



**TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2024 – 6:30 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 Derek Webb*
- D. PRAYER** – *Brad Farmer, Executive Director at Faith in Action*
- E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – *Mayor Pillion*
- F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 - January 8, 2024
 - January 25, 2024
- G. 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)
- H. PROCLAMATIONS**
 - 1. Proclamation recognizing Brown Dental Associates, PC in celebration of their Fiftieth Anniversary
- I. PUBLIC HEARING** - Please place your name on the sign-up sheet provided; comments are limited to five (5) minutes per person.
- J. RESOLUTIONS**
- K. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES**
 - 1. Ordinance proposing an amended budget and make appropriation for the amendment of current expenses and revenues for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024
- L. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES**
- M. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS**
- N. NEW BUSINESS**
- O. OLD BUSINESS**
- P. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER**
 - 1. Presentation from Betsy White, Executive Director of William King Museum of Art
- Q. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

- R. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**
- S. CLOSED SESSION**
- T. ADJOURNMENT**

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 8, 2024 – 6:30 pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, January 8, 2024, 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 7:03 – 7:33)

On motion of Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Mr. Webb, 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 7:33 – 7:59)

- December 4, 2023

On motion of Mr. Austin, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, approved the December 4, 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 8:00 – 20:41)

- Katie Brown on behalf of The Barter Theatre
- Matt Campbell on behalf of The Barter Theatre
- Dixie McVey Jolly
- Eddie Copenhaver
- Kyle Craig on behalf of the Town’s Veterans Advisory Board

H. PROCLAMATIONS

I. PUBLIC HEARING (VIDEO 20:54 – 26:06)

1. Proposed amendment includes additions to revenue from grants, interest on ARPA funds, and an insurance claim. The total general fund budget amendment will increase the budgeted expenditures and offsetting revenues by \$1,050,849.43.

Director of Finance Steve Trotman provided the Council with information regarding the proposed amendment. Mayor Pillion opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Mayor Pillion closed the public hearing.

J. RESOLUTIONS (VIDEO 26:08 – 38:12)

1. Resolution approving proposed comprehensive sign at property located at 370 E. Main Street Abingdon, VA, Tax Map 013-1-82 advertising the entryway to the shared parking area of Sweet Bay Brewing Company, a bike shop, an adventure retail store, and The Girl & The Raven.

Assistant Town Manager and Director of Community Development Manaya Rice conveyed that easements were conveyed as an internal agreement and not a road. She said the proposed Resolution is to consider a proposed comprehensive sign permit. Councilmember Quetsch questioned if the Town would have any liability. Mrs. Rice responded that it looks connected and would allow traverse across the parts, however it is not a public street. Councilmember Webb questioned if the Town would own the right of way. Mrs. Rice responded that it was on private property and not a right of way and should a traffic issue come up, the Town would refer to the staff engineer and/or hire a consultant with mix-use in that area.

Mayor Pillion questioned whether the signage was the only matter they were voting on tonight. Mrs. Rice confirmed the comprehensive sign plan is the only matter, and not the opening/closing of Park Street or the internal movement of the traffic, or if the fences remain as that is all private property.

On motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Mr. Webb, after review and consideration of the application materials, staff report, and public comment, and in accordance with the requirements of Section 44-8-4-2C of the Town of Abingdon Zoning Ordinance, approve the special use permit for the comprehensive sign.

Councilmember Webb added the sign was lovely. Councilmember Austin also agreed that it is a beautiful sign and issues regarding sign clutter were addressed.

Mr. Austin agreed that it was a beautiful sign, addressed the issue of sign clutter, and consolidated those into a very nice, proposed project. He also believed it was important to encourage businesses in the Town. He also wished to make it clear, particularly to Ms. McVey and others, the Council is only voting on the signage issue.

Mr. Austin stated the second issue is the easements are on private property. However, he felt compelled to vote in favor of the motion approving the signage. Mr. Austin stated he does not want to be misinterpreted that he approved or would give an approval vote to the opening of Park Street, through this project as previously discussed in prior meetings. He stated that coming off a state-maintained road onto perhaps a gravel parking lot that is not delineated in any fashion as a roadway and going to connect it to another state-maintained roadway was not proper. He further added that maintenance of a dead-end street stops just as it gets to the brewery property and from his perspective should continue in that fashion and did not want to mislead anyone. Mr. Austin also stated it is going to be expensive to place a sign on Park Street and perhaps placing a sign at a dead-end street.

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 38:14 – 39:33)

1. Proposed amendment includes additions to revenue from grants, interest on ARPA funds, and an insurance claim. The total general fund budget amendment will increase the budgeted expenditures and offsetting revenues by \$1,050,849.43.

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, approved the proposed amendment as presented and approve on first reading, waiving the second reading, to take effect 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

O. OLD BUSINESS

P. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER

(VIDEO 39:40 -

Town Manager Mike Cochran wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Q. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 58:59 – 1:04:56)

Mrs. Quetsch attended the Infrastructure Advisory Committee meeting and thanked Janet Woolwine, Charlene Truhlik and Charlie Fugate for serving on the committee.

Vice Mayor Anderson attended the Historic Preservation Review Board where discussion was held regarding rewording language and adding images to make the Committee's job easier.

R. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES (VIDEO 1:04:56 – 1:05:44)

1. Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority
 - Appointment to fill vacancy for Mike Rush, who is ineligible to serve an additional term
2. Board of Zoning Appeals
 - Appointment to fill vacancy of Richard Macbeth, who is ineligible to serve an additional term
3. Tree Commission
 - Reappointment of Stuart Hale, who is eligible to serve an additional term
4. District Three Governmental Cooperative
 - Reappointment of Vice Mayor Anderson, who is eligible to serve an additional term

Town Clerk Kim Kingsley communicated no applications were received to fill vacancies on the Abingdon Redevelopment and Housing Authority or the Board of Zoning Appeals. She also conveyed that she received a resignation and there would now be two vacancies on the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mayor Pillion encouraged citizens to apply for vacancies on the Town’s boards and committees. She said it was a great way to find out about your community.

On motion of Mr. Austin, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, reappointed Stuart Hale to serve an additional term on the Tree Commission and Vice Mayor Anderson to serve an additional term on District Three Governmental Cooperative.

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.

Mayor Amanda Pillion

Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL RETREAT
THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 2024 – 9:00 am
JUBILEE HOUSE RETREAT CENTER, 822 E. Main St., Abingdon, VA**

The Retreat of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 9:00 am at the Jubilee House Retreat Center.

A. Welcome – *Mayor Pillion*

B. Roll Call

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

C. Approval of Agenda

On motion of Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, 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

D. Introductory Remarks

Town Manager Mike Cochran welcomed everyone. Mr. Cochran introduced David Rose and James “Jimmy” Sanderson with Davenport & Associates.

E. Presentation from Davenport & Associates

David Rose and Jimmy Sanderson provided the Council and staff with information regarding the Town’s financial background, General Fund update, existing tax-supported debt profile, and wastewater fund overview. Discussion ensued. Both Rose and Sanderson commanded the Town to sharing the monthly financials with the Finance Committee.

F. Review of 2023 projects completed and goals met

Town Manager Mike Cochran discussed the Council’s 2023 goals including infrastructure projects, increasing tourism, local business support, enhancing recreation and art, and attracting young families to the area.

Discussion ensued regarding projects that were not completed, including the Main Street flooding issue and the Park Street project. Mr. Cochran conveyed the Main Street flooding mitigation was redesigned, saving approximately \$1.5 million.

Mr. Austin asked if the Coomes Recreation Center had plans to resume Sunday hours. Mr. Cochran responded that staff were working on ways to have twenty-four-hour access. Mr. Austin discussed the William King Museum of Art expansion.

G. Discussion regarding 2024 goals

Town Manager Mike Cochran recapped the Council appropriated \$4.0 million in ARPA funds to Main Street flooding. After consultations with engineers and property owners, a final plan was developed, saving \$1.5 million dollars. Mr. Cochran presented several projects that were included in the Capital Improvement Plan. Discussion ensued regarding the projects suggested.

Council suggested updating Latture Field, looking into additional tennis/pickleball courts; a generator for the town hall, updating Coomes playground equipment (with community buy-in), CRC pool heater, wayfinding signage, and roofing needs for the police department. Mayor Pillion requested staff to provide a list of the most important items and costs. Discussion ensued regarding working with County officials.

Mayor Pillion declared the meeting adjourned the meeting at 2:24 pm

Mayor Amanda Pillion

Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA
PROPOSING AN AMENDED BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF ABINGDON AND TO
MAKE APPROPRIATION FOR THE AMENDMENT OF CURRENT EXPENSES
AND REVENUES OF THE TOWN FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING
JULY 1, 2023, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2024**

WHEREAS, a proposed amended balanced budget setting forth the revenues and expenditures for the Town of Abingdon was prepared and submitted to the Abingdon Town Council on February 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to §15.2-2507, any locality may amend its budget to adjust the aggregate amount to be appropriated during the current fiscal year as shown in the currently adopted budget with no public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the first reading of the amended ordinance was held by the Council of the Town of Abingdon on February 5, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the current General Fund budget appropriated anticipated Loan Proceeds for the purchase of three police vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment to the current General Fund revenue budget replaces Loan Proceeds with a Transfer from the ARPA Fund for the same expenditure purpose; and

WHEREAS, The ARPA fund expenditures are amended by \$204,000 as a transfer to general fund. The ARPA revenue source will increase by use of interest within the ARPA reserves; and

WHEREAS, the following amendment proposed for the 2023-2024 fiscal year amended budget: and

REVENUE SOURCE		EXPENDITURE
Use of ARPA Reserves	\$204,000	Transfer to General Fund
TOTAL	\$204,000	

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the Town of Abingdon, pursuant to Section 15.2-2507, et seq. of the *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended, the following:

**ARPA revenue source will be increased by \$204,000 as set forth
ARPA fund expenditures will be increased by \$204,000 as set forth**

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this Ordinance of adoption of the amended budget shall take effect on February 5, 2024.

CERTIFICATE

Pursuant to Section 2-100 of the Code of the Town of Abingdon, I hereby certify that I have reviewed the foregoing ordinance Proposing an Amended Budget for the Town of Abingdon, Virginia and to reflect the foregoing amendments, modifications and additions and find it to be in correct form this ____ day of February, 2024.

Cameron Bell, Counsel

This ordinance was adopted on first reading on February 5, 2024, to take effect on February 5, 2024 pursuant to Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, Section 15.2-2507, any local governing body may adopt such amendment at the advertised meeting, after first providing a public hearing during such meeting on the proposed budget amendment.

Amanda Pillion, Mayor

The undersigned clerk of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia (the “Town”), hereby certifies that the foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of an ordinance duly adopted at a meeting of the Council held on February 5, 2024. I hereby further certify that such a meeting was a regularly scheduled meeting and that, during the consideration of the foregoing ordinance, a quorum was present. I further certify that the minutes of such meeting reflect the attendance of the members and the voting on the foregoing ordinance was as follows:

MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE	VOTE
Amanda Pillion, Mayor		
Dwyane Anderson, Vice Mayor		
Derek Webb		
Donna Quetsch		
Wayne Austin		

WITNESS MY HAND and the seal of the Town of Abingdon as of February 5, 2024.

Kimberly Kingsley, Town Clerk