TOWN OF ABINGDON REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY, MAY 6, 2013 – 7:30 P.M. COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, May 6, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council chambers of the Municipal Building.

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present: Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Mr. Jason N. Berry

Mr. Richard E. Humphreys Mr. Robert M. Howard

Absent: Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor

Administrative/Town Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager

Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Mgr./Dir. Of Planning

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney

Jim Smith, Dir. Of Wastewater Operations/Town Eng.

Jim Cowart, Dir. of Econ. Dev/Grants Writer John Dew, Dir. Public Services/Construction

Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism

Kevin Worley, Dir. of Parks & Recreation

Visitors: Camille Finney, Tariq Zaidi, Mary Begley, Susan

Howard, Daveena Sexton, Ellen Myatt, Rich Macbeth,

Sammy Bauserman, Joey Bauserman and others

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#### **B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Sammy Bauserman and Joey Bauserman from Troop 208.

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C. SPECIAL EMPLOYEE PRESENTATION

- Mr. Kelly, Town Manager presented Jim Cowart, Director of Economic Development with his five (5) year service award and pin and thanked him for his service to the town.
- Mr. Kelly, Town Manager presented Camille Finney, Sergeant with the Abingdon Police Department with her fifteen (15) year service award and pin and thanked her for her years of service to the town.
- Mr. Kelly recognized and commended Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk on her recent certification as a Master Municipal Clerk by the International Institute of Municipal Clerk's Association and also upon her election as First Vice President of the Virginia Municipal Clerk's Association.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 1, 2013 Work Session Meeting
- April 1, 2013 Regular Meeting
- April 17, 2013 Work Session Meeting

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council members approved the minutes of the minutes of the April 1, 2013 Work Session meeting, the April 1, 2013 Regular Meeting and the April 17, 2013 Work Session meeting minutes as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard Aye
Mr. Humphreys Aye
Mr. Berry Aye
Mayor Morgan Aye

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#### E. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES -

1. Public Hearing – First Reading – An Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to Repeal, Amend, and Reenact Part II, Chapter 14, Buildings and Building Regulations, Article I, §14-1 Through §14-57 of the Code of Ordinances of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia.

Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney reported that the matter before Council for public hearing was regarding what is currently referred to as the Maintenance Code for the town. Ms. Icenhour noted that Officer McGlothlin has attended training classes in Code Enforcement and they had worked together to bring the town's Ordinance into compliance with the state code. Ms. Icenhour recommended that Council adopt the Ordinance on first reading.

Mayor Morgan declared the public hearing open.

Patricia Haley of 231 Henderson Court, Abingdon addressed the Council and commented that she had lived at her current address for 3 and ½ years and the adjacent property to her duplex that fronts Walden Road had been an eyesore in the neighborhood for some time and she hoped that the passage of this Ordinance would serve as a long term solution toward having the property owners clean up the property and bring the structure into compliance with code.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Morgan declared the public hearing closed.

Mayor Morgan noted that the property commented on earlier was on the town's list for blight and confirmed the town's intent to see if brought into compliance.

Mr. Humphreys commented that he would like to see the proposed Ordinance passed on the second reading to allow time for other property owners to review and comment during the public hearing process. Mr. Kelly noted that Council was not required to take action on the matter and it would be placed on the June agenda for second reading and adoption.

No action was taken on this matter.

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2. Public Hearing – First Reading – An Ordinance of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Proposing to Sell and Grant a Franchise for an Electric Power Transmission and Distribution System in the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and Inviting Bids Therefore.

Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney reported on the matter before Council relative to the renewal of the franchise agreement with Appalachian Power Company. Ms. Icenhour summarized the agreement and noted that it was a covenant between the town and utility service that included maintenance and service provisions.

Mayor Morgan declared the public hearing open.

Rich Macbeth of 1139 Panorama Drive, Abingdon inquired about the change in rates and the possibilities of adding gas lines to the Southview neighborhood. Mr. Macbeth commented that he would like to see competition between utility providers.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Morgan closed the public hearing.

Mary Begley, Manager for External Affairs for Appalachian Power, commented on the Issue of rate increases APCO was requesting and noted that the request was due to the increase in cost of fuel. Ms. Begley commented on the rate increase percentages over the last several years, the approval process by the State Corporation Commission, and a ruling they are expecting on an ongoing asset transfer case.

Mr. Berry inquired about the confusion he felt regarding the share agreement that serves as a model for rate increases as well as the business plan review process by APCO. Ms. Begley noted the concerns and indicated that she hoped there would be a rate stabilization and rate efficiency program in place in the near future.

Mr. Howard inquired about the possible location of a network operation center in Abingdon. Ms. Begley responded that the economic development section of APCO was in the process of reviewing additional sites in Southwest Virginia. Mayor Morgan inquired about the service agreement for street light maintenance in town.

Mr. Kelly commented that he and several staff members had visited the APCO offices located in Glade Spring and noted the measures that had been taken by the company to improve maintenance of poles and lines in the area as well as the handling of storm outages when they occur. Mayor Morgan noted his desire to see outages in the rural areas of Southwest Virginia be responded more rapidly than in years past.

Mr. Kelly recommended that Council approve the Ordinance relative to the renewal of the Franchise Agreement on the first reading, dispensing with the second reading.

On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council adopted the Ordinance Proposing to Sell and Grant a Franchise for an Electric Power Transmission and Distribution System in the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and Inviting Bids Therefore on first reading, thereby dispensing with the second reading, and further requested that the Town Manager send a letter to the State Corporation Commission opposing Appalachian Power Company's most recent rate increase request.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard Aye
Mr. Humphreys Aye
Mr. Berry Aye
Mayor Morgan Aye

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3. 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 Appropriations 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, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014.

Greg Kelly, Town Manager provided the Council with a summary of the process for the preparation of the FY 2013/2014 budget. Mr. Kelly noted that the total proposed budget this year was in excess of \$17M and further noted that tax rates for the town would remain the same as well as all other rates and fees. Mr. Kelly commented that the total amount of the General Fund equals \$17,822,450 and the total amount of the Sewer Fund equals \$3,196,587.

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

On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved the Ordinance Proposing a Budget for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and to Make Appropriations 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, 2013 and ending June 30, 2014 on first reading, with second reading to follow at the June 3, 2013 regular meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard Aye
Mr. Humphreys Aye
Mr. Berry Aye
Mayor Morgan Aye

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F. SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES

1. Second Reading – An Ordinance Proposing a Real Property Tax Revenue Increase for the FY 2013/2014 as a result of reassessments.

Greg Kelly, Town Manager commented that the item before Council for consideration was a second reading of an Ordinance of a proposed real property tax increase for the FY 2013/2014. Mr. Kelly clarified that the Ordinance was necessary to establish that the recent real property reassessments exceeded last year's total assessed value of real

property by 4.68%. Mr. Kelly indicated that the real property tax rate of \$.28 cents per \$100 remained unchanged but the increase in assessment amounts would result in an increase of tax revenue over the 2012 amount. In addition, Mr. Kelly noted that the Ordinance was prepared and advertised in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §58.1-3321, et seq.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council adopted the Ordinance Proposing a Real Property Tax Revenue Increase for the FY 2013/2014 as a result of reassessment.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard Aye
Mr. Humphreys Aye
Mr. Berry Aye
Mayor Morgan Aye

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#### G. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS

1. Consideration of bids for the replacement of the Virginia Creeper Trail, Trestle #7.

John B. Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction reported that he had received bids for the construction of the replacement of Virginia Creeper Trail Trestle #7 that was destroyed during the tornado event of April 2011. Mr. Dew noted that he had received a total of five (5) bids and that Inland Construction, Inc was the low bidder with a price of \$1,108,000. Mr. Dew noted that this price was below the estimated costs and recommended that Inland Construction, Inc be awarded the bid.

Mr. Dew commented that the new trestle is not designed to carry a railroad train but the wooden/steel construction would be an acceptable design alternative for the trestle replacement.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council awarded the bid for the replacement of Virginia Creeper Trail Trestle #7 to Inland Construction, Inc. at a price of \$1,108,000.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard Aye
Mr. Humphreys Aye
Mr. Berry Aye

## Mayor Morgan Aye

Mr. Humphreys commented that the Smith Brothers, whose farmland the trestle resides on, have been very good partners during the design process for the replacement of the trestle.

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2. Consideration of bids for the Country Club Estates Drainage Improvement Project.

John B. Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction reported that he had received bids for the Country Club Estates Drainage Improvement project. Mr. Dew noted that he received a total of three (3) bids and the low bidder was Boring Contractors, Inc with a total price of \$226,165. Mr. Dew noted that the costs for the movement of underground utilities had not been finalized and recommended that Council approve the base bid by Boring Contractors of \$226,165 with an additional amount added on of \$7,875 for a total award of \$234,040.

On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council awarded the bid for the Country Club Estates Drainage Improvement Project to Boring Contractors, Inc. for the base bid amount of \$226,165 with an additional amount added on of \$7,875 for a total award of \$234,040.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard Aye
Mr. Humphreys Aye
Mr. Berry Aye
Mayor Morgan Aye

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## 3. Consideration of bids for asphalt resurfacing work throughout the Town for the 2012/2013 fiscal year.

John B. Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction reported that he had received bids for the 2012/2013 fiscal year asphalt resurfacing work. Mr. Dew noted that he only received one bid from W-L Construction and Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$204,010 which was over the budgeted amount. Mr. Dew commented that the overage amount could be taken from another related line and recommended that the bid be awarded to the sole bidder.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council awarded the bid for the asphalt resurfacing work throughout the Town for the 2012/2013

fiscal year in the amount of \$204,010 with the understanding that the amount over the budgeted figure would be taken from another related line item.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard Aye
Mr. Humphreys Aye
Mr. Berry Aye
Mayor Morgan Aye

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4. Consideration of bids for the boiler/heat exchanger refurbishment for the Wolf Creek Water Reclamation Facility.

Jim Smith, Town Engineer reported that he had received bids for the boiler/heat exchanger refurbishment for the Wolf Creek Water Reclamation Facility. Mr. Smith indicated that he had received two (2) bids for the lowest bid amount was \$173,700 which was \$43,700 above the estimated costs. Mr. Smith recommended that Council consider authorizing the Town Manager to enter into negotiations with the lowest bidder, T & B Contractors, Inc. to determine if the costs can be lowered to \$145,000 or less. Mr. Smith noted that if the price cannot be negotiated down, the consultant on the project recommended that the Town reject all the bids and investigates hiring three (3) sub-contractors to perform the refurbishment work.

On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council authorized the Town Manager to enter into negotiations with the lowest bidder, T & B Contractors, Inc. to reduce the bid amount and further noted that Mr. Kelly would not need to re-submit the bid for approval by Council if a successful negotiation was achieved.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard Aye
Mr. Humphreys Aye
Mr. Berry Aye
Mayor Morgan Aye

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#### H. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Consideration of Assignment Agreement to transfer from "King College, Inc." to "King School of Medicine, Inc." the rights and responsibilities pursuant to the Agreement By and Between the Town of Abingdon, Virginia, The County of

Washington, Virginia and King College, Inc. regarding economic incentives for a Medical School to be established by King College in the Town of Abingdon.

Tariq Zaidi, Interim President & Chief Operating Officer provided the Council with an update on the progress of the King School of Medicine project and noted that the collaboration with the town of Abingdon, Washington County, East Tennessee State University and the Tobacco Commission. Mr. Howard inquired if a name change had been considered by the board since King College was no longer involved in the project. Mr. Humphreys inquired if King College had received any money from the beginning of the project and Mr. Zaidi indicated that the College had received an amount of reimbursement for expenses of \$400,000 but had not received any monetary benefit from the project. Mr. Zaidi recommended that the Council consider approving the changes to the Agreement as they relate to the name on the current agreement between the Town and County.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council approved the changes in the Agreement to transfer from "King College, Inc." to "King School of Medicine, Inc." the rights and responsibilities pursuant to the Agreement By and Between the Town of Abingdon, Virginia, The County of Washington, Virginia and King College, Inc. regarding economic incentives for a Medical School to be established by King College in the Town of Abingdon.

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

| Mr. Howard    | Aye |
|---------------|-----|
| Mr. Humphreys | Aye |
| Mr. Berry     | Aye |
| Mayor Morgan  | Aye |

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2. Introduction of Michael Armbrister, Director of Mount Rogers Planning District Commission.

Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager introduced Michael Armbrister who was recently appointed as the Director of the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission. Mr. Armbrister provided information on the role of the MRPDC in the area and the current projects and opportunities they were involved in. Mr. Armbrister noted that the town of Abingdon is a charter member of the MRPDC and had worked extensively with the town on comprehensive plan updates.

No action was taken by Council on this matter.

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3. Consideration of amendment to the Town's Small Purchase Policy.

Greg Kelly, Town Manager reported to Council that a change was necessary in the current small purchase policy for the town. Mr. Kelly recommended that Council members consider raising the current amount of small purchase from \$35,000 to \$50,000 which is in compliance with the Virginia State Code.

On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council authorized the Town Manager to increase the dollar amount on small purchases from \$35,000 to \$50,000 which is in compliance with the Virginia State Code.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard Aye
Mr. Humphreys Aye
Mr. Berry Aye
Mayor Morgan Aye

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4. Consideration of additional appropriation to the Barter Theatre for the final disposition of the Barter/Municipal Building expansion project.

Greg Kelly, Town Manager reported that he had negotiated an agreement with the Barter Theatre for a final payment of \$50,000 for the final disposition of the Barter Theatre/Municipal Building expansion project. Mr. Kelly noted that in exchange for the additional funding the town was providing, the town would receive use of the Barter Theatre in the month of January for the next several years as well as all of the net proceeds from the January Jams concert series until such time as the town has received an amount of \$50,000.

On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council authorized an additional appropriation to the Barter Theater in the amount of \$50,000 for the final disposition of the Barter/Municipal Building expansion project.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard Aye Mr. Humphreys Aye Mr. Berry Aye Mayor Morgan Ave

5. Consideration of additional appropriation for the Veterans Memorial Park Board

Greg Kelly, Town Manager commented that Council had discussed an additional appropriation to the Veterans Memorial Park Board during the budget process and recommended that Council make a formal appropriation regarding the matter.

On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council appropriated the amount of \$15,000 to the Veterans Memorial Park Board to be taken from Council contingency.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard Aye
Mr. Humphreys Aye
Mr. Berry Aye
Mayor Morgan Aye

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#### I. PASSAGE OF RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Declaring the Month of May 2013 as Older Americans Month.

Daveena Sexton, Director, Abingdon Senior Center read the following Resolution and asked Council to approve it as presented:

## A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA DECLARING THE MONTH OF MAY 2013 AS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH

**WHEREAS,** the TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA includes 2,270 citizens ages 60 and older; and

**WHEREAS**, the TOWN OF ABINGDON is committed to valuing all individuals and recognizing their ongoing life achievements; and

**WHEREAS**, the older adults in the TOWN OF ABINGDON play an important role by continuing to contribute experience, knowledge, wisdom, and accomplishments; and

**WHEREAS,** our older adults are active community members involved in volunteering, mentorship, arts and culture, and civic engagement; and

**WHEREAS,** recognizing the successes of community elders encourages their ongoing participation and further accomplishments; and

**WHEREAS,** our community can provide opportunities to allow older citizens to continue to flourish by:

- Emphasizing the importance of elders and their leadership by publicly recognizing their continued achievements
- Presenting opportunities for older Americans to share their wisdom, experience, and skills
- Recognizing older adults as a valuable asset in strengthening American communities

**NOW THEREFORE**, **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia that May, 2013 is declared Older Americans Month. We, the Council, urge every citizen to take time this month to recognize older adults and the people who serve and support them as powerful and vital citizens who greatly contribute to their community.

On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved the Resolution declaring the month of May, 2013 as Older Americans Month.

The roll call vote was as follows:

| Mr. Howard    | Aye |
|---------------|-----|
| Mr. Humphreys | Aye |
| Mr. Berry     | Aye |
| Mayor Morgan  | Aye |

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2. A Resolution of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Declaring May, 2013 as Mental Health Month and May 9th, 2013 as National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day in the Town of Abingdon.

Ellen Myatt with Highlands Community Services provided Council with a history of the declaration of Mental Health Month and National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. Ms. Myatt invited all the Council members to attend an event at their Stepping Stones location on Russell Road on May 9th in recognition of Mental Health Month.

Mayor Morgan read the following Resolution into the record:

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA DECLARING MAY, 2013 AS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH AND MAY 9TH, 2013 AS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS DAY IN THE TOWN OF ABINGDON

WHEREAS, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, all Americans experience times of difficulty and stress in their lives; and

WHEREAS, prevention is an effective way to reduce the burden of mental health conditions; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong body of research that supports specific tools that all Americans can use to better handle challenges, and protect their health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, mental health conditions are real and prevalent in our nation; and

WHEREAS, with effective treatment, those individuals with mental health conditions can recover and lead full, productive lives; and

WHEREAS, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization and citizen shares the burden of mental health problems and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia declares that May 2013 as Mental Health Month and May 9, 2013 as National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day in Abingdon, VA. As the Mayor of Abingdon, I also call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses and schools in Abingdon to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental health conditions.

On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved the Resolution declaring May, 2013 as Mental Health Month and May 9, 2013 as National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day in Abingdon.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mr. Berry	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

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#### J. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### 1. Update on Country Club Stormwater Management Project

Mr. Dew noted that this matter had been discussed earlier in the meeting under Agenda Item G2.

## 2. Update on the Whites Mill Road/Court/Hill Drive project

Mr. Dew reported that he continued to meet with property owners on easements required for the project.

## 3. Update on the replacement of Trestle #7 on the Virginia Creeper Trail

Mr. Dew commented that this matter had been discussed earlier in the meeting under Agenda item G1.

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4. Update on the feasibility study for the Conference Center Hotel

Greg Kelly, Town Manager, commented that the Council had received a report from John Legard regarding this matter earlier during the Work Session meeting.

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#### 5. Update on the Urban Pathways project

Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager, reported that he was in the process of development the management team that would work on the project which would be made up of Council members, town staff and residents.

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6. Update on the West End Interceptor Project

Jim Smith, Town Engineer, commented that he anticipated the paving of Colonial Road to take place during the month of May.

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#### K. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

- Ms. Icenhour, Town Attorney introduced her student, Ashley Jenkins Childress, from her legal class at Virginia Highlands Community College
- Mayor Morgan commented that Mr. Kelly had updated the Council on a piece of property located on Colonial Road and near The Muster Grounds site that was

currently for sale and that could serve as additional parking for Muster Grounds events as well as the location of the Breckenridge Cabin.

On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council authorized Greg Kelly, Town Manager to negotiate a price for possible purchase for the property located on Colonial Road and near the Muster Grounds site subject to a public hearing at an upcoming regular Council meeting.

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

| Mr. Howard    | Aye |
|---------------|-----|
| Mr. Humphreys | Aye |
| Mr. Berry     | Aye |
| Mrs. Lowe     | Aye |
| Mayor Morgan  | Aye |

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L. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS

• Planning Commission

➤ Appointment of member to the Planning Commission to fill the expired term of Dr. Ramsey White who is not eligible for reappointment.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Berry, the Council asked that the matter of the appointment to fill an expired term on the Planning Commission be tabled until the June 3rd Regular Meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mr. Berry	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

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| M. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS – None.            |                         |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
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| Mayor Morgan declared the meeting adjourned. |                         |
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|                                              | Edward B. Morgan, Mayor |
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| Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk              |                         |