

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.
VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS SMALL BUSINESS INCUBATOR**

A Budget Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Wednesday, March 27, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator.

A. ROLL CALL

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

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Garrett Jackson, Asst. Town Manager/Dir. of Planning
Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney
Mark Godbey, Treasurer/Dir. of Finance

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan welcomed everyone and asked Joey Burke, Chief of Abingdon Fire Department and John McCormick, Assistant Fire Chief to comment on their proposed budget for FY 2013/2014. Mr. Burke reported that he had had several conversations with the Washington County Emergency Services Committee relative to their interest in purchasing one of the town's used fire trucks and partnering with the town to purchase a new fire truck. Discussion ensued regarding the issue of ownership of the truck, titling the vehicle, and insurance of the vehicle if the town and county partnered on the purchase. Mayor Morgan asked the Town Attorney to research the issue of creating a fire tax for residents in order to generate funding for emergency responders such as the Fire Department. Council members commented that they would consider this issue again for discussion at a later time.
2. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager commented that he and John Dew, Director of Public Services/Construction had been invited to a meeting with Delegate Joe Johnson, members of the VDOT staff and the partners at Hicok & Fern, CPA's. Mr. Kelly provided Council with a status and update of possible solutions to the stormwater issue at that location.
3. Mr. Dew reported to Council that the contractors interested in bidding the replacement of Creeper Trail Trestle #7 had requested additional time to turn in their project bids. Mr. Dew noted that the delay in awarding the bid would not impact the schedule for construction and Council members expressed their agreement that the bid opening be delayed. Discussion ensued

about possible dates and times for an award of the bid to coincide with the anniversary of the tornado that destroyed the trestle in April, 2011.

4. Mr. Kelly asked Council if they would like to proceed in the upcoming fiscal budget with painting of the roof of the Municipal Building. Mr. Kelly noted that there were sufficient funds in the Municipal Building maintenance line to cover the costs and indicated that a total roof replacement would have to be considered in the next few years.
5. Mr. Kelly provided Council with an update on the Barter/Town Hall renovation costs.
6. Mr. Kelly reported that he had spoken with County Administrator, Nadine Culberson relative to the County's support for staff at Heartwood and advised that Ms. Culberson would review the matter but commented that no funding was listed in the County's proposed budget for the costs.
7. Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager provided a report to Council on the proposed designs for a columbarium at Sinking Spring Cemetery. Mayor Morgan requested that the project design be divided into phases for Council to consider at a later time.
8. Mr. Kelly reported on the current status of the budget and a lengthy discussion ensued regarding expenditures and revenues. Mr. Kelly noted that he would be presenting the Council with a draft of proposed balanced budget on April 1st and his annual budget message would follow around the second week in April.
9. Mr. Howard commented that he had been advised that the new town sirens could not be heard in the Southview Subdivision area of town. Mr. Kelly noted that he would speak with the IT Department about an additional siren purchase for that area of town.

Council members recessed until the Thursday, March 28th budget work session.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk