

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2009  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, July 6, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council chambers of the Municipal Building.

Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**A. ROLL CALL**

Members of Council Present: Edward B. Morgan, Mayor  
Dr. French H. Moore, Jr., Vice Mayor  
Mrs. Lois H. Humphreys  
Mrs. Cathy Lowe  
Mr. Jason N. Berry

Administrative/Town Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager/Acting Town Clerk  
Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney  
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. Of Finance  
Jim Smith, Dir. Of Wastewater Operations/Town Eng.  
Kevin Worley, Dir. of Parks and Recreation  
Jim Cowart, Dir. of Econ. Dev/Grants Writer  
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of Information Technology  
Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police  
Rob Case, IT Department

**A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police

Mayor Morgan thereafter welcomed everyone in attendance.

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**B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- June 1, 2009 Work Session
- June 1, 2009 Regular Meeting

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Dr. Moore, the Council approved all of the aforesaid minutes of meetings as presented.**

**The roll call vote was:**

**Mr. Berry                      Aye**

Mrs. Lowe           Aye  
Mrs. Humphreys    Aye  
Dr. Moore           Aye  
Mayor Morgan       Aye

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### C. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. **Public Hearing – Proposed Real Property Tax Increase** – This hearing is being conducted pursuant to §58.1-3321 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended. Said hearing is necessary because the current Washington County, Virginia reassessments will cause an increase in the Town’s real property tax revenues in excess of 1%. The Town’s real property tax rate for fiscal year 2009/2010, as adopted in the budget, shall remain unchanged at the current rate of \$ .28 cents per \$100.00 of assessed real estate. The tax increase noticed in this public hearing is due totally to the new reassessments.

**The Town Manager, Greg Kelly, commented on the legality and the necessity of holding this public hearing since the 2009 reassessments by Washington County had yielded an increase in tax revenue for the Town that would exceed 1% over last year. Mr. Kelly reiterated that the Town’s current real property tax rate of .28 per \$100 in assessed value would remain unchanged for the 2009/2010 fiscal year as adopted by Council in the budget.**

**Mayor Morgan opened the public hearing and asked for public comments. No comments were offered by the public or by Council and accordingly Mayor Morgan thereafter, hearing none, closed the public hearing.**

**No action was necessary or taken by Council on this item.**

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### D. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS---NONE

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### E. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER---NONE

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### F. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS – NONE

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**G. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE—NONE**

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**H. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES**

1. An Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to Repeal, Amend and Reenact Appendix B, Zoning Ordinance, Article 26 of the Code of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to define terminology and ascribe meanings to certain language used customarily in the interpretation and application of the Town Zoning Ordinances.

**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Dr. Moore the ordinance was adopted upon second reading.**

**The roll call vote was:**

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

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**I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS—NONE**

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**J. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

- Mr. Kelly noted Rob McDonald was a member of the Industrial Development Authority and that he had resigned from that Board and it would be necessary to make an appointment to replace his seat in addition to the other two appointments listed in M-2 of the agenda.

**K. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS.**

- (1) Dr. Moore commented on the success of the Blues Festival, the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration and the Artistic Wolves in Town displayed by Advance Abingdon. He further commended the Town staff for all of their efforts in making the Blues Festival and the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration a success.
- (2) Mr. Berry mentioned that he hoped the Council would entertain the establishment of an Arts District Ordinance at its September meeting. Garrett Jackson informed Council that he was working on the draft using a form provided to him by VML. Mr. Berry noted that he had received a few negative comments about having the Beer Garden available at Town events. He further commented that the Board of Architectural Review, at its June meeting had denied Jay Porterfield's application to tear down a building on the Cave House property and that he expected Mr. Porterfield's appeal of that decision would be on the August Council agenda.
- (3) Lois Humphreys commented on the positive impact that the current outdoor events were having on the town and commended the town staff for their hard work in making them a huge success. Cathy Lowe concurred. Mrs. Humphreys further commented on the success of the special ceremonies held at Sinking Spring Cemetery and at the Washington County Courthouse on July 4.
- (4) Mayor Morgan commented on how well things seemed to be going on around town and to bolster that he quoted Rick Rose as having said that "things could not be better" which he offered as a good gage of tourism for the year.
- (5) Mr. Kelly commented that there was a great community spirit in the air that had been building for the past couple of years and he thought the town was on the right direction with all of the many activities and town staff and the public working together. He commended his staff for all of their hard work in making the Town sponsored events going on the successes that they have become. He also indicated that he thought the Budweiser Clydesdale week would bring a lot of people out to an already large tourist week.

## **L. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

### **1. District Three Board Membership**

- One (1) year term of Ed Morgan expired on June 30, 2009 and he is eligible for another term.
- District Three also requests the appointment of an alternate if the member is unable to attend meetings.

**On motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Berry, Ed Morgan was reappointed for another one (1) year term on the District Three Board as the Council representative,**

**and Cathy Lowe was appointed as the alternate Council member to the Board in the event of Mr. Morgan's absence.**

**The roll call vote was:**

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

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## **2. Industrial Development Authority**

- Confirmation of reappointment of David Neal whose term expires on July 7, 2009. Mr. Neal is eligible for another term.
- Confirmation of reappointment of Bert Bassham whose term expires on July 7, 2009. Mr. Bassham is eligible for another term.

**On motion of Mrs. Humphreys, seconded by Dr. Moore, David Neal and Bert Bassham were reappointed to second terms on the Industrial Development Authority Board.**

**The roll call vote was:**

<b>Mr. Berry</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Lowe</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Humphreys</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Dr. Moore</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Morgan</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**The Council took no action at this meeting to appoint a replacement for Rob McDonald, whom Mr. Kelly had earlier advised Council that had resigned from the Industrial Development Authority Board.**

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## **3. Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator**

- Appointment of one (1) member to the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator to replace Rob McDonald who has submitted his resignation from the Board.

**The Council took no action at this meeting to appoint a replacement for Rob McDonald, and directed that this vacancy be advertised on the Town website and listed on the August Council agenda.**

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#### **M. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Mayor Morgan announced the following past and upcoming events. He further advised that the Town Council would be holding a Capital Improvement Plan retreat in Asheville, North Carolina from July 19-21, 2009.**

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration featuring *Parrots of the Caribbean* and fireworks display at the Coomes Recreation Center
- July 6<sup>th</sup> – July Council Meeting
- July 10<sup>th</sup> - International Dinner/Fundraiser at Abingdon Senior Center- 6pm
- July 11<sup>th</sup> - Movie at the Market 8:30pm (Movie is *Cars*)
- July 25<sup>th</sup> - Highlands Festival Kick off Concert (Marvelettes and the Coasters)
- July 25<sup>th</sup> - Highlands Festival Begins
- July 31- Abingdon's Largest Indoor Yard Sale 4-9 pm at the Higher Ed Center
- August 3 – Town Council Meeting
- August 6<sup>th</sup> – Groundbreaking Ceremony for *Heartwood* Artisan Center Project

#### **N. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager/Acting Clerk