

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2012 – 5:30 P.M.  
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, October 1, 2012 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  
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney  
Garrett Jackson, Asst. Town Manager/Dir. of Planning  
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer  
Jim Smith, Town Engineer  
John Dew, Dir. of Construction/Public Services  
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of IT Department  
John Phelps, IT Department  
Kevin Worley, Dir. of Parks and Recreation  
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism

Visitors:

Debra Mcown and Maggie, Rich Macbeth, Berkley Young

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism introduced Berkley Young of Young Strategies who presented a Power Point presentation regarding the results of a recent research study on the Abingdon Convention and Visitors Bureau. Mr. Young commented that a portion of his research focused on the lodging market in Abingdon which appears to be strong despite the recent years of economic downturn. He further commented that the completion of the construction of Johnston Memorial Hospital lessened number of hotel rooms needed for construction workers. One of Mr. Young's recommendations was that the Tourism office consider adopting an action title such as "Visit Abingdon" and consider changing the name of the CVB. He pointed out that Abingdon was a beautiful community, looks wonderful and to "keep doing what you're doing". Another recommendation was that the Tourism office be relocated due to the accessibility challenges

associated with its current location and its lack of parking for motor coaches. Mr. Young concluded by commenting on the use of the town's trolleys to assist with moving visitors between downtown and other sites of interest such as Heartwood. Mayor Morgan thanked Mr. Young for his presentation and he commented that each Council member would receive an electronic copy of the research study.

2. Mr. Dew provided an update on the striping of Senior Drive and commented that the project was on track to be completed before the winter weather. Discussion ensued regarding the grassy lot located next to the Senior Center and its usability for parking. Mr. Jackson, Assistant Town Manager commented that the lot was not available for parking because of zoning restrictions.
3. Mr. Kelly commented on the matter of procedures for future meetings with Washington County representatives and Town officials. Mr. Kelly recommended that the Council consider setting a date for a retreat to work more in depth on this issue as well as team building, expectations, and the improvement of communication between Council and staff. Council members chose Saturday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 8:00 as the date for the retreat and asked that it be held at the Jubilee House.
4. Ms. Icenhour, Town Attorney provided an update on the status of the easements needed for Country Club stormwater management project. Mayor Morgan inquired about deadlines for the project and Mr. Kelly commented that the notice of public hearing for eminent domain will be on the November agenda if the remaining homeowners did not execute the needed easements.
5. At this time, **on motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council went into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for the consideration and discussion of the acquisition 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. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Berry, 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> |

~~~~

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