

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, April 6, 2009 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
Mark W. Godbey, Town Treasurer/Fin. Dir.
Debbie Icenhour, Town Attorney
Floyd Bailey, Director of Information Technology
Jim Cowart, Economic Development Coordinator
Rob Case, IT Department
Sean Taylor, Assistant Planner
Jim Smith, Town Engineer/Dir. of Wastewater Operations

Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order and Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk called the roll.

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan reviewed the agenda and asked if there were any comments about the items listed for action by the Council.
2. Mrs. Lowe inquired about there being no Council appointment to the Fire Department Board.
3. Mr. Berry inquired about the By-Laws for the Fire Department as presented for approval by the Council. Discussion ensued about proposed changes to the by-laws and the Council, by consensus, agreed that the Town Attorney should re-draft the by-laws with their suggested changes, present them back to the Fire Department, and bring them back to the Council for consideration and adoption at the regular May Council meeting.
4. The Council discussed the agenda for the following night's budget meeting.

Mayor Morgan declared a five (5) minutes recess for Council to move into the Council Chambers to hear non-departmental budget requests.

At 6:00 p.m., Mayor Morgan called the meeting back to order to hear presentations from non-departmental budget requests for funding for FY09/10.

The following presentations were made to Council:

5. Barter Theatre – Mary Anne Holbrook, Director of Development

Mrs. Holbrook addressed the Council members and provided statistics for attendance at the Barter Theatre and commented on the Barter's impact on Tourism in the Town of Abingdon. Mrs. Holbrook commented that the Barter's request for funding for FY09/10 was \$180,000 for operational and \$75,000 for capital projects.

6. Abingdon Senior Center – Dexter Peltzer, Executive Director

Mr. Peltzer provided information about the increase in attendance at the Senior Center as well as the increasing numbers of events that have been scheduled at the Center in the coming months. Mr. Peltzer commented on the debt figure for the Center and informed the Council that the Center's original funding request needed to be changed to \$69,000 for operational and \$67,000 for capital projects.

7. Southwest Virginia Second Harvest Food Bank – Edd Roberts, Development Officer

Mr. Roberts thanked the Council Members for their past support of the Food Bank and provided information about their change in location to property they acquired that more closely suited their needs and allowed for growth and expansion of the programs they offer. Mr. Roberts commented that his funding request for FY09/10 was \$15,000 for operational and an additional \$15,000 toward capital and indicated that could be spread out over three (3) budget cycles for an annual payment of \$5,000.

8. Faith in Action – Kathi Lowe, Executive Director

Mrs. Lowe addressed the Council Members and thanked them for their support of the fuel assistance program this budget year. Mrs. Lowe commented on the expansion of their facility to better serve the needs of their patrons and informed the Council that their budget request for FY09/10 was \$35,000.

9. William King Regional Arts Center – Lemont Dobson, Executive Director

Mr. Dobson gave a summary of the activities that the Arts Center had held throughout the year as well as some of the featured events he had scheduled for the upcoming year. Mr. Dobson addressed the budget request he had made regarding the Fields Penn House and

commented on the Phases of construction they expected to begin on their campus in the upcoming year.

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Mayor Morgan thanked everyone for their presentations and declared the work session recessed until the regular 7:30 meeting.

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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk