

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020 – 2:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Wednesday, February 19, 2020, at 2:30 pm in the Council Chambers in the Municipal Building.

A. WELCOME- *Mayor Craig*

B. ROLL CALL – *Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk*

Members of Council Present:	Mr. Bradley Mrs. Quetsch Mr. Webb Ms. Patterson Mayor Craig
-----------------------------	---

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

D. PROCLAMATION – (VIDEO 18:38 – 22:43)

1. Proclamation declaring March as Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month – *Derek Webb, Councilmember*

Mr. Webb read the Proclamation into the record, and at which time Council presented same to Sharon Cross and thanked her for her dedication to raise awareness.

E. PETITIONS, PUBLIC HEARINGS AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

1. Public Hearing pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 15.2-1800 regarding the lease of property between the Town and Senior Services Center, Inc., a Virginia corporation, also known as “The Community Center” located at 300 Senior Drive, Abingdon, Virginia. – *James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 22:56 – 24:57)*

Town Manager Morani stated that this lease of property to provide a pickleball court has been discussed several times and advised that Council can vote and/or place on next month’s agenda.

Mayor Craig declared the public hearing open, hearing no comments, Mayor Craig closed the public hearing.

On motion by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Webb, Council approved the lease of property between the Town and Senior Services Center, Inc. and authorize James Morani to sign.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Ms. Patterson	Aye
Mayor Craig	Aye

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation from Nicole Childress, Executive Director regarding Abingdon Main Street **(VIDEO 24:59 – 28:00)**

Nicole Childress provided Council with an update regarding Abingdon Main Street, including applying for HGTV “Hometown Takeover”, designs for benches and bike-racks, wayfinding signs and “Art in the Park”.

2. Discussion regarding an easement from Town of Abingdon to Virginia Department of Transportation for Virginia Creeper Trail. – **James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 28:10 – 36:55)**

Town Manager James Morani advised Council that someone from Virginia Department of Transportation approached John Dew seeking an easement on property located on the Virginia Creeper Trail. John Dew, Director of Public Works stated that the next phase of Route 58 extension towards Damascus would include the relocation of a bridge with two new structures requiring a permanent easement of 1.09 acres, the width of the Virginia Creeper Trail in that area, to maintain the bridges. Mr. Dew stated that VDOT has also approached the Town of Damascus. Discussion ensued.

3. Discussion regarding proposed amendment and referral to Planning Commission regarding Article 8. – OH Old & Historic District, Section 8-2-13 Permitted uses – By right. – **Jason Boswell, Director of Planning (VIDEO 36:56 – 41:00)**

Jason Boswell, Director of Planning, advised Council that staff is asking Council to refer the proposed amendment to the Planning Commission for its recommendation. The amendment would add loft apartments in existing buildings or portions of existing buildings as permitted use by right in the Old & Historic District, Sub-District 13, which is the Depot Square district which encompasses five structures. Mr. Boswell stated that the current code allows for residential dwellings in some form or fashion, including lofts, single family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, and townhouses in every O&H sub-district, with the exception of Sub-District 13 and

Sub-District 8, which is Sinking Spring Cemetery. The proposed language is similar to that in the other sub-districts and mix-use districts such as B-1, B-2, B-3 business districts. Discussion ensued.

On motion by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Ms. Patterson, Council refer the proposed amendment regarding Article 8. – OH Old & Historic District, Section 8-2-13. Permitted uses – By right to the Planning Commission for consideration

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Ms. Patterson	Aye
Mayor Craig	Aye

Town Manager James Morani advised Council that at next Monday's Planning Commission meeting the Commission will discuss another proposed text amendment. Mr. Morani stated that from the Town's involvement with the Courthouse issue that a text amendment can be initiated from either the Council or the Planning Commission. Further, since the Planning Commission's agenda was completed that it will be referred to the Council prior to approval. This amendment refers to the restaurant in the Sub-District 4, which at this time is not an allowable use. This is correcting that portion of the ordinance as there is additional properties in that district that would be suitable for restaurants. The staff recommends a public hearing on the amendment.

4. Discussion regarding the Meade Meadows Crossing Improvement Project located within the Winterham and Glenrochie Country Club subdivisions. – **John Dew, Director of Public Services (VIDEO 41:01 – 53:35)**

John Dew, Director of Public Works, provided Council an update on the Meade Meadows Crossing Improvements Project and a restroom facility located on the Glenrochie Country Club, including the history of the project and information gathered at the public meeting on held on February 5, 2020. Mr. Dew advised Council that it was unanimous regarding the proposed parking lot and therefore would recommend that Council make a motion to withdrawal the project from the Virginia Department of Transportation grant project. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Bradley questioned the arrangement regarding maintenance agreement between the Town and Glenrochie Country Club regarding "*The Snack Shack*" and asked that management review the agreement to determine if it should be terminated. Discussion ensued.

On motion by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Ms. Patterson, Council to inform Virginia Department of Transportation that it is the Town's intent to

terminate the project and that we look into ending the arrangement with Glenrochie Country Club on the maintenance of that building.

Cameron Bell, Town Counsel, requested that the motion be amended to consider each matter separately.

On motion by Mr. Bradley, seconded by Ms. Patterson, Council to inform Virginia Department of Transportation that it is the Town's intent to terminate Project UPC #113449.

Ms. Patterson questioned the costs and the Town's share, estimated to be approximately \$74,000, and stated that this Council had no involved in this 2014-2015 project. Mr. Dew verified that the actual discussion was around that time, however the actual agreement between Virginia Department of Transportation and the Town was signed in September 2018, which is when funding was provided by Virginia Department of Transportation. Mr. Dew stated that he also believe that the Town had applied for funding approximately three times in the last few years. Mayor Craig stated it has not been verified that Council initiated the grant application. Mr. Dew stated that he felt the resolution was actually passed by a previous Council. Mayor Craig stated that it would have been nice to have a handicapped restroom, however the citizens did not welcome it.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Bradley	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Ms. Patterson	Aye
Mayor Craig	Aye

On motion by Mr. Bradley, Council inform Glenrochie Country Club of the Town's intent to dissolve the agreement regarding The Snack Shack.

Discussion ensued. Cameron Bell, Counsel, questioned whether Mr. Bradley would amend his motion to "Council request that the Town Manager and Counsel review said contract and communicate consistent with the agreement to Glenrochie Country Club of consideration to terminate the lease." Mr. Bradley agreed to amend his motion as stated by Mr. Bell.

Mr. Bradley amended his motion as follows:

On motion by Mr. Bradley, Council request that the Town Manager and Counsel review said contract and communicate consistent with the agreement to Glenrochie Country Club of consideration to terminate the lease.

Mayor Craig stated that he was not in favor of terminating the lease as the facility is being utilized.

Mr. Bradley's motion died on the floor for lack of a second.

5. Discussion regarding East Main Street flooding – *John Dew, Director of Public Services* (VIDEO 53:36 – 1:03:21)

Mr. Dew updated Council with regarding overtopping and closing of East Main Street for significant rainfall for two-days with re-routing of traffic to Valley Street, which always presents some difficulties. Mr. Dew reminded Council that this is not a new issue, however when it occurs we discuss possibilities on how to mitigate this issue in the future. Discussion ensued, including areas on Valley View Drive and Clark Street.

G. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (VIDEO 1:03:27 – 1:03:53)

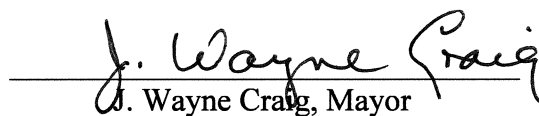
Mr. Bradley noted that the Honorable Mayor's photograph is displayed on the Chamber wall.

I. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL / STAFF (VIDEO 1:03:54 - 1:05:12)

Town Manager James Morani updated Council regarding the upcoming budget process.

Mayor Craig adjourned the meeting.


Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk


J. Wayne Craig, Mayor