

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2010 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, January 4, 2010 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
Dr. French H. Moore, Jr., Vice Mayor
Mrs. Cathy Lowe
Mr. Jason N. Berry

Absent: Mrs. Lois H. Humphreys

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Debbie Icenhour, Town Attorney
Jim Smith, Town Engineer/Dir. of Wastewater Operations
John Dew, Dir. of Public Services/Construction
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. Finance
Floyd Bailey, Director of Information Technology
Rob Case, IT Department
Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police
Joey Burke, Fire Chief
Kevin Worley, Director of Parks and Recreation
Jim Hicks, Dir. Human Resources/Safety

Visitors: Greg Tucker, Sam Brown, Pokey Harris

Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order and Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk called the roll.

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk worked with Council members to determine attendance for the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner, the Washington County Public Library meeting, and the annual VML legislative day in Richmond. The Council members decided to meet with the Public Library staff at 4:30 p.m. prior to their regular meeting on Monday, February 1, 2010.

2. Greg Kelly, Town Manager asked Sam Brown, the Town's consultant for employee health insurance coverage to comment on the recent receipt of bids for health insurance coverage. Mr. Brown reported that the Town had experienced several high claims in the past year and that United Health, the current provider, had significantly increased their renewal rates. Mr. Brown explained that these high rates would have a financial impact on employees and the increase they would see in health insurance. Mr. Brown provided a breakdown of the bids received from each company and recommended that the Town consider Local Choice's bid. Mr. Brown indicated that the rates quoted by Local Choice were good for a 17 month period instead of 12 which was a benefit. Mr. Kelly commented that he had budgeted a 15% increase in funding for health insurance in anticipation of an increase in premiums. Mrs. Lowe inquired about the differences in coverage. The Council members commented that they did want to keep out of pocket premium costs the same for Town employees. Mayor Morgan thanked Mr. Brown and Mr. Hicks for their work renewal bids.
3. At this time, Mayor Morgan asked Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police to introduce the new Emergency Services Coordinator for the County, Ms. Pokey Harris. Chief Sullivan commented on the 2 weather events the Town had experienced in December with the wind storm and the large snow fall. Ms. Harris indicated the County was currently working on their Emergency Operation Plan and expected to have it finalized in the near future. Mr. Kelly, Chief Sullivan, John Dew and Kevin Worley commented on how well the Town staff came together for the December weather events and dealt with situations that they had not previously experienced. Mr. Kelly thanked the staff for their efforts. Chief Sullivan commented that there is a need in the Town for a radio system and Mr. Kelly indicated that he would be bringing that subject before the Council members for consideration.
4. Greg Tucker of Bostic and Tucker, CPA's addressed the Council members to comment on the Town's 2009 audit report. Mr. Tucker reviewed certain aspects of the report and answered questions from the Council members. Mr. Tucker commented on the income the Town had received from Meals/Lodging Tax given the economic times and indicated the Town was financially sound and had been able to keep property tax rates low.
5. Jim Smith, Town Engineer, provided the Council with an update on the Country Club Estates property issue with regard to water runoff. Mr. Morgan commented that he would like to see a tree planting campaign in the area to help p with runoff. Mayor Morgan thanked Mr. Smith for his work on this matter.
6. Mr. Berry asked the Council members to consider a bonus for the firemen who worked extra long hours on the December 9th wind event.
7. Mr. Kelly asked the Council to consider an increase for Town employees now that the Town has received a sound financial audit.
8. Council members requested that job duties of Council appointees be brought back to Council for consideration under Old Business at the February work session meeting.

At this time, Mr. Morgan declared the meeting recessed so that Council could reconvene in the Council chambers for the regular meeting.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk