

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2009 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, November 2, 2009 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
Dr. French H. Moore, Jr., Vice Mayor
Mrs. Lois H. Humphreys
Mrs. Cathy Lowe
Mr. Jason N. Berry

Administrative Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Debbie Icenhour, Town Attorney
Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning
Jim Smith, Town Engineer/Dir. of Wastewater Operations
John Dew, Dir. of Public Services/Construction
Floyd Bailey, Director of Information Technology
Rob Case, IT Department
Myra Cook, Director of Tourism

Visitors:

Carl Mallory

Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order and Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk called the roll.

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Floyd Bailey, Director of Information Technology and Myra Cook, Director of Tourism provided an update on the Tourism website being constructed by DesignSensory. Mr. Bailey showed the Council some key points of interest on the new website and asked if the Council had any questions about the site thus far. Mrs. Lowe commented about the importance of having accurate information on the site. Mr. Berry commented about posting of negative comments on the website and how those would be managed. Mayor Morgan inquired if the hits to the site could be counted and commented on the visitors' guide, updates and events listing on the site. Mrs. Lowe commented on the specificity of restaurants on the main page. Mayor Morgan inquired about scrolling photographs of restaurants and commented on the

addition of local bird watching information on the site. Council commented that the site looked good and they anticipated seeing it go live.

2. Mr. Kelly provided information about the capabilities of the "Ask Abingdon" site and indicated that it was Mr. Bailey's recommendation that someone be hired full-time to manage and coordinate the information and alerts that come from the site.
3. Jim Smith, Town Engineer provided the Council with a preliminary engineering report from Clay Hodges regarding the storm drainage improvements for Country Club Estate and surrounding areas. (*This report will be made a part of and incorporated into these work session minutes.*) Mr. Jim provided the Council with a slide presentation of pictures of the Country Club neighborhood after heavy rains in 2009 and in years past. Discussion ensued about the report and options that Mr. Hodges had provided for Council's consideration. Mr. Smith recommended that Council consider Option #1 which involves swale and culvert improvements to the area. Mr. Kelly informed Council that Town staff had another meeting scheduled with the property owners in Country Club to apprise them of Mr. Hodges report. Council agreed to take the matter into consideration at a later time after the second residents' meeting had been conducted and Town staff had sufficient time to establish a cost estimate for the options as presented by Mr. Hodges.
4. Mayor Morgan inquired if Council had any questions about the regular agenda as it was presented. Discussion ensued about the proposed employee manual and the revised nepotism policy. Council agreed that the policy manual would be adopted as presented during the regular meeting.
5. Mayor Morgan recommended that due to lack of time for consideration, that the Council Code of Ethics be considered at the December work session meeting.
6. Council briefly discussed the Murray property matter that was on the regular agenda for consideration.
7. Mr. Kelly reported that the Planning Commission had set November 16th for their first review of the proposed CIP plan.
- 8.

At this time, Mr. Morgan declared the meeting recessed so that Council could reconvene in the Council chambers for the regular meeting.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk