

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2013 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, November 4, 2013 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
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. of Finance
Jim Smith, Town Engineer
John Dew, Dir. of Construction/Public Services
Jon Phelps, IT Department
Sean Taylor, Planning Dept.

Visitors: Rich Macbeth

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Garrett Jackson, Assistant Town Manager joined the Council meeting via Facetime and commented on the Comprehensive Plan 2027 that is before Council for public hearing at the regular meeting. Mr. Jackson reviewed the revisions to the plan and discussion ensued about additional modifications Council members wanted to include. Mayor Morgan and Council members asked that three items be included and they were:
 - 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.
2. Mr. Kelly, Town Manager reported that the Tourism Advisory Committee had exceeded the number of members allowed by the Ordinance in Town Charter. Mr. Kelly asked that the Council member who made the motion to add additional members last month, rescind their

- motion and the second and make another motion appointing 2 members instead 3 to serve on the Committee. Mr. Kelly commented that this matter was on the regular agenda for consideration.
3. Mr. Kelly reported that he and Mayor Morgan had spoken with representatives from Pennoni and Associates at the VML conference a few weeks earlier and they indicated they had reviewed the town's information and had selected a site for recommendation for the sports complex. Mr. Kelly commented that the Pennoni representative had indicated that a smaller scale complex may be the best alternative for the town. Mr. Kelly further noted that the report he had received from the Pennoni group was disappointing in content and he felt that it was not worthy of the dollar amount quoted by the group for the services. Discussion ensued about the next steps to be taken and it was agreed that Mr. Kelly would contact the group relative to his dissatisfaction with the report and asked that the Town Attorney review the contract to see if what options the town may have if the contract has to be terminated.
 4. At this time, Mr. Kelly commented on the VDOT public hearing set for November 19th at 6:00 p.m. and asked that Council recess the regular meeting later in the evening to the night of the 19th so that all Council members may attend.
 5. Mr. Dew, Director of Public Services and Construction commented on the status of the Country Club stormwater management project and indicated that the channel construction was well underway.
 6. Mr. Dew provided an update on the White Mill/Court/Oakhill pedestrian improvement project and noted that he continued to work on the utility relocation along Whites Mill Road. Mr. Dew commented that 2 residents on Oakhill Street have requested underground utility relocation.
 7. Mr. Dew reported on the construction of Creeper Trail Trestle 7 and encouraged the Council members to visit the site soon to see the progress.
 8. Ms. Icenhour reported that the United Way fundraising campaign was in progress and encouraged everyone to consider making a donation.
 9. Mr. Humphreys thanked town staff for their progress in eliminating a blighted property on Russell Road. Mr. Humphreys asked Ms. Icenhour into the designation of "ex-officio" on boards and committees.
 10. Ms. Duehring commented on the traffic at Exit 17 interchange and the volume of vehicles passing through the area in a day.
 11. Mrs. Lowe commented on the status of the Southwest Virginia School of Medicine and the enforcement of the sign ordinance on the west end of town.

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