

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2022 – 6:30 pm  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, August 8, 2022 at 6:30 pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

**A. WELCOME – *Mayor Webb***

**B. ROLL CALL**

Members of Council Present:

Dwyane Anderson  
Mike Owens  
Amanda Pillion  
Donna Quetsch, Vice Mayor  
Derek Webb, Mayor

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**D. PRAYER**

**E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (VIDEO 7:36 – 8:04)**

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

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**F. PUBLIC COMMENTS (VIDEO 8:05 – 10:18 )**

- Katie Brown, Barter Theater

**G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (VIDEO 10:20 – 10:45)**

- July 11, 2022 meeting

**On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the July 11, 2022 minutes as presented.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>

<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

#### **H. PROCLAMATIONS (10:46 – 24:15)**

Mayor Webb thanked the parents for the sacrifice made throughout the past years and was incredibly proud of your children’s accomplishments, as it is a dynasty at this point. He conveyed that recognizing the youth is one of the most incredible honors as a seated Council. He further stated the team members were assimilating many talents, determination, and grit that would not be possible without their parents.

Mayor Webb then recognized the Coaches for the long days and hours of sacrifices of tournaments and money invested. He also recognized Coach Francisco for winning “Coach of the Year.” Mayor Webb thanked Coach Francisco’s recent comments in an article regarding the players’ GPA of 3.8.

1. Proclamation honoring the Abingdon High School Class 3A VHSL as runner-up in the State Baseball Champion

Mr. Anderson read the proclamation into the record, and Council presented the members with a framed Proclamation.

2. Proclamation honoring Abingdon High School Class 3 Tennis Doubles State runner-up

Mrs. Pillion read the proclamation into the record, and Council presented Dillon McReynolds and Tristan Hicks with a framed Proclamation.

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

1. Public hearing – proposed special use permit, Owner Evans Properties, Inc., to build a single family dwelling as is required for action within the designated flood hazard area per Section 15-9 of the Zoning Ordinance in the AE Flood Hazard District. Tax Map ID 013-7-1 at 190 Blacks Fort Lane and South Court Street. **(VIDEO 24:38 – 30:42)**

Mayana Rice, Director of Community Development, advised Council that the proposed structure is not in the flood plain as it would be on the corner of the parcel. The Planning Commission approved the proposal as presented with a five-to-one motion of the affirmative to allow a single-family residence to be constructed on a parcel encumbered by the AE FEMA flood designation. Mrs. Rice said one in opposition, Mr. Wilson, stated FEMA has a 0.00 increase regulation concerning a regulatory floodway. The study did show that the minimal increase is lower than a foot, should there be an increase. FEMA leaves the decision of allowing a minimal increase to the flood plain to the governing body. Mr. Wilson said he voted against it because he could not support additional structure in the floodway as an engineer.

Mrs. Rice stated that the structure was to be proposed on piers, not a solid foundation. Town Engineer, Tyler Vencill, reviewed the plans and determined the requirement of a special use permit. The Planning Commission and Mr. Vencill recommended approval of the requested special use permit with the condition that submittal of all building permits to the Community Development department to ensure compliance with the Virginia USBC for both constructions permitting and the required floodproofing. The building permit has additional standards unrelated to the requested special use permit. The flood plain study was a very minimal increase, with the base flood elevation being 2039.0, with the flood elevation at the property approximately 2038.6.

Mrs. Rice stated the Planning Commission discussed whether the Town should purchase the property, however the Town does not have a plan that indicates the property should be purchased as the flood study work has been completed.

Councilmember Mike Owens questioned the height, stating he noticed it was approximately a foot change. Debbie Evans addressed the question, saying about two and one-half feet; however, she suggested three feet to be safe.

Mayor Webb opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Mayor Webb closed the public hearing.

2. Public Hearing – proposed special use permit, Owners David Brown of HFBG Properties, LLC and Representative Matt Bundy, Bundy Architecture and Engineering, Inc. for conversion of second-floor space to multifamily use. Tax Map ID 013-1-40 at 155 E Valley Street (**VIDEO 30:42 – 34:11**)

Gabe Cristofari, Planner and GIS Specialist, presented that the special use permit is to convert a portion of the southern corner of the second floor to multifamily use. The property is zoned Office and Institutional. A variety of businesses currently utilize the structure as office space.

Mr. Cristofari advised the Planning Commission approved the special use permit unanimously. The only change to the footprint of the building will be two elevated balconies located on the South facing elevation. Two goals in the Town's Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Webb opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Mayor Webb closed the public hearing.

## **J. RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution approving special use permit to build a single-family dwelling as is required for action within the designated flood hazard area per Section 15-9 of the Zoning Ordinance in the AE Flood Hazard District. Tax Map ID 013-7-1 at 190 Blacks Fort Lane (**VIDEO 34:13 – 36:22**)

**On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the Resolution for a special use permit to build a single-family dwelling as is required for action within the designated flood hazard area per Section 15-9 of the Zoning Ordinance in the AE Flood Hazard District, Tax Map 013-7-1 at 190 Blacks Fort Lane as presented.**

Counsel Cameron Bell questioned if the proposed Resolution incorporates your additional building permit requirements. Mrs. Rice stated the specific language was not included in the Resolution; however, the building code requires it.

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

2. Resolution approving special use permit, Owners David Brown of HFBG Properties, LLC, and Representative Matt Bundy, Bundy Architecture and Engineering, Inc. for consideration of second-floor space into multifamily use. Tax Map ID 012-1-40 at 155 E. Valley Street. (VIDEO 36:23 – 37:32)

**On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Anderson, approved the Resolution for a special use permit for consideration of second-floor space into multifamily use, Tax Map 012-1-40 at 155 E. Valley Street as presented.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Abstained</b>

**(direct neighbor to that property)**

## **K. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES**

1. Consideration of amendment to FY2022-2023 Budget Ordinance pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 58.1-3830 to correct cigarette tax rate of \$0.40 per pack. (VIDEO 37:32 – 40:06)

Steve Trotman, Director of Finance, advised Council during the budget process and adoption of the Ordinance that there was a modest increase in the cigarette tax to \$0.45 per pack.

Since then, the Treasurer was notified that the tax violated the Code of Virginia. This amendment will correct the cigarette tax to the maximum allowed amount of \$0.40 per pack, with an impact of a \$26,000 decrease or 0.14% of the total operating budget. The Treasurer has issued one refund to correct the overpayment.

**On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, approved the amendment to FY2022-2023 Budget Ordinance pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 58.1-3830 to correct cigarette tax rate of \$0.40 per pack, and waive the second reading of the Ordinance.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**L. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES**

**M. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS**

**N. NEW BUSINESS**

1. Presentation regarding Emory & Henry College campus and project updates (VIDEO 40:17 – 57:34)

President John Wells and Allison Mays, Senior Advancement Officer for Major Gifts and Planning Giving, provided Council with campus and project updates on Emory & Henry College.

2. Doug’s Super Wash (Per Section 18-7-10) appeal to the Town Council regarding a decision made by the Planning Commission (Jun 27, 2022) to not allow the exterior painting of the Doug’s Super Wash to be Benjamin Moore “Red” 2000-10 as it does not comply with the Entrance Corridor standards outlined in Section 18-9-11(d) Design review guidelines (8) façade colors. (VIDEO 57:34 – 58:18)

Mayor Webb conveyed a representative of Doug’s Super Wash wished to have this matter tabled until the next meeting.

**On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mrs. Pillion, tabled this matter for the August 18, 2022 meeting.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Mayor Webb**

**Aye**

3. Consideration of professional services to perform engineering design, construction, and cost analysis for East Main Street Flood Mitigation. (VIDEO 58:19 – 1:02:01)

Michael Surrett, Director of Public Works advised a Request for Proposal with a return date of June 3, 2022, to consolidate some professional services for the flood mitigation on East Main Street. Upon review of several responses, the selection committee recommended AMT.

Councilmember Mike Owens questioned the timetable once the project was awarded. Mr. Surrett replied the project had a very aggressive schedule, completed with ARPA funding, with full construction by the end of 2024.

Councilmember Amanda Pillion questioned the length of time for road closures. Mr. Surrett responded there would be delays; however, roads will not be closed without accessibility to businesses with periods to install the new culvert across Main and Tanner Streets and replace culverts downstream.

Counsel Cameron Bell conveyed that the preliminary plan is to raise Main Street, and you can't raise it if you don't close. Mr. Surrett clarified that all the businesses in that area would remain accessible. It will be a complex operation around it.

**On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Owens, to authorize Michael Surrett to negotiate a contract with AMT.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

4. Consideration of solid waste disposal services (VIDEO 1:02:03 – 1:04:33)

Michael Surrett, Director of Public Works advised Council that the Bristol Virginia landfill will close on September 9, 2022. The Public Works department has been working diligently for the past eight months to relocate solid waste, brush, and other items we collect for the citizens. The Town entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Washington County for our solid waste to the transfer station; however, it would not accept brush. The Town issued a Request for Bids restricting the radius and single trip drive to thirty miles to be cost prohibitive on wear/tear on vehicles, maintenance, and fuel.

Mr. Surrett said the Town received one response, Waste Management in Blountville, Tennessee, for \$40 per ton delivered for brush only.

**On motion of Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to accept quote by Waste Management for solid waste disposal services.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**O. OLD BUSINESS**

**P. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER**

1. Consideration of a lease agreement for a portion of *The Train Station*, 306 Depot Square and adjacent space. (VIDEO 1:04:36 – 1:07:05)

Tonya Triplett, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, recalled the Council of establishing *The Train Station* as an incubator in April 2022. She advised that a business on Main Street has lost its lease and may have to close and reopen later. After discussion with the business owner, she presented a partnership that may work, including a year lease with an option to renew, with an out option should an additional location become available. This lease would be the same terms as the space at 304 Depot Square.

**On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Anderson, to authorize the negotiation of a lease for *The Train Station*, 306 Depot Square and adjacent space.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**(VIDEO 1:07:05 – 1:10:58)**

Town Manager Mike Cochran provided Council announced the expanded hours for the Coomes Recreation Center due to shifting personnel allowing additional operating hours starting September 12.

Mr. Cochran advised during a recent Infrastructure Advisory Committee included discussion regarding traffic calming and speed studies for Valley Street. The Town engaged an engineer to survey for traffic calming. The result of two different speed studies conducted in two-

week periods, April 21 and August 21, totaling 79,000 cars traveled at an average speed of twenty-eight miles per hour, which is a high compliance rate.

Mr. Cochran announced that Chief Holbrook secured a School Resource Officer grant through the Commonwealth, allowing us to have a second SRO at Abingdon High School, which includes 100% of the salary and benefits. Mr. Cochran added more engagements with the youth, provided safety and a role model, and thanked Chief Holbrook for applying.

Mr. Cochran communicated that Michael Surrett, Director of Public Works, secured an additional \$1.12 million from the Virginia Department of Transportation for the Good Roads Repair Program for the East and West Main Streets and Jonesboro Road. He also announced Washington County is working with the contractor for a target date of September 17 to switch the traffic pattern and is obtaining additional material to protect the closure.

**Q. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 1:10:59 – 1:12:13)**

Mayor Webb conveyed that the public hearing on the pump track concept was well attended and received positive feedback and the community has a strong interest in moving forward.

**S. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES (VIDEO 1:12:14 – 1:58:09)**

**On motion of Mr. Owens, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, to convene in closed session pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the purpose of considering applications for appointment for position(s) on Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator and Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee; and pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), a personnel matter involving demotion, discipline, or resignation of a specific employee(s).**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**On motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Anderson, reconvened in open session. (VIDEO 1:58:09 – 1:59:01)**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>



**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:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>I so certify</b>

**(VIDEO 1:59:01 – 2:00:29)**

1. **Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator**
  - Reappointment of Kent Peterson, who is eligible to serve an additional term
  - Reappointment of Sylvia Robbins, who is eligible to serve an additional term
  - Reappointment of Michael A. Spiegler, who is eligible to serve an additional term
  - Reappointment of Doris Clendenen Shuman, who is eligible to serve an additional term

**On motion by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Anderson, reappointed Kent Peterson, Sylvia Robbins, and Michael A. Spiegler to serve an additional term and Pamela Stone to serve a term on the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator board.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

2. **Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee**
  - Appointment to fill the vacancy for one of whom is related to or descended from family relatives or ancestors buried in the cemetery

**On motion by Mr. Owens, seconded by Mr. Anderson, appointed Albert Bradley to serve one term on the Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee.**

**The roll call vote was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Owens</b>	<b>Aye</b>
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<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Pillion</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**S. CLOSED SESSION**

1. Closed Session pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), a personnel matter involving demotion, discipline, or resignation of a specific employee(s).  
(VIDEO 1:12:14 – 1:58:09) . (VIDEO 1:58:09 – 1:59:01)

Mayor Webb declared the meeting adjourned.

  
Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk

  
Mayor Derek Webb