

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2008
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, October 6, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council chambers of the Municipal Building.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present:

Mayor Lois H. Humphreys
Edward B. Morgan, Vice Mayor
Dr. French H. Moore, Jr.
Mrs. Cathy Lowe
Mr. Jason N. Berry

Administrative/Town Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Deborah Icenhour, Asst. Town Attorney
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. Of Finance
Jim Smith, Dir. Of Wastewater Operations/Town Eng.
Garrett Jackson, Dir. Of Planning
Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police
Chris Johnson, Dir. Of Parks and Recreation
Myra Cook, Dir. Of Tourism
Jim Cowart, Dir. Of Econ. Dev/Grants Writer
John Dew, Dir. Of Public Services/Construction
Rob Case, Information Technology Dept.
Craig Weaver, Patrol Office, Police Department
Tammy Baldwin, Tax Clerk, Finance Department

Visitors:

Courtney Bledsoe, Steve Cannon, Betsy White, Keith
Perrigan 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

- September 8, 2008 Work Session
- September 8, 2008 Regular Meeting

On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Dr. Moore, the Council approved the minutes of September 8, 2008 work session and September 8, 2008 regular meeting as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Berry	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Dr. Moore	Aye
Mr. Morgan	Aye
Mayor Humphreys	Aye

The motion carried.

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

##### **1. Recognition of Craig Weaver, Patrol Officer, for ten (10) years of service to the Town of Abingdon, Virginia.**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager, presented Craig Weaver with a plaque and thanked him for his ten (10) years of dedicated service to the Abingdon Police Department.

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2. Recognition of Tammy Baldwin, Tax Clerk, for fifteen (15) years of service to the Town of Abingdon Finance Department.

Greg Kelly presented Tammy Baldwin with a plaque and thanked her for her fifteen (15) years of dedicated service to the Abingdon Finance Department.

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At this time, Mr. Kelly acknowledged town staff Garrett Jackson, Tenille Montgomery, Chris Johnson and Myra Cook for their coordination of our 230<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and for coordinating the hosting of forty-six (46) visitors from Abingdon, England who were in Town for the celebration.

#### **E. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE**

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F. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS

1. Consideration of award of bid for redevelopment of the Abingdon Tourism Website.

Courtney Bledsoe, Chairman of the Tourism Advisory Commission, appeared before the Council members and brief presentation about the selection process for the redevelopment of

the Tourism website. Ms. Bledsoe indicated that it was the recommendation of the committee that they award the bid to Designsensory located in Knoxville, Tennessee.

On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Dr. Moore, the Council agreed to accept the bid from Designsensory of Knoxville, Tennessee for the redesign of the Tourism website for the amount of \$15,300.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Berry	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Dr. Moore	Aye
Mr. Morgan	Aye
Mayor Humphreys	Aye

The motion carried.

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## **G. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

### **1. Consideration of authorization of a lease agreement with Virginia Highlands Community College for location of a Wi-Fi Tower on the campus.**

Mr. Kelly informed the Council that to move into Phase 2 of our Wi-Fi for the Town we must locate a tower on the property of Virginia Highlands Community College. He indicated that a draft of the lease with Virginia Highlands Community College for the Wi-Fi tower was in their packet for review only at this time. Mr. Kelly indicated that the lease will require a public hearing and as soon as the details of the lease document had been finalized, it would appear on the Council agenda.

No formal action was required by the Council on this matter.

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2. Update/Presentation by the Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority regarding their “Warm, Safe and Dry” program.

Steve Cannon of People, Inc. appeared before the Council members to provide a brief presentation on the status of the “Warm, Safe and Dry” program. Mr. Cannon discussed how the program is helping citizens in the Town and how small improvements can be made a big difference in the living conditions of these people.

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## **H. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS**

### **1. Consideration of Resolution declaring October National Arts and Humanities Month.**

October 6, 2008

Betsy White, Director of William King Regional Arts Center appeared before the Council members to ask for their support of the proposed Resolution declaring October National Arts and Humanities month.

**On motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council approved the following Resolution:**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON RECOGNIZING OCTOBER, 2008 NATIONAL ARTS AND HUMANITIES MONTH**

**Whereas**, the month of October has been recognized as National Arts and Humanities month by thousands of arts and cultural organizations, communities, and states across the country, as well as by the White House and Congress for more than two decades; and

**Whereas**, the arts and humanities embody much of the accumulated wisdom, intellect, and imagination of humankind; and

**Whereas**, the arts and humanities enhance and enrich the lives of every American; and

**Whereas**, the arts and humanities play a unique role in the lives of our families, our communities, and our country; and

**Whereas**, the nonprofit arts industry also strengthens our nation's economy by generating \$166.2 billion in total economic activity annually and by supporting the full-time equivalent of 5.7 million jobs; and

**Whereas**, William King Regional Arts Center and the Barter Theatre contribute to the economic diversity and high standard of living for the citizens of the Town of Abingdon;

**Whereas**, William King Regional Arts Center contributes to the arts education of our children by providing excellent S.O.L. based programs and encourages intellectual discussion through rotating gallery exhibitions;

**Whereas**, William King Regional Arts Center seeks to preserve the historical artifacts of our region through the Cultural Heritage Project and seeks to educate visitors of all ages through the Cultural Heritage Gallery and the 1860 Fields-Penn House;

**Whereas**, the Barter Theatre, the State Theatre of Virginia is celebrated internationally for their outstanding performances, community involvement, and currently celebrating their 75<sup>th</sup> season;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that we the Council of the Town of Abingdon do hereby proclaim October as National Arts and Humanities Month in the Town of Abingdon and call upon our citizens to celebrate and promote the arts and culture in our nation and to specifically encourage the greater participation by those said citizens in taking action for the arts and humanities in our Town.

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

|                  |            |
|------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Berry</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Dr. Moore</b> | <b>Aye</b> |

Mr. Morgan                   Aye  
Mayor Humphreys         Aye

The motion carried.

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I. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

- 1. An Ordinance vacating 3,224.68 square feet (.08 acre, more or less) of an unopened portion of Hickman Street located between three (3) parcels of land owned by Nancy Whitten (Tax Parcel number 13-8-57_AB), Betty A. Ferrier (Tax Parcel Number 13-8-57A_AB) and Gary Wayne Childress (Tax Parcel number 13-1-190_AB), located between Madison Street and Highland Street in the Town of Abingdon, Virginia. (This Ordinance is adopted in compliance with previous order of the Abingdon Town Council dated October 1, 2007.)**

Deborah Icenhour, Assistant Town Attorney, gave a brief presentation regarding the background of the proposed ordinance. She explained that this was a final step in the completing the vacation process and recommended that the Council accept it on first reading.

On motion of Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council approved on first reading, dispensing with the second reading, an Ordinance vacating 3,224.68 square feet (.08 acre, more or less) of an unopened portion of Hickman Street located between three (3) parcels of land owned by Nancy Whitten (Tax Parcel number 13-8-57_AB), Betty A. Ferrier (Tax Parcel Number 13-8-57A_AB) and Gary Wayne Childress (Tax Parcel number 13-1-190_AB), located between Madison Street and Highland Street in the Town of Abingdon, Virginia. (This Ordinance is adopted in compliance with previous order of the Abingdon Town Council dated October 1, 2007.)

Mr. Berry Aye
Mrs. Lowe Aye
Dr. Moore Aye
Mr. Morgan Aye
Mayor Humphreys Aye

The motion carried.

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**J. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES – NONE**

**K. OLD BUSINESS**

*Council Member Lowe*

- Inquired about the status of the Board of Architectural Review Appeal by Dr. Glenn Harrison. Mrs. Icenhour commented on the status of this appeal.

- Inquired about the issue of providing tax incentives to property owners in the historic district and that the Board of Architectural Review would be speaking to Council about this matter.
- Inquired about the status of the CITGO gas station on Cummings Street.
- Inquired about the status of the Miller sign at the park on Park Street

***Council Member Morgan***

- Reported on the pavement progress at Depot Square.

***Council Member Moore***

- Expressed his appreciation for the Town staff members who worked on the 230<sup>th</sup> Celebration committee.
- Reminded everyone of the date for the upcoming SAGA conference at the Higher Education Center.

**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council authorized a total appropriation of \$2,000 to be taken from their contingency for the SAGA (Southern Appalachians for Greenways Alliance) conference which will be held at the Higher Education Center on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>.**

|                        |                                                                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>       | <b>Aye</b>                                                                  |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>       | <b>Aye</b>                                                                  |
| <b>Dr. Moore</b>       | <b>Abstain</b> ( <i>Dr. Moore is an organizer for the SAGA conference</i> ) |
| <b>Mr. Morgan</b>      | <b>Aye</b>                                                                  |
| <b>Mayor Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b>                                                                  |

**The motion carried.**

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Council Member Berry

- Reported on the Farmers Market Meeting he attended on September 29th
- Reported on great visit with English visitors

Mayor Humphreys

- Congratulated Abingdon Fire Department on their 200th birthday and thanked them for the community picnic celebrating the occasion.

L. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- Keith Perrigan came before the Council members to thank them for their support for the purchase of the property for the location of the joint Town/County Sports Complex.

- Chris Johnson reminded the Council that the annual Sleepy Hollow Festival will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2008 starting at 6:00 p.m.

M. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

N. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. Appointment of Council member to Tourism Advisory Board.

Council member, Ed Morgan, reported that he was resigning from the Tourism Advisory Board and nominated Jason Berry to fill the vacancy.

On motion of Mr. Morgan, seconded by Dr. Moore, Jason Berry was appointed to the Tourism Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Ed Morgan. Said term will commence on October 7, 2008 and expire on November 6, 2009.

Mr. Berry	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Dr. Moore	Aye
Mr. Morgan	Aye
Mayor Humphreys	Aye

The motion carried.

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At this time, Mr. Morgan commented on the Council's work with the Washington County, Virginia Board of Supervisors regarding the proposed sports complex.

**On motion of Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council requested a joint session with the Washington County Board of Supervisors, at their earliest convenience, regarding the proposed Joint Town/County sports complex with the following topics to be discussed:**

- **Potential makeup of the proposed Recreational Facilities Authority Board**
- **Bond market in light of the current economic conditions**
- **Resolve issues regarding designation of Abingdon's home fields**
- **Anticipated construction schedule and discussion of details of land deal with Mac Clifton that are needed for this transaction.**

**The vote on the motion was as follows:**

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

**The motion carried.**

Mr. Morgan commented that the Town of Abingdon and Washington County Board of Supervisors had put a great deal of effort into the proposed complex deal for the children of the community and for the economic benefit from the transaction and it is the Town's sincere hope that there will be a final resolution to the issue.

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On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Dr. Moore, the meeting was adjourned.

The roll call vote was:

Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mr. Morgan	Aye
Dr. Moore	Aye
Mr. Berry	Aye
Mayor Humphreys	Aye

The motion carried.

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Lois H. Humphreys, Mayor

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Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager