

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2012 – 7:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on December 3, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council chambers of the Municipal Building.

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present:

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor
Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor
Mr. Jason N. Berry
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys
Mr. Robert M. Howard

Administrative/Town Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Mgr./Dir. Of Planning
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney
Jim Smith, Dir. Of Wastewater Operations/Town Eng.
Jim Cowart, Dir. of Econ. Dev/Grants Writer
John Dew, Dir. Public Services/Construction
Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism
Kevin Worley, Dir. of Parks & Recreation
Mike Maiden, Superintendent Wolf Creek Facility
Sherry Smith, Finance Department
Jon Phelps, Information Technology Dept.
Kevin Sigmon, Town Arborist

Visitors:

Mr. Jett, Eddie Copenhaver, and others
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**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jason Berry, Council member.

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C. EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS – *Greg Kelly, Town Manager*

- Mr. Kelly congratulated Allen Hay, School Resource Officer for his 25 years of service to the Town's Police Department. Mr. Kelly noted that Mr. Hay was not able to be present would try to have him attend the January meeting.

- Mr. Kelly congratulated Sherry Smith, Cashier for the Finance Department on her retirement from the town after 23 years of service. Mr. Kelly presented Mrs. Smith with a framed print of the Town Seal and an engraved clock with her years of service.
- Mr. Kelly congratulated Mike Maiden, Superintendent for the Wolf Creek Wastewater Facility on his retirement from the town after his 35 years of service. Mr. Kelly presented Mr. Maiden with a framed print of the Town Seal and an engraved clock with his years of service.

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#### **D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- November 5, 2012 Work Session Meeting
- November 5, 2012 Regular Meeting

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Berry, the minutes of the November 5, 2012 Work Session meeting, the November 5, 2012 Regular were approved as presented.**

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

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

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E. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – None.

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#### **F. SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES**

1. **Request for Exemption to Subdivision Ordinance, Section 5.18, Private Streets and Reserve Strips – Private Streets and reserve strips of the Town’s Subdivision Ordinance reads, “*Unless otherwise provided herein or in the town zoning ordinance, there shall be no private streets platted in any subdivision. Every***

*subdivided property shall be served from a publicly dedicated street constructed to standards of this code and accepted and maintained by the Town of Abingdon. There shall be no reserve strips controlling access to streets". Tax Map No. 11(4) 5 and pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §15.2-2204.*

Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager commented that this matter was before Council for a second reading. Mr. Jackson noted that the Planning Commission had unanimously recommended this request for exemption to the Subdivision Ordinance and Council had passed it on first reading at the regular November meeting.

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council approved on second reading the Request for Exemption to Subdivision Ordinance, Section 5.18, Private Streets and Reserve Strips – Private Streets and reserve strips of the Town’s Subdivision Ordinance reads, “Unless otherwise provided herein or in the town zoning ordinance, there shall be no private streets platted in any subdivision. Every subdivided property shall be served from a publicly dedicated street constructed to standards of this code and accepted and maintained by the Town of Abingdon. There shall be no reserve strips controlling access to streets”. Tax Map No. 11(4) 5 and pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §15.2-2204.**

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

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

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G. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS

1. Consideration and award of bid for the first floor renovation project of the Town Municipal building.

Greg Kelly, Town Manager commented that the Town Hall building was in need of additional office space on the first floor and that money was in the current budget for the construction of this project. Mr. Kelly noted that this project would also enhance the entrance to the first floor and better utilize the space for current and future town staff. Mr. Kelly noted that a total of four (4) bids had been received and he recommended that Council authorize him to enter into a contract with Glade Construction for the amount of \$66,941.00. Mr. Kelly noted that additional security upgrades would be taking place in the downstairs meeting room as well as the Council

Chambers but those costs are not associated with the bid price before Council for consideration.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council awarded the bid for the Municipal Building 1st floor renovation project to Glade Construction in the amount of \$66,941.00 and authorized the Town Manager to enter into the contract.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

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## **H. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

- 1. Authorization of the Town Manager to proceed with the lease and/or financing of the purchase of two (2) 2006 trolleys from Olde South Trolleys/Kannapolis Charters.**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager reported that he and Jamie Chafin, Public Works Superintendent visited the Olde South Trolley dealership in North Carolina and were able to view several models that could work for the Town's use. Mr. Kelly indicated that after researching engines and mileage his recommendation would be for Council to invest in two (2) 2006 trolleys at a cost of \$75,000 each. Mr. Kelly noted that the trolleys would be used to transport visitors throughout the downtown area as well as to Heartwood and other areas of attraction in town. Mr. Kelly recommended that the Council authorize him to purchase two (2) 2006 model trolleys at a price of \$75,000 each to be financed over a 3 to 5 year period.

**On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council authorized the Town Manager to purchase two (2) 2006 model trolleys from Olde South Trolleys at a price of \$75,000 each to be financed over a 3 to 5 year period of time.**

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

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |

**Mrs. Lowe**            **Aye**  
**Mayor Morgan**    **Aye**

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2. Update on the status of the Sinking Spring Cemetery Columbarium

Greg Kelly, Town Manager reported that the Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee had met on Saturday, November 17th to discuss the construction of a columbarium and memory wall in the Cemetery. Mr. Kelly noted that the first phase of the project was to obtain a design and decide on the proper location for the columbarium and the second phase would involve development and construction of structure. Mr. Kelly noted that the Committee would be requesting use of the funding from Cemetery line item in the budget but indicated there was not action necessary by Council. Mr. Kelly noted that he would keep the Council apprised of the project as it develops.

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**I. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS – None**

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J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Update on the status of the Virginia Copenhaver property located at 205 Preston Street, Abingdon as it relates to a request for improvements to the turning radius at the corner of Preston and Hagy Streets and the protection of the brick wall located on the corner of Mrs. Copenhaver's property.

John Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction commented that this matter had been on the Council agenda for the last 2 months and originally came before Council as a result of a rezoning request by United Way. Mr. Dew noted that he had a traffic study done on the area and the results of the study showed a low number of vehicles in the area therefore not warranting a change in the traffic pattern as it currently stands. Mr. Dew commented on his concerns relative to placing a barrier at or near the intersection of the Copenhaver property as it could further narrow the traffic path and place greater risk for motorists in the area. Mayor Morgan inquired as to how recently the wall on Mrs. Copenhaver's property had been damaged. Mrs. Lowe inquired about the costs of placing a bollard at or near the wall to protect it from turning vehicles. Council members commented that they wished to consider the matter again at their January 7th regular meeting.

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**2. Update on the Country Club Stormwater Management Project**

Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney reported that all the easements for the project had been obtained and that town staff was awaiting FEMA approval on the final design plans.

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3. Update on the Whites Mill Road/Court/Hill Drive project

John Dew, Director Public Services and Construction commented that he was working on obtaining the necessary easements for the project and that he had been working with Appalachian Power about the relocation of existing power poles.

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**4. Update on the feasibility study for the Sports Complex project**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager indicated that the review committee was in the process of interviewing firms for the project and they hoped to have a recommendation to the Council at the January meeting.

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5. Update on the feasibility study for the Conference Center Hotel

Greg Kelly, Town Manager commented that the Town's Industrial Development Authority was working in selecting a firm to handle the feasibility study and they expect to have a consultant under contract by the first of January.

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**6. Update on the Urban Pathways project**

Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager commented that the RFP was ready to go out for the procurement of design services and that funding for the project may cover the expenses associated with Phase 2 of the project.

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7. Update on the replacement of Trestle #7 on the Virginia Creeper Trail

John Dew, Director of Public Services/Construction commented that he and Mr. Kelly had a meeting scheduled with the Smith Brothers to discuss issues relative to the design and construction easement. Mr. Dew indicated they hoped to bid the project and start construction around the first of April.

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#### **8. Update on the West End Interceptor Project**

Jim Smith, Town Engineer commented that the project was on schedule. Mr. Smith noted that the contractor had encountered a significant amount of rock but they were working through the obstacles and hope to finish on time.

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K. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- Mayor Morgan asked Kevin Sigmon, Town Arborist to come forward and comment on the unauthorized tree trimming that occurred on Valley Street at or near the location of the Eastman Credit Union Building. Mr. Sigmon indicated that the contractor had been contacted about fines that he may owe as a result of the action.
- Steven Jett of 333 Court Street, Abingdon complimented the Town Council on their stewardship and leadership of the town. Mr. Jett received a standing ovation.

L. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS – None.

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#### **M. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

- Mr. Humphreys reminded everyone of the Open House at the Muster Grounds on December 16<sup>th</sup> wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
- Mrs. Lowe inquired about the meals and lodging reports generated by the Tourism Department and noted that they had not been updated for several months. Mrs. Lowe also informed everyone of an upcoming event at the Abingdon Senior Center called “Shake Rattle & Roll” and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
- Mr. Howard wished everyone Happy Holidays.
- Mr. Berry commented on the progress of King School of Medicine and noted that there will be a meeting in Richmond regarding the School on January 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>.

- Mayor Morgan commented on a meeting he and the Town Manager had had with the staff of the Washington County Library and indicated that they are pursuing plans to build a new facility. Mayor Morgan expressed his thanks to Ann Newman and the Horticulture staff for the town's Christmas decorations.
- Ms. Icenhour recognized David Smallwood who interned with her office and congratulated him on his graduation from Emory & Henry College.
- Susan Howard commented that Council Member Bob Howard would be recognized at the annual Fire Department dinner for his 40 years of service to the Abingdon Fire Department.

Mayor Morgan declared the meeting adjourned.

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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk