

TOWN OF ABINGDON
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 27, 2009 - 5:30 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Abingdon Planning Commission was held Monday, July 27, 2009, at 5:30 P.M. The meeting was held in the Municipal Building, downstairs meeting room.

Mr. Kenneth Shuman, Chairman, called the meeting to order. Mr. Jackson called the roll.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Kenneth Shuman, Chairman
Mr. Matthew T. Bundy, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Gregory W. Kelly
Mr. Gary Kimbrell
Dr. H. Ramsey White, Jr.

Comprising a quorum of the Commission

Members Absent: Mrs. Cathy Lowe
Dr. Todd Pillion

Administrative Staff: Mr. W. Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning/Zoning
Mr. Sean Taylor, Assistant Director of Planning/Zoning (Absent)
Mrs. Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney

Visitors: None

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- (2) Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting – April 27, 2009
Regular Meeting - May 26, 2009
Special Called Meeting - June 4, 2009

Mr. Kimbrell made a motion that the minutes of the regular meeting, April 27, 2009, be approved as submitted. Mr. Bundy seconded the motion.

VOTE: Mr. Kimbrell Aye
Mr. Bundy Aye
Mr. Kelly Abstained
Dr. White Abstained
Mr. Shuman Aye

The motion passed and the minutes of the regular meeting, April 27, 2009, were approved.

Dr. White made a motion that the minutes of the regular meeting, May 26, 2009, be approved as submitted. Mr. Kimbrell seconded the motion.

VOTE: Dr. White Aye
 Mr. Kimbrell Aye
 Mr. Kelly Abstained
 Mr. Bundy Abstained
 Mr. Shuman Aye

The motion passed and the minutes of the regular meeting, May 26, 2009, were approved.

Mr. Kimbrell made a motion that the minutes of the special called meeting, June 4, 2009, be approved as submitted. Dr. White seconded the motion, with unanimous approval, that the minutes be approved.

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(3) DISCUSSION - Virginia Planning Land Use

The Staff attended the Plan Virginia Land Use Law 2009 Legislative Updates workshop in Richmond, Virginia on June 29 and June 30.

Mr. Jackson presented a summary of information to those present of changes made, ranging from the issuance of variances, storm water collection, transportation, land use, infrastructure and more.

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(4) DISCUSSION - Location of Proposed Arts and Cultural District Boundaries

The Town and its Arts Community are considering the creation of an Arts & Cultural District. The Virginia General Assembly, as of July 1, 2009, has approved legislation that allows municipalities to adopt such ordinances. Used as an overlay district, the object is to provide a financial incentive to arts and cultural related activities to locate in downtowns. The Town Council will be reviewing the draft ordinance; the Planning Commission will be responsible for establishing the boundaries of this district. The proposed area for consideration, stretches from the east of Trigg Street to Palmer Street on the west, following Plumb alley to the north and the railroad along the south. Plumb Alley is proposed as the properties located north of the Alley (along Valley Street, both sides) are a mixture of Professional Offices and Residences. Main Street should be the focus of the Arts and Cultural District, as well as the Depot Square area and Pecan Street.

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(5) DISCUSSION - Planning Commission Annual Report

Mr. Jackson submitted an annual report to the Planning Commission members of its previous year's activities and welcomed any changes or additions. Per the Code of Virginia, the Planning Commission must submit an annual report each year to the Town Council.

After discussion Mr. Kimbrell made a motion to approve the annual report as presented. Mr. Bundy seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

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(6) APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Dr. White made a motion that Mr. Bundy be appointed as Chairman of the Planning Commission, effective August, 2009. After discussion Mr. Shuman made a motion to amended Dr. White's motion, to appoint Dr. White as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Kelly seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

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There being no further business, a motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Kenneth Shuman, Chairman

Gregory W. Kelly, Secretary