

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2011 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Tuesday, September 6, 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
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of Information Technology
Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police

Visitors:

None

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan reported that he had received a phone call from the Mayor of Abingdon, England who extended an official invitation to the Town to visit our twin city during their Jubilee Festival in June of 2012.
2. Floyd Bailey, Director of Information Technology reported on the status of the placement of the final tower which will be located the Coomes Center property. Mr. Bailey indicated that his staff had held a public forum to hear from the citizens in the neighborhood adjacent to the tower site and all comments had been positive. Mr. Bailey provided information on the final build out figures for the town Wi-Fi project and reported on lease option proposal that would allow the project to be finalized if approved by Council. Mr. Bailey commented that the proposal will also be configured to allow for the placement of emergency call boxes along the Creeper Trail.
3. Mr. Kelly reported that there will be a joint meeting with the Washington County Board of Supervisors, the Town Council and King College on Friday, September 16th at 7:30 a.m. to sign the

Memorandum of Agreement confirming the location of the proposed King College Medical School in Abingdon on several pieces of property in the Stonemill Business and Technology Park. Mr. Kelly indicated that the attorneys for all parties had reviewed the memorandum and each party was in agreement with the conditions as set forth in the document.

4. Chief Sullivan reported on the research he had conducted with regard to formulating an Emergency Management Plan for the town. Chief Sullivan commented that the key issues were establishing guidelines for communication with all town residents and informing first responders, such as fire and police, of the plan and how to implement it in case of emergency. Mrs. Lowe commented on the importance of getting emergency information to all town residents and Mr. Humphreys added that there should be a tracking system in place to indicate how many town residents are being reached with information. Mayor Morgan suggested the establishment of an emergency management planning committee to assist in the formulation and implementation of a plan.
5. Chief Sullivan reported on the issue of security on the Creeper Trail and indicated that a very low number of calls had been reported over the past year. Chief Sullivan commented that the most serious calls involved items being stolen from vehicles left in the parking lots at the trail entrance sites. Chief Sullivan noted that he would be receiving grant monies that could be used toward placing an officer on duty to patrol the Creeper Trail areas.
6. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager commented on an inquiry he had received from the management team with Food City regarding a restrictive covenant on the Johnston Memorial Hospital property on Court Street. Mr. Kelly indicated that he had been asked if the Town would be willing to release the covenant in favor of Food City constructing an entrance/exit on Oak Hill Street. Mr. Kelly indicated that a public hearing would have to be held prior to the Council approving/denying such a request. Mayor Morgan commented that the Council had a responsibility to the citizens in the surrounding neighborhood and would consider their views before making a final determination on the request.
7. Mr. Kelly reported that, per Council approval, he had executed an option agreement with the owners of the property located on Deadmore Street which is being considered for an arts incubator project. Mr. Kelly indicated that the option would expire on October 12th. Jim Cowart, Dir. of Economic Development/Grants reported that he had applied for a grant that would provide funding for the rehabilitation of derelict property that could be used toward funding for this project.
8. Ms. Icenhour, Town Attorney reported on the status of the FEMA funding the town was in line to receive. Ms. Icenhour commented that she and Vice Mayor Lowe had met with the staff at Mount Rogers Planning District Commission regarding the update of their hazard mitigation plan which must be updated and approved before FEMA will release the town's funding for the Country Club project.
9. Vice Mayor Lowe reported on a meeting she had with a representative from a group in opposition to allowing bigger trucks on Virginia's highways. Mrs. Lowe suggested the Mayor write a letter on behalf of the Council members in support of the groups' efforts against the approval of bigger trucks.
10. Council members discussed the committee proposal of the medal for the Arthur Campbell Award and indicated they would take action to formally approve the design during regular session.

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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.

Cecile M. Rosenbaum  
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk

  
Edward B. Morgan, Mayor