

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022 – 2:30 pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 2:30 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. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (VIDEO 6:37 – 7:22)

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Anderson, tabled items K- 1 to the November 7, 2022 meeting, and approved the agenda as amended.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

1. **Public Hearing** – pursuant to Virginia Code §15.2-1800 and Article VII, Section 9 of the Constitution to consider a permanent easement measuring four-feet-three inches by nine-feet-three inches located at the East stairwell (Main Street location) of the building known commonly as the Summers Building located at 102 Court Street, parcel number 013-1-64. The easement is necessary for the construction of a small staircase and landing which is required to meet current building code as it relates to emergency egress (**VIDEO 7:31 – 22:09**)

Mayana Rice, Director of Community Development informed the Council that the building located at 102 Court Street had been in a design process for the last couple of years. As part of the project, a fourth floor was added, necessitating a stairwell be built and egress with a landing be provided for an emergency exit. This landing and staircase are proposed to extend into the public sidewalk. Mrs. Rice said that to allow for this to occur the applicants are seeking a permanent easement. The proposed design will need to gain appropriateness from the Historic Preservation Review Board. However, this project does not have the right to make an application for a Certificate of Appropriateness until the applicants have the permission to utilize the Town property for their proposal. In addition, Mrs. Rice stated that the Chair of the Historic Preservation Review Board is concerned about the design of the staircase and the total length of the easement requested. As such, staff is suggesting, that the Council consider if more area is needed to accomplish this project. Also, a cherry tree proposed to be removed and replaced along the clock with two (2) new street trees. The Tree Commission will provide their decision. Discussion ensued.

Mayor Webb declared the public hearing open for comment. Jeff Johnson addressed the Council. Hearing no further comments, Mayor Webb closed the public hearing.

G. PROCLAMATION

1. Proclamation recognizing November 2022 as Veterans and Military Families Month
(VIDEO 22:13 – 28:21)

Mayor Webb read the Proclamation into the record, and Council presented the Town of Abingdon Veterans Advisory Board with a framed proclamation. The Board members presented Council with Red Poppies.

H. RESOLUTIONS

I. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

J. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES

K. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS

1. Consideration of bids for playground upgrade options for The Meadows Sports Complex
- Kyle Pollard, Interim Director of Recreation - Matter was tabled until November 7, 2022

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. Pursuant to Virginia Code §15.2-1800 and Article VII, Section 9 of the Constitution to consider a permanent easement measuring four-feet-three inches by nine-feet-three inches located at the East stairwell (Main Street location) of the building known commonly as the Summers Building located at 102 Court Street, parcel number 013-1-64. The easement is necessary for the construction of a small staircase and landing which is required to meet current building code as it relates to emergency egress –
Mayana Rice, Director of Community Development (VIDEO 28:31 – 56:45)

Nathan Burg addressed the Council stating this was a very complex project, including building a fourth floor to a historic building. Discussion ensued. Chair Byrum Geisler, Historic Preservation

Review Board, discussed his concern regarding the current structure and noted that it would be historically correct to include symmetrical steps and handrails that would look appropriate for Main Street. Councilmember Owens stated that he was troubled that it would be precedence, if approved. Discussion continued. Mr. Burg noted that the formal request for 13' 4" x 4' 3" inclusive. Director of Community Development Mayana Rice advised Abingdon Fire Department Chief Estes that if the door doesn't swing 180 degrees, no one will ever be able to go down the other stairs. Councilmember Pillion spoke in favor of the discussed option.

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Anderson, approved an easement of 13' 4" x 4' 3", including reversionary language, and contingent upon the approval from the Historic Preservation Review Board.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

M. OLD BUSINESS

1. Presentation of final draft of Zoning and Subdivision ordinance. – *Mayana Rice, Director of Community Development and The Berkley Group (VIDEO 56:45 – 1:41:32)*

Rebecca Cobb with The Berkley Group presented articles VI through XI of the final draft of Zoning and Subdivision ordinance to Councilmembers. Discussions were held on various topics, including use permissions; use performance standards; community design standards; nonconforming uses, lots and structures, subdivision; definitions and sign questions; and a guide to nonconformities. Ms. Cobb stated that these changes would go back to the Planning Commission for a public hearing.

N. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER

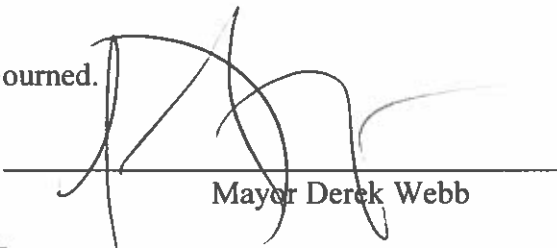
O. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

P. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Webb declared the meeting adjourned.



Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk



Mayor Derek Webb