

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, January 6, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Municipal Building.

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present: Mrs. Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor
Mr. Richard E. Humphreys
Mr. Robert M. Howard
Mrs. Jayne A. Duehring

Absent: Mayor Edward B. Morgan

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney
Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. of Finance
Jim Smith, Town Engineer
John Dew, Dir. of Construction/Public Services
Floyd Bailey, Dir. Of IT Services
Kevin Worley, Dir. Of Parks and Recreation

Visitors: Rich Macbeth

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mr. Kelly reported that he had been requested to set up a date for a joint meeting with Council, the Washington County Board of Supervisors and Washington County Service Authority relative to the regional stormwater management project. Due to the complications of finding dates that work for all members of all three organizations, Council members expressed their interest in appointing 2 members and staff from each organization to attend the meeting. Mr. Kelly indicated that he would pass that recommendation along to Mr. Berry, County Administrator and Robbie Cornett with the Washington County Service Authority and report back at the February work session meeting.
2. Ms. Rosenbaum inquired if the Council wished to reserve a full table for the upcoming annual Washington County Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Council indicated they wish to reserve a table so that Council and town staff could attend the event.

3. Ms. Rosenbaum inquired if all the Council members planned to attend the VML Legislative Day event in Richmond February 5th through 7th. All five (5) Council members indicated they planned to attend but would notify the Clerk if a scheduling conflict arose.
4. Mr. Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction reported on the Country Club Stormwater management project and noted that some issues had been voiced by residents located near the construction site. Mr. Dew noted that he planned to address those concerns as soon as the winter weather had passed.
5. Mr. Dew reported on the Whites Mill/Court/Oakhill sidewalk project and reported that he had made progress with Appalachian Power relative to the relocation of underground utilities.
6. Mr. Dew reported that the Trestle #7 replacement project continued to progress but was delayed at times because of the winter weather. Discussion ensued about an event to reopen Trestle #7 after its completion.
7. Mr. Dew noted that the Academy Drive widening project had started with the destruction of a concrete pad that required removal as part of the plans. Mr. Dew noted that the town Public Works crews planned to work on the project as time allowed during the winter months with construction to begin in the spring.
8. Mr. Humphreys inquired if a left turn lane could be established in front of Brown Dental Associates and discussion ensued between the Council and staff relative to the traffic in that area.
9. Mrs. Duehring inquired about the follow up process after the VDOT hearing Council attended in November, 2013. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Dew noted that they had received favorable comments from VDOT staff about the town's requests relative to Exits 17 and 14. Ms. Duehring also inquired about the catering truck that had been parked for an extended period of time in the Shoney's Restaurant parking lot.
10. Mr. Humphreys inquired about the status of the assistance with clean up on Interstate ramps located in the town.
11. Vice Mayor Lowe commented on a recent article in the newspaper relative to the Historical Society of Washington County; the report from Penoni and Associates; and recent vehicle break in's at Rain Restaurant. Mrs. Lowe further inquired about the status of the Southwest Virginia School of Medicine. Mr. Kelly reported that Mayor Morgan and Kevin Costello had traveled to Richmond to attend the Tobacco Commission's meeting relative to the status of Medical School. Mayor Morgan had reported a favorable outcome in that the Commission had agreed to grant the School more time to secure private donors and demonstrate solid financial support for the project.
12. Vice Mayor Lowe reported that she and Mayor Morgan had attended a recent event at the Second Harvest Food Bank.
13. 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)(5) for the discussion concerning a prospective business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mrs. Duehring	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	Aye

The motion carried.

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

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Howard	Aye
Mr. Humphreys	Aye
Mrs. Duehring	Aye
Mrs. Lowe	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> |
| <b>Mrs. Duehring</b> | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>     | <b>I so certify</b> |

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

Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk