

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2015 – 7:30 P.M.  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, March 2, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council chambers of the Municipal Building.

**A. Welcome by Mayor Morgan**

**B. Roll Call – Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk**

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

Administrative/Town Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager  
Cecile Rosenbaum, Clerk/Int. Asst. Town Manager  
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney  
John Dew, Dir. Public Services/Construction  
Kevin Worley, Dir. of Parks & Recreation  
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism  
Matthew Johnson, Dir. of Planning  
Chuck Banner, Dir. of Finance  
Floyd Bailey, Dir. of IT

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council Member, Rick Humphreys.

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**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- February 2, 2015 Work Session minutes
- February 2, 2015 Regular Meeting minutes

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council approved the minutes of the February 2, 2015 Work Session and the February 2, 2015 Regular meeting minutes as presented.**

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

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

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#### **E. EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS**

Mayor Morgan and Vice Mayor Lowe recognized Greg Kelly, Town Manager and Cecile Rosenbaum, Assistant Town Manager and Town Clerk for their ten (10) years of service to the town. Vice Mayor Lowe presented each with a service pin and a ten (10) year plaque.

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#### **F. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES – None.**

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#### **G. SECOND READINGS – None.**

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#### **H. SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES - None.**

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#### **I. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS**

- 1. Consideration of award of bid for the equipment replacement phase of the grit chamber replacement project at the Wolf Creek Water Reclamation Facility.**

Sarita Moore, Director of WCWR Facility commented that the grit chamber was in need of replacement and noted that the first phase of the project was to solicit bids for the equipment to begin the replacement. Ms. Moore indicated that the total project would total \$250,000 and she had adequate funding in her current budget to acquire the equipment. Ms. Moore noted that she received one bid from Amwell with a base bid of \$118,675 with an add-on of alternate B in the amount of \$5,530 which would include stainless steel aeration heads and diffusers. Ms.

Moore recommended that Council award the bid to Amwell with the alternate B add on.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council awarded the bid for the grit chamber collection equipment to Amwell in the amount of \$118,675 with the add on listed as alternate B in the amount of \$5,530 which would include stainless steel aeration heads and diffusers and authorized the Town Manager to execute all necessary documentation relative to the bid award.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

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## **J. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER**

- 1. Authorization of Town Manager to enter into a contract for health insurance plan for town employees for the upcoming FY 2015/2016 plan year.**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager commented that Council had met in the earlier Work Session with Sam Brown, health insurance consultant, relative to the town's employee health insurance renewal. Mr. Kelly indicated that the town health insurance will see an approximate increase of 3.4% and noted this was considered low for most health insurance plans in Virginia. Mr. Kelly recommended that Council renew the town health insurance with Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield Local Choice.

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, Council authorized Greg Kelly, Town Manager to execute the contract to renew the town health insurance with Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield Local Choice for FY 2015/2016.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

|            |     |
|------------|-----|
| Mr. Howard | Aye |
|------------|-----|

**Mr. Humphreys**      **Aye**  
**Mrs. Duehring**      **Aye**  
**Mrs. Lowe**           **Aye**  
**Mayor Morgan**      **Aye**

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**2. Consideration of request to support an application to the Virginia Housing Development Authority by Theo's Ridge VA, LLC to redevelop parcel #014-4-3 located on Nicholas Street and currently owned by Ven Properties, LLC.**

Jen Surber, development representative commented that she was planning to partner with Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority to apply for funding from the Virginia Housing Authority to renovate an apartment complex located on Nicholas Street, currently owned by Ven Properties. Ms. Surber noted that if awarded the project, they plan to put approximately \$42,000 into each unit and increase the number of bedrooms in some of the units. Ms. Surber further noted that they would be selecting applicants for housing through established criteria and the plans included an on-site management office to oversee the units at all times.

At this time, Mayor Morgan read the Resolution of Support required for the project into the record. Discussion ensued regarding the use of the word County instead of town and Mr. Humphreys asked that the Resolution be changed to include both.

**On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mrs. Lowe the Council adopted the following resolution as presented, noting the change from town to town and county:**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA SUPPORTING THEO'S RIDGE VA LLC IN THE APPLICATION TO THE VIRGINIA HOUSING DEVLEOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR REHABILITATION OF THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS THEO'S RIDGE AND IDENTIFIED AS VHDA TRACKING NUMBER 2015-C-55**

**WHEREAS**, the above-referenced development is located in a Revitalization Area in the Town of Abingdon, Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, the revitalization area is (i) **either** (1) blighted, deteriorated, deteriorating and if not rehabilitated is likely to deteriorate by reason that the buildings, improvements or other facilities in such area are subject to one or more of the following conditions- dilapidation, obsolescence, overcrowding, inadequate ventilation, light or sanitation, excessive land coverage, deleterious land use, or faulty or otherwise inadequate design, quality or condition; and

**WHEREAS**, or the (2) the industrial, commercial or other economic development of such area will benefit the town but such area lacks the housing needed to induce manufacturing, industrial,

commercial, governmental, educational, entertainment, community development, healthcare or nonprofit enterprises or undertakings to locate or remain in such area; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON and that** (ii) private enterprise and investment are not reasonably expected, without assistance, to produce the construction or rehabilitation of decent, safe and sanitary housing and supporting facilities that will meet the needs of low and moderate income persons and families in such area and will induce other persons and families to live within such area and thereby create a desirable economic mix of residents in such area.

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

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

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**At this time, on motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council authorized Greg Kelly, Town Manager to execute the letter of support for the Theo's Ridge project located on Nicholas Street, Tax Map No. #014-4-3.**

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

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

Mr. Humphreys commented that he had served on the Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority Board and noted his support of this project.

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**3. Consideration of appropriation of funding for the replacement of a portion of the roof on the town owned Barter Theatre building.**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager commented that the Barter Theatre building had experience some damage and over time leaks had formed in a section of the roof. Mr. Kelly recommended that Council appropriate the amount of \$15,000 from Council contingency for the purpose of repairing the town owned building.

**On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council appropriated \$15,000 from their contingency fund for the repairs to the roof of Barter Theatre, a town owned property.**

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

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

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**At this time, on motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, Council rescinded their motion from the February 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting which appropriated the amount of \$10,000 from Council contingency for the purpose of holding a Council retreat. Council noted these funds would go toward the replacement and repair of the Barter Theatre roof.**

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

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

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## **K. RESOLUTIONS**

- 1. Consideration of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia Designating April 1<sup>st</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 as Local Government Education Week.**

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Howard, and as read into the record by Mayor Morgan, Council approved the following Resolution:**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA  
DESIGNATING APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> THROUGH 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015 AS LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION  
WEEK**

**WHEREAS**, since the colonial period, the Commonwealth of Virginia has closely held the institutions of local government; and

**WHEREAS**, local governments throughout the Commonwealth provide valuable services to the citizens of the communities they serve; and

**WHEREAS**, citizen services such as law enforcement, public health and safety, recreational opportunities, and educating local children, are most often delivered at the local level; and

**WHEREAS**, in recognition of the work performed by local governments, the Virginia General Assembly, on February 29, 2012, designated the first week of April as Local Government Education Week in Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, April 2, 1908 was the creation of the Council-Manager form of government in the City of Staunton, Virginia thereby making the first week of April appropriate for this designation.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia that April 6<sup>th</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015 is hereby designated as Local Government Education Week; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVES** that the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and the Washington County, Virginia School Board will partner to promote the civic education and engagement in an effort to educate citizens about their local government, strengthen the sense of community, and engage the next generation of local government managers.

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

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

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**L. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

- Mr. Kelly commented that the Council's action at the February 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular meeting wherein they agreed to appropriate the amount of \$1,000 to the Cruise In Class Car Club could be handled in a more acceptable manner relative to the guidelines already in place for non-departmental requests for funding. Mr. Kelly recommended that Council consider rescinding this motion and appropriating the funds to Abingdon Main Street to handle since it was a downtown event. Mrs. Lowe requested that Mr. Kelly hold a meeting with representatives from the Car Club and Abingdon Main Street and see if this arrangement is suitable to both parties. Council agreed to table the matter until the regular April meeting.
- Chief Sullivan agreed to discuss the issue of mental health transportations at the April Work Session meeting.
- Mr. Howard agreed to discuss the matter of scheduling a walking tour of downtown at the April Work Session Meeting.

- Rich Macbeth, 1139 Panorama Drive requested that staff put the notice of changes in trash pickup on the town's Facebook site.
- Mr. Humphreys requested that town staff prepare a letter of thanks from the Council to all the town staff members who worked additional hours during the recent snow events.
- Mrs. Duehring read aloud the letter the town had received from resident Bill Hatcher thanking the Police Department for their efforts in assisting his wife after she had vehicle accident during a snow event.

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#### **M. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

- ***Tourism Advisory Committee***
  - Appointment of one member to replace Carson Jackson, business owner representative, who has resigned from the Committee
  - Appointment of Barter representative to fill the term of Christine Webb – *appointment will take effect in May 2015*

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, the Council approved the appointments of Kathleen Bundy, Barter Representative and Amy Braswell, business owner to the Tourism Advisory Committee.**

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

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

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- ***Board of Building Code Appeals***
  - Reappointment of 2 members – Charlie Day and Bob Baker who are both eligible for reappointment



**On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council reappointed Charlie Day and Bob Baker to serve second terms on the Board of Building Code Appeals.**

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

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

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- ***Planning Commission***

- Appointment of member to replace Matt Bundy whose term expires on March 1, 2015 and is not eligible for reappointment

**On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council appointed Jan Reeves to serve her first term on the Planning Commission.**

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

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

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## **N. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

- Mr. Humphreys commented on 2 recent deaths in the community. Mr. Bill Graybeal passed away on January 3<sup>rd</sup> and Mr. Blair Keller passed away the last week in January. Mr. Humphreys noted that Mr. Keller was a recipient of the Arthur Campbell Award.

- Mrs. Lowe reported on an interview she, Mayor Morgan and Mr. Kelly participated in with Emory & Henry College. Mrs. Lowe also commented on the noon knowledge series and the wrap up of the business challenge.
- Mr. Howard commented that 2015 was going to be a good year in the town of Abingdon.
- Mrs. Duehring commented on the noon knowledge series at the Incubator.
- Mayor Morgan commented on the first meeting of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Plate Club.
- Mrs. Rosenbaum reminded Council of their upcoming budget work session meetings to be held in the month of March.

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Mayor Morgan declared the meeting adjourned.

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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk