

**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
------------	-----

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

**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:**

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

**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:**

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

**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.

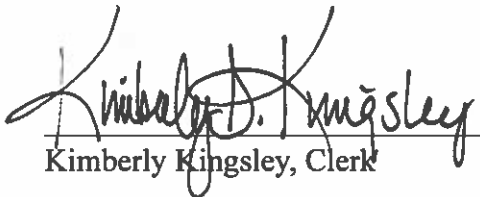
**On motion of Mr. Austin, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, reappointed Stuart Hale to serve an additional term on the Tree Commission and Vice Mayor Anderson to serve an additional term on District Three Governmental Cooperative.**

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

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

**S. CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Pillion declared the meeting adjourned.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Amanda Pillion