

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2008 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, February 4, 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
Mr. Edward B. Morgan
Mrs. Cathy Lowe

Absent: *Dr. French H. Moore, Jr.*

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. of Finance
Deborah C. Icenhour, Assistant Town Attorney
Jim Smith, Town Engineer/Dir. Of Wastewater Operations
John Dew, Dir. Of Public Services/Construction
Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning
Tanner Dotson, JR Civil Engineer
Jim Hicks, Director of Human Resources
Floyd Bailey, Director of Information Technology

Guests: L.B. Atkins, Bob Trent, Emmitt Yeary, Gary Kimbrell,
Susan Patrick, Gene Sturgeon, Jason Stevens, Lucy
Kossler, Susan Kimbrell

The following items were discussed:

1. Greg Kelly, Town Manager, introduced Tanner Dotson who started work as Jr. Civil Engineer for the Town on October 9, 2007.
2. Gene Sturgeon with the Virginia Highlands Festival gave a presentation to the Council regarding the 2009 Festival. Mr. Sturgeon, along with Susan Patrick, Festival Director, informed the Council of the Festival's financial status and possible solutions to save money and move the antiques part of the festival to another site. The Festival representatives also expressed a desire to partner with the Town on music events.
3. Chris Johnson, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided the Council with an update on the site for the dog park to be located on a site in the Stonemill Business and Technology Park. Mr.

Johnson informed the Council that he was in the process of developing rules and regulations for the Park and will have those ready for Council review in the near future.

4. Emmitt Yeary addressed the Council members on behalf of the Veterans Memorial Park and provided information about the designation of trees for the arboretum for the Park.
5. Jim Hicks addressed the Council members about this year's bids submitted for the Town's employee health insurance. Discussion ensued among Council members and Jason Stevens, consultant about the bids submitted. The Council encouraged Mr. Hicks to seek other bidders for the health insurance in the coming months.
6. Floyd Bailey, Director of Information Services, provided the Council members regarding bid proposals he received for the wireless mesh canopy for the Town. Mr. Bailey recommended that that Council not approve the bids and authorize him to readvertise.
7. Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning, reported on the public hearing for the CDBG project that is listed as Agenda item E3.
8. Garrett Jackson and Chris Johnson commented on the Abingdon Market Pavilion Rules and Regulations. Council members suggested some changes and asked that this item be brought back at the March meeting.
9. Garrett Jackson commented on the plans submitted by Barter Theatre to change the box office location to the interior of the Theatre building.
10. Greg Kelly asked the Council for two members to attend a meeting with U.S. Postal representatives regarding relocation of the distribution center. The Council members selected were Bob Howard and Cathy Lowe.

Lois H. Humphreys, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk