

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

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, January 5, 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
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney
John Dew, Director Public Services/Construction
Chuck Banner, Dir. of Finance
Matthew Johnson, Dir. of Planning
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism
John McCormick, Fire Chief
CJ McGlothlin, Asst. Fire Chief

Visitors:

Rich Macbeth, Susan Howard, Mike Owens

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Kevin Costello, Director of Tourism reported that a recent meeting of the Tourism Advisory Committee involved discussion about the lack of a taxi service in town. Mr. Costello noted that he had spoken with the Town Attorney about the matter and the main issue appeared to be the limited application time allowed by the current ordinance in which interested persons could file an application to start a taxi service in town. Mrs. Icenhour noted that the current ordinance only allowed a two (2) week time frame during a year to apply. Discussion ensued relative to background investigations for applicants and terms and conditions an applicant must meet in order to establish this type of service. Council members asked the Town Attorney to review the present ordinance relative to taxi service and suggest possible amendments and/or modification at the February Work Session meeting.

2. Mr. Costello reported on the January Jams events coming up at Barter Theatre. Ms. Duehring inquired about the process for introductions of the bands and Mr. Costello noted that Ms. Cardinale, Special Events Coordinator would handle the introductions.
3. Mr. Costello commented that a Bed and Breakfast conference group recently visited Abingdon.
4. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager reported on the status of the memorandum of agreement for the Alliance for Rural Health. Mr. Kelly noted that he had consulted with Alliance representatives Tariq Zaidi and Jeff Mitchell and they indicated they would re-visit the issue with the town after the upcoming Tobacco Commission meeting. Mr. Kelly reported on the dimensions of the proposed building site in Abingdon and the plan to eliminate the original plan for cadaver labs. Mr. Kelly also discussed a proposed organ/tissue facility that could tie in with the Alliance site.
5. Mr. Dew, Director of Public Services/Construction reported on several vehicles he recommended be deemed surplus because of age, mileage and increasing repair costs. Mr. Kelly asked that Council consider this matter during the regular meeting under Matters Not on the Agenda and if approved, would allow Mr. Dew to put the vehicles out for sealed bid.
6. Mr. Dew provided an update on the street lighting levels of several key areas in town. Mr. Dew noted that staff from Public Works had checked lenses in these areas and did not find any degradation in the lenses. Mr. Humphreys inquired about the minimum suggested lumens per square foot for a town our size. Mr. Dew commented that he would have staff make a detailed inventory of crosswalks and lighting and compare those to the standards. Mr. Dew also noted his concern for bright streetlights that may impact residents in private homes.
7. Mr. Dew reported on the traffic issues in and around the Brown Dental Office entrance. Mr. Dew noted that he observed five (5) other areas in town that are very similar in pattern of turn lanes. Mr. Dew was asked to provide an update at the February meeting relative to the turning issues associated with that particular entrance.
8. Mayor Morgan inquired about status of pedestrian projects including Academy Drive and Whites Mill Road/Court/Oakhill. Discussion ensued about the area on Hill Drive and road width issues.
9. Mr. Humphreys inquired about issue of traffic calming in the West Main Street area. Mr. Dew noted that the standards as provided by VDOT don't indicate a need for crosswalks. Mr. Kelly suggested having the railroad fence the area on either side of the tracks as an option. Ms. Lowe inquired about adding signage in the area to control foot traffic.
10. Ms. Duehring inquired about the status of the Arthur Campbell Award ordinance. Ms. Rosenbaum indicated she hoped to have an amendment prepared for the committee to review in the next few weeks.
11. Mr. Humphreys reported on the matters that had recently been considered by the Planning Commission.
12. Mr. Humphreys inquired about the town's response to the Veterans organization plan to erect a building on the Veterans Park property. Mayor Morgan reported he was interested in the project.

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