

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020 – 6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building.

- A. WELCOME – *Mayor Webb***
- B. ROLL CALL**

Members of Council Present:

Mike Owens
James Anderson
Amanda Pillion
Donna Quetsch, Vice Mayor
Derek Webb, Mayor

- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (VIDEO 12:49 – 14:09)**

Mayor Webb advised Council that a matter arose after the draft agenda was published regarding a right-of-way vacation request for discussion and place this matter under M – New Business. Mayor Webb requested an amendment to move the presentation of the audit from Item M to Item G.

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Anderson, approved the draft agenda as amended to add the two changes.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

- E. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Please place your name on the sign-up sheet provided and comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person. (VIDEO 14:10 – 14:20)**
 - No comments
- F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (VIDEO 14:23 – 14:58)**
 - November 2, 2020 minutes

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the November 2, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

G. PROCLAMATIONS (None)

(See Item D – Presentation moved to Item G) (VIDEO 15:02 – 31:00)

Billy Robinson with Brown, Edwards & Company, presented to Council an unmodified opinion on the financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2020 and discussed other three findings regarding the Conflicts of Interest Act; Budget Appropriations and Highway Maintenance Disbursement and Weldon Cooper Survey.

H. PETITION(S) AND PUBLIC HEARINGS (VIDEO 31:07 – 33:05)

1. Public Hearing regarding lease agreement by and between the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and Depot Artists’s Association, Inc.

Mayor Webb declared the public hearing open for comment. Greg Lilly, Depot Artists’s Association Board Member spoke in favor of the lease. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Webb closed the public hearing.

I. RESOLUTIONS

J. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES (VIDEO 33:15 – 38:13)

Jason Boswell, Director of Community Development, briefed Council regarding the proposed zoning text amendments to Article 10.-B-1; Article 11.-B-2; and Article 12.-B-3 stating that this matter was tabled at the October 5, 2020 Town Council meeting.

1. Proposed zoning text amendment to Article 10.-B-1 Limited Business District, Section 10-2.-Same-Special uses, to allow short-term rentals as a special use. – ***Jason Boswell, Director of Community Development***

Mayor Webb questioned whether this proposal should be rejected. Hearing no comments, the matter will be considered for a second reading.

2. Proposed zoning text amendment to Article 11.-B-2 General Business District, Section 11-2.-Same-Special uses, to allow short-term rentals as a special use. – ***Jason Boswell, Director of Community Development***

Mayor Webb questioned whether this proposal should be rejected. Hearing no comments, the matter will be considered for a second reading.

3. Proposed zoning text amendment to 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**

Mayor Webb questioned whether this proposal should be rejected. Hearing no comments, the matter will be considered for a second reading.

K. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES

L. CONSIDERATION OF ANY BIDS

M. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation of 2019/2020 Financial Audit for the Town of Abingdon – **Brown, Edwards & Company** – *(See Item D – Presentation moved to Item G)*

(See Item D – Presentation regarding petition for right-of-way vacation moved to Item M - 1)
(VIDEO 38:25 – 49:24)

John Dew, Director of Public Works, updated Council regarding a petition to vacate a portion of a right-of-way for a small parcel off Barter Drive (“White Avenue”). Mr. Dew provided Council with the process set forth in the Code of Virginia and discussion ensued.

Council agreed to place this matter as a public hearing on the January 4, 2021.

2. Lease agreement by and between the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and Depot Artists’s Association, Inc. – **James Morani, Town Manager** **(VIDEO 49:26 – 51:19)**

Town Manager Morani advised Council that this is a renewal of the five-year lease that expired last month for the consideration of \$1.00. Mr. Morani further stated that the staff recommends the lease.

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the lease agreement by and between the Town of Abingdon and Depot Artists’s Association as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

3. Declaration of 2006 Chevrolet Suburban as surplus property – **James Morani, Town Manager** **(VIDEO 51:24 – 52:20)**

Town Manager Morani asked that the 2006 Chevrolet Suburban used by the Abingdon Fire Department be posted on the government surplus site.

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Owens, declared a 2006 Chevrolet Suburban as surplus property.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

N. OLD BUSINESS (VIDEO 52:20 – 54:10)

1. Town holidays for 2021 calendar year – *James Morani, Town Manager*

On motion of Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, adopted the holidays as presented, together with the Juneteenth state observed holiday.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

O. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER

1. Tourism Update – *Tonya Triplett, Director of Economic Development and Assistant Town Manager and Amanda Livingston, Tourism and Marketing Manager*
(VIDEO 54:12 – 1:10:35)

Director of Economic Development and Assistant Town Manager Tonya Triplett and Tourism and Marketing Manager Amanda Livingston presented a quarterly Tourism update.

2. Discussion regarding scheduling of future Council meetings – *James Morani, Town Manager*
(VIDEO 1:10:36 – 1:20:14)

Town Manager James Morani advised Council that he felt the December 17, 2020 mid-month meeting could be cancelled as a result Council actions have slowed since the fall.

Council agreed upon the following dates/times for the upcoming January – June 2021 meetings:

January 4, 2021	6:30 pm
January 19, 2021	2:30 pm
February 1, 2021	6:30 pm
February 16, 2021	2:30 pm
March 1, 2021	6:30 pm
March 16, 2021	1:00 pm Non-Departmental Budget/Mid-month
April 5, 2021	6:30 pm
April 22, 2021	2:30 pm
May 3, 2021	6:30 pm
May 20, 2021	2:30 pm
June 7, 2021	6:30 pm
June 22, 2021	2:30 pm

Abingdon Police Chief Holbrook provided an update with regard to an incident that occurred on Sunday, December 6, 2020 in the Town limits and Washington County. (VIDEO 1:20:14 – 1:26:35)

P. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 1:26:41 – 1:29:59)

Mayor Webb thanked Council members and staff for their commitment to the Town during a very challenging time and as a result the Town is in a good place.

Town Manager James Morani recognized the staff about being conscious about the COVID pandemic and the local health district looks at the Town as a model for our protocols, policies and reporting.

Q. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES – (VIDEO 1:30:02 – 1:30:51)

1. Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee
 - Appointment to fill expired term of Carolyn Lee, who is ineligible to serve an additional term

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Anderson, appointed John Legard to fill the expired term of Carolyn Lee to the Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee.

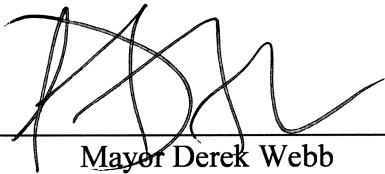
The roll call vote was as follows:

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


(VIDEO 1:30:52 – 1:31:22)

Counsel Cameron Bell updated Council regarding a trust matter where Sinking Spring Cemetery was one of the beneficiaries. Mr. Bell stated that the Cemetery will be receiving a small bequest once it is resolved soon.

Mayor Webb declared the meeting adjourned.



Mayor Derek Webb



Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk