

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2012 – 7:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on September 4, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council chambers of the Municipal Building.

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present: Edward B. Morgan, Mayor
Mr. Jason N. Berry
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys
Mr. Robert M. Howard

Absent: Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor (Mrs. Lowe monitored the Meeting via Facetime on the iPad)

Administrative/Town Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Mgr./Dir. Of Planning
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney
Jim Smith, Dir. Of Wastewater Operations/Town Eng.
Jim Cowart, Dir. of Econ. Dev/Grants Writer
John Dew, Dir. Public Services/Construction
C.J. McGlothlin, Code Enforcement Officer
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism
Kevin Worley, Dir. of Parks & Recreation
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of Information Technology
Jon Phelps, Information Technology Dept.

Visitors: Members of the Abingdon Little League 12 year old team, Members of the Abingdon Technology Student Association, Bobby Ingle, Susan Sullivan, Susan Howard, Sam Kiser and others

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**B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Howard, Council Member.

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C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council approved the minutes of the August 6, 2012 Work Session meeting, the minutes of the August 6, 2012 Regular Meeting and the August 15th, 2012 Work Session Meeting as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

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

Mr. Kelly recognized Mark Godbey, Treasurer/Director of Finance for his twenty (20) years of service to the Town.

Mr. Kelly noted that Shane Wright with the Sewer Department and Carol Dixon with the Horticulture Department will receive their five (5) years pins but noted that neither was able to attend the meeting.

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E. SPECIAL RECOGNITION AND PRESENTATION

Mr. Kelly, Town Manager introduced Kevin Christy, Coach of the Abingdon Little League 12 year old team. Mr. Christy reported that the team had recently competed in the state tournament in eastern Virginia and finished 3rd in the state. Mr. Christy thanked the Council for their donation to the team and indicated the funding was used to offset expenses incurred by the families of the players during their eight (8) day stay at the tournament. Mr. Christy introduced each team member as follows:

Nick Hardesty, Brett Boyd, Matthew Hunt, Cade Hungate, Colin Matney, Will Harless, James Compton, Kevin Christy, Bryson Thomas, and Thomas Francisco

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Mayor Morgan asked Charlene Gross to come forward to introduce the members of the Technology Student Association members. Ms. Gross reported on the teams' accomplishments at the National tournament in Nashville, Tennessee. The Middle School team members reported on a water analysis they had conducted at the town's Muster Grounds property. The Senior High members reported on a video they had developed about a historic wedding taking place in Abingdon.

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**F. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES –
None**

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**G. SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES – None**

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H. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS – None

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**I. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

**1. Consideration of funding request from Whites Mill Foundation.**

Bobby Ingle, Representative of Whites Mill Foundation reported on a grant that Whites Mill Foundation had received from the Tobacco Commission. Mr. Ingle noted that the grant was match funded and he needed additional funding in the amount of \$21,675.00. Mr. Ingle indicated that he had spoken with Washington County Board of Supervisors and they had agreed to pay one-half the match amount of \$21,675.00 and was inquiring if the town Council would allocate the remaining amount of \$21,675.00. Mr. Ingle noted that the grant had a deadline of September 29<sup>th</sup> or it would be rescinded by the Tobacco Commission.

Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism reported on several programs that the Tourism Department was participating in the coming months that would benefit Whites Mill and bring additional tourists to visit the Mill.

Mr. Berry recommended that Mr. Ingle contact Terry Kilgore, Chairman of the Tobacco Commission to see if he could request an extension of time on the grant in order to raise the needed match funding.

Mr. Howard noted that the town had several projects underway at this time and wasn't certain the Council could provide the needed funding.

Mr. Humphreys reported on the history of the purchase of the Mill years ago and affirmed that efforts for fundraising from individuals had fallen short. Mr. Humphreys suggested that the Council allocate the amount of \$8,675 in addition to the \$13,000 allocated to the Mill during the FY 2012/2013 which would make the match total needed of \$21,675.00.

Mr. Kelly noted that Council could reconsider the matter at their September 19<sup>th</sup> Work Session meeting which would allow Mr. Ingle to speak with the Tobacco Commission about an extension of the grant.

*Council did not take action on this matter.*

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2. Consideration of recommendation by town staff regarding plan of action for better use of the Abingdon Alerts System.

Floyd Bailey, Director of Information Technology reported on the Abingdon Alerts System with regard to improvements that need to be made to allow a text message to be sent to a resident who signs up for that service. Mr. Bailey reported that he was able to get the sirens located at William King and one previously located at the Fire Department to work but noted that there is an improved siren system that Council may want to consider purchasing. Mr. Bailey commented that he had obtained a quote from Federal Signal for two (2) sirens at a cost of \$30,000. Mr. Bailey indicated this system was state of the art and more reliable than the older sirens we currently have. Mr. Bailey agreed to review the current contract the town has with Federal Signal to verify that this system could be added to the contract.

On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council authorized the Town Manager to negotiate with Federal Signal Corporation to add the purchase of a siren system to the town's existing contract.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

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**3. Consideration of authorization of Town Manager to obtain a feasibility study for the location of a conference hotel within town limits.**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager reported on his efforts to secure a feasibility study for the location of a conference hotel in the town of Abingdon. Mr. Kelly recommended that the Council consider moving forward with a feasibility study and indicated that the cost for a study would range between \$22,000 and \$25,000. Mr. Kelly noted that the Council did not currently have the funding amount appropriated in their budget but could possibly later recover the costs of the study by a private industry that would be

interested in developing the project by selling them the study document once it is finalized.

Mr. Berry inquired about the town's Industrial Development Authority group's ability to borrow money for the study.

**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council agreed to authorize the Town Manager to direct the town's Industrial Development Authority to proceed with procuring a feasibility study relative to the location of a conference center hotel in Abingdon and further appropriated an amount up to \$25,000 for the cost of the study.**

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

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|----------------------|---------------|
| <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>Absent</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>  | <b>Aye</b>    |

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J. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Supporting a Grant Application to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's 2013 Industrial Revitalization Fund.

Greg Kelly, Town Manager reported on the Resolution for a grant application to the VDHCD in the amount of \$310,000 for the development of a proposed artisan center project. Mr. Kelly noted that this was a step in the application process and did not commit the town to the grant and further indicated that the Council would have to agree to accept the grant, if awarded.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council approved the Resolution as follows:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA SUPPORTING A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT'S 2013 INDUSTRIAL REVITALIZATION FUND

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia desires to submit a grant application for funding not-to-exceed \$310,000 to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's 2013 Industrial Revitalization Fund which shall be matched by the

execution of a purchase option agreement between the Town of Abingdon and the owner(s) of the site of the proposed **Abingdon Artisan Center** project, located in the Town of Abingdon, Washington County, at 125 and 143 Deadmore Street; and

WHEREAS, this funding is requested to fund the rehabilitation of the site of the proposed **Abingdon Artisan Center** project, to be located in the Town of Abingdon, Washington County, at 125 and 143 Deadmore Street, the former site of the Quesenberry Exxon Distribution Company; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia hereby supports this application for funding not to exceed \$310,000 from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's 2013 Industrial Revitalization Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia hereby grants authority for the Town Manager to execute any required project administration agreements regarding this grant.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Abstain (<i>Mr. Humphreys abstained as he noted he could benefit financially from the project, if awarded, because he owned property in the neighborhood</i>)
Mr. Berry	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Absent
Mayor Morgan	Aye

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## **K. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **1. Consideration of change in By-Laws for the Go Green Committee.**

Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager reported on the proposed changes to the by-laws for the Go Green Committee and indicated that Council had considered the matter at the August 6, 2012 meeting and tabled action on the matter until the next regular meeting. Mr. Jackson noted that he had taken the Council's suggested changes made at the August 6<sup>th</sup> meeting and incorporated those into the new draft of the by-laws. Mr. Jackson commented that the most notable changes were to lessen the number of committee members to increase the chances of securing a quorum for each meeting; appointing a sustainability coordinator; change the committee name to Sustain Abingdon Committee; and stagger the terms of office for committee members.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council approved and accepted the changes to the By-Laws for the Go Green Committee (now called Sustain Abingdon).**

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

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|----------------------|---------------|
| <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>Absent</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>  | <b>Aye</b>    |

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L. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA – None.

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**M. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS – None.**

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N. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. *Board of Architectural Review*

Mr. Jackson, Assistant Town Manager indicated that this matter had been tabled at two (2) prior Council meetings and noted that the BAR group had met and recommended the following changes to the current members and terms:

- Peyton Boyd – 3 additional years to serve
- Byrum Geisler – 2 additional years to serve
- Mike Owens – 1 additional year to serve
- Betsy White – remain as is
- Jason Berry – 2 additional years

Mayor Morgan noted that special circumstances existed within the BAR's body of work over the last several years and that it would be in the best interest of the committee for term limits to be extended to allow for completion of several projects before the Board for consideration.

On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved the recommendations of the extension of term limits for the members of the Board of

**Architectural Review as set forth in the memorandum of recommendation by
Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

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- At this time, Susan Howard, Director of Advance Abingdon invited everyone to participate in the First Thursday event which includes multiple art openings in town.
- Mr. Kelly reported that he had received a draft of a Quitclaim Deed from the County Board of Supervisors relative to the conveyance of the Breckenridge Cabin structure.

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Mayor Morgan declared the meeting adjourned.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk