

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2011 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, February 7, 2011 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
Jim Smith, Town Engineer/Dir. of Wastewater Operations
Jim Cowart, Dir. of Economic Development
John Dew, Dir. of Public Services/Construction
Garrett Jackson, Dir. of Planning
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. Finance
Rob Case, Information Technology

Visitors:

Debra McCown

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. John Dew, Dir. of Public Services/Construction gave a summary of the expenditures from the Public Works Department budget with regard to salt consumption for snow and ice removal and employee overtime. Mr. Dew commented that the overages were due to the severe winter weather in the months of December and January. Mr. Kelly commented on plans to increase the capacity to stockpile more salt than the Town is currently able to accommodate.
2. John Dew, Dir. of Public Services/Construction provided the Council with a schedule for the Town of Abingdon Corridor and Collector Road Alignment Study which focuses on the Exit 14 interchange. Mayor Morgan noted that Exit 17 was not included the study schedule.

- Mayor Morgan commented on a Resolution the Council will consider during the regular meeting with regard to the Governor's transportation budget.
3. Greg Kelly, Town Manager commented on the schedule provided by Jim Smith, Town Engineer with regard to the Country Club Estates Storm Drainage Improvements project. Mr. Kelly indicated that the Town had been contacted about the availability of FEMA funding that could assist with this project but added that it could cause a delay in the completion of the project. Ms. Icenhour, Town Attorney commented on the status of the easements necessary for the project and indicated that a few of the property owners had not agreed to sign the easement documents. Mrs. Lowe requested that a meeting be set up with the property owners not in agreement as well as a monthly report from Ms. Icenhour with regard to the status of the project. Mrs. Lowe indicated that she did not want to see the project delayed. Council members discussed sending letters to the legislators to ask for their support in securing the funding from FEMA and Mr. Kelly indicated that he would get those letters mailed out.
 4. Mayor Morgan commented on the Ordinance to establish the Arthur Campbell Community Service Award and asked Garrett Jackson to provide a background of the award. Mr. Jackson suggested that the Council consider asking the arts community to formulate ideas for the design of the medal and submit them to the Council for review. Mr. Jackson indicated that Town staff would draft a press release to go to the arts community and would keep Council updated as the project progresses.
 5. Mrs. Lowe commented on the business entity representatives for the Tourism Advisory Board and indicated that she would like to see the by-laws changed to add additional members to the committee. Council members agreed that Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney should draft a revision to the by-laws for the TAC to increase the number of appointees and have it on the March agenda for Council's consideration. Council members discussed appointees to the IDA, Fairview and Recreation Advisory Commission. Council members commented that they would like to change the by-laws for the Recreation Advisory Commission to increase the number of appointments and asked Ms. Icenhour to include that change with the TAC, both of which are to be considered at the March meeting.
 6. Mayor Morgan inquired if the Council members wished to discuss item H6 on the regular agenda regarding Wire Tough Cylinders. Mr. Humphreys indicated that he would like to see a credit report and cash flow report for the company. Mr. Cowart, Director of Economic Development commented that the company had been awarded funding from the Tobacco Commission. Mrs. Lowe expressed her concerns for the increased traffic on Empire Drive. Mr. Kelly indicated that he had a meeting scheduled the next day to discuss the possibility of addressing the congested traffic situation. Mr. Berry provided a brief history of the company and their desire to locate in Abingdon. Discussion ensued among the Council members regarding the company's funding request.

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