

**TOWN OF ABINGDON COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2015 – 6:00
ARTHUR CAMPBELL MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, August 3, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Arthur Campbell meeting room of the Municipal Building.

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present:

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

Administrative/Town Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile Rosenbaum, Assistant Town
Manager/Town Clerk
Tonya Triplett, Deputy Clerk
Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney
Matthew Johnson, Dir. Of Planning
Chuck Banner, Dir. Of Finance
John Dew, Dir. Of Public Services/Construction
Jon Phelps, IT Department
Kevin Costello, Dir. Of Tourism and Economic
Development

Visitors:

Martha Keys
John Bundy
Ben Able
Rich Macbeth

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Martha Keys reported that the Historical Society of Washington County has the opportunity to purchase a building on 215 East Valley Street. The building is ADA compliant and the systems are up-to-date, so it will only need a couple of walls removed. The Historical Society will pay \$200,000 and will be launching massive fundraising efforts to pay the balance. Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney, will research to see if they qualify for property tax exemption.
2. Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney, reported a defective water meter had caused Glenrochie County Club to be incorrectly billed for sewer for several years. The Town reimbursed Glenrochie in the amount of \$ 4,445.76, but they requested to be an additional \$ 3,354.24 owed for all the years it was incorrectly calculated. Consensus of council is to pay the \$3,354.24 from sewer fund contingency.
3. John Dew, Director Public Services/Construction reported the Urban Path Project design had been sent to VDOT, but he has not heard back from them yet. Issue of alignment include Stonemill (near Muster Ground) Depot Square, Bradley and Preston Streets. There has been positive conversation with Mr. John Crigger, Sr. about a right-of-way on his property. If these changes are possible, a revision would be sent to VDOT for approval. Light's Milling has already torn down one building, and has discussed changing the entrance to their property. The timeframe for this project depends on VDOT approval. Mr. Humphreys, Council Member expressed parking concerns for nearby residents. Mayor Morgan asked about the status of the Library trail. Mr. Dew, Director Public Services/Construction reported construction has begun near the tennis courts, but noted opposition by one area resident. Mr. Humphreys, Council Member questioned if the town had considered hiring out some of the projects, so they could be completed sooner. Mr. Dew explained they do for bigger project, but try to do smaller projects in house to save money. Council commented that the Russell Road project looks great and the crossing safely funnels all pedestrian traffic at one place.
4. Cecil Rosenbaum, Assistant Town Manager, reported the Arthur Campbell Award ceremony and dinner will be held at the Martha Washington Inn on October 16. Mayor Morgan and Vice Mayor Lowe will announce the recipients during the regular meeting, and requested a motion accepting the nominations. Mrs. Duehring, Council Member suggested putting together a packet for council to have in their hands, to promote the award and encourage more nominations.
5. Mr. Howard Council Member reported that we have eleven (11) officers on the fire department that work out of town, which leaves little leadership during the day. He suggested the town look at adopting a fire code.
6. Mr. Humphreys, Council Member expressed concerns about pedestrian crossing traffic at Main Street and Wall Street. He commented on visibility of the traffic light and sequence at that location.

7. Mayor Morgan's reported that his name has been recommended to review the Mountain States Health Alliance and Wellmont merger, which will be called Southwest Virginia Rural Health Authority. Mayor Morgan requested that Mr. Kelly, Town Manager and Mrs. Rosenbaum, Assistant Town Manager meet with them to review possibilities for staff and meeting space.
8. Mrs. Duehring, Council Member, asked about sample evaluations for appointees from other towns. Greg Kelly, Town Manager said he would supply those by email. She also asked who was in charge of controlling the lighting at the entrance of William King Museum. Mr. Dew, Director Public Services/Construction reported his department handled that and they adjusted the lighting according to events taking place at the museum.
9. At this time, **On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council went into Closed Session Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(3) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, the Council will convene in closed session for the purpose of discussion concerning the acquisition of real property for public purpose.**

The roll call vote is as follows:

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

The motion carried.

On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, the Council reconvened in regular session.

The roll call vote is as follows:

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

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:

Mrs. Duehring	I so certify
Mr. Howard	I so certify
Mr. Humphreys	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.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Tonya H. Triplett, Deputy Clerk