

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2014 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, March 3, 2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs 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 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
Deborah Atkins-Vance, Dir. Human Resources

Visitors:

Rich Macbeth, Greg Tucker, Sam Brown

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan invited Sam Brown, health insurance consultant to comment on the renewal of the health insurance plan for town employees. Mr. Brown commented on the town's experience rate for the year thus far and noted that premiums would increase by 4%. Mr. Brown noted that it had been a better year than anticipated with 148 employees enrolled in the current health insurance plan. Mr. Brown indicated it was his recommendation that Council not put the renewal out to bid due as the current rate was good and couldn't be improved in today's market. Deborah Atkins-Vance, Director of Human Resources noted that she would need to inform the current provider of the town's plan to renew by April 1st and asked that Council consider confirming this by motion at the regular meeting.
2. Greg Tucker, CPA with Bostic Tucker reported that the town's audit ending June 30, 2013 had been completed and he saw no problems or concerns with the town's financial status.

Mr. Tucker noted several items that caused an impact on the audit figures i.e. purchase of land on Russell Road which was not budgeted, purchase of property off of Colonial Road which was not budgeted, decline in meals tax revenue, and decline in Coomes Center memberships revenue. Mr. Tucker reported that Abingdon was in solid financial condition and agreed to provide a report during the regular meeting.

3. Mr. Jackson, Assistant Town Manager reported that he would like to schedule a planning retreat with Ed McMahon, Planning Consultant and would send it on the “doodle” calendar scheduling program.
4. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager reported that representatives of Highlands Fellowship Church had contacted him about performing a service project that would benefit the town. Mr. Kelly asked the Council members for ideas on projects they would like to see and the consensus was something relative to installation of the A Street Park Pavilion, a special needs playground, or update of the playground equipment at Veterans Memorial Park as initial suggestions. Mr. Kelly noted that he would ask Kevin Worley, Director of Parks and Recreation to contact the group and begin working on the suggested projects.
5. Mr. Kelly commented that two (2) town employees had recently been notified of scholarship opportunities. Garrett Jackson will be part of a group from the state department making a trip to Russia end of the month of March to present a program on local government and impact of rails to trails projects such as the Creeper Trail. Kevin Costello will be attending an economic development program and working toward his certification as an economic development specialist.
6. Mr. Kelly commented that he had received a letter from Holston Mountain Artisans relative to a funding request. Council members asked Mr. Kelly to review the request further with Director Donna Price and report at the April 7th meeting regarding the status of the request.
7. Mayor Morgan inquired if any of the Council members wished to serve on the Senior Center board and noted that no Council members expressed an interest in serving at this time.
8. Mr. Costello, Director of Tourism commented that he is involved in the Washington County Chamber Leadership Program and he was interested in working on a group project that would serve to increase voter turnout for local elections, such as Town Council. He noted that his group wished to schedule a “meet and greet” with the candidates for Town Council and Mayor Morgan suggested that he contact the League of Women Voters and work together on the event.
9. John Dew, Director of Public Services/Construction commented on the status of the Whites Mill/Court/Oakhill Street project and noted that utility relocation was almost complete and tree removal was taking place in the area.
10. Mr. Dew reported on the status of the Creeper Trail Trestle 7 reconstruction and noted that the project was nearing completion and plans were underway with town staff for a ribbon cutting ceremony.
11. **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 pertaining to matters of actual or probably litigation.**

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 Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Howard, 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:**

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| <b>Mr. Howard</b>    | <b>I so certify</b> |
| <b>Mr. Humphreys</b> | <b>I so certify</b> |

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|----------------------|---------------------|
| <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