

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, May 6, 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
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
Jim Smith, Town Engineer
John Dew, Dir. of Construction/Public Services
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of IT Department
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism

Visitors: Rich Macbeth, Sammy Bauserman, Joey Bauserman, John Legard, Ashley Cooper

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan welcomed everyone and noted for the record that Vice Mayor Lowe was absent from the meeting as she was attending classes in Atlanta, Georgia in preparation for the CPA exam. Mayor Morgan also noted that 2 members from Scout Troop 208 were in attendance at the meeting to observe local government as part of earning a merit badge.
2. Ashley Cooper with Cooper Planning in Charlottesville, Virginia provided the Council with a power point presentation regarding her development of the Abingdon Historic Properties Master Plan. Ms. Cooper reported that she focused on six (6) historic properties owned by the town that included the Hassinger House, the Fields-Penn House, the Summers Law Office, the Findlay House, the house at the Muster Ground site known as Retirement, and Fairview. Ms. Cooper reported on the significance of each property, the goals and considerations for each property and a recommendation as to uses that best meet the needs

for the property and the town. Mayor Morgan thanked Ms. Cooper for her work on the project and noted that this report will be a vital tool as the town considers its comprehensive plan updates and the future of each of the properties.

3. John Legard, Chairman of the Economic Development Authority provided Council with a report on the Hotel Feasibility Study recently prepared by Young Strategies. Mr. Legard reported on the results of the study relative to the location of a hotel, the funding strategies for a hotel project, the surveys and competitive analysis that were completed for the development of the study, and the conclusions relative to overall need of such a facility in Abingdon. Mr. Legard noted that the bottom line of the study did not indicate a significant level of need or availability of funding support required for a conference hotel project at this time in Abingdon. Mr. Legard noted that the report indicated that Abingdon should grow organically and not continue to pursue this project further at this time. Kevin Costello commented that he felt the research results spoke for themselves. Mr. Humphreys commented that he felt the report was lacking in the impact of retail on a conference hotel and noted that he hoped that the Council would play a role in determining the location of a hotel if the project ever came to be a reality. Mr. Humphreys recommended consideration of a partnership with the Higher Ed Center. Mr. Legard asked the Council to consider providing the result of the hotel feasibility study to the group that is currently preparing the town's sports complex study.
4. Mr. Jackson, Assistant Town Manager provided an update on the grant process currently underway for a multi use development project in the town. Mr. Jackson reviewed the dates for the public forums that will be held, the formulation of a development team that will review the survey results, and the deadlines for submittals of documentation. Council members considered the citizens and town staff who could serve on the development team and noted that it would include John Legard, John Mahaffey, Susan Howard, Garrett Jackson, Greg Kelly, Mayor Morgan, Janet Woolwine, and a member of the staff at Mount Rogers Planning District Commission.
5. Mayor Morgan asked the Council members to consider the creation of a charitable foundation for the determination and disposition of non-governmental appropriations. Mayor Morgan outlined his vision for such a foundation and noted that he felt there were residents who have an interest in leaving bequests to local organizations. Mr. Humphreys commented on the process that the Over Mountain Victory Trail Association uses to handle those types of bequests. Mr. Berry commented that he felt it was a good concept but noted his reservations about the process of determination of appropriation amounts and the organizations who would receive bequests. Mr. Howard indicated he thought the concept was good but also noted his reservations relative to the determination of the appropriations and noted that he felt it was Council's duty to make those decisions. Mr. Kelly noted that a foundation would require participants willing to develop the process and work through the documentation required to set up a foundation. Mr. Berry asked Mr. Kelly if he would reach out to his fellow VLGMA members to see if other localities have a model for this type of foundation.
6. At this time, On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, **the Council went into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for the consideration and discussion of the acquisition and/or disposition of publicly held property.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council reconvened in regular session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

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**The Town Clerk, Cecile Rosenbaum, read the following certification to be adopted by the Council members:**

*WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia has convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and*

*WHEREAS, Sec. 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a certification by the Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; and*

*NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from an open meeting requirement by Virginia law were discussed in closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Town Council.*

**The certification was as follows:**

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>I so certify</b> |

**Mr. Berry**  
**Mayor Morgan**

**I so certify**  
**I so certify**

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7. Mayor Morgan inquired about the delay in reporting for meals tax and the recent large collection of meals tax by the Legal Department.

Mayor Morgan declared a 5 minute recess for Council and Town staff to reconvene in the Council Chambers for the regular 7:30 meeting.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk