

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
MID-MONTH COUNCIL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022 – 2:30 pm
ARTHUR CAMPBELL ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The mid-month meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Wednesday, March 16, 2022 at 2:30 pm in the Arthur Campbell Room of the Municipal Building.

A. WELCOME – *Mayor Webb*

B. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present: Mike Owens
Amanda Pillion
Donna Quetsch, Vice Mayor
Derek Webb, Mayor

Member(s) of Council Absent: James Anderson

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (VIDEO 6:13 – 7:05)

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, amended the agenda to add an appointment to the newly established Veterans Advisory Board after Item L and accepted as amended:

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

- None

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Presentation by Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee – ***Chair Donnamarie Emmert and Co-Chair Richard Morgan (VIDEO 7:20 – 36:18)***

Co-Chair Richard Morgan presented Council with the annual report stating the Cemetery needed their attention. Mr. Morgan described several damage incidents to the stones and markers but was confident that prior communication between staff would resolve several of those issues.

Chair Donnamarie Emmert shared that the Committee conveyed the message of a planned revitalization; however, she felt the need to conduct a stabilization. Presentation to Council included consideration of locking all the gates, groundhog control, uncontrolled bamboo, a

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procedure for uprighting stones, entrance improvements, cleaning of markers, and seeking CLG grants. Ms. Emmert requested \$3,000 to initiate a project to include cleaning supplies, repair supplies, promotion, and miscellaneous expenses.

Counsel Cameron Bell discussed the background of the Cemetery, including the procedures in securing permission to repair or alter stones. Discussion ensued regarding contacting DHR for a statute to give notice, the responsibility of the plot owner versus the Town, Mr. Bell suggested that staff work together to contact DHR regarding the discussed issues.

2. Discussion regarding current permit fees – *Mayana Rice, Director of Community Development (VIDEO 36:18 – 47:20)*

Ms. Rice conveyed that this discussion was to ensure the Town’s services provides to the community are recaptured, with only a few fees outside of taxes that contribute to the General Fund. Most services are required to maintain health and safety, with development of property being a choice by an applicant who may or may not reside with the Town limits. Ms. Rice stated she was requested to reduce her budget. Still, she said in a department whose primary asset is staff, it is challenging to accomplish and was looking for ways to generate income by looking at fees obtain for those services compared to surrounding areas. Discussion ensued, and Council agreed Ms. Rice might continue to explore this matter.

G. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS-

1. Professional services to perform structural engineering and costs analysis for rehabilitation of Trestles 1–15 of the Virginia Creeper Trail- *Michael Surrett, Interim Director of Public Works (VIDEO 47:24 – 49:49)*

Mr. Surrett stated in January a Request for Proposals were advertised for structural engineering and analysis for the Creeper Trail trestles, resulting in five responses. A review committee provided feedback with the consensus to award the contract to Prosim.

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, authorized Michael Surrett and the Interim the Town Manager to complete negotiations and enter into an agreement with Prosim.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

2. Hutton Street/Rugby Terrace sidewalk improvements project – *Michael Surrett, Interim Director of Public Works (VIDEO 49:49 – 52:20)*

Mr. Surrett said The Lane Group assisted with the bid documents and Intent to Bid, with two bids receiving. The Lane Group conducted bid openings on March 8, 2022. He requested that the Council award the bid to Boring Contractors for \$175,550 for the construction of that sidewalk. Mr. Owens questioned if the advertisements were placed in February 2022. Mr. Surrett answered in the affirmative. Discussion ensued. Mr. Surrett thanked Mrs. Quetsch, the Infrastructure Advisory Committee and staff for moving it forward.

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, awarded the contract to Boring Contractors.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

H. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE

1. First Reading of Amended Ordinance of the Council for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia to enact The Veterans Advisory Board and add an appointment – *Cameron Bell, Counsel (VIDEO 52:21 – 53:41)*

Mr. Bell advised Council this Ordinance was adopted at the last regular meeting; however, there should have been three slots to expire in June 2025. Mr. Bell said Council could dispense with a second reading, should it be their desire.

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, adopted the Amended Ordinance to enact The Veterans Advisory Board and add an appointment.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

I. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

J. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Mathers, Interim Town Manager, conveyed that the past week was very gratifying to walk into this situation, and hit the ground running. Council thanked him for assisting. (VIDEO 53:47 – 54:23)

K. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 54:23 – 1:00:08)

Mr. Owens inquired the progress of the Park Street project. Mr. Surrett advised that Tyler Vencill was taking the lead; however, he felt it was moving forward. Mr. Bell stated that the property owners were being identified and sorting the need for temporary or permanent easements and other factors. Mr. Owens questioned if the acquisitions would be completed by fall.

Mrs. Pillion addressed a concern regarding a sidewalk connection on Thompson Drive to Boone Street.

L. CLOSED SESSION (VIDEO 1:00:09 – 1:41:45)

1. **Closed session pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) concerning discussion of the terms or scope of a contract, because public discussion would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy.**

On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, to convene in closed pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(29) concerning discussion of the terms or scope of a contract, because public discussion would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

On motion by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, reconvened in open session. (VIDEO 1:41:45 – 1:42:48)

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

(VIDEO 1:42:48 – 1:43:24)

On motion by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, appointed Tim Estes to Veterans Advisory Board with a term expiration of 2025.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

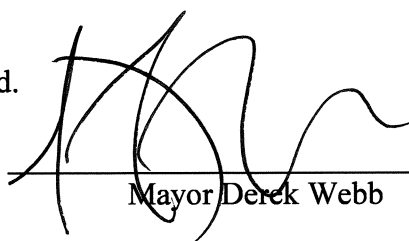
(VIDEO 1:43:28 – 1:44:40)

On motion by Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, appointed Kim Kingsley as the employee facilitator for the Veterans Advisory Board.

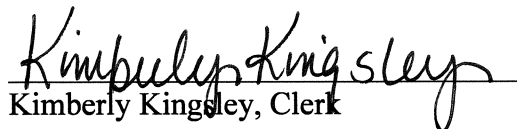
The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Mayor Webb declared the meeting adjourned.



Mayor Derek Webb



Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk