

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2012 – 6:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at 6:30 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
Garrett Jackson, Asst. Town Manager/Dir. of Planning
John Dew, Dir. of Public Services/Construction
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan commented on the recent Arthur Campbell Awards dinner held at Heartwood on October 7th. Mayor Morgan thanked Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk and Kim Kingsley, Administrative Assistant for their work on the project.
2. John Dew, Director of Public Services/Construction provided an update on the Whites Mill Road/Court/Hill Street project. Mr. Dew commented that he was in the process of obtaining the necessary easements. Mr. Humphreys inquired about the location of mailboxes once the sidewalks were in place. Discussion ensued regarding the mailbox placement.
3. Mr. Dew reported on the striping of Senior Drive and indicated that the layout is complete and the markings, using thermo blast materials should be in place in the coming weeks.
4. Mr. Kelly commented on the status of the Hicok Fern matter relative to their property located on the west end of town. Mr. Kelly reported that town staff and VDOT officials as well as the partners of Hicok Fern had met a few months to discuss the property as it relates to stormwater improvements on the west end. Mr. Kelly indicated that the Town Attorneys has exhausted efforts to locate the settlement terms that occurred as a result of legal action back in 1999 and 2000 and the records had not been found. Mr. Kelly noted that he had asked Ms. Icenhour to contact the Hicok Fern group to request a copy of the settlement agreement and she indicated she

had requested it earlier in the day. Mr. Dew commented that VDOT may have a response for Council at the November Council meeting. Mr. Kelly noted that the money being held for the west end project could be transferred to another town project but was subject to approval by VDOT.

5. Mr. Kelly reported on the status of the Country Club stormwater management project and indicated that the advertisement for eminent domain was prepared and ready to be placed in the newspaper. Mr. Kelly indicated that two easements were still outstanding. Council members commented they would like to see the project move forward even if eminent domain was necessary.
6. Mr. Dew reported on the status of the replacement of Creeper Trail Trestle #7. Mr. Dew reported that the surveying work was complete as well as the geotechnical's. Mr. Dew commented that the contract and proposal were a week ahead of schedule and that construction should take approximately 6 to 9 months.
7. Mr. Kelly commented on a letter he had been asked to send in support of the Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council. He stated that due to a time restraint action needed to be taken before the next regular Council meeting and requested that the Council do so at this time.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council agreed that the letter of support for the Virginia Emergency Medical Services Council, as presented, should be prepared and authorized the Town Manager to execute the letter.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

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8. Mr. Kelly commented on a survey questionnaire he had received from VDOT relative to Exit 14 Interchange of I 81. Discussion ensued regarding the impact of the project on Whisperwood, Heartwood, Berry Builders and the business owners in the Exit 14 area. Mayor Morgan commented that he wanted the survey to reflect that while Exit 14 is in need of modifications, the Exit 17 interchange is dangerous in its present condition and should take precedence over Exit 14. Mr. Kelly commented that he had prepared a letter, per Council direction, to VDOT regarding the neglect of the Exit 17 interchange. Council members asked that the letter be forwarded to the local political representatives. Mayor Morgan requested that a second letter be drafted regarding the conditions that VDOT indicated have to exist in order to repair an interchange. One is determined bridge fail and the second being completion of plans for repair and modification of the interchange.
9. Mr. Kelly commented on the need to proceed with putting in place the \$1M in incentive money for K-Va-T Food Stores to locate their new headquarters at the former Johnston Memorial

Hospital property. Mr. Kelly indicated that he was proceeding with the bond process for the funds. Mr. Berry inquired about the total amount of funds Mr. Kelly anticipated borrowing. Discussed ensued about officials at K-Va-T's possible request to raze the white 2 story house that is located on their property.

10. Council members inquired about the purchase of the Associated Tree Property and Mr. Kelly confirmed that he had finalized the deal but it was pending the results of the environmental study.
11. Mr. Kelly indicated that he had received an email from Nadine Culberson and the County was interested in setting a time to discuss the Town's proposed boundary adjustment. Vice Mayor Lowe and Mr. Berry will attend the meeting on behalf of the Council along with Town Manager and the date of November 2<sup>nd</sup> was suggested as a possible meeting time. Mr. Humphreys commented that he would like for town staff to provide copies of the boundary adjustment study to each Board of Supervisor member. Mr. Kelly indicated that he would verify whether each Board member had a copy and would provide copies if they did not already have them.
12. Mr. Kelly provided each Council member with a packet of information that Jim Smith had prepared with regard to the increase of sewer rates for county users on the town's system. Discussion ensued about the impact the increase has on lower income folks and Mr. Kelly indicated that he and Jim Smith would prepare a recommendation to Council relative to the rate increase for low income residents.
13. Mrs. Lowe commented on a local aviation businessman she had met and asked that his business be included in the businesses advertised on the town's listings. Mrs. Lowe noted that she would like for the town staff planning events to consider renting the Senior Center as an alternate venue for outside events in the chance they get rained out.
14. Mr. Humphreys commented on Camp Glenrochie and a picture by Richard Luce, that Mr. Luce would like for the town to purchase.
15. Mr. Howard commented on the possible acquisition of a piece of property owned by Charles Meade that could be a possible site for development. This property is located adjacent to the Virginia Creeper Trail.

Mayor Morgan declared the meeting adjourned.

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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk