

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2021 – 6:30 PM
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The regular meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Tuesday, September 7, 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 – *Minister Floyd Bailey*

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (VIDEO 6:31 – 7:03)

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Anderson, accepted the agenda as presented.

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 7:04 – 24:18)

- Eric McReynolds
- Monty Vernon
- Jimmy Smith
- Richard Morgan
- Beth Smith

G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (VIDEO 24:19 – 24:48)

- August 2, 2021 meeting
- August 17, 2021 mid-month meeting

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the August 2, 2021 meeting and the August 17, 2021 mid-month 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

H. PROCLAMATIONS

1. Proclamation recognizing September 17 – 23, 2021 as Constitution Week.

Mrs. Quetsch read into record a Proclamation recognizing September 17 – 23, 2021 as Constitution Week. Mayor Webb and Council presented Lila Thurmond and Regent of the Black's Fort Chapter, Beth Henningsen with a framed Proclamation. **(VIDEO 24:48 – 27:50)**

2. Proclamation honoring and recognizing Pat Brown upon her retirement as a Town of Abingdon employee.

Mayor Webb read into record a Proclamation honoring and recognizing Pat Brown upon her retirement from the Town of Abingdon after twenty-two years of service. Mayor Webb and Council presented Mrs. Brown with a framed Proclamation. **(VIDEO 27:51 – 30:52)**

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

(VIDEO 31:00 – 33:22)

1. Proposed boundary adjustment by John R. and Nina C. White to Town of Abingdon, Virginia, located near Old South Way, Tax Map Number 127-A-18A, consisting of 0.034 acres, more or less.
2. Proposed boundary adjustment by Town of Abingdon, Virginia to John R. and Nina C. White, located near Old South Way, Tax Map Number 127-A-18C, consisting of 0.027 acres, more or less.
3. Proposed right-of-way dedication by Town of Abingdon, Virginia to Washington County, Virginia, located near Old South Way, Tax Map Number 127-A-10B, consisting of 0.24 acre and Tax Map Number 127-A-18C, consisting of 0.427 acres, more or less.
4. Proposed right-of-way dedication by the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and the Town of Damascus, Virginia to Washington County, Virginia consisting of 0.187 acres, more or less.
5. Public Hearing – lease between the Town and David Millsap dba Millsap Farms for property located at Harmony Hills Lane, Tax Map No. 086-12-5, consisting of 24.185 acres, more or less.

Mayor Webb declared the public hearing open for comment. Hearing no comments, Mayor Webb closed the public hearing.

J. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution supporting VDOT Transportation Alternative Program for Boone Street pedestrian improvements project – *Michael Surrett, Senior Management Assistant (VIDEO 33:24 – 35:55)*

Michael Surrett advised Council that this Resolution would support a proposed project for the sidewalk installation on Boone Street from Walden Road to East Main Street. Mr. Surrett noted that a resolution was required to request VDOT establish a Transportation Alternatives set-aside project to be administered by the Town. This commitment provides a minimum of 20% matching contributions for said project and any additional funds necessary to complete and enter into a project administration agreement with VDOT. Mrs. Pillion stated that she is very pleased with this proposed project.

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the Resolution as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

2. Resolution approving Virginia Clean Water Financing and Assistance Program – Southwest Virginia Pilot Program – *Tyler Vencill, Engineer (VIDEO 35:54 – 43:56)*

Tyler Vencill advised that Town staff applied, with a total Sewer System Evaluation Surveys cost of \$100,000. DEQ held a virtual public hearing on August 20, 2021. The Town was chosen to participate based on the evaluation procedures, including project location, ability to provide a 25% funding match of \$25,000, project eligibility criteria, and supporting documentation for the requested program funding amount of \$75,000.00 to conduct a sewer system evaluation survey to address inflow/infiltration and infrastructure issues throughout the Town's sanitary sewer system. Discussion ensued.

On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the Resolution as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

3. Resolution appointing Coordinator of Emergency Management – **Chief Holbrook, APD (VIDEO 43:58 – 46:29)**

Chief Holbrook advised Council Virginia Code Section 44-146.19(B)(3) states that the Town Council shall appoint a coordinator of Emergency Management to ensure integration of its organization into the County Emergency Management Organization. Town Manager James Morani recommended Town Council appoint Chief of Police Jonathan Holbrook as Coordinator of Emergency Management.

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Anderson, approved the Resolution as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

K. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

L. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES

M. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS

N. NEW BUSINESS

O. OLD BUSINESS

1. Approval of plat for proposed boundary adjustment by John R. and Nina C. White to Town of Abingdon, Virginia, located near Old South Way, Tax Map Number 127-A-18A, consisting of 0.034 acres, more or less; and proposed boundary adjustment by Town of Abingdon, Virginia to John R. and Nina C. White, located near Old South Way, Tax Map Number 127-A-18C, consisting of 0.027 acres, more or less. **(VIDEO 46:36 – 52:14)**

Tyler Vencill, Engineer advised Council that in 2017, John and Nina White conveyed 1.081 acres to the Town of Abingdon to construct access road into the parking lot at the Watauga trailhead along the Virginia Creeper Trail. Mr. Vencill conveyed that through two separate Memorandum of Agreements dated April 4, 2017, the Town agreed to purchase the property and dedicate the improved road, following VDOT standards, as public right-of-way. Mr. Vencill stated that to accomplish this, the first action required is to approve a boundary line adjustment between the Town and the property owner. Discussion ensued.

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the plat for proposed boundary adjustment as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

2. Approval of plat for proposed right-of-way dedication by Town of Abingdon, Virginia to Washington County, Virginia, located near Old South Way, Tax Map Number 127-A-10B, consisting of 0.24 acre and Tax Map Number 127-A-18C, consisting of 0.427 acres, more or less; and proposed right-of-way dedication by the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and the Town of Damascus, Virginia to Washington County, Virginia consisting of 0.187 acres, more or less. **(VIDEO 52:15 – 55:18)**

Cameron Bell, Counsel advised that this action is to dedicate the right-of-way to Washington County. The Town of Damascus will also be considering the right-of-way dedication due to joint ownership of the Virginia Creeper Trail.

Mr. Vencill further advised Council that application was made for a VDOT lane use permit to re-strip the entrance, extend a pipe on the other side of the road and relocate the trail access to make that intersection safer. Discussion ensued.

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Anderson, approved the plat for proposed right-of-way dedication 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. Approval of lease between the Town of Abingdon and David Millsap dba Millsap Farms for property located at Harmony Hills Lane, Tax Map No. 086-12-5, consisting of 24.185 acres, more or less. **(VIDEO 55:19 – 57:07)**

Town Manager James Morani advised Council that this is a renewal of a lease with David Millsap to maintain property that the Town owns on Harmony Hills Lane.

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the lease as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

P. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER

1. Economic Development and Tourism Update – *Tonya Triplett, Director of Economic Development and Tourism/Asst. Town Manager (VIDEO 57:09 – 1:19:58)*

Tonya Triplett, Director Economic Development and Tourism/Assistant Town Manager and Tenille Montgomery, Community Relations Specialist/Management Analyst provided Council with an Economic Development and Tourism update.

(VIDEO 1:19:58 – 1:22:50)

Town Manager James Morani advised Council that at the September 23, 2021 mid-month meeting, discussion will continue regarding the outdoor recreation area. Mr. Morani also addressed the difference between privatizing and contract operations in the wastewater treatment facility.

Q. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 1:23:00 – 1:27:02)

Mrs. Pillion shared that the Senate Finance, including Senators, Administrators, Lobbyists and Staff, will meet at the Martha Washington Inn beginning Sunday, September 12 through Tuesday, September 14, 2021. She also reported that the Virginia Commission of Arts would hold their December meeting in Abingdon, expecting 20 to 25 individuals. The Appalachian Regional Commission will meet on October 6, 2021 at the Southwest Virginia Cultural Center.

Mayor Webb addressed a matter of concern regarding the Coomes Recreation Center pool hours, stating that it was not a financial matter; however it was a staffing issue.

R. CLOSED SESSION

1. Closed session permitted by Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), a matter involving disposition of publicly held property because discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect our bargaining position.
2. Closed session permitted by Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) concerning terms or scope of an agreement for wastewater contract operations because public discussion would adversely affect our bargaining position or negotiating strategy.

(VIDEO 1:27:04 – 2:55:32)

On motion by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, to go into closed session permitted by Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), a matter involving disposition of publicly held property because discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect our bargaining position; a closed session permitted by Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) concerning terms or scope of an agreement for wastewater contract operations because public discussion would adversely affect our bargaining position or negotiating strategy; and thirdly, pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for considering application for appointment to boards, specifically Board of Zoning Appeals, Historic Preservation Review Board, Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee and the Recreation Advisory Committee.

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 Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, 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

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

S. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

1. Board of Zoning Appeals
 - Appointment to fill expired term of R. Wayne Austin, who is ineligible to serve an additional term (Also serves as a Planning Commission representative)
 - Appointment to fill expired term of Dr. H. Ramsey White, who is ineligible to serve an additional term
2. Historic Preservation Review Board
 - Appointment to fill expired term of Michael Weaver, who is ineligible to serve an additional term
3. Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee
 - Appointment to fill vacancy
4. Recreation Advisory Committee
 - Reappointment of Don Yates, who is eligible to serve an additional term
 - Reappointment of Brock Hawkins, who is eligible to serve an additional term
 - Reappointment of Eddie Ramirez, who is eligible to serve an additional term
 - Reappointment of Jimmy Woods, who is eligible to serve an additional term

(VIDEO 2:55:33 – 2:56:42)

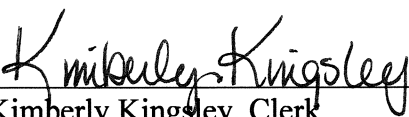
On motion by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Anderson, appointed Richard Morgan to the Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee.

The roll call vote was as follows:

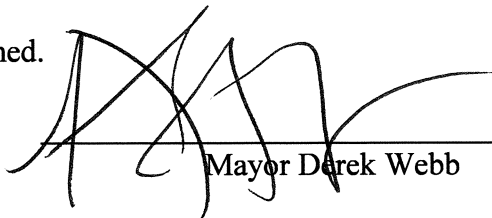
Mr. Owens	Aye
Mr. Anderson	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mayor Webb	Aye

Mayor Webb announced that appointments to the Historic Preservation Review Board and Recreation Advisory Committee will be tabled.

Mayor Webb declared the meeting adjourned.



Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk



Mayor Derek Webb