

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
ORGANIZATIONAL/REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2020 – 6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

An Organizational/Regular Council meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Wednesday, July 1, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building.

A. WELCOME and ROLL CALL – *Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk*

Members of Council Present: James Anderson
Amanda Pillion
Donna Quetsch
Derek Webb

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – James Morani, Town Manager led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. ELECTION OF MAYOR – Kim Kingsley, Clerk declared the floor open for nomination for the position of Mayor. (VIDEO 6:33 – 7:16)

On nomination by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, Derek Webb was nominated to serve as the Mayor of the Council. Hearing no further nominations for Mayor, the Clerk declared the floor closed.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye

At this time, the Clerk turned the meeting over to Mayor Webb.

Mayor Webb stated that it has been a pleasure to serve and thanked his family and supporters.

D. ELECTION OF VICE-MAYOR – Mayor Webb declared the floor open for nomination for the position of Vice-Mayor. (VIDEO 8:12 – 9:04)

On nomination by Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mr. Anderson, Donna Quetsch was nominated to serve as the Vice Mayor of the Council. Hearing no further nominations for Mayor, the Clerk declared the floor closed.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

Mrs. Quetsch stated that it was an honor and privilege to serve as Vice Mayor.

E. Appointment of Town Manager (VIDEO 9:04 – 9:39)

On nomination by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, appointed James Morani as Town Manager.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

F. Appointment of Town Treasurer (VIDEO 9:41 – 10:10)

On nomination by Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, appointed Tammy Baldwin as Town Treasurer.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

G. Appointment of Town Clerk (VIDEO 10:12 – 10:52)

On nomination by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, appointed Kim Kingsley as Town Clerk.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye

Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

H. Appointment of Town Attorney (VIDEO 10:54 – 11:12)

On nomination by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, appointed Cameron Bell as Town Attorney.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

I. Appointment of one member of Council to the following boards, commissions and committees: (VIDEO 11:14 – 20:25)

Mayor Webb announced that he would encourage more citizens to become involved in local government by serving on boards, commission and committees. Mayor Webb also stated that some of the boards, commission and committees do not require a Town Council member to serve and would like to open those positions to citizens.

1. Abingdon Planning Commission

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, appointed James Anderson to the Abingdon Planning Commission.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

2. Historic Preservation Review Board

After discussion, it was agreed that this appointment would be tabled.

3. Tree Commission

After discussion, it was agreed that this appointment would be tabled.

4. Sinking Springs Cemetery Committee

After discussion, it was agreed that this appointment would be tabled.

5. Mount Rogers Planning District Commission

On motion of Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mr. Anderson, reappointed Donna Quetsch to the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

6. District Three Governmental Cooperative

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, appointed James Anderson to the District Three Governmental Cooperative.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

7. Tourism Advisory Commission

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Anderson, appointed Amanda Pillion to the Tourism Advisory Commission.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

8. Metropolitan Planning Organization

Town Manager James Morani stated that the bylaws for the Metropolitan Planning Organization allows for a staff member to be appointed and suggested that the Council consider appointing Jason Boswell, Director of Planning, to represent the Town.

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, appointed Jason Boswell, Director of Planning to the Metro Planning Organization.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

9. Veteran's Memorial Park Board

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, appointed Amanda Pillion to the Veteran's Memorial Park Board.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

10. Recreation Advisory Commission

On motion of Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, reappointed Derek Webb to the Recreation Advisory Commission.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

11. Infrastructure Advisory Commission

On motion of Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mr. Anderson, appointed Donna Quetsch to the Infrastructure Advisory Commission.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

12. Finance Committee

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, reappointed Donna Quetsch and Mayor Webb to the Infrastructure Advisory Commission.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

Town Manager James Morani advised that consideration for appointments to the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator will be placed on the August 3, 2020 agenda. Mayor Webb adjourned the organizational meeting and will call the regular meeting to order.

REGULAR MEETING

A. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (VIDEO 21:10 – 21:36)

On motion of Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, Council approved agenda as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS (VIDEO 21:37 – 31:45)

- Billy E. Fullen
- Donna Bailey

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (VIDEO 31:46 – 32:32)

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mayor Webb, approved the June 15, 2020 minutes as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Abstained (not a Councilmember on June 15, 2020)
Mrs. Pillion	Abstained (not a Councilmember on June 15, 2020)
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye

Mayor Webb

Aye

D. PROCLAMATIONS

E. PETITION(S) AND PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Public Hearing – Proposed Bond Issue by the Town in the Estimated Maximum Amount of \$2,500,000 with proceeds expected to be used to pay costs of constructing and equipping a recreational facility, to be known as the Abingdon Sports Complex, serving the residents of the Town. – *James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 32:36 – 1:24:29)*

Town Manager James Morani announced that bids for a forty-five day period for the Meadows Project will be advertised in the Bristol Herald Courier Sunday edition.

David Rose with Davenport & Company, LLC presented Observation of FY 2021 Adopted Budget and Updated Funding Strategy for the Meadows Project and 911 Equipment. Mr. Rose also presented Council with an updated Financial Policy Guidelines for Council to review and consider at the July 16, 2020 meeting. Discussion followed.

Mayor Webb declared the public hearing open.

Stephen Jett spoke on behalf of himself and his wife, Lisa, 333 Court Street, Abingdon, Virginia addressed the Council regarding concerns whether the fields were being built for local or outside travel ball and opposed the proposal for \$2,500,000 of additional financial indebtedness.

Hearing no additional comments, Mayor Webb declared the public hearing closed. Council discussion ensued.

2. Public Hearing – Proposed Bond Issue by the Town in the Estimated Maximum Amount of \$550,000 with proceeds expected to be used to pay costs of acquiring radio-communication and other equipment for use by police and emergency responders of the Town. – *James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 1:24:29 – 1:31:29)*

Town Manager James Morani explained that the proposed \$550,000 was included in the FY 2021 budget, it was determined that it would be in the Town's best interest to include this expenditure in the bond sale to take advantage of the interest rates. The Resolution for the sale of the bonds includes this dollar amount and is for the public safety radios for the police and fire departments.

Mayor Webb declared the public hearing open.

Donna Bailey addressed the Council to voice her support of purchasing the public safety radios for the police and fire departments.

Hearing no additional comments, Mayor Webb declared the public hearing closed. Police Chief Jon Holbrook answered questions for the Council during discussion.

3. Public Hearing – To solicit public input on local community development in relation to Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for a project in the community. – **Tonya Triplett, Economic Development Coordinator (VIDEO 1:31:32-1:37:15)**

Tonya Triplett, Economic Development Coordinator, advised Council of an opportunity through funding from Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for twenty locally owned restaurants to prepare sixty hot meals, three days a week, to provide meals to those in need by partnering with Faith In Action.

Mayor Webb declared the public hearing open.

Virginia Neyhart addressed the Council regarding the proposed meals and partnership with Faith In Action. Mrs. Triplett addressed comments during the public hearing.

Hearing no additional comments, Mayor Webb declared the public hearing closed.

F. RESOLUTIONS

1. A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Bonds of the Town of Abingdon in an Aggregate Principal Amount Not to Exceed \$8,750,000 and Authorizing the Refunding of Prior Bonds and Certain Related Actions – **James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 1:37:16 – 1:38:54)**

Town Manager James Morani questioned if the Council had any comments or questions regarding the proposed Resolution authorizing \$8,750,000 as presented by the staff and David Rose, Financial Adviser.

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Anderson, approved the Resolution as proposed.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

2. A Resolution Declaring an Official Intent to Reimburse Certain Expenditures from the Proceeds of Bonds – **James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 1:38:55 – 1:39:59)**

Town Manager James Morani advised Council that this Resolution allowed the Town to include previous expenses incurred for this project and expenses for a radio tower and the public safety radio project.

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the Resolution as proposed.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

3. Fourth Amended Resolution to suspend disconnection of water and/or sewer service effective from the date of its passage until July 31, 2020, to any customer due to non-payment. – *James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 1:39:60 – 1:42:47)*

Town Manager James Morani advised Council that the Washington County Service Authority will resume water service disconnection in August and he would advise the Council that the Town follow with disconnection of delinquent sewer accounts. Mr. Morani stated that the Town will distribute notices and also post on the Town’s social media and website.

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the Fourth Amended Resolution as proposed.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

G. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

H. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES

1. Proposed zoning text amendment to amend The Code of the Town of Abingdon, Appendix B – Zoning Ordinance, Article 8. OH Old and Historic District, Section 8-2. – Permitted uses – By Right, Subsection 8-2-4. – *Jason Boswell, Director of Planning (VIDEO 1:42:53 – 1:44:50)*

Jason Boswell, Director of Planning, advised Council that the proposed zoning text amendment pertaining to Article 8. OH Old and Historic District, Subsection 8-2-4 was referred from Town Council to the Planning Commission at the February 19, 2020 work session. The

Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 1, 2020 and approved the proposed changes that would allow restaurants in existing buildings or portions of existing buildings as permitted use by right and the Council approved the first reading on June 15, 2020. Mr. Boswell stated that this area includes Pecan along Main to Tanner Street to Plumb Alley.

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the Zoning text amendment to amend Appendix B – Zoning Ordinance, Article 8. OH Old and Historic District, Section 8-2. – Permitted uses – By Right, Subsection 8-2-4.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

2. Proposed zoning text amendment to amend The Code of the Town of Abingdon, Appendix B – Zoning Ordinance, Article 8. OH Old and Historic District, Section 8-2. – Permitted uses – By Right, Subsection 8-2-13. – **Jason Boswell, Director of Planning (VIDEO 1:44:53 – 1:46:10)**

Jason Boswell, Director of Planning, advised Council that the proposed zoning text amendment pertaining to Article 8. OH Old and Historic District, Subsection 8-2-13 was referred from Town Council to the Planning Commission at the February 19, 2020 work session. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 1, 2020 and approved the proposed changes, with the Town Council approving the first reading on June 15, 2020. This proposed amendment would allow lofts in existing buildings or portions of existing buildings as approved use by rights in Old and Historic District specifically designated and located in the Old and Historic District.

On motion of Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mr. Anderson, approved the Zoning text amendment to amend Article 8. OH Old and Historic District, Section 8-2. – Permitted uses – By Right, Subsection 8-2-13.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

I. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS

J. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATION FROM TOWN MANAGER

1. Presentation regarding partnership between Abingdon Police Department and Highlands Community Services regarding the Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center. – **Chief Jon Holbrook (VIDEO 1:46:41 – 2:03:25)**

Chief Jon Holbrook, Department Director Kandace Miller-Phillips and CIT Coordinator Byron Ashbrook presented information regarding the Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center.

2. Discussion regarding vacation and sick leave policies – **James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 2:03:27 – 2:04:14)**

Town Manager James Morani advised Council that the proposed vacation and sick leave policies were discussed previously and would like to present for approval.

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, approved the proposed vacation and sick leave policies.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

3. Consideration of Certification for Receipt of Coronavirus Relief Fund Payments – **James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 2:04:14 – 2:05:47)**

Town Manager James Morani asked that Town Council adopt this certification prepared by the County attorney and reviewed by Mr. Bell regarding the Cares Act fund. This certification form will be used when expenses are incurred and will be submitted to the County, which is ultimately the responsibility of the County to insure the funds are expended correctly.

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the proposed Certification of Receipt of Coronavirus Relief Fund Payment.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

4. Consideration of date for upcoming work sessions, August – December, 2020 – **James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 2:05:48 – 2:10:09)**

Council agreed to schedule the following mid-month meeting as follows:

- August 19, 2020 at 2:30 pm
- September 24, 2020 at 2:30 pm
- October 22, 2020 at 2:30 pm
- November 19, 2020 at 2:30 pm

Council also agreed to move the regularly scheduled Monday meeting to September 8, 2020 as Labor Day is Monday, September 7, 2020.

5. Consideration of a proposed date for Council to tour Town Departments – **James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 2:10:10 – 2:15:15)**

Town Manager James Morani requested that Council consider a date in late September or October to tour the Town departments and discuss at the next meeting.

Mr. Morani further stated as a result of the Charter revisions, John McCormick has been appointed as the Fire Chief. Mr. Morani also provided the Council with an update regarding to the Coomes Recreation Center; a meeting of the Courthouse Committee will be held next week, and he has requested that Chief Holbrook provide Council with a quarterly report.

K. OLD BUSINESS

1. Reconsideration of a proposed right of way and easement for an electric power line(s) to Appalachian Power Company, a Virginia corporation, on property known as “Fairview Farm and Foundation”, located at or near 908 Hillman Highway, consisting of 421 feet, more or less. – **John Dew, Director of Public Works (VIDEO 2:15:16 – 2:19:24)**

Director of Public Works John Dew updated Council stating that the proposed right of way and easement is located on the Town’s property and does not impede the Old Glade Antique Tractor Association property.

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, approved the proposed right of way and easement for an electric power line to Appalachian Power Company as presented and give the Town Manager authority to sign such document.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

L. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 2:19:34 – 2:21:01)

Vice Mayor Donna Quetsch welcomed the new Council members stating that she looks forward to working with both members. Mrs. Quetsch announced that during the past two years it has been her pleasure to work with Town management, staff and fellow Council members in the face of many challenges and historic changes. Vice Mayor Quetsch thanked Mayor Wayne Craig for his leadership as Mayor, Town Manager James Morani and staff for serving the people of Abingdon.

1. Discussion regarding appointment of Town Council vacancy – **Derek Webb (VIDEO 2:21:01 – 2:25:10)**

Mayor Webb stated that as a result of Council member Al Bradley resigning effective July 1, 2020, Council has forty-five days to fill the position. At this time, Council will accept a Letter of Interest to fill the vacancy. Town Counsel Cameron Bell stated that anyone interested that is a registered voter and a resident of the Town may submit a Letter of Interest and the Council will consider the person will be appointed. Mr. Bell further stated that this person would be appointed for an interim period until there is an election and within fifteen-days of the vacancy a petition should be filed with the Circuit Court, which the Court will order the election historically on the May election day. Mr. Bell requested that a Motion be made to authorize him to draft and file a petition to begin this process. Mayor Webb stated advertisement will begin after the meeting.

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, authorized Town Counsel Cameron Bell to draft and file a petition as discussed.

The roll call vote was as follows:

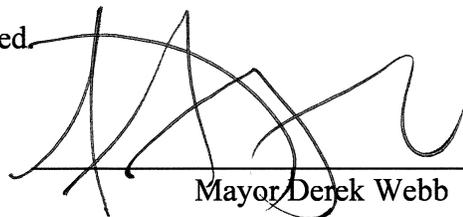
Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

M. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES (VIDEO 2:25:11 – 2:26:55)

Discussion ensued. Mayor Webb announced that this item will be tabled at this time.

1. Planning Commission
 - Appointment to fill a vacancy as a result of Town Manager no longer serving
 - Appointment to fill a vacancy of James Anderson

Mayor Webb declared the meeting adjourned.



Mayor Derek Webb



Kim Kingsley Clerk