

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2011 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, June 6, 2011 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
Debbie Icenhour, Town Attorney
Jim Smith, Town Engineer/Dir. of Wastewater Operations
John Dew, Dir. of Public Services/Construction
Garrett Jackson, Dir. of Planning
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. Finance
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of Information Technology
Sean Taylor, Assistant to the Dir. of Planning

Visitors:

David Matlock

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. David Matlock with Virginia Highlands Community College provided information about plans to construct a homestead garden project on the Town's Fairview property. Mr. Matlock indicated that this garden would contain plantings that were consistent with gardens of the early 1800's. He also commented on the plans for an orchard and a new fence around the property constructed from tobacco sticks. Mr. Matlock indicated that he was not requesting funding at this time for the garden project. Mayor Morgan commented that he would like for the Fairview Committee to make a recommendation for Council's consideration with regard to the garden project.
2. Mr. Matlock commented on a second garden project that he would like to locate on Park Street, at Eberhardt Park, where the Bailie garden was once located.

3. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager recapped the draft of the Social Media Policy on the agenda for Council's consideration. Mr. Kelly indicated that it had been continued from the prior month's Council meeting and was back before Council. Mr. Kelly indicated that the policy was important from a liability standpoint and would provide guidelines for Council members, staff and citizens on how social media is handled by the town. Discussion ensued and Council members agreed that the policy would be adopted but agreed that it could be amended in the future if necessary. Council members further asked that the policy be reviewed in more detail at the Council retreat.
4. Mr. Kelly commented that Council had requested at the May meeting that the Town begin consideration of an emergency management plan and asked Chief Sullivan to comment on the development of a plan for the Town. Chief Sullivan reported that he had begun researching requirements for the plan and indicated that every town department would have to be involved. Mr. Kelly commented on the possibility of installing a beacon system that could work in conjunction with the Abingdon Alerts system already in place. Mayor Morgan commented on the development of a Public Safety Commission. Mrs. Lowe commented on emails she had received with regard to a Hazard Mitigation Plan update by Mount Rogers Planning District Commission in conjunction with FEMA monies the town has requested for the Country Club project and requested that copies of the emails be incorporated into the minutes. *(The copies of three (3) emails dated June 6, 2011 between Mrs. Lowe, Dave Barrett with MRPDC and James Dillon with VDEM are attached hereto and made a part hereof these minutes.)* Discussion ensued among the Council members and town staff with regard to the development of an emergency management plan and Mayor Morgan asked that the Council be updated as the plan progresses.
5. Mr. Kelly indicated that he had received a letter from the attorney for SmithPackett requesting that the sewer connection fees for Abingdon Health and Rehabilitation Center be waived. Mr. Kelly reported that the group had paid fees to the County for water connection of approximately \$100,000 but they had requested the Town to waive the standard sewer connection fees. Discussion ensued among the Council members and town staff and Mayor Morgan recommended that Mr. Kelly be granted authority to negotiate with SmithPackett with regard to the fees and report back to the Council.
6. Ms. Icenhour commented on the Ordinance establishing rules and regulations for the use of mopeds on town roadways and alleys. Ms. Icenhour indicated that the Ordinance had been advertised for first reading and was before Council for consideration on the regular agenda. Chief Sullivan gave a power point presentation detailing statistics of accidents and/or injuries sustained by moped operators in the Commonwealth. Mr. Sullivan indicated that this Ordinance would promote greater safety awareness for moped operators in town and require the wearing of a safety helmet.
7. Ms. Icenhour commented on the Ordinance establishing additional guidelines for persons obstructing streets, sidewalks or other public places in order to solicit monies. Ms. Icenhour indicated that the focus of this Ordinance was to promote the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and visitors in the Town. Chief Sullivan provided statistical data regarding pedestrian traffic on town streets and incidences of accidents involving pedestrians in the Commonwealth. Discussion ensued among the Council members and town staff and it was agreed that Ms. Icenhour would make some changes to the language in the Ordinance before the second reading at the July Council meeting.

8. Ms. Icenhour reported on the status of the Country Club easements and Mrs. Lowe requested that the emails from the VDEM, she referenced earlier in item #4, be made a part of these minutes.
9. Mr. Humphreys commented that he had received a phone call from a citizen requesting that the carriage operator in town be required to install a device on carriage that would prevent horse waste from accumulating on town streets. Ms. Icenhour reported that she could expand the town's current animal waste ordinance to require operators of horse carriages to take steps necessary to prevent horse waste on the town streets. Ms. Icenhour indicated that she would have a draft of the ordinance for Council to review at the July work session meeting.

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