

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 2, 2011 – 7:30 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council chambers of the Municipal Building.

**A. ROLL CALL**

Members of Council Present: Edward B. Morgan, Mayor  
Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor  
Mr. Jason N. Berry  
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys  
Mr. Robert M. Howard

Administrative/Town Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager  
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk  
Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney  
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. of Finance  
Jim Smith, Dir. Of Wastewater Operations/Town Eng.  
Garrett Jackson, Dir. Of Planning  
Jim Cowart, Dir. of Econ. Dev/Grants Writer  
John Dew, Dir. Of Public Services/Construction  
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of IT Department  
Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police  
John Holbrook, Police Department  
Kevin Worley, Dir. of Parks & Recreation  
Myra Cook, Dir. of Tourism

Visitors: Susan Humphreys, Carl Mallory, Patsy Owens, Richard Macbeth, Joey Burke, John McCormick, MaryAnne Holbrook and others

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**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- March 22, 2011 Budget Work Session Meeting

- April 4, 2011 Work Session Meeting
- April 4, 2011 Regular Meeting
- April 11, 2011 Budget Work Session Meeting
- April 12, 2011 Budget Work Session Meeting
- April 20, 2011 Work Session Meeting

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Berry, the minutes of the March 22, 2011 Budget Work Session Meeting, the April 4, 2011 Work Session Meeting, the April 4, 2011 Regular Meeting, the April 11, 2011 Budget Work Session Meeting, the April 12, 2011 Budget Work Session Meeting and the April 20, 2011 Work Session Meeting were approved as presented.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

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



#### **D. EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- Acknowledgement of Patsy Owens, Secretary/Administrative Assistant with the Departments of Planning and Public Works for her thirty (30) years of service to the Town of Abingdon.

Greg Kelly, Town Manager presented Mrs. Owens with a plaque and thanked her for her thirty (30) years of service to the Town.

- Recognition of James Carey, Environmental Technician with Wolf Creek Water Reclamation Facility for his twenty (20) years of service to the Town of Abingdon.

Mr. Kelly indicated that Mr. Carey was ill and unable to attend the meeting.



- At this time Mayor Morgan commented on the recent tornado event that struck the area on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Kelly reported that the neighborhoods of Country Club and Winterham had sustained significant damage and indicated that he was very proud of the town staff who responded so rapidly after the storm.
  - Kevin Worley, Director of Parks and Recreation reported on the loss of trestle 7 on the Creeper Trail due to the tornado and indicated that his staff was working as quickly as possible to get the trail reopened and usable for bikers and hikers.
  - Chief Sullivan reported that 103 residential structures had been damaged by the tornado but that no loss of life had occurred in the town. Chief Sullivan indicated that a major concern at the present time was the act of fraud by people posing as contractors but who were not authorized to do business in the town.
  - John Dew reported on the public works staff who responded immediately after the storm to clear debris from roadways, streets and impacted neighborhoods. Mr. Dew indicated that his crews would continue with brush removal and with the cleanup efforts on the Creeper Trail.
- Mr. Kelly reported that he had authorized the use of the town's public works equipment and staff to assist the town of Glade Spring with their cleanup efforts after the tornado devastated that area.
- Mayor Morgan inquired about the insurance coverage for the damaged Creeper Trail trestle.
- Mrs. Lowe commented that the Mayor of Glade Spring had expressed his appreciation for the support provided by the Town with regard to the cleanup efforts.
- Mr. Humphreys and Mr. Berry commended the town staff for their time and effort for cleanup of the affected storm areas.
- Mr. Howard reported that the Abingdon Fire Department had responded the night of the tornado to calls within the town of Abingdon, town of Damascus,

and town of Glade Spring. He indicated that the Town should consider implementing an emergency management plan.

Mr. Berry indicated that United Way of Russell and Washington Counties was raising funding to benefit the tornado victims and asked the Council to consider a donation toward that effort.

**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council authorized the donation of \$5,000 from their contingency for United Way of Russell and Washington Counties for assistance for the tornado victims.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

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



#### **E. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES**

- 1. Public Hearing –First Reading - An Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to repeal, amend and reenact Article II, Sewers and Sewage Disposal, Subdivision IV, Enforcement, Section 74-198, Administrative Penalties of the Code of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia.**

Ms. Icenhour, Town Attorney commented that the powers set forth in this Ordinance were recently approved by the General Assembly and its adoption would enhance the town's effectiveness in collecting delinquent debts owed for sewer service. Ms. Icenhour indicated that it was before the Council for public hearing and first reading.

Mayor Morgan declared the public hearing open for comment and after hearing none, declared the hearing closed.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council approved the Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to repeal, amend and reenact Article II, Sewers and Sewage Disposal, Subdivision IV, Enforcement, Section 74-198, Administrative Penalties of the Code of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

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

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- 2. Public Hearing – First Reading – An Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to repeal, amend and reenact Article II, Chapter 66, Real Property Tax, §66-45 of the Code of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to amend the property tax exemption for disabled veterans.**

Ms. Icenhour reported that Ordinance before the Council for consideration was a result of the passage of a referendum on the November 2010 election ballot allowing property tax exemption for disabled veterans. Ms. Icenhour noted that claimants had to prove their veteran disability status to claim the exemption and indicated that it was before Council for public hearing and first reading.

Mayor Morgan declared the public hearing open for comment and after hearing none, declared the hearing closed.

**On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved the Ordinance to repeal, amend and reenact Article II, Chapter 66, Real Property Tax, §66-45 of the Code of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to amend the property tax exemption for disabled veterans.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |

**Mr. Berry**            **Aye**  
**Mrs. Lowe**           **Aye**  
**Mayor Morgan**      **Aye**



3. **Public Hearing – First Reading – An Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Proposing a Budget for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and to make Appropriation for the current expenses of the Town and to Fix a Rate upon Real and Personal Property, to Fix all Other Local Tax Rates and Fees and Rates on Utility Services for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2011 and Ending June 30, 2012.**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager provided a synopsis of the proposed budget for FY 2011/2012 and indicated that Council had not recommended an increase in any taxes or user rates for Town residents for the year.

Mayor Morgan declared the public hearing open for comment.

Richard Macbeth of 1139 Panorama Drive, Abingdon commended the Council for adopting a balanced budget with no increase in taxes.

There being no further comments, Mayor Morgan declared the hearing closed.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council approved the Ordinance Proposing a Budget for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and to make Appropriation for the current expenses of the Town and to Fix a Rate upon Real and Personal Property, to Fix all Other Local Tax Rates and Fees and Rates on Utility Services for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2011 and Ending June 30, 2011.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

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



**F. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – None.**



**G. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS – None.**



**H. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

**1. Consideration of proposals submitted for Audit Services for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia.**

Mr. Kelly, Town Manager commented that the town had received two (2) proposals for audit services covering the next five (5) years. Mr. Kelly indicated that the Bostic Tucker Company, P.C. of Lebanon, Virginia had submitted the lowest bid and recommended that the contract be awarded to them for the amount of \$10,750 for years 1 and 2 and the amount of \$11,000 for years 3, 4, and 5.

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council awarded the contract for audit services for the town to Bostic Tucker Company, P.C. of Lebanon, Virginia for a period of five (5) years and for the amount of \$10,750 for years 1 and 2 and the amount of \$11,000 for years 3, 4, and 5.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

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



**2. Consideration of amendments to by-laws for the Fairview at Abingdon Board.**

Ms. Icenhour commented that the Fairview Homestead Committee had met and determined that several changes were needed to the existing by-laws. Ms. Icenhour prepared the revised by-laws and indicated that the Advisory Board had reviewed them and accepted the changes and recommended that they be accepted by the Council.

**On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council approved the revisions to the Abingdon Fairview Homestead by-laws as presented.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

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

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**3. Consideration of establishment of policies and procedures for use of social media outlets by the Town of Abingdon.**

*No action was taken by Council on this matter.*

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**I. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS**

**1. Resolution with regard to funding of positions for the Abingdon Fire Department.**

Mayor Morgan inquired about the coverage area that the Abingdon Fire Department currently serves. Chief Burke responded that they answer calls in Town and in a large part of Washington County but had received no increase in funding for FY 2011/12 from the Board of Supervisors to assist with the funding needed to maintain the department.

Mr. Humphreys inquired if the Board of Supervisors had allocated funding for other town fire departments in Washington County and if the Department had explored the option of imposing a sir charge on County residents.

Mr. Howard commented that it was becoming increasingly difficult to get the minimum number of fire department members to respond to calls due primarily to employment challenges. Chief Burke indicated that the Fire Department had responded to 240 calls last year in Washington County.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council approved the following Resolution as presented:**



**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON  
REQUESTING  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY TO APPROPRIATE  
ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN ITS 2011 BUDGET  
IN SUPPORT OF THE ABINGDON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Abingdon (Town) is the County Seat of Washington County (County) and all of its residents pay taxes therein, amounting to a substantial portion of the County's total tax revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town established a Volunteer Fire Department (Department) in 1808 and was Chartered in 1949, which regularly and increasingly serves County residents outside its own corporate limits as well as any/all Town residents within its corporate limits; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has budgeted Three-Hundred and Nine Thousand, Six-Hundred and Fifty-Five Dollars (\$309,655.00), which includes an amount dedicated to general operations and personnel measures to ensure efficiency and response time; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department has submitted its annual budget/financial request to the County which includes funding needed for general operations as well as a proportionate share for additional personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department requires an additional One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) from the County to adequately meet the demand made by the public, all of whom are taxpayers in Washington County; and

**WHEREAS**, because of the past several years' demands and in the absence of a state mandated Washington County Emergency Plan, the above-requested financial award is essential to continued quality services and public safety rendered to said County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, without the additional requested funding, residents outside the corporate limits of the Town will likely be faced with per-call charges when emergency assistance by the Abingdon Fire Department is needed; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Council of the Town of Abingdon encourages the County in the name of public safety and welfare to reconsider the proposed amount of funding for the Abingdon Volunteer Fire Department and requests that the County, in the best interests for the health, safety and welfare of its residents/taxpayers, see fit to fill the financial void left by its partial funding, thereby enabling the Department to continue rendering an invaluable service to County residents; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Council of the Town of Abingdon requests that the County provide an additional One-Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) to what it has already appropriated to fund the Abingdon Volunteer Fire

Department, thereby avoiding the need for per-call charges to be imposed upon County residents, outside of the Town limits, who require services of the Department.

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

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

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**2. Resolution with regard to changes in rates for County residents at the Coomes Recreation Center.**

Kevin Worley, Director of Parks and Recreation reported that the annual funding appropriation from the Washington County Board of Supervisors had been reduced for the operation of the Coomes Center for the upcoming fiscal year. Mr. Worley indicated that memberships from County residents are increasing thereby increasing operational costs of the Center. Mr. Worley indicated that it was necessary to increase County membership rates to meet the operational costs of the Center unless the Board of Supervisors could appropriate additional funding to offset the costs.

**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Howard the Council approved the following resolution as presented:**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON  
REQUESTING  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY TO APPROPRIATE  
ADDITIONAL FUNDING IN ITS 2011 BUDGET IN SUPPORT OF THE COOMES RECREATION  
CENTER**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Abingdon (Town) is the County Seat of Washington County (County) and all of its residents pay taxes therein, amounting to a substantial portion of the County's total tax revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town established the Coomes Recreation Center (CRC) in 1994, the Town's most extensive department, which serves County residents outside of its own corporate limits, in addition to Town residents; and

**WHEREAS**, according to 2010 membership/use records, thirty-nine percent (39%) of the memberships were held by Town residents, and the majority of the remaining sixty-one percent (61%) of the memberships were held by County residents; and

**WHEREAS**, upon making calculations based on the 2010 membership fees and usage data, the Town has confirmed that making its services available accordingly has required it to provide a subsidy of Three Hundred and Seventy-Four Dollars (\$374.00) per County membership; and

**WHEREAS**, since the opening of CRC, the County has begun decreasing its support of the facility programs and operations, appropriating in its 2011 budget Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000.00) which represents one-third (1/3) of the amount it contributed ten (10) years ago; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has budgeted One-Million Seven-Hundred Sixty-Seven Thousand Three-Hundred and Eighty-Six Dollars (\$1,767,386.00), its largest single line item, to the CRC which includes an amount dedicated to general operations, personnel, capital improvements and maintenance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has made calculations based upon said proposed budgeted amounts set forth both in its proposed annual budget along with the request of financial support to the County which includes funding needed for general operations as well as a proportionate share for personnel and other increasing program/facilities expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, over and above membership fees, user fees, program fees and rental fees during the past fiscal year, the Town subsidized an additional Seven-Hundred Fifty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred and Sixty-Two Dollars (\$752,862.00) to operate CRC and to adequately meet the demand made by the public, most of whom are taxpayers in Washington County; and

**WHEREAS**, in the absence of the above-listed essential funds from the County, it will be necessary for the Town to impose substantial increases on membership and usage fees to members who are not residents of the Town; and

**WHEREAS**, residents of the County, especially children, are nationally ranked among those generally considered at greatest risk for obesity-related health complications due to inactivity, poor diet and lack of physical fitness; and

**WHEREAS**, without the additional requested funding from the County, residents outside the corporate limits of the Town will likely be faced with bearing the necessary expense equivalent to the subsidies set forth above; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Council of the Town of Abingdon requests that the County reconsider the effect of the amount of funding for the Coomes Recreation Center and requests that the County, in the best interests of the health, safety and

welfare of its residents/taxpayers to see fit and necessary to address the critical financial void which will result in placing additional burdens, of a financial and health nature, on its County residents; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Council of the Town of Abingdon requests that the County provide a total of Fifty-Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) to fund a portion of the benefit it receives from the CRC and to keep County membership fees at their current rate.

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

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

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**J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. **Consideration of scheduling of meeting of the town's Historic Properties Committee.**

*No action was taken by Council on this matter.*

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**K. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

- Richard Macbeth of 1139 Panorama Drive, Abingdon commented about the status of the traffic control issues at Empire Drive. Mr. Kelly responded that he and town staff members were continuing to work on a solution.

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**L. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

- Mr. Humphreys commented on the balloon rally that was a feature of the Virginia Highlands Festival. Mr. Humphreys inquired if the town staff could research the insurance issues associated with the town's possible sponsoring of the event.



#### **M. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

At this time, **On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded Mr. Howard, the Council went into closed session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the consideration and discussion of appointments to the Fairview at Abingdon Board, the Recreation Advisory Commission and the Tourism Advisory Committee.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

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

**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:**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Morgan</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |

**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:**

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <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> |

**1. *Appointments to the Fairview at Abingdon Board***

**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council appointed James Hagy and Tom Peterson to serve on the Fairview at Abingdon Board.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |

**Mr. Morgan**            **Aye**

**The motion carried.**



**2. *Appointments to the Recreation Advisory Commission***

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council appointed Aaron Hicks to the Recreation Advisory Commission.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

**Mr. Howard**            **Aye**

**Mr. Humphreys**       **Aye**

**Mr. Berry**             **Aye**

**Mrs. Lowe**            **Aye**

**Mr. Morgan**           **Aye**

**The motion carried.**



**3. *Appointments to the Tourism Advisory Committee***

**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council appointed Polly Mallory, Bob Castle, and Donna Price to the serve on the Tourism Advisory Committee.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

**Mr. Howard**            **Aye**

**Mr. Humphreys**       **Aye**

**Mr. Berry**             **Aye**

**Mrs. Lowe**            **Aye**

**Mr. Morgan**            **Aye**

**The motion carried.**



At this time Greg Kelly, Town Manager indicated that he had prepared a Resolution to be forwarded to the Washington County Board of Supervisors requesting additional funding for the staffing needs at Heartwood.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council approved the following Resolution as presented:**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON  
REQUESTING  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY TO APPROPRIATE  
FUNDING IN ITS 2011 BUDGET  
IN SUPPORT OF AN EMPLOYMENT PRESENCE REPRESENTING THE  
TOWN & COUNTY AT HEARTWOOD**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Abingdon (Town) is the County Seat of Washington County (County) and the chosen site for Heartwood Artisan Center, designated the Gateway To Southwest Virginia Crafts, Music, Food and Local Culture; and

**WHEREAS**, Heartwood's location is visible from I-81 in Washington County, is easily accessible from Exit 14 in Abingdon and is positioned on a beautiful slope facing southeast between the Virginia Highlands Community College Campus and that of the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center; and

**WHEREAS**, the role of Heartwood in its nineteen (19) county service region is to create a sustainable economy made up of juried crafts, artisan products and regional foods and beverages indigenous to the area, and to showcase such native products along with area tourism opportunities within Washington County; and

**WHEREAS**, Heartwood's schedule of operation will involve seven (7) days per week, the County and Town stand to benefit greatly from having personnel strategically in place who specifically represent and promote the area to its utmost advantage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has previously expressed its interest in partnering with the County in the placement of employees at Heartwood to represent and promote the entire Southwest Virginia region as well as the all points of interest in Washington County and the Town of Abingdon; and

**WHEREAS**, Heartwood is nearing completion and has announced that it is scheduled to open the week of June 20, 2011; and



**WHEREAS**, the Town has designated at least one (1) full time employee from its Tourism Department who will relocate to Heartwood effective June 1, 2011 and has been requested by Heartwood to provide at least two (2) part-time employees to adequately handle tourism inquiries and bulk mailings during all hours of operation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town has budgeted approximately One-Hundred Thousand Dollars, (\$100,000.00), toward the support of this important personnel placement opportunity at Heartwood, which will provide both the County and Town with a rare and unique marketing advantage; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town hereby encourages the County to join with it to provide funding and support in a matching amount of Fifty-Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) for the above-described positions in a unified effort to promote our beautiful region and its gifted and talented artisans; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the Council of the Town of Abingdon requests that the Washington County Board of Supervisors consider the future development potential of its tourism industry and the lucrative promotion of its beautiful region and the gifted, talented artisans and craftsmen therein, by joining with the Town in providing Fifty-Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) in budgeted funds to join with the Town to promote our region and sustain the employment of personnel as set forth herein.

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Morgan</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |

**The motion carried.**



**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council went into Closed Session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3) for the consideration and discussion of the acquisition or disposition of publicly held property.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
|-------------------|------------|

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

**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:**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Morgan</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |

**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:**

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <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> |

~

**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Humphreys the Council appropriated \$12,500 from the Town Manager's discretionary fund for the purpose of contracting for a feasibility study for an arts incubator.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Morgan</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |

**The motion carried.**

~

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Berry the Council went into Closed Session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711 (A)(5) for the consideration and discussion concerning a perspective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the businesses' or industries' locating or expanding its facilities in the community.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |

**Mr. Berry**            **Aye**  
**Mrs. Lowe**           **Aye**  
**Mr. 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**  
**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:**

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <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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At this time, members of the Council and town staff recognized Town Attorney, Deb Icenhour by singing Happy Birthday.

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Mayor Morgan declared the meeting adjourned.

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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk