

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2010 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, November 1, 2010 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
Myra Cook, Dir. of Tourism
Jim Cowart, Director of Economic Development

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Myra Cook, Director of Tourism and Jim Cowart, Director of Economic Development provided the Council with a power point presentation regarding the Town vision statement and plan for Tourism. The presentation detailed events that took place over the past year as well as ones that were not able to be held for varying reasons. Ms. Lowe commented on the benefits of using social media networks such as Facebook and Twitter for the development of tourism in the Town. Mr. Humphreys suggested several events that the Tourism Department could hold to encourage Tourism in the Town. The Council discussed the new Tourism website and indicated that they would like to further discuss the issue at a work session set for December 14, 2010.
2. Mayor Morgan inquired if Jim Cowart would delay his presentation for his strategic plan for economic development until the December 14, 2010 work session meeting.
3. Mrs. Lowe provided information she received at the VML Mayor's Conference regarding transparency in government. Discussion ensued with regard to the designation of a public information officer and Mr. Kelly indicated that he would continue to serve in that capacity as the need arises.

4. Mr. Berry addressed the Council members regarding the relocation of the Director of Economic Development to the Tourism Department offices. Mr. Berry indicated that he felt this position was better suited being housed in the Town Hall building. Mr. Kelly indicated that he felt that the move would coincide well with the relocation of the Advance Abingdon office to the Fields Penn Museum and the possible move of the Chamber offices as well as the Virginia Highlands Festival office to the Tourism Department building. Mr. Kelly expressed that the location would be a good mix with tourism and economic development since both routinely work together and would further make both more publicly accessible.
5. Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning and John Dew, Director of Public Services/Construction provided a power point presentation regarding a proposed parking plan that would add more parking spaces for Town employees at the Town Municipal building.
6. Mayor Morgan inquired about the regular agenda item with regard to Susan Howard's application for rezoning. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that this matter would be tabled until the December meeting for further consideration by Council.

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