

**TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR STANDARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2019 – 3:00 P.M.
ARTHUR CAMPBELL ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A Regular Standard meeting of the Economic Development Authority was held on Thursday, August 15, 2019, at 3:00 pm in the Arthur Campbell Meeting Room in the Municipal Building.

**A. WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA REVIEW and APPROVAL - by
Kenny Shuman – Chairman**

Meeting called to order and agenda approved.

**B. ROLL CALL, ASCERTAIN QUORUM, REVIEW & APPROVAL OF MINUTES
– JUNE 13, 2019 – Alex Brown, Recorder**

Members of the Board Present: Mr. Alex Brown – called in at 4:05 p.m.
 Mr. Kenneth Shuman
 Mr. Don Adams
 Mr. Ernest Daniels
 Mr. Nathan Louis Berg

Members of the Board Absent: Ms. Shanna Carrico
 Mr. Robert Trevorrow

Administrative/Town Staff: Tonya Triplett, Community Development
 Coordinator
 Amanda Livingston, Marketing Coordinator
 Mrs. Janice Dornon, Administrative Assistant

Guests: Lisa Quigley, Virginia Creeper Trail Club
 Cindy Snider, Virginia Community Capital

Comprising a quorum of the Board.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- No minutes were submitted at this time.

D. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR REPORT

Tonya Triplett made the following announcements:

- Beef-O-Brady is now open.
- Ms. Triplett has been in contact with a vendor willing to fund a new or existing business to create a new entertainment venue to be open from the house of 9:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. in the locations between Deadmore Street and Deport Square or between Park Street and Valley Street. This vendor would like to see things like karaoke, stand-up comedy.
- Buskerfest will be August 31, 2019
- Town-Wide Yard Sale will be September 14, 2019, having a new GIS associate the hope is to have an overlay on a google map that will be interactive, which will allow the public to just click on the map and it will provide the address(es) of the yard sales.
- Towns 80's Block Party will be September 28, 2019
- Anderson's Barber Shop has moved into the building adjacent to Little Downtown Donut Shop, after their previous building fire.

E. TOURISM DIRECTOR REPORT

Amanda Livingston sat in for Jayne Duehring.

- Amanda reported that Tourism numbers are up from last year at this time.
- Tourism has plans to do a marketing study for the community; the last study was completed in 2012. Updates on this study are planned for the next EDA meeting on October 17, 2019.

F. VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL CLUB UPDATE

Lisa Quigley represented the Virginia Creeper Trail Club

- VCTC will be conducting an Economic Impact Study
- The Virginia Creeper Trail Club has a new president; Wayne Miller retired after ten years of service.
- With the changes to the administration of the Town's Main Street Association VCTC was asked to take over the Beer Garden, this endeavor grossed \$25,000. Since the reduction of recycling the club sold stainless steel containers making up a large part of the record sales for the event.

- The VCTC will also be over the Beer Garden at the Buskerfest After Dark on August 31, 2019.
- The VCTC has been awarded a grant for \$63, 000; these funds will be used for a 15-year master plan along with the finds from the EDA.

G. TREASURY REPORT – None

H. OFFICER & COMMITTEE REPORTS, UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Façade Improvement

- Currently seven properties have received façade funding from the EDA.
- Tonya commented that there is a grant that can be applied that would increase the tax credit from .25¢ to .45¢.
- A post inventory will need to be done to determine if the façade improvement has increased business for the ones who contributors and the non-contributors. Did the project increase their bottom line?
- Bella's and Mr. White have completed their façade renovations. Mr. White's property houses a Barber/Beauty Shop and a New Mexican Grocery Store.
- The Ski Haus had to scale back on their previously submitted plan for renovations due to the hit and run incidence they incurred.
- Air Serve is currently behind on their renovations due to the warmer temperatures, which has increased his workload. They will begin work when business slows down in the cooler weather.
- Three of the four businesses that Tonya has been working with on the façade project are in compliance. Some of the businesses who applied for EDA façade funding are not complying with the terms that state that the finding is for exterior work only.

2. Work Plan Update

- A discussion was held on whether to pay for a webpage for the EDA or have a page associated with the Town webpage. To have an individual page it would be costly due to the back end maintenance required to run the website. If the EDA page were associated with the Towns page, it would be far less expensive. Either way, the Grow Abingdon Domain would remain up and functional.
- Everyone was encouraged to go to the envisionabingdon.com webpage to view updates on the comprehensive plan. The new plan will have a Land Use Plan included whereas the past Comp Plan did not include this. It has been suggested that Abingdon have an RV Park,

something that the Town does not presently have.

- Mr. Shuman reminded the group that at the August 26th Planning Commission meeting that the topic of the Overly District wording would be discussed, what roads are arterial road, and color of a building. If an ordinance is approved to change the wording to include ‘Courthouse’, this would allow the Washington County Courthouse to move to the old Kmart building if the referendum passes.
- Board was happy to see work being done around the Hutton property. If you own a historic home you should be required to maintain the property.
- Sandy Ratliff does Noon Knowledge sessions at the Small Business Incubator. These sessions are also available on U-Tube.
- USDA, DHCD and the VCC will be holding a conference in Wytheville on August 21st.

I. NEW BUSINESS

A. Virginia Community Capital, Cindy Snider

Ms. Snider represented Virginia Community Capital. VCC is a small business lender, which has been in business for thirteen years. They lend to businesses, real estate developers, and to established businesses (that have been up and running for two years) that need funds to continue to grow, municipalities, non-profits, help if someone wished to sell their business, real estate lending for multifamily homes such as converting an old school, create senior living, create low income living facilities.

The lend tech assistance to planning committees. They only do lending; they do not maintain checking or savings accounts at the VCC. They work with foundation impact investing. VCC covers the areas of VA, NC, TN, WV & KY. VCC works with organizations that want to create jobs in communities. They can help municipalities maintain a revolving loan fund. VAA works with tax-exempt entities and community impact organizations.

B. Courthouse Discussion

Mr. Berg has composed a letter to be presented to the Abingdon Town Council on behalf of the EDA about the moving of the Washington County Courthouse to the old Kmart building.

Mr. Shuman informed the committee that a public hearing is being held at the August 26th Planning Commission Meeting to discuss the addition of “courthouse” to the ordinance. If this is passed, the courthouse will be allowed to move to the Kmart building. Ms. Triplett asked if Mr. Berg would like for the drafted letter to be sent from the EDA or him personally. He preferred that it come from the EDA members. Ms. Triplett told the board that Washington County would be spending \$57,000 in printed material and postage to send out mailers pertaining to the referendum to move the courthouse to the Kmart building.

If the Planning Commission passes the ordinance and decides to add “courthouse” on to the Town Council, the Town Council will have the final vote on whether to add this language to the existing ordinance.

Ms. Triplett will send the letter written by Mr. Berg to the Town Council members.

C. Election of Officers

New members were elected to serve as follows:

Chair – Nathan Louis Berg

Vice-Chair – Don Adams

Treasurer - Alex Brown

Chairman Election

Motion made by Don Adams to elect Nathan Berg as the next EDA chair, seconded by Ernest Daniels.

Don Adams	Yay
Ernest Daniels	Yay
Nathan Berg	Yay
Kenny Shuman	Yay

All voting members unanimously voted to make Nathan Berg the new Chairman.

Vice-Chairman Election

Motion made by Ernest Daniels to elect Don Adams as the next EDA Vice-Chairman, seconded by Nathan Berg.

Don Adams	Yay
Ernest Daniels	Yay
Nathan Berg	Yay
Kenny Shuman	Yay

All voting members unanimously voted to make Don Adams the new Vice-Chairman.

Treasurer Election

Motion made by Don Adams to elect Alex Brown as the next EDA Treasurer, seconded by Nathan Berg.

Don Adams	Yay
Ernest Daniels	Yay

Nathan Berg	Yay
Kenny Shuman	Yay

All voting members unanimously voted to make Alex Brown as the new Treasurer.

D. Next Meeting – Date and plan for program

The next EDA meeting will be October 17, 2019, in the Arthur Campbell Room, first floor of Town Hall.

J. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

K. OLD BUSINESS/MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

1. The question was posed does the EDA committee wish to spend funds to advertise in the Virginia Business Magazine, the cost would be pricey. The ad would promote Technology, Clean Energy and Quality of Life. Ms. Triplett said she was willing to contribute funds for the advertisement along with the Small Business Incubator if the EDA would commit funding as well. A full-page ad will cost \$700.00. The publication would be for 25,000 published copies and 25,000 electronic editions. The ad will promote the Small Business Incubator and the Stone Mill Technology Park in Abingdon. Ms. Livingston commented that the committee should have an annual advertising plan, not just the short term. A continuing presence will have a bigger impact.

Motion made by Don Adams to create a full-page ad with an addendum to have Amanda Livingston proofread the ad before it runs in the publication, seconded by Ernest Daniels.

Don Adams	Yay
Ernest Daniels	Yay
Nathan Berg	Yay
Kenny Shuman	Yay

All voting members unanimously voted to make Alex Brown as the new Treasurer.

L. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Shuman thanked the EDA board for allowing him to chair the committee and that he looked forward to working with them moving forward.

M. ADJOURNMENT

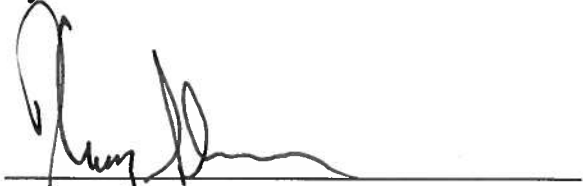
The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Brown
Mr. Shuman
Mr. Adams
Mr. Berg

Aye
Aye
Aye
Aye

Meeting adjourned at 4: 23 P. M.



Kenny Shuman, Chairman