

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2008 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, September 8, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Municipal Building.

A. ROLL CALL

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

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer
Jim Smith, Town Engineer/Dir. Of Wastewater Operations
John Dew, Dir. Of Public Services/Construction
Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning
Jim Cowart, Economic Development Coordinator
Sean Taylor, Assistant Planner
Jim Hicks, Dir. Of Safety/Human Resources

Visitors: Sam Brown

The following items were discussed:

1. Sam Brown, consultant with Assurance Financial Group, gave a presentation to Council members and Town staff about the surveys his organization had conducted for Town of Abingdon employees and health insurance needs. Mr. Brown reviewed information and data collected and indicated that he would be giving a more in depth analysis of the Town's health insurance package at an October work session.
2. Council members asked that the consideration/discussion of the Joint Town/County Sports Complex be postponed until later in the meeting.
3. Mr. Morgan indicated that he asked to have the Council members consider a change in the deadline of council packet agenda items so that the packet could be received earlier than it is presently delivered. Discussion ensued among the Council members and Town staff and it was determined that this matter would be discussed at the October 25th Council work session.
4. Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning, provided an update and schedule of events for the 230th celebration and visit from our twin town of Abingdon, England.

5. Council members asked that the update on the status of the dog park and update on request for restroom facility and/or shelter at Munchkin Park be postponed until the October 25th Council work session.
6. Greg Kelly, Town Manager, informed the Council members that the Heartwood Artisan Center group had made a formal request for the release of monies the Council had previously resolved to appropriate. Mr. Kelly recommended that the payments be made in quarterly installments over a two year period if that arrangement was acceptable with Council members.
7. The Council members briefly discussed the Big Read program and their request for funding for this year's program.
8. The Council discussed the appointments for the Tree Commission and noted that there were two applicants for those appointments as well as the applicant for the open position on the Recreation Advisory Commission.
9. Dr. Moore reminded everyone of a SAGA all day session to be held at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center on October 24th and encouraged all to attend.
10. Garrett Jackson gave a report about Agenda Item D1 regarding the Public Hearing for the appeal of a decision of the Board of Architectural Review. Discussion ensued among the Council and Town staff about the appeal and circumstances surrounding the decision of the BAR.

On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council recessed in order to prepare for their 7:30 regular meeting in the Council chambers.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk