

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015 – 4:00 P.M.  
ARTHUR CAMPBELL MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, April 6, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. in the Arthur Campbell meeting room of the Municipal Building.

**CORRECTED MINUTES AND APPROVED AT THE JUNE 1, 2015 REGULAR MEETING**

**A. ROLL CALL**

Members of Council Present:

Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor  
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys  
Mr. Robert M. Howard  
Mrs. Jayne A. Duehring

- *Mayor Morgan was absent for the 4:00 Budget Work Session and arrived at 5:30 for the Work Session meeting.*

Administrative Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager  
Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk/Int.Asst. Town Manager  
John Dew, Director Public Services/Construction  
Chuck Banner, Dir. of Finance  
Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police  
Matthew Johnson, Dir. of Planning  
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism  
Jon Phelps, IT Dept.  
Sean Taylor, Assistant Planner

Visitors:

Amy Looney, Davis Buckley, Joella Barbour, Martha Keyes, Susan Howard and others

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Vice Mayor Lowe called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and Council members discussed the requests presented by non departmental agencies for funding appropriations for the upcoming FY 2015/2016. Council reviewed the list and made appropriations as recorded on the attached listing and made a part of these minutes. In addition to the appropriations for the 2015/2016 budget requests, Council made 3 additional appropriations to be paid out in the 2014/2015 budget from Council contingency funds and there were:
  - Depot Artists Association \$1,000

- Abingdon Main Street \$10,000
  - Veterans Park \$15,000
2. Council took a brief recess for dinner at 5:30 p.m.
  3. At 5:50 p.m. Mayor Morgan called the meeting back to order and asked Matthew Johnson to provide an introduction to the Fields Penn House study conducted by Davis Buckley. Mr. Buckley and Mr. Striegel of his firm presented the findings of their study on the condition of the Fields Penn House and reviewed the estimate they had prepared relative to stabilization of the property, repairs and renovations of the structure. Mr. Striegel noted that the ground underneath the structure was compromised and commented that the house was sitting atop "jello". Mr. Buckley noted that a major component of historic properties was determining the use for the property and emphasized that they need to be used and occupied each day. Mr. Striegel presented the estimate for the property which totaled \$1.9M. Discussion ensued about dividing the property renovation into phases, the costs for stabilizing the structure, ideas for use of the property and potential fundraising efforts to save the property or ready it for sale to an interested party. Mayor Morgan commented that decisions needed to be made and recommended Council consider an additional work session to discuss the matter in greater detail.
  4. Greg Tucker, CPA with Bostic & Tucker presented the Council with the Town's financial audit for FY 2013/2014. Mr. Tucker noted that the EVA fund had a deficit and noted unexpected property purchases that caused an additional deficit on the report. Mr. Tucker noted the Sewer fund fluctuated but showed a gain for the year. Mr. Tucker commented that the town is financially stable and thanked Mr. Banner, Director of Finance for his assistance with the information for the audit.
  5. Mayor Morgan commented that it was necessary for Council to go into closed session and asked that the items E3 through E7 on the agenda be discussed at a later work session meeting.
  6. At this time, **On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council went into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for the purpose of discussing pending or threatened litigation.**

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

<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Humphreys</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Duehring</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Lowe</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Morgan</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**The motion carried.**

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council reconvened in regular session.**

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

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mrs. Duehring	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

The motion carried.

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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:

|               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| Mr. Howard    | I so certify |
| Mr. Humphreys | I so certify |
| Mrs. Duehring | I so certify |
| Mrs. Lowe     | I so certify |
| Mayor Morgan  | I so certify |

Mayor Morgan declared a 5 minute recess for Council and Town staff to reconvene in the Council Chambers for the regular 7:30 meeting.

  
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk

  
Edward B. Morgan, Mayor