

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
PLANNING COMMISSION
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2020 – 5:39 PM
ELECTRONIC MEETING**

A meeting of the Abingdon Planning Commission was held on Monday, August 24, 2020, at 5:39 pm for an Electronic Meeting.

A. Chairman Wayne Austin called the meeting to Order

B. Roll Call – Jason Boswell, Director of Planning

Members Present:

Mr. Chad Pennington	Joined Electronically
Mr. Michael Weaver	Joined Electronically
Mr. James Anderson	Joined Electronically
Mr. Kirk Sproles	Joined Electronically
Mr. Scott Wilson	Joined Electronically
Mr. Kenny Shuman	Joined Electronically
Mr. Wayne Austin	Joined Electronically

Members Absent: None

Comprising a quorum of the Commission

Administrative Staff Present:

Mr. Jason Boswell – Director of Planning
Mr. Mason Gragg – Town Planner
Mrs. Janice Dornon – Administrative Assistant

Guests: Mr. Todd Gordon, EPR P.C. – Senior Planner

Mr. Austin welcomed the two new members to the Planning Commission, Mr. Chad Pennington and Mr. Michael Weaver.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, August 24, 2020

On a motion by Mr. Sproles, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Planning Commission approved the minutes as presented for the July 27, 2020 meeting.

The roll call vote was as follows

Mr. Chad Pennington	Abstained
Mr. Michael Weaver	Abstained
Mr. James Anderson	Aye
Mr. Kirk Sproles	Aye
Mr. Scott Wilson	Aye
Mr. Kenny Shuman	Aye
Mr. Wayne Austin	Aye

The minutes for July 27, 2020, were approved as presented.

D. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. 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.

Mr. Austin opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Austin closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Austin informed the two new Planning Commission members that this proposal had been discussed at previous Planning Commission meetings and that input from the public had been received and acknowledged.

On a motion by Mr. Shuman, seconded by Mr. Anderson, recommending that the proposed zoning text amendment be approved as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Chad Pennington	Aye
Mr. Michael Weaver	Aye

Mr. James Anderson	Aye
Mr. Kirk Sproles	Aye
Mr. Scott Wilson	Aye
Mr. Kenny Shuman	Aye
Mr. Wayne Austin	Aye

The board unanimously approved the proposed text amendment to Article 9, for OI Office and Institutional District Section 9-2.

2. 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.

Mr. Austin opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Austin closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Shuman asks if the definition of this proposal would solve the previous issue of short-term rentals.

Mr. Boswell stated that by adopting the state code definition for short-term rental the Commission would resolve the current absence of a description.

On a motion by Anderson, seconded by Mr. Shuman, recommending that the proposed zoning text amendment be approved as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Chad Pennington	Aye
Mr. Michael Weaver	Aye
Mr. James Anderson	Aye
Mr. Kirk Sproles	Aye
Mr. Scott Wilson	Aye
Mr. Kenny Shuman	Aye
Mr. Wayne Austin	Aye

The board unanimously approved the proposed text amendment to Article 10, for short-term rentals as a special use.

3. Proposed amendment to the Town of Abingdon Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Virginia Code Section § 15.2-2229.

Mr. Austin opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Austin closed the Public Hearing.

Mr. Boswell let the board know that the Comprehensive Plan process started back in January, 2019. The proposed plan is an entire overhaul of the previous plan. The State code requires the Virginia Department of Transportation (“VDOT”) to review the Comprehensive Plan and submit any comments and/or recommendations.

Mr. Boswell stated VDOT had several comments and changes to be implemented into the revised Comprehensive Plan. Items to be included are:

- Corridors of statewide significance
- Revised table of functional classifications: arterial, minor arterial, and collector roads
- Removal of purposed connection of Meade Meadows to Berry Creek Drive, per public response from survey
- Updated cost estimates of roundabouts at Thompson Drive, Cook Street extension and Interstate 81 frontage road
- Updated table for Six Year Improvement Program.
Addition - UPC 116171: Extended Acceleration Lane (\$1.6 Million)

Mr. Todd Gordon, Senior Planner with EPR, will incorporate the recommendations from VDOT into Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Gordon expressed that the Town would do well to draw careful ties between future transportation projects, Tables on pages 32 and 33, and the needs identified in the State Transportation Plan, also known as the VTRANS Plan. VDOT has suggested that we add additional tables to recognize the needs for the referenced projects. These needs include increasing safety and decreasing congestion on major roads like Main Street, Cummings Street, and Old Jonesboro Road. Making connections concerning these needs will improve upcoming funding probabilities. Mr. Gordon suggested adding these tables.

Mr. Shuman told Mr. Gordon that he had submitted several comments and was pleased to see those incorporated into the revised Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Boswell stated the Comprehensive Plan will include language regarding the Sports Complex.

On a motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Shuman, recommending that the proposed comprehensive plan amendment be accepted as amended per the Virginia Code Section § 15.2-2229.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Chad Pennington	Aye
Mr. Michael Weaver	Aye
Mr. James Anderson	Aye
Mr. Kirk Sproles	Aye
Mr. Scott Wilson	Aye
Mr. Kenny Shuman	Aye
Mr. Wayne Austin	Aye

The board unanimously approved the proposed amendment to the Town of Abingdon Comprehensive Plan pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-2229.

F. UPDATES FROM STAFF AND PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS

Chairman Wayne Austin suggested that a trial meeting be set up with Webex before the next meeting. This will assure fewer technical difficulties for the September 28, 2020, Planning Commission meeting.

G. ADJOURN

On a motion by Mr. Wilson, seconded by Mr. Sproles, recommending that the meeting adjourned with no further business to address.


The roll call vote was as follows:


Mr. Chad Pennington	Aye
Mr. Michael Weaver	Aye
Mr. James Anderson	Aye
Mr. Kirk Sproles	Aye
Mr. Scott Wilson	Aye

Mr. Kenny Shuman
Mr. Wayne Austin

Aye
Aye

Adjourn Time: 6:05 P.M.


Wayne Austin, Chairman


Janice Dornon, Secretary

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be September 28, 2020, at 5:30 pm in the Arthur Campbell Room, 1st floor of the Town Municipal Building.