

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2011 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, March 7, 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
Jim Hicks, Dir. of Human Resources
John Dew, Dir. of Public Services/Construction
Garrett Jackson, Dir. of Planning
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. Finance
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of Information Technology

Visitors: Debra McCown, J.D. Morefield, Sam Brown, Jesse Schmale

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager introduced Jesse Schmale who is a graduate student in the Masters in Public Administration program at Virginia Tech. Mr. Kelly reported that Ms. Schmale was visiting Abingdon and touring the Town departments.
2. Sam Brown, insurance consultant with Price & Ramey Insurance Agency provided the Council with an overview and update of the health insurance renewal for town employees. Mr. Brown reported that the Town could expect an approximate increase in health insurance rates of 7% but indicated that this is below the national average of 12% increase. Mr. Brown reported that he needs to provide the town's renewal information to Local Choice by April 1st. Mr. Humphreys inquired about the number of communities that are members of the

- health insurance pool. Mayor Morgan thanked Mr. Brown for his work on the health insurance renewal. Mrs. Lowe requested a report detailing the types of plans and numbers of employees who participate in the health insurance and asked that the information be provided by the April 4th Council meeting. Council members agreed to address the matter during Matters Not on the Agenda during the regular meeting to authorize the Town Manager to advise Local Choice of the town's renewal of coverage for the following year.
3. John Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction advised the Council of the items of equipment from the Public Works Department that will be declared surplus.
 4. Mr. Berry reported on the most recent meeting with the executives from Wire Tough Cylinders who are interested in locating their business in Abingdon. Mr. Kelly indicated that the Industrial Development Authority was a separate autonomous body that could borrow the money for the economic incentives to encourage Wire Tough to locate in the Town. Mr. Kelly noted that the matter did not require formal action by the Council and he would notify the members of the IDA to proceed with investigating a loan and report back to the Council with their findings. Mr. Humphreys inquired about the submittal of the company's financial statements/information. Mrs. Lowe requested that Mr. McBeth, resident of Southview neighborhood be notified of the IDA's meetings concerning Wire Tough.
 5. Mr. Berry submitted a proposal for consideration of the establishment of a budget review committee to work with the budget analysis prior to Council budget work session meetings. Discussion ensued among the Council and staff and it was determined that Council would address the matter during Matters Not on the Agenda during the regular meeting.
 6. Mayor Morgan asked Council members to consider dates for the budget work session meetings, security meeting, and meeting to consider internal procedures, ethics and communication. The following dates were decided by Council:
 - March 22, 2011 at 5:30 – Work Session for Non Departmental Presentations
 - April 6, 2011 from 9:00 to 11:30 – Budget Committee Meeting
 - April 8, 2011 from 9:00 to 11:30 – Budget Committee Meeting
 - April 11, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. – Budget Work Session Meeting (Operational)
 - April 11, 2011 – Noon – Security presentation during the lunch hour
 - April 12, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. – Budget Work Session Meeting (Non departmental)
 - April 20, 2011 at 5:30 – Work session meeting to consider internal procedures, ethics and communication
 7. Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney reviewed her report relative to the Country Club Estates stormwater management project. Ms. Icenhour requested guidance from the Council with regard to the pursuit of FEMA funding for the project in light of the opposition her office has encountered from some residents who are not in agreement to sign the necessary easements. Jim Smith, Town Engineer provided an update on the project by showing a map detailing the current engineering design and the easements that can be obtained from residents as well as those residents in opposition to the easements. Council indicated that town staff should continue with negotiations for the necessary easements.

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