

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2010 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, April 5, 2010 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
Dr. French H. Moore, Jr., Vice Mayor
Mrs. Lois H. Humphreys
Mrs. Cathy Lowe
Mr. Jason N. Berry

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Debbie Icenhour, Town Attorney
Jim Smith, Town Engineer/Dir. of Wastewater Operations
John Dew, Dir. of Public Services/Construction
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. Finance
Rob Case, IT Department
Jim Cowart, Dir. of Economic Development

Visitors: Rick Humphreys, Pat Hatfield, Joyce Ferrat

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Jim Cowart, Dir. of Economic Development, reported that Abingdon was selected as a finalist in the All America City award and that the Town would need to send a delegation to Kansas City, MO in June for the competition. Mayor Morgan commented that it was an honor for the Town to be selected and the Council looked forward to attending the competition.
2. Pat Hatfield, the State Regent Elect for the DAR briefed the Council members on a project that she is preparing for The Muster Grounds site. Ms. Hatfield indicated that she is interested in the relocation of the Edmiston cabin. Ms. Hatfield commented that she would keep the Council informed as her project takes shape and thanked them for their support. Mayor Morgan thanked Ms. Hatfield for choosing to do her project on an Abingdon site and he looked forward to hearing more about her project as it develops.

3. Item D. on the agenda, consideration of budget request by Abingdon Senior Center, was continued until the regular meeting for consideration.
4. Jim Cowart, Dir. Of Economic Development presented the Council with information on a solar panel grant that he has applied for on behalf of the Town. Mr. Cowart indicated that the grant was through the Virginia Division of Mines Minerals and Energy and could be a strong project for the Town to consider. Mr. Cowart indicated that if the grant were awarded to the Town, a funding match would be necessary to secure the grant.
5. Mr. Kelly provided the Council with information on a meeting he attended with Dr. Wilkin, President of Virginia Highlands Community College and Town staff regarding the opening of an emergency exit property adjacent to the College. Dr. Wilkin is interested in having a gate that could be opened in the event of an emergency to relieve traffic flow. John Dew, Dir. Of Public Services/Construction indicated that his recommendation would be to only open the gate in emergency situations and to limit access to the gate by key. Mrs. Lowe recommended that further discussion take place between the VHCC and Town staff to determine who would pay the costs incurred by making the gate accessible and report back to Council at the May work session meeting.
6. Ms. Icenhour reviewed her monthly report with Council.
7. Dr. Moore reported that a ranger had been hired for The Muster Grounds site and that David Winship, a local resident, would fill that position. Mr. Kelly provided additional information about the agreement he signed with the National Park Service for The Muster Grounds gift shop items. Garrett Jackson indicated that National Trail Day would be held on June 5th and they would have a “soft opening” for The Muster Grounds gift shop on that day. Mr. Jackson provided additional information about the plans for house located on The Muster Grounds site and the estimate of costs associated with repairs to the house.
8. The Council briefly discussed the items listed for consideration on the regular agenda.
9. Mayor Morgan provided a recap of the Resolution declaring April, Juice Drive Month.

10. **On motion of Dr. Moore, seconded Mr. Berry, the Council went into closed session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(5) for the consideration and discussion concerning a prospective business or industry with interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Berry	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mrs. Humphreys	Aye
Dr. Moore	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

The motion carried.

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

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

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>      | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>      | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Dr. Moore</b>      | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |

**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:**

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>      | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>      | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Humphreys</b> | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Dr. Moore</b>      | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>   | <b>I so certify</b> |

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11. On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded Mrs. Humphreys, the Council went into closed session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) for the consultation with the Town Attorney regarding a pending litigation matter.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Berry	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mrs. Humphreys	Aye
Dr. Moore	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

The motion carried.



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

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Berry	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mrs. Humphreys	Aye
Dr. Moore	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

The motion carried.

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

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The certification was as follows:

Mr. Berry	I so certify
Mrs. Lowe	I so certify
Mrs. Humphreys	I so certify
Dr. Moore	I so certify
Mayor Morgan	I so certify



12. Mayor Morgan indicated that Council needed to consider one remaining item regarding the banking proposals for the Town. Mr. Kelly indicated that Council had been provided with all requested information. Discussion ensued and the Council indicated that they would take formal action on the matter during the regular meeting.

At this time, Mr. Morgan declared the meeting recessed so that Council could reconvene in the Council chambers for the regular meeting.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk