

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2012 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, August 6, 2012 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
Garrett Jackson, Asst. Town Manager/Dir. of Planning
Jim Smith, Town Engineer
John Dew, Dir. of Construction/Public Services
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of IT Department
John Phelps, IT Department
Sean Taylor, Planning Dept.

Visitors:

Rich Macbeth, Polly Wirt, Debra Mcown

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Greg Kelly, Town Manager reported on the use of his discretionary funds to provide employees with a 3% bonus to be paid out in August and December. Mr. Kelly commented that this request was placed in his budget message submitted to Council in April and affirmed his belief that this was the best option in light of the recent VRS mandate wherein employees would be required to pay 5% of their retirement contribution. Mr. Kelly indicated that he had held meetings with the employees of all the town departments to discuss the VRS mandate and employees were very appreciative that the Town Council had approved the bonus to help offset the monies lost in their paychecks because of the mandate. Mrs. Lowe commented that she had mentioned at the June 4th meeting the option of giving each town employee the same amount of bonus money across the board but after talking with a few department heads, she had determined that the 3% option was the best alternative. Mr. Howard inquired if VML had taken an official position on the issue and Mr. Kelly commented that the VML group had spoken out in opposition of the 5% mandate and offered a suggestion to delay its enactment to give localities more time to prepare for its impact. Mr. Kelly noted that the localities

had no way of knowing if more changes and/or mandates would come down from the state in the future.

2. Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney reported on the status of Country Club Stormwater Management project. Ms. Smith commented that she felt that town staff had gone as far as they can go on the project and that a final draft of the construction plan was to be submitted in the next few days. Ms. Icenhour commented that one of the property owners affected by the project was not having to use a motorized scooter to get to and from her home. Ms. Icenhour noted that she will have to have a ramp installed to accommodate the scooter and a ramp had an impact on the construction plans for the project. Mayor Morgan suggested a local resident who had expertise in matters relative to providing access to and from the home on a motorized device. Mr. Kelly commented on the issue of eminent domain if the project cannot proceed without it. Mayor Morgan commented that town staff provide an update at the September meeting with regard to moving the project forward.
3. At this time, **on motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council went into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for the consideration and discussion of the acquisition 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 Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Berry, 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
Mr. 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:**

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

~~~~~

4. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager commented about the girl's softball team had requested funding for their tournament trip to Florida. Mr. Kelly commented that he did not honor the request because the team was chartered by Bristol and comprised of some players from Abingdon and surrounding areas.
5. Mr. Kelly commented that Bobby Ingle with White Mill Foundation had contacted him regarding the Foundation's request for additional funding to match a grant they have received from the Tobacco Commission. Mr. Kelly noted that the Foundation was requesting \$21,000 in additional funding in addition to the funding already appropriated by Council. Brief discussion ensued and the Council members asked that Mr. Ingle come to the September Council meeting to address the funding request.
6. Sean Taylor, Planning Department commented on the re-bid of the train state roof project. Mr. Taylor commented that the grant for the project was awarded in 2002 and later turned over to the town to manage. Mr. Taylor noted that VDOT has rejected the bids on several occasions and now after a find re-bid, they have determined they have 2 sound bids. Mr. Taylor recommended that the Council award the contract to Trademark but noted that VDOT did have the final determination if the bid qualified. Mr. Taylor commented that there would be slight disturbance to the Historical Society which is housed in the train station building. Mr. commented that the BAR had acted on the roof project earlier in the year and he hoped the project would now move forward.
7. Mayor Morgan commented on the process for the public hearing during the regular meeting and indicated that he would like for those who wish to speak to complete the signup sheet and they would be heard in the order they appear on the sheet.

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