

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 - 6:00PM
ARTHUR CAMPBELL MEETING ROOM - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Tuesday, September 8, 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
Tonya Triplett, Deputy Clerk
Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney
Matthew Johnson, Dir. Of Planning
Chuck Banner, Dir. Of Finance
John Dew, Dir. Of Construction/Public Services
Floyd Bailey, Director of IT
Kevin Costello, Dir. Of Tourism and Economic
Development

Visitors:

Rich Macbeth, Residents of Oxford
and Cambridge Streets and Rugby
Terrace

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. John Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction, reported an ongoing issue and concerns from citizens with cut through traffic and speeding on Rugby Terrace, Oxford and Cambridge Streets. Mr. Dew reported that Rugby Terrace is being used as a cut through to Valley Street and residents are concerned about safety in their residential neighborhood. Council suggested the temporary closing of the east leg of Rugby Terrace to allow town staff to evaluate the effects of the impact on the other streets in the area, especially Hutton and Tanner and to conduct an in house traffic study.

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3. Kevin Sigmon, Town Arborist, presented a proposed plan for landscaping at Veterans Park. The plan includes some ongoing work that that will start this fall and continue through the spring of 2016. It includes spraying weeds, mulching and planting a variety of low growth plants that will help with erosion control on the bank adjacent to Cummings Street.
4. Kevin Worley, Director of Parks and Recreation, reported that due to expansion of the playground and decking at the Coomes Recreation Center the property is no longer an option for safely setting off July 4th fireworks. They are exploring other properties and have considered the Washington County Fair Grounds and some space near Virginia Highlands Community College. Mrs. Lowe suggested Mr. Worley contact Virginia Highlands Airport to see if those properties are in the flight path. Other suggestions included the 4-H Center and Veterans Park. Mr. Worley will continue to explore other properties.
5. Matthew Johnson, Director of Planning, reported that the Fairview Homestead board had been actively raising funds for programs at the site for the last several years. Mr. Johnson noted that when funds were raised through car shows and concessions the funds, totaling \$5,356.50 were deposited into the General Fund and not specified for Fairview. Mr. Johnson requested the funds be returned to the Fairview Foundation.
6. Floyd Bailey, Director of IT stated the residents who live in the Country Club area of town cannot hear the siren notification system. Mr. Bailey recommended Glenview Drive as the best location for a siren with a cost of \$15,000-\$20,000, which does not include AEP charges. Council asked Mr. Bailey to contact some of the residents and inquire about having a siren located at Glenview Drive; find a definite location and report back at the October meeting.
7. Floyd Bailey, Director of IT reported the IT department had discovered that not all computers were being backed up properly. Mr. Bailey and Mr. Banner, Director of Finance feel it is urgent to work with Axcient Business Recovery Cloud to ensure all data is stored properly. The company came highly recommended and has won several awards for its ability to backup and store data in real time. Mr. Bailey stated the cost will be \$78,208.74, with the first payment coming from next year's budget and would be stretched out over a three year period.
8. Greg Kelly, Town Manger discussed bids for renovation to Summers Law Office.

Contractor Jason Harris placed a bid of \$37,175 for renovations at Summers Law Office, which includes a heat pump that will be installed by town staff.

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