

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
MID-MONTH SESSION  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 – 2:30 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A mid-month session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 2:30 pm in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building.

**A. WELCOME-** *Mayor Webb*

**B. ROLL CALL –** *Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk*

Members of Council Present:                      Mr. Owens  
   Mr. Anderson  
   Mrs. Pillion  
   Vice Mayor Quetsch  
   Mayor Webb

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA –** *Mayor Webb (VIDEO 3:45 – 4:13)*

**On motion of Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mr. Anderson, 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>

**D. 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

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

- No petitions or public hearings

**E. PROCLAMATIONS**

- No proclamations

**G. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion regarding proposed zoning text amendment to Article 9. OI Office and Institutional District, Section 9-2.-Same-Special uses, to allow two-family and multi-family dwellings as a special use. – *Jason Boswell, Director of Community Development (VIDEO 4:34 – 10:11)*

Jason Boswell, Director of Community Development, advised Council that the Planning Commission unanimously approved this proposed text amended at the August 24, 2020 meeting. Mr. Boswell stated that the Town has few OI District, however one property located near Tanner/White remains vacant and being proposed as a multi-family dwelling, which Planning Commission members determined it appropriate. Mr. Owens questioned whether there were other appropriate uses and commented on the lack of affordable housing in that area. Cameron Bell, Counsel, advised Council that this matter will advertised as a public hearing for the October 5, 2020 meeting.

2. Discussion regarding proposed zoning text amendment to Article 10.-B-1 Limited Business District, Section 10-2.-Same-Special uses, Article 11.-B-2 General Business District, Section 11-2.-Same-Special uses, and Article 12.-B-3 Central Business District, Section 12-2.-Same-Special uses, to allow short-term rentals as a special use.  
– **Jason Boswell, Director of Community Development (VIDEO 10:13 – 27:49)**

Jason Boswell, Director of Community Development, advised Council that an owner has appeared before Council and Planning Commission requesting a text amendment to allow short-term rentals as a special use. Mr. Boswell presented information regarding short-term rentals and Homestay. Discussion ensued. James Morani, Town Manager, advised Council that this will be advertised as a public hearing for the October 5, 2020 meeting.

3. Discussion regarding proposed amendment to the Town of Abingdon Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Virginia Code Section § 15.2-2229. – **Jason Boswell, Director of Community Development (VIDEO 27:49 – 36:00)**

Jason Boswell, Director of Community Development, advised Council that the proposed amendment to the Town’s Comprehensive Plan was twenty-months in the planning. Mr. Boswell introduced Todd Gordon, Senior Planner with EPR, P.C., who presented information regarding the proposed amendment. Council and Mr. Boswell thanked Mr. Gordon and the EPR team for the excellent job. Mr. Boswell advised Council that this will be advertised as a public hearing for the October 5, 2020 meeting.

## **H. RESOLUTIONS**

- No resolutions

## **I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. Discussion regarding 2020 CDBG Urgent Need Grant – **Tonya Triplett, Director of Economic Development/Assistant Town Manager (VIDEO 36:09 – 44:17)**

Tonya Triplett, Director of Economic Development/Assistant Town Manager, advised Council that the Town was awarded a Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$200,000 to provide meals from locally-owned, sit-down restaurants pre-established prior to COVID and effected by COVID. Mrs. Triplett provided Council with information regarding the grant and requested permission to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Abingdon Economic Development Authority to write checks to the providing restaurants. Discussion ensued with regard to the grant. Mrs. Triplett stated that this matter would be heard at the October 5, 2020 and proper notice will be published on October 2, 2020 in the Bristol Herald Courier.

**J. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER (VIDEO 44:19 – 46:45)**

James Morani, Town Manager stated that Coomes Recreation Center is scheduled to open the first week of October. Tonya Triplett, Director of Economic Development/Assistant Town Manager advised Council that the Findlay House has part-time staff to assist visitors on the Virginia Creeper Trail.

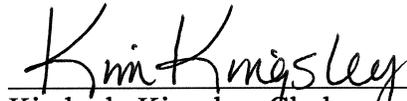
**K. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 46:45 – 47:39)**

Mayor Webb stated that the Virginia Creeper Trail restrooms are now open.

**L. CLOSED SESSION**

- No closed session

Mayor Webb adjourned the meeting.

  
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Derek Webb, Mayor  
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Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk