

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 4, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, March 4, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Municipal Building.

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
Jim Smith, Town Engineer
John Dew, Dir. of Construction/Public Services
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of IT Department
John Phelps, IT Department
Daniel Kidd, IT Department
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism
Debbie Atkins-Vance, Dir. of Human Resources

Visitors:

Rich Macbeth, Donnie Necessary, Sam Brown and others

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Sam Brown, Consultant reported on the health insurance experience for Town employees over the past year and noted that the town had a lower than average claims total for Southwest Virginia. Mr. Brown commented that the rates for the Town would increase 3.9% and recommended that the Council continue with the current Local Choice plan for another year. Mayor Morgan thanked Mr. Brown for his service to the town and indicated that this matter would appear on the April agenda for approval.
2. Carroll Collins with Kimley Horn provided a power point presentation relative to the Exit 19 to Exit 22 study his firm had conducted for the Virginia Department of Transportation. Mr. Collins showed several scenarios that could be considered for redesign of Exit 19. Discussion ensued about the alternatives presented as well as cost estimates and traffic volume in the area. Mr. Humphreys inquired about using roundabouts to handle traffic flow and Mayor Morgan inquired about the

process for implementing the plan. Mr. Necessary commented on the bridges at Exits 19, 17 and 14 and commented that the life span of a bridge is around 50 years. Mr. Collins noted that the roundabout scenario was not widely accepted when presented at a public forum. Mr. Necessary indicated that VDOT planned to provide this presentation to the Washington County Board of Supervisors at an upcoming meeting.

3. Mike Madden, General Manager with Utility Service Partners provided a power point presentation relative to an insurance plan he handles for residential water and sewer lines. Mr. Madden commented that the program was easily implemented, priced affordably and transparent with no cost of liability to the town. Mr. Madden commented that the town residents could choose insurance for their sewer lines only and not their water since those lines are owned by Washington County Service Authority. Mr. Madden confirmed that his company has been endorsed by National League of Cities and insurance cost per month would be roughly \$14.00 total for both water and sewer lines. Mr. Madden reported that there was no minimum participation and the town could expect \$.50 cents per line per month for the service. Mayor Morgan asked Ms. Icenhour, Town Attorney to conduct further research on the issue and present her report at the April work session meeting.
4. Mr. Jackson, Assistant Town Manager reported on a report by the Weldon Cooper Center regarding future growth projections for the state of Virginia. Mr. Jackson noted that the report findings indicated that the growth rate is about 12% every ten (10) years in Virginia.
5. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager inquired if the Council wished to put the town's liability and property insurance out to bid since three (3) years had elapsed since the last bid process. Council members agreed that the town's property and liability insurance should be put out for bid and asked Mr. Kelly to proceed with the bid process and engage the services of insurance consultant Sam Rosenthal who worked with the town three (3) years ago.
6. Ms. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk reported on the plans for the Arthur Campbell awards for 2013. Mrs. Lowe commented that the town should consider selling tickets to the general public for the dinner and noted that she hoped the press would cover the awards dinner. Ms. Rosenbaum indicated that she would prepare a list of dates for Council to consider for the scheduling of the awards dinner.

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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.

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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk