

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, JULY 1, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, July 1, 2013 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
Garrett Jackson, Asst. Town Manager/Dir. of Planning
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney
Jim Smith, Town Engineer
John Dew, Dir. of Construction/Public Services
Jon Phelps, IT Department
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism
Kevin Worley, Dir. of Parks/Recreation
C.J. McGlothlin, Code Enforcement Officer

Visitors:

Rich Macbeth, Gary Kimbrell

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Gary Kimbrell, representative for Abingdon Main Street reported that his group would like permission from Council to use Retirement, the home located at the Muster Grounds site for a fundraiser. Mr. Kimbrell explained that the Abingdon Main Street group will work with local designers and shop owners to furnish rooms in the house the weekend of May 9th 2014 and charge admission for visitors to come and view the home. Mr. Kimbrell commented that it would be an opportunity to showcase the home by providing access while also raising money for Abingdon Main Street. Mr. Humphreys confirmed that the Muster Grounds committee had considered the request from Abingdon Main Street and voted unanimously to allow the event. Mr. Kelly noted that Council did not need to take action on the matter but commented that Mr. Kimbrell would need to obtain the appropriate insurance rider to cover the event.

2. Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism presented Council members with his recommendation for a Tourism Department staff realignment and facility relocation. Mr. Costello commented on the changes he planned to make with the staff presently working for the Tourism Department and the staff he supervises that is assigned to Heartwood. He indicated that he planned to fill a new position of full-time events coordinator in the coming weeks. Mr. Costello noted his plans to put staff at the Findlay House adjacent to the Creeper Trail and reported that he felt the town's train station building would be a more suited location for the Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mr. Costello reported that his recommendations were in accordance and agreement with those made by the consultants who reviewed his department several months ago. Mr. Humphreys commented on his approval of the recommendations as outlined by Mr. Costello. Mr. Kelly informed the Council that Mr. Costello and the Abingdon CVB were just notified that they received the 2013 Virgo Award by the VA Association for Convention and Visitors Bureaus.
3. Mayor Morgan inquired about the plans for the return of the Budweiser Clydesdale horses. Mr. Kelly confirmed that they are coming to town on July 18th.
4. Kevin Worley reported on the present hours of operation for the Coomes Center outdoor pool and the attendance numbers since the pool opened Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Worley noted that because of the Affordable Care Act, he had to re-align the part-time lifeguard staff for the pool but had tried to maintain close to the same number of hours of operation as in years past. Discussion ensued about a citizen complaint that had been passed on to Council and then to town staff regarding the pool hours. Mayor Morgan inquired if there had been other complaints about the hours of operation for the pool. Mr. Humphreys asked about the numbers of County users.
5. John Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction reported that he had town crews revisit Mrs. Copenhaver's property on Preston Street to add some height to the asphalt berm outside her home. Mr. Dew noted that Mrs. Copenhaver had commented at the June Council meeting that water was accumulating near her home when it rained. Discussion ensued and Mr. Kelly commented that he did not know of any other remedies the town could offer Mrs. Copenhaver for her property at this time. Council members asked that this matter be removed from August agenda under Unfinished Business.
6. Mr. Dew reported on the Country Club Stormwater Drainage project and confirmed that the pre-construction conference will take place on July 10th. Mr. Dew noted that the relocation of underground utilities was an issue holding the project back at this time and he was working to obtain quotes for the work. Appalachian Power provided a quote of \$80,000 to make the necessary underground utility relocation and that quote was much higher than the original estimate. Mayor Morgan inquired about plans for notification of the property owners once the construction is set to begin.
7. Mr. Dew reported that he had three (3) easements remaining to get signed on the Whites Mill/Court/Oakhill project.
8. Council members discussed an appropriation to the Energy Symposium occurring in September.
9. Mr. Howard reported that Assistant Fire Chief, John McCormick had taken a leave of absence from the Abingdon Fire Department.

10. Mr. Humphreys reported on a recent meeting he had with the local representative for OSHA and asked if our Building Inspection Department could provide the website for OSHA to residents and/or contractors seeking building permits from the town.
11. At this time, On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, **the Council went into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the consideration and discussion of appointments to the Planning Commission.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council reconvened in regular session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

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**The Town Clerk, Cecile Rosenbaum, read the following certification to be adopted by the Council members:**

***WHEREAS**, the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia has convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and*

***WHEREAS**, Sec. 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a certification by the Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; and*

***NOW THEREFORE**, be it resolved, that the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from an open meeting requirement by Virginia law were discussed in closed meeting to*

*which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Town Council.*

**The certification was as follows:**

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|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>     | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>  | <b>I so certify</b> |

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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