

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
MID-MONTH MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2021 – 2:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A mid-month meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 2:30 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. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (VIDEO 2:37 – 4:15)**

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Anderson, amended the draft agenda to include a closed session under Item L regarding performance evaluation or job assignments of specific employees and also the disposition of publicly held real property because discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect our bargaining position.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

- D. PUBLIC COMMENTS –**

- No comments

- E. PETITION(S) AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- F. PROCLAMATIONS**

- G. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Discussion regarding Request for Proposal for Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance update – ***James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 4:26 – 9:46)***

Town Manager James Morani provided Council with an update regarding the status of the Zoning and Subdivision Ordinance update. Mr. Morani further stated that the Town received three responses to the Request for Proposals and recommends entering into a contract with The Berkley Group to complete the update.

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, to move the matter along and authorized the Town Manager to sign any applicable documents necessary.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

2. Discussion regarding Historic Preservation Plan – *Jason Boswell, Director of Community Development (VIDEO 9:46 – 32:56)*

Jason Boswell, Director of Community Development, presented information regarding the 1998 Abingdon Historic Preservation Plan presented by Thomason and Associates, Preservation Planners. Mr. Boswell stated that discussion was held at the Historic Preservation Review Board meeting regarding updating the Plan. Councilmember Mike Owens advised in 2014 the Historic Preservation Review Board wished to review and update the Plan. Mr. Boswell provided Council with accomplished items from the 1998 Plan.

Counsel Cameron Bell provided a legal opinion stating that the Plan is not required, or update, by any statute, state requirement or Department of Historic Resources. Mr. Bell stated that the purpose of the Plan was that the Town would become certified as a Certified Local Government. Discussion ensued. Mr. Bell further stated that if it is the Historic Preservation Review Board’s goal to update that Council should review the differences between the Department of Historic Resources extension and the Town’s Old and Historic District with the idea towards ultimately rezoning significant streets not presently in the Old and Historic District. Mr. Bell noted that the Historic Preservation Review Board does not have the authority but could be considered by the Planning Commission and ultimately approved by an Ordinance for Council. Discussion ensued. Council agreed that the Historic Preservation Review Board should pursue review of the Plan and then present information to the Council.

H. RESOLUTIONS

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Discussion regarding sale of Hassinger House – *James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 32:59 – 56:55)*

Town Manager James Morani stated that prior to the sale clarity regarding the right-of-way should obtained. Tyler Vencill, Civil Engineer, presented proposed changes to Council regarding the property prior to marketing. Discussion ensued regarding the sale of property. Counsel Cameron Bell stated that if Council was comfortable with presentation that staff will have a plan prepared for a future public hearing and presentation of a Resolution to Council.

**J. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN
MANAGER (VIDEO 56:55 – 1:02:52)**

Town Manager James Morani advised Council that he would formally present the administration fee regarding blight at the March meeting. Mr. Morani also advised that Chief Holbrook would provide an update regarding the Abingdon Police Department at the February meeting. Mr. Morani also recognized Tonya Triplett for her work on the CARES Act and Jennifer Johnson as serving as the health officer and administering the infectious disease plan as set forth by the Department of Labor during the pandemic.

K. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

L. CLOSED SESSION (1:03:02 – 1:40:24)

On motion by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, to convene in closed session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) a personnel matter involving performance evaluation or job assignment of specific employees; and Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), a matter involving disposition of publicly held real property because discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect our bargaining position.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Council requested John Dew, Director of Public Works and Tyler Vencill, Civil Engineer to join in the closed session.

On motion by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, to reconvene in open session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Mr. Owens 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:

Mr. Owens	I so certify
Mr. Anderson	I so certify
Mrs. Pillion	I so certify
Mrs. Quetsch	I so certify
Mayor Webb	I so certify

On motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Owens, pursuant to Town Code Section 2-385 and 2-386 that the Clerk post notice for application to fill unexpired term of Constance Daggs on the Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Mayor Webb declared the meeting adjourned.



Mayor Derek Webb

Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk