

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2008 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, April 7, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Municipal Building.

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present: Mayor Lois H. Humphreys
Mr. Robert M. Howard, Vice Mayor
Dr. French H. Moore, Jr.
Mr. Edward B. Morgan
Mrs. Cathy Lowe

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Deborah C. Icenhour, Assistant Town Attorney
Jim Smith, Town Engineer/Dir. Of Wastewater Operations
John Dew, Dir. Of Public Services/Construction

The following items were discussed:

1. Greg Kelly, Town Manager, informed the Council that Agenda item E1 was a public hearing for the donation of the Summers Law Office to the Town. He indicated that Derrick Dutcher, family member, would be present at the meeting to present the signed deed to the Mayor.
2. Mr. Morgan commented briefly on the annual Town arborist report from Kevin Sigmon.
3. Mr. Kelly informed the Council that Betsy White, Director of the William King Regional Arts Center would be present at the meeting to report on an upcoming exhibit featuring the Rose Cabinet Shop.
4. Mrs. Icenhour reported to the Council on the final draft of the Abingdon Market Pavilion Rules presented to the Council for formal adoption.
5. The Council members discussed the watershed study report.
6. Mr. Kelly informed the Council that Mrs. Icenhour, Assistant Town Attorney, had convened a panel of Town citizens, as set forth in the Town Code, to consider an increase in the monthly salary for Council members. She indicated that the panel had approved an increase of 4% for each member. Council member Morgan suggested that the Council approve a 3% increase as that is the amount recommended for Town employees. The Council members agreed to the 3% increase by consensus.
7. Dr. Moore asked the Council to reconsider the appropriation made in a previous budget work session to the Cave House Craft Shop. Mr. Kelly reminded the Council members that the

Council had put that budget request on hold at the previous meeting. By consensus, the Council members agreed to grant the Cave House budget request of \$12,000.

8. Mr. Kelly asked the Council to consider an increase in the Meals and Lodging tax. A brief discussion ensued among the Council members and by consensus the Council agreed to increase the Meals and Lodging Tax for the upcoming fiscal year by one (1%).
9. The Council members agreed that there would be no need for a Saturday budget work session.
10. Mr. Kelly reported that the Virginia Main Street group had hired an executive director and the Council members briefly discussed groups efforts to raise funding.
11. John Dew presented a map depicting the plans for the Walden Road Pedestrian Improvement project. Council members inquired of different aspects of the project.
12. Mr. Kelly reminded the Council members that a joint Town/County sports complex meeting was set for April 14, 2008 and a brief discussion ensued regarding the proposed agenda for the meeting.

Lois H. Humphreys, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk