

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, May 4, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council chambers of the Municipal Building.

A. Welcome by Mayor Morgan

B. Roll Call – Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk

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

Absent: **Mrs. Jayne A. Duehring**

Administrative/Town Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile Rosenbaum, Clerk/Int. Asst. Town Manager
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney
Kevin Worley, Dir. of Parks & Recreation
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism
Matthew Johnson, Dir. of Planning
Chuck Banner, Dir. of Finance
Jon Phelps, Dir. of IT

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Howard, Council Member.

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**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- April 6, 2015 Work Session Meeting
- April 6, 2015 Regular Meeting

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council approved the minutes of the April 6, 2015 Work Session meeting and the April 6, 2015 Regular meeting as presented.**

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

|               |        |
|---------------|--------|
| Mr. Howard    | Aye    |
| Mr. Humphreys | Aye    |
| Mrs. Duehring | Absent |
| Mrs. Lowe     | Aye    |
| Mayor Morgan  | Aye    |

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E. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

Mr. Kelly commented that Ellen Lee, Administrative Assistant at the Coomes Center was not able to attend the meeting but thanked her for her ten (10) years of service to the town.

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**F. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES**

- 1. Public Hearing – First Reading - An Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Proposing a Budget for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and to make appropriation for the current expenses of the Town and to fix a Tax rate Upon Real and Personal Property, To Fix all other Local Tax Rates and Fees and Rates on Utility Services for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016.**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager provided the Council with a summary of the process for the preparation of the FY 2015/2016 budget. Mr. Kelly commented that the total amount of the General Fund equals \$15,201,238, which is a 9.45% decrease from last year. The total amount of the Sewer Fund equals \$3,081,463 and Mr. Kelly noted that tax rates, fees and charges for the town would remain the same. Mr. Kelly reported that employees would be receiving a 3% cost of living increase for the second year in a row and that health insurance costs to employees remained the same with the town absorbing a 3.5% increase in premium rates. Mr. Kelly expressed appreciation to Chuck Banner and Cecile Rosenbaum for their assistance with the budget process.

Mayor Morgan declared the public hearing open and hearing no comments, closed the public hearing.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council approved the Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Proposing a Budget for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and to make appropriation for the current expenses of the Town and to fix a Tax rate Upon Real and Personal Property, To**

**Fix all other Local Tax Rates and Fees and Rates on Utility Services for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Mr. Howard    | Aye           |
| Mr. Humphreys | Aye           |
| Mrs. Duehring | <i>Absent</i> |
| Mrs. Lowe     | Aye           |
| Mayor Morgan  | Aye           |

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G. SECOND READINGS

- 1. Second Reading - Proposed Rezoning – Consideration of Clifton Stewart Developers, LLC, 16325 Taylor Place, Abingdon, VA 24211, applicants, application to rezone property located at 484 Colonial Road, Abingdon, consisting of .38 acres, from R3, Residential to O & I, Office and Institutional. Tax Map No. 018-1-28.**

Matthew Johnson, Director of Planning commented that the matter before Council for consideration was a second reading on a proposed rezoning. Mr. Johnson noted that a public hearing was held at the regular April meeting and no opposition was noted. Mr. Johnson asked Council to approve the rezoning on the second reading and dispense with the 30 day waiting period, making the rezoning effective immediately.

On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, Council members approved on second reading the Proposed Rezoning of Clifton Stewart Developers, LLC, 16325 Taylor Place, Abingdon, VA 24211, applicants, application to rezone property located at 484 Colonial Road, Abingdon, consisting of .38 acres, from R3, Residential to O & I, Office and Institutional. Tax Map No. 018-1-28 and further dispensed with the 30 day waiting period, thereby making the rezoning effective immediately.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mrs. Duehring	<i>Absent</i>
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

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**H. SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES – None.**

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I. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS – None.

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**J. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

**1. Request for funding for public art trail.**

Susan Howard, Director of Abingdon Main Street reported on a grant for a public art trail that totaled \$14,000. Mrs. Howard noted that one of the projects selected for the grant was the development of the LOVE letters made from steel which will be more durable and can withstand the weather changes. Mrs. Howard also noted that she was moving forward with the art project to wrap the signal boxes in town with local artisan's work. Mrs. Howard requested the sum of \$5,000 in funding from Council to help with the match for the grant.

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, Council appropriated \$5,000 from Council contingency fund for the projects for the public art trail grant.**

**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>Absent</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>  | <b>Aye</b>    |

**K. RESOLUTIONS**

**1. A Resolution of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Congratulating Highlands Union Bank on Thirty (30) Years of Success in the Realm of Community Banking and for Providing the Highest Level of Banking Services to the Citizens of Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina.**

Mayor Morgan read the following resolution into the record:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA  
CONGRATULATING HIGHLANDS UNION BANK ON THIRTY (30) YEARS OF SUCCESS IN  
THE REALM OF COMMUNITY BANKING AND FOR PROVIDING THE HIGHEST LEVEL  
OF BANKING SERVICES TO THE CITIZENS OF VIRGINIA, TENNESSEE, AND NORTH  
CAROLINA**

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting that the members of the Abingdon Town Council should pause to specially recognize those deserving businesses whose employees have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to providing valuable services within the communities they serve; and

**WHEREAS**, in the mid-1980s, following a decade of consolidation within the banking community, Southwest Virginia was left without a locally owned community bank headquartered in Abingdon and Washington County; and

**WHEREAS**, seeing this void, a group of investors sought to establish a bank that would be accessible by, and meet the needs of, the businesses and residents of the area; and

**WHEREAS**, this led to the founding of Highlands Union Bank in 1985 in Abingdon, Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, three decades later, Highlands Union Bank is still headquartered in Abingdon and is a vital contributor to the town's economy, providing customized banking and financial services and products to both personal and business customers; and

**WHEREAS**, HUB's unparalleled commitment to providing exceptional customer service has been the foundation of the bank's success, enabling HUB to grow beyond its Abingdon headquarters and serve customers from 13 additional offices in Southwest Virginia, Northeast Tennessee and Western North Carolina; and

**WHEREAS**, a trendsetter among community banks, HUB has experienced above-average growth throughout the past 30 years; and

**WHEREAS**, HUB's assets jumped from \$2 million to \$9.2 million in the first year of operation, and now the bank's assets are valued in excess of \$600 million; and

**WHEREAS**, having started out in 1985 with a staff of eight employees, HUB currently provides a professional career for more than 200 individuals; more than 130 of whom work in Abingdon; and

**WHEREAS**, HUB holds the distinction of being the only surviving operation among the original seven Virginia community banks that were established in 1985; and

**WHEREAS**, HUB is a committed corporate citizen in every community in which it serves; and

**WHEREAS**, HUB staff members serve or have served on the boards of numerous Abingdon and Washington County organizations, including Abuse Alternatives, Appalachian Independence Center, Communities in Schools of Southwest Virginia, Glenrochie Country Club, Industrial Development Authority of Washington County, Johnston Memorial Hospital, People Incorporated Housing Group, SWIFA, Virginia Highlands Community College, Virginia Association of Community Banks, Virginia Bankers Association, Virginia Highlands Community College Foundation, Washington County Chamber of Commerce, Washington County Public Library Foundation, and Washington County Technical Advisory Board; and

**WHEREAS**, HUB staff members also serve or have served on local committees for a number of entities, including the Abingdon Town Council, Abingdon United Methodist Church, First United Methodist Church, Glade Spring for the Arts, Glenrochie Country Club, Highlands Soccer Club, Johnston Memorial Hospital, Leadership Washington County, March of Dimes, Mount Rogers Planning District, Pleasant View United Methodist Church, Rotary Club of Abingdon, The Justin Foundation, Town of Abingdon Recreation Commission, United Way of Southwest Virginia, Virginia Bankers Association, Virginia Highlands Community College, Virginia Intermont College, Washington County Historical Society, Washington County Public Library, and Washington County Public Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, HUB offers personal finance coursework at Abingdon High School and the Washington County Career and Technical Center, along with seven other Southwest Virginia high schools, in partnership with EverFi — a national web-based financial literacy platform, the Genworth Foundation and the Virginia Bankers Association, as part of the personal finance curriculum mandated by the Virginia Department of Education; and

**WHEREAS**, HUB sets the standard for excellence in customer service and consistently operates with honesty, integrity and sound judgment; and

**WHEREAS**, HUB is among the more than 6,500 community banks across the U.S. that remain stable and poised to play a key role in the nation's economic recovery, and

**WHEREAS**, HUB symbolizes the best in community banking,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia that we hereby honor and commend Highlands Union Bank in recognition of the organization's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we extend our best wishes to HUB for every future success.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, Council members approved the Resolution for Highlands Union Bank as presented and read into the record.**

**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>Absent</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>Aye</b>    |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>  | <b>Aye</b>    |

Mr. Sam Neese and HUB board member, John Lundberg accepted the Resolution and thanked the Council for their support.

At this time, Vice Mayor Lowe read the following Resolution by Governor McAuliffe into the record:

## Business Appreciation Month 2015

**WHEREAS**, Virginia businesses play a pivotal role in strengthening our Commonwealth by embracing job creation, innovative technologies, and employing a diverse workforce to preserve the economic well-being of all our citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia businesses provide nearly 3.1 million jobs to our citizens throughout the Commonwealth and offer a variety of services and products worldwide; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia's businesses operate in diverse industries, including advanced manufacturing, energy, life sciences, tourism, agribusiness and information technology; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia is currently home to more than 35 Fortune 1,000 firms and more than 70 firms with annual revenues in excess of \$500 million; and

**WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth is pleased to recognize the accomplishments of our existing businesses; entrepreneurs; small, minority and women owned businesses; and the major employers that contribute greatly to the economic recovery of our Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS**, it is fitting to offer the citizens of our Commonwealth a unique opportunity to recognize Virginia businesses for the essential role they play in driving the new Virginia economy;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Terence R. McAuliffe, do hereby recognize May 2015 as **BUSINESS APPRECIATION MONTH** in our **COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA**, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

Council members expressed their support of local businesses and commended Governor McAuliffe for his support of Business Appreciation Month 2015.

**L. OLD BUSINESS – None.**

**M. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Mayor Morgan noted that there would be a celebration of artist Charles Vess and read the following Proclamation in his honor:

### PROCLAMATION

#### *Designating May 2015 in Honor of the Many Achievements and Contributions made by Abingdon Artist Charles Vess*

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Abingdon, Virginia in conjunction with the William King Museum of Art's celebration of said artist at the induction of his exhibit "Into the Green" on June 4, 2015 and the Art Ball Fundraiser on June 6, 2015 ; and

**WHEREAS**, the many artistic contributions of Charles Vess in the community and beyond which has enhanced the visual state of the Arts Community for everyone in Abingdon, Virginia along with the neighboring communities in and thereof Southwest Virginia and East Tennessee;

**WHEREAS**, the whimsical spirit of Charles Vess illustrations, that have brought to life many a book and comic publication, touching the hearts of fantasy and art lovers world-wide, several inducted into the permanent collection in the Library of Congress, as well as his original art, murals and sculptures that grace the walls of residential and public domains - including the 16 feet Barter fountain sculpture, "Midsummer Play" designed and co-sculpted by him;

**WHEREAS**, in recognizing and supporting the many achievements Charles Vess has received, through his collaboration with the acclaimed Paramount Pictures film "Stardust", the Ink Pot, Mythopoeic, Will Eisner Comic Industry, Spectrum and Four World Fantasy awards that have given him international acclaim;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Edward B. Morgan, Mayor of the Town of Abingdon, do hereby proclaim the month of May 2015 to honor the many achievements and contributions made by our fellow artist, friend and neighbor, who allows us all to walk into his magical world of art. May we "Catch the Whimsy" as we celebrate our own Charles Vess.

### **N. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

#### **1. *Sustain Abingdon Committee***

- Appointment of Town Planner, Matthew Johnson to serve on the committee

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Howard, Matthew Johnson was appointed to the Sustain Abingdon Committee.**

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

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



|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Mrs. Duehring | <i>Absent</i> |
| Mrs. Lowe     | <i>Aye</i>    |
| Mayor Morgan  | <i>Aye</i>    |

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O. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

- Mr. Humphreys commented on the upcoming events at Veterans Park.
- Mrs. Lowe commented on the upcoming Noon Knowledge series at the Incubator.

Mayor Morgan declared the meeting adjourned.



Edward B. Morgan, Mayor



Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk