

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2014 – 5:30 P.M.  
ARTHUR CAMPBELL MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Work session meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Wednesday, October 8, 2014 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:

Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk/Int.Asst. Town Manager  
Deb Icenhour, Town Attorney  
John Dew, Director Public Services/Construction  
Sean Taylor, Assistant Planner  
Kevin Costello, Dir. of Tourism

Absent:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager

Visitors:

Rich Macbeth

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. Mayor Morgan commented that Mr. Kelly was unable to attend the meetings because of the hospitalization of a relative.
2. Ms. Rosenbaum, (Int) Assistant Town Manager reported on a piece of property located at the corner of Clark Street and Whites Mill Road that was being considered for donation to the town. Ms. Rosenbaum reported that Mr. Kelly had met with the landowner and it was her intent to donate the land to the town in order to tear down some blighted buildings on the property and improve the visibility and safety at the intersection. Mr. Dew reported that a survey would need to be completed before the property could be considered for donation by Council. Mr. Dew noted that the town crews could remove the buildings which would be a cost savings but they would need to be evaluated for asbestos removal. Discussion ensued among Council and town staff and it was determined that Mr. Dew would proceed with

- obtaining the property survey and report back at the November meeting if the survey had been completed by that date.
3. Ms. Rosenbaum noted that Mr. Taylor, Assistant Planner had asked if he could speak to Council about structural concern he had for the Fields Penn House. Mr. Taylor reported that a crack in the brick under a window at Fields Penn had developed and was compromising the structure. He indicated that Davis Buckley, who has been hired by the town to evaluate some of the town historic structures, could do an engineering report and recommendation for repairs to the house for the sum of \$27,670. Mr. Taylor noted that he could cover this expense from existing funds in the current budget. Council members agreed to proceed with the engineering report and repair estimate and asked Mr. Taylor to report back once the report was complete.
  4. Ms. Rosenbaum reported that the Bank of America branch on Main Street had been sold to another banking institution in Bluefield, Virginia and would no longer have a presence in the town. Ms. Rosenbaum noted that the town had six (6) accounts with Bank of America and Council may want to consider moving those accounts to another bank with a local presence in town. Ms. Rosenbaum commented that the matter would be brought before Council at a later time.
  5. Ms. Rosenbaum reported that Mr. Kelly had a meeting with Martha Keyes, representative from the Washington County Historical Society regarding their possible relocation to another building in town. Ms. Rosenbaum noted that Ms. Keyes said the Historical Society was not agreeable to move to the Hassinger House and was looking at other properties in town.
  6. John Dew reported on the plans to form a regional Metropolitan Planning Organization. Mr. Dew noted that this is mandated by Federal law to assure that existing and future expenditures for transportation projects and programs are based on continuing cooperative agreements a comprehensive planning process. Mr. Dew commented that he would keep Council up to date as this Commission evolved.
  7. Ms. Duehring commented that she felt it would be beneficial to form a committee to review the Arthur Campbell Award nomination process and procedures for future awards. Council members agreed that the committee members would be Jayne Duehring, Council member, Cathy Lowe, Vice Mayor, Cecile Rosenbaum, Clerk/Assistant Town Manager, and Kim Kingsley, Administrative Assistant.
  8. Ms. Rosenbaum reported that the Arthur Campbell Awards dinner plans were almost finalized and noted that the plans for the Rails to Trails event were also in the final planning stages.
  9. At this time, **on motion of Mr. Humphreys, seconded by Mr. Howard, pursuant to Section 2.2-2711(A)(7) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended Council went into Closed Session for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel on pending or probable litigation.**

**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>

**Mayor Morgan            Aye**

**The motion carried.**

**On motion of Mrs. Lowe, seconded by Mr. Humphreys, 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:**

**Mr. Howard            I so certify**  
**Mr. Humphreys        I so certify**  
**Mrs. Duehring        I so certify**  
**Mrs. Lowe             I so certify**  
**Mayor Morgan        I so certify**

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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.

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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk