

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2015 – 5:30 P.M.
ARTHUR CAMPBELL MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, February 2, 2015 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
John Dew, Director Public Services/Construction
Chuck Banner, Dir. of Finance
Matthew Johnson, Dir. of Planning
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism
Jon Phelps, IT Dept.

Visitors:

Rich Macbeth

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Ms. Rosenbaum, Assistant Town Manager reported on the upcoming Council Retreat scheduled for the weekend of February 20th through 22nd and commented that it would be held in Asheville, North Carolina. Discussion ensued about the costs associated with the retreat and Mr. Kelly noted that it would be necessary for Council to appropriate funding from their contingency during the regular meeting. Ms. Rosenbaum indicated that the cost for the facilitator was \$5,000 as reported in two (2) prior memos to Council detailing the costs for the retreat. Mayor Morgan noted that he was scheduled for knee surgery but planned to attend. Mr. Humphreys noted that he may have an obligation that could prevent him from attending but he was working to find a substitute to attend a meeting on his behalf.
2. Mr. Kelly reported that the budget process had begun for staff and noted that their departmental budget requests were due by February 20th. Mr. Kelly commented that Mr. Banner, Director of Finance was working on revenue projections and asked Council to consider planning four (4) dates for budget work sessions. Discussion ensued about

- scheduling and Council agreed to meet at 5:30 each Wednesday in March, the 4th, 11th, 18, and 25th. Mrs. Lowe noted that she was unable to attend three (3) of the proposed budget work session meetings but asked staff to locate an ipad so she can participate via Facetime.
3. Mr. Kelly provided an update on the taxi cab matter that had been discussed at the January work session meeting. Mr. Kelly noted that the matter of taxis was before the Virginia General Assembly and Council would need to wait till a decision on the legislation was made before consideration of amending the town's current Ordinance.
 4. Mr. Dew reported on the traffic lighting concerns that had been discussed at the January work session meeting. Mr. Dew provided a detailed map with lighting identification in town and Council thanked him for the graphic. Mr. Dew also provided accident history reports and noted that they indicated no need for change as they appeared to be adequate at present time. Discussion ensued about additional lighting in the areas of Barter Theatre, Courthouse Hill and Frost Funeral Home and Mr. Dew agreed to look more closely at lighting improvements in those areas.
 5. Mr. Dew provided an update on the area near Brown Dental Office and noted the accident history report over the last five (5) years. Mr. Dew commented that he felt the roadway was appropriately striped and was set up for the safest traffic maneuvers given the volume of traffic in that area. Mr. Humphreys inquired about requirements for dedicated turn lanes and Mrs. Lowe commented on VDOT's redistricting areas to more fairly distribute funding throughout the Commonwealth for improvement projects.
 6. Mr. Humphreys inquired about the placement of mailboxes on Whites Mill Road.
 7. Mr. Kelly reported that the President of Virginia Highlands Community College had called the office and indicated he would attend the Regular meeting at 7:30 to speak to Council. Mr. Kelly also reported that he had been contacted by management at Glenrochie Country Club about the town purchasing the Snack Shack adjacent to the Creeper Trail.
 8. At this time, **On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, the Council went into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel regarding actual or probable litigation.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Nay
Mrs. Duehring	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mayor Morgan	Aye

The motion carried.

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

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Abstain
Mrs. Duehring	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye
Mayor 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>Abstain</b>      |
| <b>Mrs. Duehring</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.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk