

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2011 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, April 4, 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
Jim Hicks, Dir. of Human Resources
John Dew, Dir. of Public Services/Construction
Garrett Jackson, Dir. of Planning
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. Finance
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of Information Technology

Visitors:

Debra McCown

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. John Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction reviewed the list of items that were currently being considered for surplus auction. Mr. Dew commented on the cost savings associated with auctioning surplus items online and the Council members agreed that Mr. Dew should proceed with the auction of the items as listed.
2. Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning presented the Council with a draft Request for Proposals (RFP) and sketch for the Arthur Campbell Award. Council members and Town staff discussed the size of the medal, the color of the ribbon and compensation for the artist whose design is chosen for the award. Council members Humphreys and Howard agreed to serve on the committee that will choose the design for the medal.

3. Garrett Jackson provided an update on The Muster Grounds site and informed the Council that the address for the site will be 1780 Muster Place. Mr. Jackson reminded the Council of the upcoming Trails Conference to be held in Abingdon starting May 14th. Council member Humphreys informed the Council and staff that the DAR had presented the Town with a check for \$20,000 to be used at The Muster Grounds and indicated the proceeds came from the sale of jewelry by the DAR. Mr. Jackson commented that the hiring committee had interviewed candidates for the position of Manager at The Muster Grounds and expected the employee to begin in the next few weeks.
4. Town Manager, Greg Kelly, Jim Cowart, Director of Economic Development and Council member Berry provided an update on the grant for which the Town had assumed administration of from William King Museum for the development of an arts incubator in town. They reported that the funding amount they were seeking from the grant had not been appropriated as expected. Discussion ensued regarding the recommendations that the Town consider contracting for a feasibility study as well as securing a piece of property for the site. They reported that these two actions could strengthen the Town's position for the award of the grant funding.
5. Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney provided an update on the Country Club Estates stormwater management project and indicated that she and the Town Engineer continued to work with the affected residents in the neighborhood. Mr. Smith reported that the FEMA funds had not been approved to date for the project due to the fact that the federal budget had not been approved.
6. Mayor Morgan provided an update on a proposed Burn Ordinance and inquired if the Council members supported the need for the Ordinance. Discussion ensued among Council members and Town staff and Council members Howard and Lowe indicated that they did not see a need for the Ordinance at this time. Mayor Morgan commented that it could be considered again at the May work session meeting.
7. Mayor Morgan reported that he had attended a welcome ceremony for the Head Start convention which was meeting in Abingdon and had 500 in attendance.
8. Council member Humphreys commented that he and Council member Lowe had discussed the need for adding an additional work session meeting each month. He indicated that he felt it was necessary considering the volume of issues that were before the Council at the present time. Discussion ensued about dates and times for the meeting and it was agreed that Council would consider the issue further at the May work session meeting. Mrs. Lowe indicated that the Council members should determine the subjects for the work session and inform the Town Clerk so she could prepare the agenda. Mr. Kelly advised that the agendas should be limited to only a few items in order to adequately address them and stay on course.
9. Mrs. Icenhour, Town Attorney reported that she had sent letters to the trash collection agencies that serve the Town reminding them of the Town's noise ordinance with regard to the early morning pickup of trash.
10. Mrs. Lowe inquired if the crosswalk on Main Street could be relocated in front of the United Methodist Church on East Main Street to allow for easier access for church members. Mr. Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction reported that he had consulted the VDOT guidelines and determined that they did not support the relocation of the crosswalk due to safety and traffic concerns. Discussion ensued among Council members and town staff regarding signage options and parking.

11. Mrs. Icenhour provided the Council members with a draft resolution she had prepared for the Council to consider regarding opposition to the proposed redistricting efforts in Southwest Virginia. Council members agreed to consider the Resolution during matters not on the agenda during the regular meeting.
12. Mrs. Lowe inquired about the appointments to the Tourism Advisory Committee and the Recreation Advisory Committee now that the Ordinances had been approved to provide for additional members on each committee. Mrs. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk reported that the by-laws for both committees needed to be updated now that the membership changes had been approved and they would be on the upcoming Council agenda for May meeting.
13. At this time, **On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded Mrs. Lowe, the Council went into 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:

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

The motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, 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
Mayor 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:

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

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