

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2020 – 6:30 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, August 3, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building.

**A. WELCOME – *Mayor Webb***

**B. APPOINTMENT OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBER – *Mayor Webb* (VIDEO 10:24 – 11:07)**

**On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Anderson, Council nominated Charles Michael Owens for appointment to fill the vacancy on the Town Council.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Mayor Webb welcomed Mr. Owens stating that it was an exciting time for the Abingdon Town Council.

**C. OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEWLY APPOINTED COUNCIL MEMBER – *Kim Kingsley, Clerk* (VIDEO 11:24 – 13:48)**

Oath of Office was administered by Kim Kingsley, Clerk at which time, Mr. Owens joined Council at dais. Mr. Owens thanked the Council for his appointment, stating that he looks forward to working together.

Mayor Webb asked Mr. Owens to lead the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA – *Mayor Webb* (VIDEO 13:53 – 14:37)**

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

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>

<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Please place your name on the sign-up sheet provided and comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person.

- No public comments

**F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (VIDEO 14:53 – 15:39)**

- July 1, 2020 Organizational/Regular Meeting
- July 16, 2020 Work Session
- July 22, 2020 Meeting including Closed Session for purpose of Interviewing Applicants for Town Council vacancy

**On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, Council approved the July 1, 2020 Organizational/Regular meeting; July 16, 2020 work session and July 22, 2020 meeting including Closed Session for purpose of interviewing applicants for Town Council vacancy minutes as presented.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
	<b>(not a Councilmember until August 3, 2020)</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Ayes</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**G. PROCLAMATIONS**

**H. PETITION(S) AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

1. Public Hearing – Proposed Zoning Text Amendment, Part II – Code. Appendix B – Zoning Ordinance; Article 21. – Signs. – **Jason Boswell, Director of Planning (VIDEO 15:48 – 22:41)**

Jason Boswell, Director of Planning advised Council that this process began in October 2019 through a contract with The Berkley Group to review the ordinance and provide an update. The Planning Commission on June 22, 2020 unanimously approved the proposed zoning text amendment for Article 21 – Signs. Mr. Boswell stated that the revisions should clarify and streamline the existing code providing additional flexibility in the industrial and commercial districts, ensuring a content neutral ordinance according to the Supreme Court decision in *Reed vs.*

*Town of Gilbert*; which determined that localities cannot regulate content; provide enhanced consistency and application of the various permitted sign types, modernize and update definitions sign permit requirements, and review authority and other sections so the proposed sign ordinance to be restricted into nine (9) sections and provided a brief update for each section. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Webb declared the public hearing open. Hearing no additional comments, Mayor Webb declared the public hearing closed. Mayor Webb questioned whether the proposal should be rejected.

2. Public Hearing – Proposed lease agreement for an athletic field by and between Commonwealth of Virginia, Virginia Highlands Community College on behalf of State Board for Community Colleges and the Town of Abingdon. - **James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 22:43 – 27:11)**

Town Manager James Morani advised Council that conversations regarding this agreement began prior to 2018 and has been reviewed by all parties, including the Attorney General Office, which lease allows for use of extra fields for practice and playing fields. Discussion ensued.

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

**On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Anderson, Council agreed to enter into the lease agreement for an athletic field with Virginia Highlands Community College on behalf of the State Board for Community Colleges as presented.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

## **I. RESOLUTIONS**

1. Consideration of Resolution determining property located at 130 Wall Street, Commonly known as “The Abingdon Mercantile”, for redevelopment pursuant to Section 36-55.30:2B, Code of Virginia, 1950 as amended – **Tonya Triplett, Economic Development Coordinator (VIDEO 27:16 – 29:57)**

Tonya Triplett, Economic Development Coordinator reminded Council that this matter was discussed at the July 16, 2020 work session. Mrs. Triplett stated that developer interested in The Abingdon Mercantile building working with Virginia Department Housing Authority would allow more resources if this Resolution is passed. Discussion ensued.

**On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Owens, Council pass the Resolution as presented.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**J. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES**

1. Proposed Zoning Text Amendment, Part II – Code. Appendix B – Zoning Ordinance; Article 21. – Sign. – *Jason Boswell, Director of Planning* (VIDEO 30:00 – 30:59)

Town Manager James Morani advised Council that he considered the first reading of the Ordinance was conducted under Section H – 1 as part of the Public Hearing and that no action will be taken at this time.

**K. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES**

**L. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS**

**M. OLD BUSINESS**

**N. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER (VIDEO 31:12 – 34:04)**

Town Manager James Morani advised Council that the Town's strong credit rating remained the same with Moody's and the S&P rating should be forthcoming next week. Mr. Morani also updated Council on the Town's meals and lodging taxes.

**O. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 34:05 – 34:26)**

Mayor Webb stated that everyone has been busy and the Town is making progress.

**P. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES (VIDEO 34:28 – 1:50:32)**

**On motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, to go into closed session I move that the Abingdon Town Council convene in closed session to discuss the following as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(1), for consideration of application for appointment/reappointment to serve on the Planning Commission, Historic Preservation Review Board; Tourism Advisory Committee; Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator; Economic Development Authority and/or Sustain Abingdon and as permitted by Virginia Code § 2.2-3711(A)(7), consultation with legal counsel, about the pending cases of Icenhour and Kelly EEOC matters; and probable future litigation.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**On motion by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to reconvene in open session.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Mrs. Quetsch moved that the Town Council certify that, in closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and (2) lawfully permitted to be discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in the motion.**

**The certification was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>I so certify</b>

#### **Q. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**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, who was appointed as a Council representative

**On motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, Council appointed Chad Pennington and Michael Weaver to fill the vacancies for Town Manager who is no longer serving and Mr. Anderson who was appointed as a Council representative.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>

<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

2. Historic Preservation Review Board  
- (*Sec. 4.12 Town Charter – currently Derek Webb – term expires July 2022*)

**On motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Anderson, Council appointed Mike Owens to fill the Council seat on the Historic Preservation Review Board.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

3. Tree Commission  
- (*Sec. 4.12 Town Charter – previously Cindy Patterson/Council representative to Veterans Memorial Park Committee*)

**On motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Anderson, Council appointed Mrs. Pillion to fill the Council seat on the Tree Commission.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

4. Sinking Springs Cemetery Committee  
- (*Sec. 4.12 Town Charter – previously Al Bradley*)

**On motion by Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, Council appointed Mike Owens to fill the Council seat on the Sinking Springs Cemetery Committee.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Mayor Webb**                                                 **Aye**

**5. Tourism Advisory Committee**

- Appointment to fill expired term of Joel Jerkins, serving as representative for restaurant establishment
- Appointment to fill unexpired term of Callie Hietala, serving as representative for William King – Arts & Culture

**On motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Owens, Council appointed Jack Barrow for the representative for the restaurant establishment and Nikki Hicks to fill the unexpired term of Callie Hietala, serving as representative for William King – Arts & Culture.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**6. Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator**

- Appointment to fill expired term of Mike Spiegler
- Appointment to fill expired term of Gary Lester
- Appointment to fill expired term of Donna Bailey
- Appointment to fill expired term of Ben Able.

**On motion by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Anderson, Council reappointed Mike Spiegler to serve an additional term; and appointed Kent Petterson, Sylvia Robbins and Doris Shuman to fill the expired terms of Gary Lester, Donna Bailey and Ben Able.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**7. Economic Development Authority**

- Appointment to fill unexpired term of Richard Morgan

Council tabled the appointment for the Economic Development Authority.

8. Sustain Abingdon

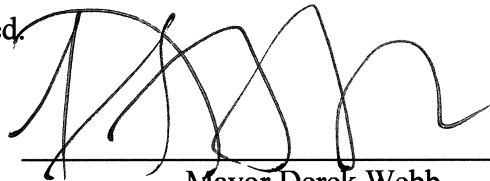
- Appointment to fill unexpired term of Missy Kalb
- Appointment to fill the position of Town Manager

**On motion by Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mr. Owens, Council appointed Robyn Raines to the Sustain Abingdon Committee.**


**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

Mayor Webb declared the meeting adjourned.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Derek Webb



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Kim Kingsley, Clerk