

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2013 – 7:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, November 4, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council chambers of the Municipal Building.

A. ROLL CALL – Town Council

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

B. ROLL CALL – Planning Commission

Members of Planning Commission: Mr. Matt Bundy, Chairman
Mr. Wayne Craig
Mr. Kenny Shuman
Mr. Bob Howard
Mr. Greg Kelly

*Planning Commission Members
Absent:*

*Wayne Austin
Gary Kimbrell*

Administrative/Town Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer
Jim Smith, Dir. Of Wastewater Operations/Town Eng.
John Dew, Dir. Public Services/Construction
Jon Phelps, Information Technology
Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police
Debbie Atkins-Vance, Dir. Human Resources
Kevin Worley, Dir. of Parks & Recreation

Visitors:

Rich Macbeth, Robert Weisfeld, Susan Humphreys,
David Wallace

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At this time, Mayor Morgan indicated that the first part of the meeting would be held jointly with the members of the town's Planning Commission for the purpose of a public hearing regarding the modifications to the Comprehensive Plan 2027.

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C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Howard, Council member.

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At this time, Mayor Morgan recognized Phil McCall, member of the Washington County Board of Supervisors. Mr. McCall commented that he would like to invite the members of the Council to a public meeting regarding the County's Comprehensive Plan on Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Abingdon High School.

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D. PUBLIC HEARING - *Planning Commission*

1. Public Hearing – Consideration of Comprehensive Plan 2027 update and recommendation to the Town Council.

Mr. Kelly, Town Manager and member of the Planning Commission provided an overview of the town's Comprehensive Plan 2027. Mr. Kelly noted that the plan required that it be reviewed every five (5) years and a public hearing be held by the Planning Commission and the Council relative to any modifications.

Mr. Bundy, Planning Commission Chairman declared the public hearing open for comment. Hearing no comments, Mr. Bundy closed the public hearing.

On motion of Mr. Shuman, seconded by Mr. Craig, the members of the Planning Commission recommended the Comprehensive Plan 2027, as presented, to the Council for approval.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bundy	Aye
Mr. Craig	Aye
Mr. Shuman	Aye
Mr. Kelly	Aye
Mr. Howard	Aye

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Having no further business before the Commission **and on motion of Mr. Shuman, seconded by Mr. Craig, the Planning Commission meeting was adjourned.**

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

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Bundy</b>  | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Craig</b>  | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Shuman</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Kelly</b>  | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mr. Howard</b> | <b>Aye</b> |

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E. PUBLIC HEARING – *Town Council*

1. Public Hearing – First Reading - Consideration of Comprehensive Plan 2027 update.

Mayor Morgan commented that the Comprehensive Plan 2027 was now before Council for consideration and declared the public hearing open for comment.

- Rich Macbeth of 1139 Panorama Drive, Abingdon commented on the Southview area of town and its inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Humphreys noted his desire to see a park constructed in the Southview neighborhood.
- David Wallace of 377 Augusta Drive, Abingdon commented on the unsafe conditions for vehicular traffic at Exit 17, blighted properties on Cummings Street, and the litter along the Exit 17 on/off ramps. Ms. Duehring commented on the statistics for traffic volume at Exit 17. Mr. Humphreys commented on the litter along the on/off ramps. Mr. Kelly commented on the upcoming VDOT Public Hearing and encouraged Mr. Wallace and Mr. Macbeth to attend to voice their concerns.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Morgan declared the public hearing closed.

On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council accepted the Comprehensive Plan 2027 with the following modifications:

- **Inclusion of the potential development of a bike trail following Hillman Highway from Abingdon to Emory & Henry to Glade Spring with connection into the Salt Trail.**
- **Review of the crosswalks in town to determine a better lighting scheme for each**
- **Inclusion of mixed use feasibility study which should be included in the economic development section of the Comp Plan.**

And noted that the plan will be on the December regular agenda for second reading.

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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#### **F. SPECIAL EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Mr. Kelly asked **Dan Callahan**, Superintendent of the Wolf Creek Water Reclamation Facility to come forward and presented him with a plaque and service pin in recognition of his thirty-five (35) years of service to the town.

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G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **October 2, 2013 Work Session Meeting**
- **October 7, 2013 Work Session Meeting**
- **October 7, 2013 Regular Meeting**

On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, the Council approved the minutes of the October 2, 2013 Work Session Meeting, the October 7, 2013 Work Session Meeting and the October 7, 2013 Regular Meeting as presented.

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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#### **H. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES - None**

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I. SECOND READINGS OF ORDINANCES - None

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**J. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS**

**1. Consideration of bids for the replacement of the roof at the Coomes Recreation Center Facility.**

Kevin Worley, Director of Parks and Recreation reported that he had submitted a Request for Proposals for the replacement of the roof on the Coomes Center Building. Mr. Worley noted that he had received a total of four (4) bids and the lowest bidder was Cornett Roofing with a base bid of \$114,655.00. Mr. Worley noted that add-ons may be necessary but the amount of the bid combined with the additional add-on costs should not exceed the amount budgeted for the project.

**On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council awarded the bid for the replacement of the roof at the Coomes Recreation Center to Cornett Roofing for the base bid amount of \$114,655 and further noted that add-ons may be necessary for the project which, combined with the base bid, shall not exceed the funding budgeted for the project.**

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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K. REPORTS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Consideration of proposals submitted for the potential refinance of the Town's Series 2009 A&B General Obligation Bonds for debt service savings.

Mr. Kelly, Town Manager, reported that Council had previously authorized him to contract with David Rose, Senior Vice President for Davenport and Company for the purpose of reviewing the town's financial status and analyzing existing debt. Mr. Kelly noted that Mr. Rose had recommended that the Council consider proposals for the refinance of existing debt to see if a lower interest rate could be obtained which could provide a substantial savings to the town. Mr. Kelly commented that the

proposals had been received and the refinancing proposal from Carter Bank of the town's existing debt would realize a cost savings of approximately \$144,000.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, the Council authorized Greg Kelly, Town Manager to proceed with the bond refinancing through Carter Bank of a portion of the town's debt identified in the proposal and further authorized Mr. Kelly to sign any and all documents required for the completion of the transaction.

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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At this time, Mayor Morgan welcomed Robert Weisfeld and asked that Council members consider a Resolution listed on the agenda as Item L3 relative to the passing of Mrs. Martha M. Weisfeld.

Mayor Morgan read the Resolution into the record as follows:

**A RESOLUTION  
OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA  
IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFETIME ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF  
AN OUTSTANDING CHARACTER AND TOWN LEGEND,  
MARTHA M. WEISFELD  
(1926 - 2013)**

**WHEREAS**, on September 29, 2013 the Council learned of the passing of lifelong Town resident and colorful spirit Martha M. Weisfeld; and

**WHEREAS**, Martha Evaline McCready was born in 1926, the 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter of Lawrence and Lillian Powell McCready; and

**WHEREAS**, Martha, who excelled in academia from an early age, was an honor graduate of Hiwassee Junior College and shared top honors with her fraternal twin sister in their graduating class at the University of Tennessee; and

**WHEREAS**, Martha returned to her Washington County roots immediately following the completion of her education to give back to her community by serving as a public school teacher for several years, no doubt instilling a mode of discipline, work ethic, and style that left many with long-lasting impressions; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1946 Martha married Charles Edward Weisfeld, a decorated WWII Veteran and heir apparent to a family newspaper, and settled down to begin her own family in her beloved Abingdon, Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, Martha, always raising the bar and setting the example for women of her day and beyond, chose to be a stay-at-home mother for her three children while managing to run a kindergarten, teach Sunday School, Chair her church circle, lead brownies and scouts, volunteer at the Johnston Memorial Hospital, become involved in a wide variety of community and governmental events, and Chair the Red Cross as well as the Washington County United Fund.; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1976 Martha, who had demonstrated an avid interest in a variety of levels of the newspaper business as an adolescent and teen, became co-owner of the local weekly newspaper, the *Abingdon Virginian*, with her husband Charles; and

**WHEREAS**, Martha M. Weisfeld served initially as the publisher of the *Abingdon Virginian Newspaper*, one of Washington County's oldest small businesses, where she worked for over thirty (30) years providing a unique perspective on information she deemed of interest and written in such a manner that community professionals and residents alike anticipated each weekly publication wondering what was on Martha's mind that week; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Weisfeld's newspaper, for which she eventually became editor, was for many years the most colorfully written, controversial, and fearless body of work to ever chronicle the happenings of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council recognizes the unique and outstanding contributions made to Abingdon by Martha M. Weisfeld and desires to honor her memory and offer their sincere condolences to her three (3) children, Ann Weisfeld Gray, Mary Lyon Weisfeld, and C. Robert Weisfeld; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia that the legend of Martha M. Weisfeld will live forever on the streets of Abingdon's cherished Historical District, in the hearts and minds of Abingdon residents, young and old, and in the written body of work published in the *Abingdon Virginian Newspaper* for thirty (30) years by the one and only Martha M. Weisfeld.

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, the Council approved the Resolution 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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2. Presentation by the Old Glade Antique Tractor Association.

Ron Stevenson and Carol McCroskey, members of the Old Glade Antique Tractor Association provided the Council with an update of the activities their group has been involved in at the town's Fairview at Abingdon site. Mr. Stevenson reported on past events held at the site by the club, improvements made to the site, plans for future crop plantings at the site and an event planned for July 24, 25, and 26 of 2014.

Mr. Humphreys thanked Sean Taylor for his efforts in working with the Tractor club to enhance the Fairview site.

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**3. Consideration of proposals for the Sinking Spring Cemetery Columbarium project.**

Greg Kelly, Town Manager reported that a Request for Proposals for the Columbarium had been placed and no responses had been received. Mr. Kelly noted that he had scheduled a Cemetery Committee meeting for November 16<sup>th</sup> and would place this item on their agenda for review and further recommendation to Council.

No action as required by Council on this matter.

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L. RESOLUTIONS

1. Consideration of Resolution of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to express Concern to the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation Regarding the Unsafe Driving Conditions of the Exit #17 Area of the Town of Abingdon.

Greg Kelly, Town Manager reported that VDOT had scheduled a public hearing regarding the six (6) year plan for November 19th and recommended that Council approve the Resolution relative to Exit 17 and forward that to the Transportation Board members prior to the hearing.

Mrs. Lowe read the Resolution into the record as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA
TO EXPRESS CONCERN TO THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION
BOARD AND THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE
UNSAFE DRIVING CONDITIONS OF THE EXIT #17 AREA OF
THE TOWN OF ABINGDON**

WHEREAS, Interstate 81 is the primary thoroughfare through the Town of Abingdon, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Exit #17 off of Interstate 81, which is maintained in all aspects by the Virginia Department of Transportation, has remained essentially unchanged since the establishment of the Interstate in the 1960's; and

WHEREAS, the area surround Exit #17 has experienced extensive commercial and residential growth over the past fifty years; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Transportation is solely responsible for all signalizations, signage and traffic flow off of Interstate 81 at Exit #17; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Abingdon deems it in the best interest of the citizens and visitors of the Town of Abingdon to express its concern to the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation about the unsafe and inefficient transportation conditions that have arisen over the years as a result of the increased traffic congestion in the Exit #17 area; and

WHEREAS, the Abingdon Police Department, over just a five (5) year period, has recorded a total of Three Hundred Twenty-Five (325) crashes on Cummings Street at or near Exit #17, involving Six Hundred Fifty-One (651) vehicles with an estimated total vehicle damage figure of Six Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Four Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$665,450.00) from January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the average daily traffic count last supplied to the Town of Abingdon in 2012 by the Virginia Department of Transportation was approximately 17,000 vehicles per day on Route 75 (Cummings Street) between Exit #17 and Main Street and approximately 7500 vehicles per day between Exit #17 and the Town's south corporate limits and 41,000 average annual daily traffic on Interstate 81 at Exit #17; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Abingdon is committed to making the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation aware of the increasing dangerous conditions around Exit #17 area and requests any upgrades and improvements of this exit be given the highest priority; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia does hereby request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation immediately review and finalize their plans for Exit #17 of Interstate 81 in the Town of Abingdon; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Abingdon does hereby request that the Commonwealth Transportation Board and the Virginia Department of Transportation take measures as expeditiously as possible to upgrade and improve the said Exit #17 area to ensure that the citizens and visitors of the Town of Abingdon are not further endangered by the traffic flow and congestion that presently exists at this exit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Abingdon does hereby request the Commonwealth Transportation Board to allocate all funds necessary for the Virginia Department of

Transportation to fully fund and carry out this project in its current six (6) year plan for modification of Exit #17 of Interstate 81.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, the Council approved the Resolution as presented and read into the record.

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 Resolution of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to In support of the Town's application for an allocation of \$355,150 through the Virginia Department of Transportation's Revenue Sharing Program for the Park Street Pedestrian Improvement Project.**

John Dew, Director of Public Services/Construction commented on the Resolution before Council for consideration. Mr. Dew noted that the proposed Park Street Pedestrian Improvement Project was a suitable tie in for the Urban Path Project currently underway by the town. Mr. Dew noted that the Resolution did not obligate the town for the funds but is a first step in the application process.

Mr. Howard read the Resolution into the record as follows:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA IN SUPPORT OF THE TOWN'S APPLICATION FOR AN ALLOCATION OF \$355,150 FOR THE PARK STREET PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT PROJECT THROUGH THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'S REVENUE SHARING PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia desires to submit an application for an allocation of funds of up to \$355,150 through the Virginia Department of Transportation Fiscal Year 2015 Revenue Sharing Program; and

**WHEREAS**, \$355,150 of these funds are requested to fund the **Park Street Pedestrian Improvements**, consisting of preliminary engineering, right-of-way, utilities and construction required for approximately 0.34 miles of new sidewalk, sidewalk replacement, and drainage and roadway improvements on Park Street from Pecan Street to Tanner Street, and Tanner Street from Park Street to East Main Street.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia hereby supports this application for an allocation of \$355,150 through the Virginia Department

of Transportation Revenue Sharing Program for the Park Street Pedestrian Improvement Project and further authorizes the Town Manager to execute any and all project administration agreements for an approved revenue sharing projects.

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

**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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3. **Consideration of Resolution of the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia in recognition of the Lifetime Accomplishments and Contributions of an Outstanding Character and Town Legend, Martha M. Weisfeld (1926-2013).**

Mayor Morgan noted that this matter had been acted on by Council earlier in the meeting. No further action was required.

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#### **M. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

- At this time, Mayor Morgan recognized two (2) members of the local Boy Scout troop who were in attendance, Preston Tilley and Anthony Dickenson, and presented them with town pins
- Mr. Kelly commented that the Council had made three (3) appointments to the Tourism Advisory Committee meeting at the October meeting which exceeded the allowable number of members on the committee.

**Mrs. Lowe made a motion to rescind her motion from the October 8, 2013 meeting which stated “On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Howard, the Council appointed Janet Woolwine, Martha Keys, and Ben Jennings to serve on the Tourism Advisory Committee” and Mr. Howard rescinded his second to the motion.**

**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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On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, the Council appointed Martha Keys and Janet Woolwine to serve on the Tourism Advisory Committee.

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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**On motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the council reappointed Dan Smith to a second term on the Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority and further reappointed Wayne Austin to a second 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 invited everyone to visit the Fairview site and commented on the tree initiative that had been mailed out to residents in the Country Club area. Mr. Humphreys reminded everyone to attend the Veterans Park celebration on November 11th.
- Mrs. Lowe reported on a meeting she attended regarding Heartwood and asked Ms. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk to add Susan Howard, Director of Abingdon Main Street to the December agenda for a funding request. Mrs. Lowe commented that she does not wish to be reappointed to the Senior Center Board and that the economic development committee of the Tobacco Commission will hold a meeting at the Small Business Incubator.

- Mr. Howard commented on the Urban Path kickoff held the prior Saturday.
- Mr. Kelly reported that the town was sponsoring a table for the reception honoring Delegate Joe Johnson which will take place at the Higher Education Center on November 14th. Mr. Kelly reminded Council of the event planned at the new Food City headquarters on November 21st.
- Mayor Morgan requested that Ms. Rosenbaum put together a calendar for the months of November and December with all the events listed so Council can add those to their calendars. Mayor Morgan commended Kim Kingsley, Deb Icenhour and Cecile Rosenbaum for their work on the 2nd annual Arthur Campbell Awards dinner and reported on the winning pumpkin at the Farmer's Market over the weekend.

On motion of Mr. Howard, seconded by Mrs. Duehring, the Council recessed their meeting till November 19th at 6:00 p.m. so they may attend the Virginia Department of Transportation Six Year Plan Public Hearing.

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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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk