

TOWN OF ABINGDON
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 24, 2006 - 7:00 P.M

The regular meeting of the Abingdon Planning Commission was held Monday, April 24, 2006, at 7:00 P.M. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building, Downstairs Meeting Room.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Garrett Jackson, Chairperson.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Kenneth Mathews
Dr. Ramsey White
Mrs. Harriett DeBose
Mr. Edward B. Morgan
Mr. Gary Kimbrell

Comprising a quorum of the Commission

Members Absent: Mr. G. M. Newman
Mr. Kenny Shuman

Administrative Staff: Mr. W. Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning/Zoning
Mr. Gregory W. Kelly, Town Attorney
Mr. Jimmy C. Smith, Town Engineer

Visitors: Ms. Lynda Campbell
Mr. Charlie Seavers
Mr. Kirk Ratliff
Ms. Paula J. Goforth
Mr. Ernest Coburn

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(2) Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, March 27 2006

Mr. Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held Monday, March 27, 2006, as presented. Mr. Kimbrell seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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Mr. Jackson advised the Planning Commission that Mrs. Doris Shuman's term for serving on this board expired March 31, 2006 and that Mr. Kenny Shuman had been appointed to fill this position. Since Mrs. Shuman was Chairman it was necessary that a new Chairman be selected.

Dr. White made a motion that Mr. Edward B. Morgan be appointed as temporary Chairman until June, 2006, at which time a new Chairman will be selected. Mr. Kimbrell seconded the motion, with unanimous approval. At that time, Mr. Morgan took position as Chairman and chaired the meeting.

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(3) PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED REZONING - **Lynda Campbell, Representataive**, 301 Front Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24210 and others; application to rezone six (6) properties in the DEPOT SQUARE VICINITY, from Residential (R-3) and Central Business (B-3), to Old and Historic District (OH) District. **Tax Map No. 19 (1) 44A, 19 (1) 43, 19 (1) 42, 19 (2) 16, 19 (2) 17 and Town property.**

Ms. Campbell stated that this proposed rezoning request is being made in order to preserve the properties located in this area, further stating that several structures have already been removed and it is the hope of the applicant and others that this will eliminate this from happening in the future.

Mr. Jackson stated that before this can be officially rezoned there will be some additional hearings for amendment to the Zoning Ordinance from additional sub-district to historic district, No. 13, and the uses would need to be considered.

After discussion, Dr. White made a motion that the proposed rezoning of the six (6) properties in the DEPOT SQUARE VICINITY from Residential (R-3) and Central Business (B-3) to Old and Historic District (OH) District be recommended to Town Council for approval. Mr. Mathews seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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(4) CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - **Grundy National Bank (Abingdon), Perry Cook Signs, Contractor**, 498 Cummings Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of one (1) double-faced sign **to be located at 498 Cummings Street. Tax Map No. 105A (2) 16B.**

This is a request for approval of one (1) directional, double faced sign, to be located at 498 Cummings Street. The size of the sign will be 24 in. x 24 in., having black background with white lettering on top half of the sign, with lower part of the sign having white background with black lettering. The sign will be mounted on aluminum posts, approximately 4 ft.- 5 ft. in height.

Mr. Ratcliff stated that it is also the desire of the bank to have some temporary banner signs to be displayed. Mr. Jackson advised Mr. Ratcliff that the temporary banner signs are allowed 30 days before and 7 days after the initial opening of the business and that this time frame is strictly enforced.

After discussion, Mr. Kimbrell made a motion that the sign request be approved, as presented. Dr. White seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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(5) CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - **Brook Alley Development (BTC National Bank), Paula J. Goforth, Skyway Outdoor, Inc., Representative/Contractor**, 968 West Main Street, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to replace existing freestanding sign **to be located at 968 West Main Street. Tax Map No. 104C (1) 27.**

This is a request for approval to replace the existing freestanding sign with a monument sign and replace ATM panels.

Ms. Goforth, part-owner of Skyway Outdoor, Inc. stated that the Bank of Tazewell County (BTC) will be changing its name to National Bank and it is necessary that the existing sign be replaced because of the name change. The proposed sign will have internal illumination by fluorescent lamps and will be a total of 60 sq. ft.,

meeting the required allotment of square footage, but will be a shorter sign in appearance. The sign background will be white, border will be black, and the lettering will be burgundy and day orange. The sign will read “National Bank Abingdon” (with logo).

After discussion, Mr. Newman made a motion that the sign request be approved. Mr. Kimbrell seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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- (6) CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - **The Falls Plaza, Ernest Coburn, Representative**, 301 Falls Drive, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of two (2) signs **for each tenant to be located at “The Falls Plaza”**. **Tax Map No. 104 (7) 3, 4.**

This is a request for approval of two (2) projecting signs, per tenant, at the Falls Plaza Building. At present, there is no signage advertising the tenants other than temporary signage permitted by the ordinance.

After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that this application be tabled until the regular meeting in May, allowing Mr. Jackson and Mr. Coburn the opportunity to meet and discuss the signage in detail in order to select a uniform design and placement of the requested signage.

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- (7) CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - **Days Inn, Oneal Patel, Owner/Representative**, 887 Empire Drive, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval to raise existing sign (currently behind new buildings on adjacent property) and add new electronic message center **with property being located at 887 Empire Drive**. **Tax Map No. 106 (A) 8.**

There was no one present at the meeting to represent this application request, therefore, it was the consensus of the Board that the application be tabled until the next meeting to allow the applicant or a representative the opportunity to be present for discussion.

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- (8) CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS - **Exceptional Body Pilates Studio, Joann Melgar, Owner/Representative**, 1070 West Main Street, Suite 6, Abingdon, Virginia 24210; application for Certificate of Appropriateness for approval of one (1) sign **to be located at 1070 West Main Street**. **Tax Map No. 104C2 (A) 1.**

This is a request for approval of one (1) sign to be located at 1070 West Main Street. The size of the sign will be a total of 8.5 sq. ft. The proposed lighted sign will consist of blue and white channel lettering mounted to existing strip along structure.

After discussion, Dr. White made a motion that the sign be approved. Mrs. DeBose seconded the motion, with unanimous approval.

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- (6) DISCUSSION

Several of the Planning Commission members stated concerns of the increase in portable signs being displayed throughout the Town.

Mr. Jackson stated that a Code Enforcement Officer was recently hired to oversee the removal of any overgrowth of vegetation and weeds, liter, and unapproved signs. The primary responsibility of

the Code Enforcement Officer will be to notify property owners of any required removal of either. Property owners will be given a time frame in which to respond and if they do not comply with the Town's request, a civil or federal suit will be brought against the property owner.

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There being no further business the meeting was recessed, to continue Tuesday, May 9, 2006, 7:00 P.M.

W. Garrett Jackson, Chairperson

G. M. Newman, Secretary