the lack of response and elapsed time from FEMA on the grant monies the Town is in line to receive, that a town delegation go to Richmond and meet with the officials at VDEM as well as Senator Wampler, Delegate Johnson and others to see if they can ask their assistance in getting FEMA to authorize the release of the Town grant funds for the Country Club project. Mrs. Lowe commented on the length of time the project had been on the town's agendas and indicated that she was

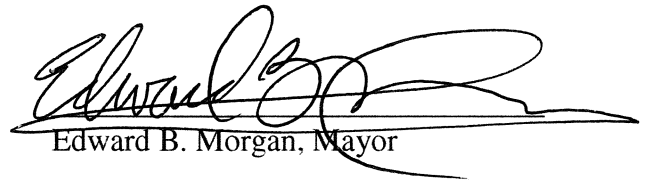
prepared to make a motion during the regular meeting to appropriate the monies in the CIP to move forward with the Country Club project.

~~~~~

Mayor Morgan declared a 5 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