

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 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, March 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
Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police
Matthew Johnson, Dir. of Planning
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism
Jon Phelps, IT Dept.

Visitors:

Sam Brown, Rich Macbeth, Elaine Everest

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan indicated that Council's first agenda item, Closed Session, would be held later in the meeting.
2. Sam Brown, health insurance consultant provided the Council with information relative to the upcoming renewal for the town's employee health insurance coverage. Mr. Brown indicated that the town could expect an approximate 3.4% increase over last year's rate and indicated that was a low amount of increase. Mr. Brown reviewed the changes in dental and vision on the proposed plan and noted that this renewal had to be in to Local Choice by April 1st.
3. Ms. Duehring indicated that in the interest of time Council could consider agenda item 3, the Arthur Campbell Award nomination form at the April work session meeting.
4. Mayor Morgan commented on the snow removal procedures in town and thanked town staff for their efforts during the recent weather events. Lengthy discussion ensued regarding snow

removal on town streets, sidewalks and parking lots. Mr. Dew provided dollar cost amounts for this year's snow removal and noted that he was appreciative of the town staff members who spent nights and weekends clearing the roads and trying to keep driving conditions safe in and around town. Mayor Morgan recognized Elaine Everest, town business owner, who noted her dissatisfaction with the town's snow removal procedures relative to the roadways, parking spaces along business fronts and the lack of clearing of the middle of the roads on the yellow lines. Mayor Morgan invited Ms. Everest to discuss her concerns directly with Mr. Dew and noted that improvement in snow removal was a priority for the Council. Mrs. Lowe suggested using inmates for snow removal. Mayor Morgan asked that the Emergency Services Committee explore the issue of snow removal at a future meeting.

5. At this time, **On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council went into Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(5) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for the purpose of discussion concerning a prospective business or industry or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made.**

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, 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
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>I so certify</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