

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023 – 6:30 pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 6:30 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
Vice Mayor Anderson
Mayor Pillion

- C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
D. PRAYER
E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (VIDEO 6:27 – 6:55)

On motion of Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Mr. Austin, approved the agenda as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye
Mayor Pillion	Aye

- F. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (VIDEO 6:56 – 8:11)**
- October 3, 2023
 - October 19, 2023

On motion of Mr. Austin, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, approved the October 3, 2023 minutes as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Abstained (absent from meeting)
Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye
Mayor Pillion	Aye

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, approved the October 19, 2023 minutes as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye
Mayor Pillion	Aye

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS (VIDEO 8:37 – 11:59)

- Eddie Copenhaver

H. PROCLAMATIONS

I. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Proposed special use permit to renovate the existing digital marquee sign located at Jonesboro Road and VHCC Drive intersection, specifically at the entrance to Virginia Highlands Community College. **(VIDEO 12:01 – 18:50)**

Mayana Rice, Assistant Town Manager and Director of Community Development conveyed Commonwealth of Virginia/Virginia Community College System, the owner, and Virginia Highlands Community College/Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, the applicant, has requested approval of special use permit for a comprehensive sign plan. The plan also includes Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator, Washington County Government Center, and the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center on the sign. She discussed the location, background, access, and adjacent land uses/zoning. Mrs. Rice stated that the comprehensive sign plan asked for flexibility to increase the sign square footage located within the required setback of the sign ordinance, flexibility to change “static signage” to “changeable”, and flexibility from 60 total square feet to a total of 412 square feet, and illumination.

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

2. Proposed special use permit for an accessory dwelling unit exceeding the maximum requirement of 800 square feet to provide additional space for handicap accessibility. The requested total square footage is 985 sq. ft., 227 Stone Mill Road, Parcel No. 018-7-3. **(VIDEO 18:51 – 23:03)**

Mayana Rice, Assistant Town Manager and Director of Community Development conveyed Walter and Mary Harman, applicants, and Matthew Bundy, representative, requested a special use permit to exceed the maximum area limit for an accessory dwelling unit. The property is located at 227 Stone Mill Road, within the R-3 residential district. Mrs. Rice discussed the location, background, access, and adjacent land uses/zoning. Section 7-2-2 accessory dwelling units states the floor area shall be no more than 800 square feet in finished floor area, with the applicant proposing to increase it to a total of 1,014 square feet.

Mayor Pillion opened the public hearing. Nester Robels, with Bundy Architecture & Engineering, representative for the owners addressed the Council. Hearing no additional comments, Mayor Pillion closed the public hearing.

3. Proposed Zoning Text Amendment, Chapter 44. Land Use, Article VIII. Division 4. Signs, Sections 8-4-3, 8-4-4, 8-4-6, and Article XI. Definitions, Division I. In General, Section 11-1-2. General and use definitions. **(VIDEO 23:03 – 27:53)**

Mayana Rice, Assistant Town Manager and Director of Community Development advised that the Town continues to grow commercially, signage has become larger aspects of the Town's landscapes, with no current regulations governing window signage. The Planning Commission recommend amendments to the Town's zoning ordinance. Mrs. Rice stated the current window signage is allowed, but there are no regulations concerning any aspect related to the sign's design, with the Town being inundated with window signage requests. Mrs. Rice presented several proposed changes. Discussion ensued.

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

J. RESOLUTIONS (27:55 – 32:30)

1. Resolution declaring the Council's support for naming the Interstate 81 bridge over Cummings Street (Exit 17) the "Master Firefighter Cameron B. Craig Memorial Bridge" and petitioning the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board to concur with the decision.

Fire Chief Tim Estes read the resolution into the record and recognized Cameron's father, Dale Craig.

On motion of Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Mr. Austin, approved the Resolution declaring the Council's support for naming the Interstate 81 bridge over Cummings Street

the “Master Firefighter Cameron B. Craig Memorial Bridge” and petition the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board to concur as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye
Mayor Pillion	Aye

2. Resolution approving proposed special use permit to renovate the existing digital marquee sign located at Jonesboro Road and VHCC Drive intersection, specifically at the entrance to Virginia Highlands Community College. (VIDEO 32:30 – 33:20)

On motion of Mr. Webb, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, approved the Resolution for a special use permit to renovate the existing digital marquee sign located at Jonesboro Road and VHCC Drive intersection, specifically at the entrance to Virginia Highlands Community College as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye
Mayor Pillion	Aye

3. Resolution approving proposed special use permit for an accessory dwelling unit exceeding the Maximum requirement of 800 square feet to provide additional space for handicap accessibility. The request is total square footage is 985 sq. ft., 227 Stone Mill Road, Parcel No. 018-7-3. (VIDEO 33:21 – 34:35)

On motion of Mr. Webb, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, approved the Resolution for a special use permit for an accessory dwelling unit exceeding the maximum requirement of 800 square feet to provide additional space for handicap accessibility for total square footage of 1,104 square feet as amended, 227 Stone Mill Road, Parcel No. 018-7-3.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye

Mayor Pillion

Aye

K. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES (VIDEO 34:35 – 35:38)

1. An Ordinance for a Zoning Text Amendment, Chapter 44. Land Use, Article VIII. Division 4. Signs, Sections 8-4-3, 8-4-4, 8-4-6, and Article XI. Definitions, Division I. In General, Section 11-1-2. General and use definitions.

On motion of Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Mr. Webb, approved the Ordinance for Zoning Text Amendment, Chapter 44, Land Use, Article VIII. Division 4. Signs, Sections 8-4-3, 8-4-4, 8-4-6, and Article XI. Definitions, Division I. In General, Section 11-1-2. General and use definitions as presented, waiving second reading, and adopting immediately.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye
Mayor Pillion	Aye

L. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES

M. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS

N. NEW BUSINESS

1. Woodard & Curran quarterly update for Wolf Creek Reclamation Facility (**VIDEO 35:45 – 43:59**)

Ryan Sullivan and Chris Pritt, representatives for Woodard & Curran, presented an update for Wolf Creek Reclamation Facility.

2. Approval of contract for The Meadows splashpad recirculation tank (**VIDEO 43:59 – 56:20**)

Kyle Pollard, Director of Recreation, advised the Council that since the splashpad opened the Town incurred a huge expense for water. Mr. Pollard suggested to the Council that a circulation tank be considered at the cost of \$150,000 with Carolina Recreation and Design, the original installers for the splashpad. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Mr. Austin, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, to allow the inter-fund transfer of \$150,000 interest earnings from the ARPA Fund to General Fund.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye

Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye
Mayor Pillion	Aye

Motion by Mr. Austin, second by Vice Mayor Anderson, to utilize the \$150,000 transferred into the General Fund for the recirculation tank for the splashpad and authorize the Town Manager to enter into the agreement with Carolina Recreation & Design.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye
Mayor Pillion	Aye

3. Presentation of the Sinking Spring Cemetery Master Plan (VIDEO 56:26 – 1:03:15)

Mayana Rice, Assistant Town Manager and Director of Economic Development presented the Sinking Spring Cemetery Master Plan which included a path forward from maintenance to enhancements.

Motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Webb, to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with JMT to complete a Cemetery Master Plan.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye
Mayor Pillion	Aye

4. Consideration of Agreement with Davis Brothers Roofing and Sheet Metal Fabricators, Inc. for Sinking Spring Cabin cedar shake roof system (VIDEO 1:03:18 – 1:07:12)

Matt Henderson, Assistant Public Works Director, requested that the Council consider an agreement with Davis Brothers Roofing and Sheet Metal Fabricators, Inc. to replace the cedar shake roof system on the Sinking Spring Cabin in the amount of \$24,413.48. Discussion ensued.

Motion by Mr. Webb, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, to allow the inter-fund transfer of \$24,413.48 from the Cemetery Trust Fund to General Fund.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye
Mayor Pillion	Aye

Motion by Mr. Webb, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, to authorize the Town Manager to enter into the agreement with Davis Brothers Roofing and Sheet Metal Fabricators, Inc. to replace the Sinking Spring Cabin roof.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye
Mayor Pillion	Aye

O. OLD BUSINESS

**P. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER
(VIDEO 1:07:12 – 1:17:39)**

1. Recognition of Treasurer, Tammy Baldwin, for thirty years of service to the Town

Town Manager Mike Cochran recognized Tammy Baldwin for her thirty years of service to the Town of Abingdon and thanked her dedication.

2. Recognition of employees of Green Acres Assisted Living and AFD members for response to fire at facility on October 17, 2023

Fire Chief Tim Estes recognized Captain Marty Berry and Master Firefighter Mark Gobble and employees of the Green Acres Assisted Living in their heroic efforts responding to a fire on October 17, 2023.

Town Manager Mike Cochran also conveyed that he received a handwritten letter and a telephone call recently commenting on how nice the Town looks and the dedication from the employees. He thanked the staff for making Abingdon a great place to live.

Q. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 1:17:40 – 1:21:06)

Vice Mayor Anderson attended the Veteran's Memorial Day event on November 11th and thanked the Abingdon Fire Department for presenting the flag, the bag pipes group, Veterans Memorial Park Board members, including Councilman Wayne Austin, Washington County, Virginia Sheriff's Office and Honor Guard, Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Over Mountain Victory Trail, Daughters of the American Revolution and Lee Saunders and Emmitt Yearly personally. He also reminded everyone of the Townwide Merchant Open House, tree lighting at the Visitor's Center with the VHCC choir, and the arrival of Santa Claus.

Mayor Pillion announced the ribbon cutting of the skill and pump tracks and was very pleased with the addition to The Meadows.

R. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES (VIDEO 1:21:06 – 1:35:19)

1. Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee
 - Appointment to fill the unexpired term of Richard Morgan, representative for Washington County Historic Society
 - Reappointment of John Legard, who is eligible to serve an additional term
2. Infrastructure Advisory Committee
 - Appointment to fill the expired term of Charlene Truhlik
 - Appointment to fill the expired term of Charlie Fugate
3. Tourism Advisory Committee
 - Appointment to fill expired term of Morgan Egan, Barter Theatre representative advertised
4. Board of Zoning Appeals
 - Reappointment of Kenny Shuman, Representative for Planning Commission, who is eligible to serve an additional term
5. Historic Preservation Review Board
 - Reappointment of Betsy White, who is eligible to serve an additional term

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, to convene in closed session as permitted by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the purpose of considering applications for appointment for positions on the Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee, Infrastructure Advisory Committee, Tourism Advisory Committee, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Historic Preservation Review Board.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye
Mayor Pillion	Aye

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Webb to reconvene in open session.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye
Mayor Pillion	Aye

Vice Mayor Anderson moved that the Town Council certify that in closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and lawfully permitted to be discussed under the provision of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in that motion.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	I so certify
Mrs. Quetsch	I so certify
Mr. Webb	I so certify
Vice Mayor Anderson	I so certify
Mayor Pillion	I so certify

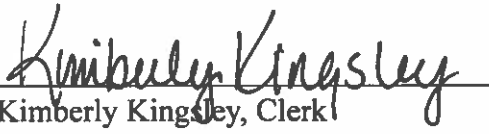
On motion of Mr. Webb, seconded by Mr. Austin, appointed Keri Tudor as a representative of the Washington County Historic Society to the Sinking Spring Cemetery Committee; Tyler Vencill to replace Charlene Truhlik and Taylor Bettis to replace Charlie Fugate on the Infrastructure Advisory Committee; Amber Fiorini as the Barter Theatre representative on the Tourism Advisory Committee; and reappointed Kenny Shuman as the Planning Commission representative to the Board of Zoning Appeals; and reappointed Betsy White to the Historic Preservation Review Board.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Austin	Aye
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mr. Webb	Aye
Vice Mayor Anderson	Aye
Mayor Pillion	Aye

S. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Pillion declared the meeting adjourned.


Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk


Mayor Amanda Pillion