

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 , 2013 – 6:30 P.M.  
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Municipal Building.

**A. ROLL CALL**

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

*Absent:* Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor

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, Town Treasurer

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan asked that Mr. Kelly address Agenda Item C3 first relative to the West End Storm Drain matter. Mr. Kelly read Council the contents of an email he had received from the property owners at Hicok & Fern, CPA's wherein they requested to be placed on the June 3, 2013 Regular Agenda. Mr. Kelly noted that they asked for thirty (30) minutes to make their presentation. Discussion ensued about the amount of time requested and Council members asked Mr. Kelly to notify the property owners that their presentation should not exceed ten (10) minutes. Discussion ensued further relative to the negotiations with attorneys that may be involved in the case and Mr. Kelly confirmed that John Dew has requested a letter of update relative to the project from Mathew Cox with VDOT.
2. Mr. Kelly reported that he had successfully negotiated, per Council's direction, the purchase of 2.65 acres off property located off of Colonial Road that adjoined the Muster Grounds for the price of \$100,000, approximately \$58,000 below the asking price. Mr. Humphreys reported that he had spoken with Craig and Brenda Kendrick who confirmed that they had expressed their intent to give a log cabin structure they own to the Fairview group, but noted that if they wanted to place it at the Muster Grounds site, that would be acceptable.

3. Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager inquired if Council members would like to discuss and provide feedback for the Ashley Cooper Master Plan report for six (6) of the town's historical properties. Mr. Humphreys commented that he felt the report did not contain sufficient amounts of options for use for each of the properties. Mayor Morgan indicated that he felt the report was a good starting point for discussion for the Council to begin to identify uses for the properties. Discussion ensued about the details of the report and Mr. Jackson thanked the Council for their feedback and comments.
4. Mr. Kelly commented on a meeting he had attended with Council member Berry and several members of a commercial development team who wanted to discuss the possibility of locating a conference hotel in Abingdon. Mr. Kelly noted that the town would likely be asked to guarantee a certain number of hotel rooms in addition to a possible financial commitment, and/or land acquisition. Mr. Kelly commented that the developer may want to proceed with a pro forma study at their own cost at a future time.
5. Mr. Kelly reported that he had been working with Attorney Webster Day, Bond Counsel on the development of a bond package for the town that would total \$2.6M and would include the \$1M obligation to K-VA-T, capital improvement projects and maintenance and repairs for several town buildings. Mr. Berry inquired about taking a tour of the new Food City headquarters building and Mr. Kelly suggested they consider doing the tour at the mid-June work session meeting.
6. Mr. Kelly asked Council members to review their calendars to select a date for a financial retreat to be facilitated by David Rose of Davenport and Associates. The date agreed by the Council members and town staff was Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup> and will be held at the Jubilee House in Abingdon.
7. Mr. Kelly reported that he had received a written offer to purchase a .3 acre tract of property owned by the town and inquired if the Council had an interest in looking into the matter. Council members commented that they would like to consider it at a later time.
8. Mr. Kelly reported on a meeting he had with Robbie Cornett at the Washington County Service Authority relative to development possibilities at Exit 14.
9. Mr. Berry commented that his family had visited a park in Tennessee that was ADA compliant and noted that would be a great asset for the town.

Mayor Morgan declared the meeting adjourned.

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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk