

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.
COUNCIL MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, June 1, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Arthur Campbell meeting room of the Municipal Building.

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present: Mr. Edward B. Morgan, Mayor
Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys (arrived at 7:05 p.m.)
Mr. Robert M. Howard
Mrs. Jayne A. Duehring

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk/Int.Asst. Town Manager
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney
Chuck Banner, Dir. of Finance
Matthew Johnson, Dir. of Planning

Visitors: Susan Howard

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan reported that Mr. Humphreys would be late arriving to the meeting as he was being treated at Urgent Care for a minor health issue.
2. Cecile Rosenbaum, Assistant Town Manager provided an update on the possible upgrade of microphones and cameras in the Council Chambers. Ms. Rosenbaum indicated that IT Director, Floyd Bailey, was proceeding with the purchase of additional cameras for the Council Chambers to improve viewing of Council meetings via online streaming. Ms. Rosenbaum noted that the microphone system in the Chambers was adequate for online meeting streaming if spoken directly into at very close proximity and an upgrade would be a costly item that has not been budgeted in the upcoming fiscal year.
3. Matthew Johnson, Director of Planning, provided information to Council on the construction estimates for stabilization of the Fields Penn House. Mr. Johnson noted that the total cost of the stabilization was \$160,000 which includes design and drainage reconstruction and bracing of the structure. Discussion ensued about the timeline for the project and Mr. Johnson indicated that timing was important in order to get construction done before the winter months. Mr. Kelly noted that Council could designate the total amount of funds left in

Council contingency totaling \$72,500 to the stabilization of the project with the remainder to come out of funds in the 2015/2016 budget. Ms. Lowe noted that Council was only considering only the stabilization of the structure at this time. Mr. Johnson reported that he planned to hold the first committee meeting very soon to begin discussions on the future of the house and Ms. Duehring commented on her interest in getting opinions from the public on future uses. Susan Howard commented that she hoped Council would consider a town hall forum for the public to offer comments on the uses of the House.

4. Mr. Kelly commented that he had received a letter asking localities to send letters of support to the Virginia Tourism Corporation regarding the branding of "Southwest Virginia". Ms. Lowe commented that this project was tied to funding from VTC and noted her support for the letter. Council members asked Mr. Kelly to send the letter of support to the VTC in support of the branding of "Southwest Virginia".
5. Susan Howard inquired about public art that she hoped to display near the English phone booths that have been recently installed.
6. At this time, **On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, the Council went into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for the acquisition or disposition of real property for a public purpose.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Absent (<i>arrived late</i>)
Mrs. Duehring	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 was as follows:

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Abstain (<i>arrived late to closed session</i>)
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:**

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Abstain</b>      |
| <b>Mrs. Duehring</b> | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>  | <b>I so certify</b> |

7. 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 Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council reconvened in regular session.**

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

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |

**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:

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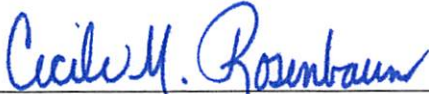
The certification was as follows:

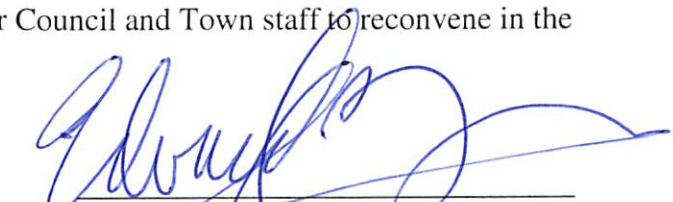
Mr. Howard **I so certify**
Mr. Humphreys **I so certify**
Mrs. Duehring **I so certify**
Mrs. Lowe **I so certify**
Mayor Morgan **I so certify**

8. Ms. Icenhour, Town Attorney reported on the a refund request the town had received from Glenrochie Country Club regarding a refund request relative to an error in water and sewer billing. Ms. Icenhour noted that the town was only required to correct an error in billing for a period of three (3) years prior and that check had been issued to Glenrochie. Ms. Icenhour further noted that the error was not on the part of the town but was due to a faulty set on a water meter by the Washington County Service Authority.

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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