

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023 – 2:30 pm  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 2:30 pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

**A. WELCOME – Mayor Pillion**

**B. ROLL CALL**

Members of Council Present:                      Wayne Austin  
   Donna Quetsch  
   Derek Webb  
   Dwyane Anderson  
   Mayor Pillion

**C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (VIDEO 5:54 – 6:18)**

**On motion of Mr. Austin, seconded by Mr. Webb, approved the amended draft agenda as presented.**

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

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

**E. PUBLIC COMMENTS - None**

**F. PROCLAMATIONS (VIDEO 6:29 – 10:03)**

1. Multiple Sclerosis Education and Awareness Month

Councilmember Wayne Austin read the Proclamation into record. Mayor Pillion presented a framed Proclamation to Rhonda Martin, Co-leader of the Mountain Empire MS Group and member, Gail Butler.

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

**H. RESOLUTIONS**

1. Resolution regarding requests for funding by a non-departmental entity **(VIDEO 10:07 – 18:25)**

Town Manager Mike Cochran conveyed the proposed Resolution would update a 2010 Resolution regarding requests for funding by a non-departmental entity. Councilmember Austin requested Mr. Cochran to explain to what extent that the adoption would bind the Council and the ability to make appropriations for unplanned circumstances. Discussion ensued.

**On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Webb, approved the Resolution with the amendment of “Requested funding must be solely utilized for advertising and promotion” to “Requested funding must be primarily utilized for advertising and promotion.”**

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

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

**I. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES**

**J. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES**

**K. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS**

**1. On-call engineering professional services (VIDEO 18:28 – 24:28)**

Assistant Town Manager and Director of Community Development Mayana Rice conveyed since the town engineer resigned, those services have been contractual. A request for proposal was advertised, and a selection committee recommended The Lane Group.

**On motion of Mr. Austin, seconded by Mr. Anderson, approved the agreement with The Lane Group, Inc. for comprehensive civil engineering services.**

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

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

**M. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Presentation from Virginia Highlands Festival (VIDEO 24:30 – 30:05)**

Susan Mole presented on behalf of the Virginia Highlands Festival with information regarding Restaurant Week.

**N. OLD BUSINESS**

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

1. Recognition of Jorge Daughtry-Hernandez, Public Works employee for completion of VHCC Class A driver training and obtaining Commercial Driver's License. **(VIDEO 30:13 – 32:30)**

Town Manager Mike Cochran introduced Jorge Daughtry-Hernandez, and congratulated him on obtaining his CDL and was excited that Town could develop and promote staff. Council

2. Presentation of The Meadows Inclusive Playground Enhancement **(VIDEO 32:33 – 38:33)**

Director of Recreation Kyle Pollard presented the proposed playground and thanked the Kids Playground Committee. Mayor Pillion presented a thank you to Emma Wilson, Grayson Ely, Mary Jane Anderson, Betty Jo Anderson and Karrington Wynne for serving of the Kids Playground Committee.

3. Consideration of appropriation up to \$60,000 from Council Contingency for poured in place safety surface for an inclusive playground at The Meadows. **(VIDEO 38:44 – 40:23)**

**On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Webb, approved the appropriation up to \$60,000 from Council Contingency for poured in place safety surface for an inclusive playground at The Meadow.**

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

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

4. Appropriation of Ballad Health sponsorship of \$100,000 for an inclusive playground at The Meadows **(VIDEO 40:23 – 42:58)**

**On motion of Mr. Webb, seconded by Mr. Anderson, approved payment to Cunningham Recreation for the inclusive playground equipment and installation; and poured in place safety surfacing.**

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

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

5. Consideration of Virginia Resources Authority, Administrator of the Virginia Water Facilities Revolving Fund Financing Agreement (**VIDEO 42:58 – 45:05**)

Town Manager Mike Cochran advised funding for \$3.65 million with 75% loan forgiveness and 25% remainder with zero percent interest for thirty-years. This is for the Phase One, I&I wastewater study.

**On motion of Mr. Austin, seconded by Mr. Anderson, authorized the Town Manager to execute any documents associated with Virginia Resource Authority, Administrator of the Virginia Facilities Revolving Fund Financing Agreement.**

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

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

6. Consideration of appropriation of ARPA funds to Council Contingency in the amount of \$328,771 as expenditure for trash truck (**VIDEO 45:05 – 48:51**)

Director of Finance Steve Trotman requested appropriation be made from ARPA funding to Council Contingency as an expenditure for the trash truck that arrived earlier than forecasted.

**On motion of Mr. Webb, seconded by Mr. Anderson, appropriated ARPA funds to Council Contingency for \$328,771 as expenditure for trash truck.**

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

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

**P. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 48:51 – 56:38)**

Mr. Anderson announced the Father/Daughter dance at Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Center was wonderful and the folks at the Center did a wonderful job. He also thanked Councilman Austin for arranging the Veterans Memorial Park Foundation meeting at the Town Hall. Mr. Anderson followed up stating he also participated in the Fam Lodging Tour.

Mrs. Quetsch said she attended a Community luncheon at Cornerstone Christian Academy and participated in the Fam Lodging Tour. She thanked Tonya Triplett and Chad Thompson for hosting, the homeowners, The Girl and The Raven and White Birch for the wonderful food.

Mr. Webb advised he attended the Veterans Advisory Board breakfast and invited others to attend on the first Tuesday of each month. He also stated that he attended his first Tree Commission meeting and several exciting programs planned, including the tree giveaway.

Mr. Austin conveyed attendance at the Veterans Memorial Park Foundation meeting and discussions for supporting the Memorial Day event, including hopefully a flyover during the ceremony.

Mayor Pillion stated she attended the Fam Lodging Tour also. The Veterans Advisory Board meeting included honor flags for loved ones for Memorial Day weekend. She also stated that she was excited for The Meadows splash pad and inclusive playground.

**(VIDEO 56:38 – 1:50:37)**

**On motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, for closed session pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the purpose of considering applications for appointment/reappointment for position(s) on Historic Preservation Review Board, Sustain Abingdon, and Tourism Advisory Committee; and**

**Pursuant to Code of Virginia, Section 2.2-3711(A)(4), a matter involving a prospective business not yet discussed.**

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

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

**On motion by Mr. Webb, seconded by Mr. Anderson, reconvened in open session.**

**(VIDEO 1:50:40 – 1:51:35)**

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

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

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

**Q. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES (VIDEO 1:51:42 – 1:53:34)**

**1. Historic Preservation Review Board**

- Reappointment of Kristi Hartshorn, who is eligible to serve an additional term
- Appointment to fill expired term of Byrum L. Geisler, who is ineligible to serve an additional term

**On motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, reappointed Krisi Hartshorn to serve an additional term and Brooke Bunn to fill the expired term of Byrum L. Geisler.**

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

<b>Mr. Austin</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Quetsch</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Webb</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mr. Anderson</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**Mayor Pillion**                      **Aye**

Councilmember Austin thanked Byrum L. Geisler for serving on the Historic Preservation Review Board for the thankless task during his spare time and hoped he would return to other committees in the future.

2. Sustain Abingdon
- Appointment to fill expired term of Ricky Bray
  - Appointment to fill expired term of Sydney deBriel
  - Appointment to fill expired term of Ashby Dickerson

**On motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, appointed Kevin Sigmon to serve on the Sustain Abingdon committee.**

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

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

3. Tourism Advisory Committee
- Appointment to fill vacancy for Bed & Breakfast entity

**On motion by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, reappointed David Dalton to serve as the Bed & Breakfast entity for the Tourism Advisory Committee.**

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

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

**R. CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(4), a matter involving prospective business not yet disclosed. (VIDEO 56:38 – 1:51:35)**

Mayor Pillion declared the meeting adjourned.

  
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Mayor Amanda Pillion

  
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Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk