

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, June 3, 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
Mr. Jason N. Berry
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys
Mr. Robert M. Howard

Absent: Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Garrett Jackson, Asst. Town Manager/Dir. of Planning
Jim Smith, Town Engineer
John Dew, Dir. of Construction/Public Services
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of IT Department
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism

Visitors: Karen Shaffer, Susan Howard, Ellen Elms and Rich Macbeth, Rebecca Moody

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan welcomed everyone and noted for the record that Vice Mayor Lowe was absent from the meeting as she was attending classes in Atlanta, Georgia in preparation for the CPA exam.
2. Scott Wilson representative with the CAST Swim Team updated the Council on an upcoming swim meet that will take place at the Coomes Recreation Center the weekend of June 21st through June 23rd.
3. Karen Shaffer provided a power point presentation regarding the issue of hydro-fracking, a process of extracting natural gas from the ground. Ms. Shaffer expressed her concern for the practice of hydro-fracking and noted that the process had been declared exempt by the Safe Water Act. Discussion ensued about the location of the proposed hydro-fracking in Washington County as it relates to potential impact on the Town. Rebecca Moody with the

Town's Planning Department commented on a map she could provide to Council that would highlight the sites for potential hydro-fracking in the County. Rich Macbeth inquired if he could also address the Council on the matter at a later work session meeting.

4. Susan Howard, Director of Abingdon Main Street introduced Ellen Elms who has been contracted to paint a mural on the side of the building adjacent to the downtown park. Ms. Elms provided a sketch of her vision for the mural that included many aspects of Abingdon's history, famous Abingdon residents and visitors, and local attractions. Ms. Elms indicated she hoped to begin work on the mural on July 8th.
5. Council members considered the applications nominations received for the annual Arthur Campbell Community Service Awards. Discussion ensued and Council selected three (3) nominees whose names they will reveal at the July 1st Regular meeting.
6. Ms. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk reported that the additional work session for June fell on Wednesday, June 19th and that neither she nor Mr. Kelly, Town Manager would be available to attend the meeting. Mr. Kelly noted that Steve Smith, CEO of K-Va-T had invited the Council and staff to tour their new office building and suggested they consider touring the facility on June 19th. Council members agreed and Ms. Rosenbaum indicated that she would make the arrangements with Mr. Smith.
7. Mr. Kelly presented the Council with a draft fee schedule for private events relative to the use of the town trolleys as well as items such as tents, chairs, tables, police protection for events and the use of the Farmers Market facility. Mr. Kelly recommended that Council consider an official action during the regular meeting to adopt the fee schedule and authorize the Town Manager to make adjustments as needed during the course of implementing the schedule. Mr. Kelly further recommended that Council review the fee schedule on an annual basis.
8. Mayor Morgan indicated that Council would consider the topic of increasing voter turnout during the regular meeting due to the shortage of time for discussion during the work session.
9. Mr. Kelly reported on a personnel hiring matter relative to the Coomes Recreation Center.
10. At this time, On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, **the Council went into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for the consideration and discussion of the acquisition and/or disposition of publicly held property.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

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

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard **Aye**
Mr. Humphreys **Aye**
Mr. Berry **Aye**
Mr. Morgan **Aye**

The motion carried.

~~~

**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:**

**Mr. Howard**            **I so certify**  
**Mr. Humphreys**      **I so certify**  
**Mr. Berry**             **I so certify**  
**Mayor Morgan**      **I so certify**

~~~~

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