

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 2021 – 6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, August 2, 2021 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. PRAYER – *Pastor Dwayne Knight*

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (VIDEO 7:32 – 8:28)

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Owens, amended the agenda to include an additional closed session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) concerning a contract where public discussion of the terms or scope of the contract would adversely affect our bargaining position or negotiating strategy.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

F. PUBLIC COMMENTS (VIDEO 8:29 – 14:35)

- Doug Beatty
- John Dew

G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (VIDEO 14:37 – 15:53)

- July 6, 2021 meeting
- July15, 2021 retreat

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Anderson, approved the July 6, 2021 minutes as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Owens	Aye
Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Abstain (absent)
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the July 15, 2021 Retreat 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

H. PROCLAMATIONS (VIDEO 15:54 – 30:35)

1. Proclamation on the occasion to honor and recognize the Abingdon High School Baseball Team 2021 VHSL Class 3 Baseball State runner-up

Mr. Anderson read into record a Proclamation on the occasion to honor and recognize the Abingdon High School Baseball Team 2021 VHSL Class 3 Baseball State runner-up. Mayor Webb and Council presented members of the AHS Baseball team with framed Proclamations.

2. Proclamation on the occasion to honor and recognize Lauren Wimmer, Abingdon High School 2021 VHSL Class 3 Tennis Singles State Champion

Mrs. Quetsch read into record a Proclamation on the occasion to honor and recognize Lauren Wimmer, Abingdon High School 2021 VHSL Class 3 Tennis Singles State Champion. Mayor Webb and Council presented Ms. Wimmer with a framed Proclamation.

3. Proclamation on the occasion to honor and recognize Dillon McReynolds, Abingdon High School 2021 VHSL Class 3 Tennis Singles State runner-up

Mrs. Pillion read into record a Proclamation on the occasion to honor and recognize Dillon McReynolds, Abingdon High School 2021 VHSL Class 3 Tennis Singles State runner-up. Mayor Webb and Council presented Mr. Reynolds with a framed Proclamation.

4. Proclamation on the occasion to honor and recognize Xander Brown and Dylan Phillips for second-place finishes, Abingdon High School 2021 VHSL Track and Field

Mr. Owens read into record a Proclamation on the occasion to honor and recognize Xander Brown and Dylan Phillips, Abingdon High School 2021 VHSL Track and Field for second-place finishes. Mayor Webb and Council presented Mr. Brown and Mr. Phillips with framed Proclamations.

5. Proclamation recognizing Holston Mountain Artisans in celebration of their Fiftieth Anniversary

Mayor Webb read into record a Proclamation on the occasion to recognize Holston Mountain Artisans in celebration of their Fiftieth Anniversary. Mayor Webb and Council presented members of the Holston Mountain Artisans with a framed Proclamation.

- I. **PUBLIC HEARING** - Please place your name on the sign-up sheet provided and comments are limited to five (5) minutes per person.

J. RESOLUTIONS

K. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES (VIDEO 30:49 – 32:52)

1. An Ordinance accepting Atmos Energy Corporation bid for natural gas franchise, privilege, lease or right proposed to be granted – *James Morani, Town Manager*

Town Manager James Morani recalled that bids were opened at the July 6, 2021 meeting and this is the first reading to award the bid to Atmos Energy Corporation for natural gas franchise, privilege, lease or right. Cameron Bell, Counsel stated that Council can waive the second reading.

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Owens, adopted Ordinance to accept Atmos Energy Corporation bid for natural gas franchise, privilege, lease or right proposed to be granted and waive the second reading.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

L. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES

M. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS

N. NEW BUSINESS

O. OLD BUSINESS

P. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER

1. Abingdon Police Department Update – *APD Chief Holbrook (VIDEO 33:15 – 44:25)*

Chief Holbrook provided Council with an update, including the retirement of Sgt. Camille Finney after serving for twenty-three years and other matters concerning code enforcement, training, Crisis Intervention Team Assessment Center

2. Allocation of funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) – *James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 44:26 – 1:01:37)*

Town Manager James Morani and Director of Finance Steve Trotman updated Council regarding four projects, including (1) East Main Street flooding in the amount of \$4.0 million; (2) completion of The Meadows project in the amount of \$2.0 million; (3) Virginia Creeper Trail trestle repairs in the amount of \$1.25 million; and (4) Green Spring Road culvert with potential realignment and storm-water correction in the amount of \$825,000. Mr. Trotman discussed loss of revenue and the first reporting to the U. S. Treasury is due October 31, 2021. Discussion ensued regarding amending the budget as a result of the ARPA funds. Michael Surret, Public Works Senior Management Assistant, provided a brief update regarding The Meadows project.

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, authorized allocation of ARPA funds as discussed.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

3. Discussion regarding Hassinger House – *James Morani, Town Manager (VIDEO 1:01:38 – 1:08:25)*

Town Manager James Morani advised Council that no proposals were received in response to the recent RFP. Mr. Morani suggested that an auction of the property with similar preservation restrictions be entertained. Mr. Bell stated that a public hearing was previously held and discussion ensued.

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, authorized the Hassinger House be auctioned, subject to conditions set forth by the Town Manager and Counsel.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

(VIDEO 1:08:27 - 1:14:48)

Town Manager James Morani informed Council that after speaking with Treasurer Tammy Baldwin that the Town's observed holidays will be printed on the monthly sewer statement. Mr. Morani also advised Council that the agenda cover sheets discussed at the recent Retreat will begin in September.

Mr. Morani also updated the Council with regard to the selection committee's for the wastewater operations contract and will enter into negotiations with the firm and present to Council at a future meeting.

Q. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 1:14:48 - 1:15:43)

Mayor Derek Webb stated that he pledged to lead for charitable donations for the sports complex nearing \$300,000 with his goal of \$1.0 million. Mayor Webb further stated that he will continue to have conversations to complete that goal as people want to be involved in this exciting project.

R. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator

- Appointment to fill expired term or reappointment of an additional term of Sylvia Robbins
- Appointment to fill expired term or reappointment of an additional term of Michael Spiegler
- Appointment to fill expired term or reappointment of an additional term of Doris Shuman
- Appointment to fill expired term or reappointment of an additional term of Kent Peterson

(VIDEO 1:15:45 - 1:46:36)

On motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, to go into closed session pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) concerning a lease with the Washington County Historical Society for discussion of the terms or scope of the contract, because public discussion would adversely affect our bargaining position or negotiating strategy; and Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for considering application for appointment to boards, specifically Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Owens	Aye
Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye

Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

On motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Anderson, reconvened 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

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:

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

(VIDEO 1:46:39 – 1:47:18)

On motion by Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mr. Owens, authorized the Town Manager to provide notice that 306 Depot Square lease will not be renewed.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

(VIDEO 1:47:18 – 1:47:52)

On motion by Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, authorized the Town Manger to begin the process of issuing a RFP to lease the property at 306 Depot Square.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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


(VIDEO 1:47:53 – 1:48:41)

On motion by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, reappointed the four members to an additional year to serve on the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator board.

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