

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.  
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, October 7, 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. Richard E. Humphreys  
Mr. Robert M. Howard

Administrative Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager  
Garrett Jackson, Asst. Town Manager/Dir. of Planning  
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney  
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. of Finance  
Jim Smith, Town Engineer  
John Dew, Dir. of Construction/Public Services  
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism  
C.J. McGlothlin, Code Enforcement Officer

Visitors:

Jayne Duehring, Rich Macbeth

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. John Dew, Director of Public Services/Construction reported on items that were no longer functional and had been declared surplus. Mr. Dew indicated the items would be placed online for sale. No action was required by Council on this matter.
2. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager reported that it was timely for the Council to renew their concerns relative to the safety of the Exit 17 I81 bridge and surrounding area. Mr. Kelly recommended the Council consider a Resolution at the November 4<sup>th</sup> Council meeting regarding the improvements that need to take place at the Exit 17 interchange and reduce the amount of traffic flow in the area and provide it to the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation. Mr. Dew noted that there is a VDOT public hearing scheduled in Bristol for November 19<sup>th</sup> and encouraged all the Council members to attend and vocalize their concerns. Mr. Kelly commented that it would be helpful if the Heartwood administration and the local business owners participated as well to support the Council's efforts in lobbying VDOT to proceed with plans for improvement of the Exit 17 interchange. Mr. Kelly noted that he would prepare the Resolution for the consideration on the regular November agenda.

3. Mr. Dew commented that he had received a request from town resident Walter Murray regarding an unopened right of way at 269 King Street. Mr. Dew noted that Mr. Murray would like to use the right of way for an entrance to his property that create a parking spot for a vehicle as the only parking is on the narrow street in front of the residence. Mrs. Lowe noted her concerns relative to the water runoff to the neighboring properties below the street as well suggested that a traffic study may need to be done. Mr. Kelly commented that the Council's policy has been not to grant these types of requests as the unopened rights of ways in town could become part of the urban path footprint. Mr. Dew recommended that Council consider granting this particular request with the exception that it be used for public use and access when other parking options are not available such as off street parking and with the restriction that the right of way cannot be blocked at any time. Mr. Smith, Town Engineer inquired if the Town had confirmed its ownership of the right of way in question.
4. C.J. McGlothlin, Code Enforcement Officer provided Council with an update of the blighted properties in town that he had identified and was working with owners to correct. To date, Officer McGlothlin has site 120 properties for violations.
5. Mr. Kelly inquired if Council members could meet on October 30<sup>th</sup> for the purpose of touring the facilities of Barter Theatre. Council members agreed they would meet on the 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 for the tour.
6. Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism reported on the town's new website and video commercial which has received 6,000 views on YouTube. Mr. Humphreys inquired if the video commercial could be played during Matters Not on the Agenda of the regular meeting.
7. **On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, Council members went into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended for the purpose of discussion of matters related to appointed officials of the Abingdon Fire Department.**

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

<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Humphreys</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Lowe</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Morgan</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**The motion carried.**

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council reconvened in regular session.**

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

<b>Mr. Howard</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Humphreys</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Lowe</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Morgan</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**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> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>  | <b>I so certify</b> |

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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