



**TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA
TOWN COUNCIL MID-MONTH MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023 – 2:30 pm
TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

DRAFT AGENDA

Please note there will be an opportunity during the meeting for citizens to address the Town Council when the Mayor declares public comments open. We request that anyone addressing the Council sign up, approach the podium when called, state your first and last name, and provide your complete mailing address.

- A. WELCOME** – *Mayor Pillion*
- B. ROLL CALL** – *Kim Kingsley, Clerk*
- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – *Councilmember Wayne Austin*
- D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – *Mayor Pillion*
- E. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – Please place your name on the sign-up sheet provided; comments are limited to three (3) minutes per person.
 - Town of Abingdon residents
 - Other public comments (e.g. property owners, organizations)
- F. PROCLAMATIONS**
- G. PUBLIC HEARING** - Please place your name on the sign-up sheet provided; comments are limited to five (5) minutes per person.
- H. RESOLUTIONS**
- I. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES**
- J. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES**
- K. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS**
- L. NEW BUSINESS**
- M. OLD BUSINESS**
- N. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER**
 - 1. Summary presentation from Emory & Henry students regarding the Available Parking Study – *Community Development Staff*
 - 2. Discussion regarding proposed policy regarding banner poles - *Mike Cochran, Town Manager*
 - 3. Discussion regarding FY23-24 budget – *Mike Cochran, Town Manager*
- O. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**
- P. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**
- Q. CLOSED SESSION**
- R. ADJOURNMENT**



MEMO

TO: ABINGDON TOWN COUNCIL

FROM: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: KICKOFF PARKING STUDY WITH EMORY & HENRY STUDENTS

PUBLICATION DATE: APRIL 4, 2023

MEETING DATE: APRIL 26, 2023

LOCATION: COUNCIL CHAMBERS, TOWN HALL
133 WEST MAIN STREET, ABINGDON, VA

BACKGROUND:

There have been a number of parking studies conducted in Abingdon throughout the years. Each one of them with a slightly different focus.

In 1999, Thomas and Litton conducted a parking study. In 2001, a follow up was conducted looking at seven (7) sites for potential parking garages.

In 2021, Washington County acquired HPRB approval for the exterior façade of the updates and additions to the Courthouse. No additional review of the project was conducted as the project was determined to be eligible for exemption of Town of Abingdon regulations.



Since the approval in 2021 there continues to be dialogue on the additional need for parking in and around the Courthouse. To kickoff additional review of the area it was decided that a baseline of parking usage would be valuable data to collect. Staff had worked with Dr. Edwards from Emory & Henry in the past on a heat mapping project for the Town of Abingdon. He once again agreed that looking at the parking usage in the area would be a valuable student project – giving them real life experience.

Location of study:

It was discussed that since the project was looking at the downtown – it should be expanded just for future discussions. The area for collection included the Courthouse to Russell Road.

In addition two specific pieces of data were collected:

- 5 minute average pedestrian walk from Courthouse
- 10 minute average pedestrian walk from Courthouse

Finally, the area parking lots were also observed to see if they were being utilized.

Timing of the data collection:

The data was collected on 3 occasions and at 3 times.

- 9am
- 3pm
- 6pm

Methodology:

- Students drove each segment of roadway and took video.
- The videos were converted into total vehicles parked in a segment.
- Each segment was given a total percentage of parking utilized.
- Data for the walks were collected “on foot”.

The Community Development team along with the Students will present their findings at the April 26, 2023 Town Council Meeting.

In reviewing the data collected Staff has determined that there may need to be a repeat of this study in Summer and Fall when we have the greatest number of tourists.

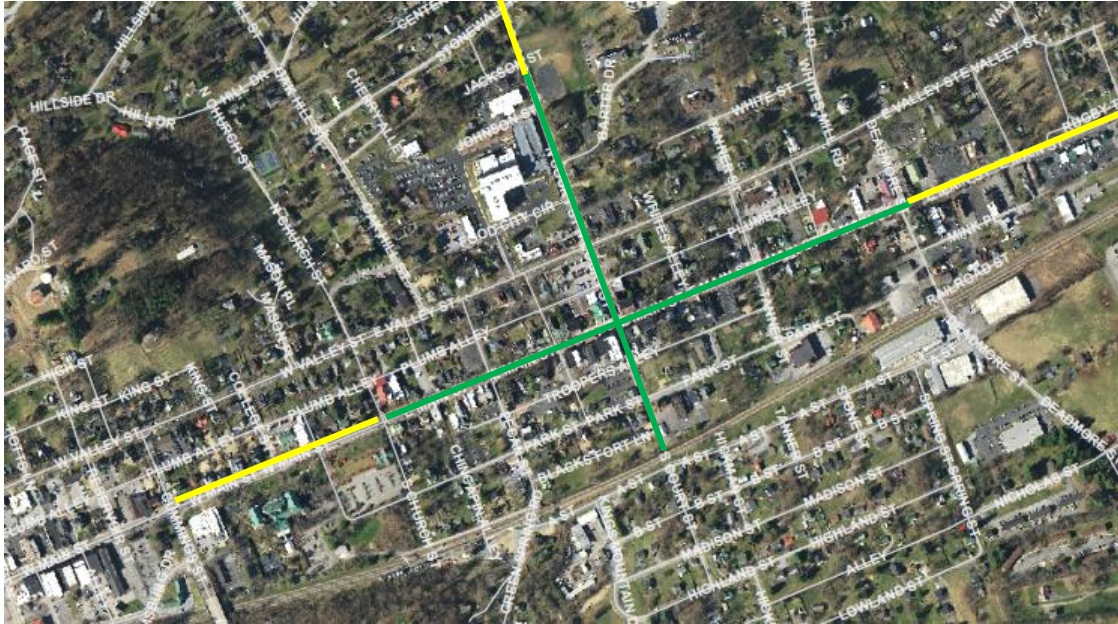
There were several takeaways from the spring collection:

1. There was a fairly LOW usage of all parking spaces outside of the North Court and the South Court segments.
2. There are a significant number of unstriped parking spaces on Valley Street that will be striped with the finalized RK&K Traffic Calming Study.
3. There are a number of private parking lots that could become profitable locations for their owners if paid parking were provided.
4. When the Town’s Wayfinding project is complete, signage will focus on directing drivers to parking.

Example of the data collection summary:

	9:00 AM		3:00 PM		6:00 PM	
	Occupied Spaces	Total Spots	Occupied Spaces	Total Spots	Occupied Spaces	Total Spots
Tanner Street	0	45	0	45	0	45
Park Street	4	43	5	43	6	43
Main Street (all)	45	204	34	204	50	204
Valley Street (all)	12	254	9	254	5	254
South Court Street	11	19	9	19	9	19
North Court Street	15	22	16	22	6	22
College Street	0	10	6	10	1	10
Sinking Springs Church Main St Parking Lot	12	48	6	48	2	48
United Methodist Church Parking Lot (Main St)	6	18	5	18	0	18
Oak Hill Street	0	26	2	26	2	26
Barter Stage 2 Parking Lot	2	118	2	118	4	118
North Church Street	4	11	2	11	2	11
Remsburg Drive Parking Lot (Farmers Market)	12	62	12	62	0	62
Remsburg Drive	4	26	3	26	0	26

5 (Green) and 10 (Yellow) minute walks from the Courthouse for Public Parking on Court and Main Street



This diagram shows that while we do have varied topography a 5 and 10 minute pedestrian distance does cover a significant distance from the intersection of Court and Main Street.