

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2014 – 5:30 P.M.
ARTHUR CAMPBELL MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Arthur Campbell 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
Mrs. Jayne A. Duehring

Administrative Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk/Int.Asst. Town Manager
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney
John Dew, Director Public Services/Construction
Chuck Banner, Dir. of Finance
Matthew Johnson, Dir. of Planning

Visitors:

Rich Macbeth, Susan Howard, Quinn Craughwell, Steven Still, Jerry Camper and others

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. John Dew, Director of Public Services/Construction introduced Steven Still who provided an update on the Urban Path project. Mr. Humphreys inquired about bicyclist on the path and the tie in of the path with Virginia Highlands Community College. Mr. Still reviewed the footprint for the path and noted a “pinch point” near the current Wolf Hills Brewery location. Quinn Craughwell, landscape architect, updated the Council on the proposed landscape plans for the path and noted several additions of resting stations, markers, trash receptacles and signage. Mr. Still noted that the project could be completed in phases to coincide with budget restrictions and suggested doing the west end from Muster Grounds to Depot Square first, second phase would be the east end and the third phase would be the trailhead improvements with the bid process starting in April/May. Mr. Still indicated that the area of Sutton Street to Preston Street remained an area of concern but expected to work through the issues in the coming months. Mayor Morgan thanked everyone for their work and noted that Council was looking forward to the completion of the project.

2. At this time Mr. Dew asked if he could address the lighting of town streets issue as raised by several Council members in the weeks prior to the meeting. Mr. Dew commented on the installation of LED lighting and noted the high cost of replacement for LED. Mrs. Duehring inquired about the spacing of the street lights and noted that areas around Barter and Courthouse hill are not adequately lit. Council asked that Mr. Dew provide an update on the lighting and crosswalk issues at the January meeting.
3. Mr. Kelly commented on the status of the Allied Center for Rural Health and the updates needed for the Memorandum of Understanding with the town and the Center. Ms. Icenhour, Town Attorney provided Council with a copy of the current agreement and noted that it was expected to be an agenda item for consideration at the January meeting.
4. Mr. Kelly reported on his recent meeting with Marcy Miller, Director of William King Museum and several of her board members. Mr. Kelly noted that the group plans to pursue establishing studio space in the vacant county building located adjacent to the museum. Mr. Kelly inquired if Council members could attend the ribbon cutting for the new Academy Drive entrance on Saturday, December 6th.
5. Ms. Rosenbaum, Assistant Town Manager reported on the plans for the Council retreat planned for the weekend of February 20 – 22, 2015. Mayor Morgan asked that all members place the date on their 2015 calendars.
6. Ms. Rosenbaum, Clerk inquired if Council wished to hold a mid-month December meeting and it was decided to dispense with that meeting due to the holidays.
7. Jerry Camper owner of Virginia Creeper Trail Bike Shop inquired about a proposal for a bicycle tax in town.

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