

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024 – 2:30 pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 2:30 pm in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

A. WELCOME – *Mayor Pillion*

B. ROLL CALL

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

Member(s) Absent: Wayne Austin

C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (VIDEO 9:27 – 9:56)

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

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

E. PUBLIC COMMENTS (VIDEO 9:56 – 13:15)

- Eddie Copenhaver

F. PROCLAMATIONS

G. PUBLIC HEARING

H. RESOLUTIONS (VIDEO 13:32 – 16:29)

1. Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to dispose of certain personal property.

Town Manager Mike Cochran advised Public Works conducted a spring cleaning and discovered some personal property exceeding its life expectancy and beyond repair. He also stated three chassis were kept for repurpose.

On motion of Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Mr. Webb, approved the Resolution authorizing the Town Manager to dispose of certain personal property as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

I. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

J. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES

K. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS (VIDEO 16:31 – 19:17)

1. Consideration of bids for annual asphalt paving project for the 2023-2024 fiscal year

Director of Public Works Michael Surret conveyed one bid was received from W-L Construction in the amount of \$160,702.90, stating that not as much paving would be completed due to construction projects. He recommended the Council accept the bid from W-L Construction.

On motion of Mr. Webb, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, approved the bid of \$160,702.90 from W-L Construction for annual asphalt paving.

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

L. NEW BUSINESS

M. OLD BUSINESS

N. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER

1. Update regarding the Sinking Spring Cemetery Preservation Plan (VIDEO 19:21 – 37:13)

Senior Planner Gabe Cristofari presented the Sinking Spring Cemetery Preservation Plan. Mr. Cristofari said Noah Halls, and ETSU student, is doing a thesis focusing on the identification of graves solely in the African American section, which included topographic infrared and LiDAR imagery. He discussed the Adopt-A-Plot program which focuses on the landscape

maintenance of the enclosed family plots. Mr. Cristofari updated the Council on the African American Civil Rights Grant program application.

2. Presentation of Sinking Spring Cemetery Annual Report (**VIDEO 37:17 – 42:22**)

Chair Donnamarie Emmert provided the Council with the annual report for the Sinking Spring Cemetery, including the mowing conditions, twenty of the forty Adopt-A-Plot was a success, the Preservation Plan grant, and the replacement of the roof on the cabin. She thanked the Council, Mayana Rice, Gabe Cristofari and Mike Cochran for their support.

3. Discussion regarding Virginia Department of Transportation Project Pipeline Court Street (**VIDEO 42:22 – 1:05:31**)

Assistant Town Manager and Director of Economic Development Mayana Rice discussed VDOT's Project Pipeline Court Street, specifically Main Street from Walgreens to CVS to study the traffic, beautification, pedestrian safety, etc. She conveyed the project was adequately advertised and several options were available to receive information regarding the project. Mrs. Rice stated a final decision was not made regarding Court Street and if VDOT continues as proposed and the Town makes any changes, the Town will be responsible for the costs.

Mrs. Rice stated that Court Street was turned into a one-way street during the construction phase of the Washington County Courthouse with the street being very cramped and narrow. Once the construction project is completed, it could return to a two-way street, VDOT's proposal of a partial one-way or a partial two-way. She stated most had an interest in leaving Court Street as one way to add additional parking diagonally.

Abingdon Police Department Chief Holbrook provided the Council with crash data relating to Main and Court Street and site distance was discussed.

The following addressed the Council regarding Court Street:

- Tyler Reynolds Taylor, part owner of Wolf Hills Coffee
Supports one-way and diagonal parking with perhaps curb extension and overhead flashing light
- David Dalton, resident of 108 Court Street
Supports one way with diagonal parking on both sides and perhaps a small out for plant strip and the opportunity to have a Social District
- Nathan Berg, Summers Roof Top and Cellar
Supports diagonal parkin on both side as it is a critical factor for businesses and once the Courthouse is completed for the increase pressure for parking

- Chad Thompsen, The Book Cellar
Supports one way with diagonal parking stating the sustainability of a business is attainability; creates safer environment; and the Virginia Tourism Council report is to expect increase tourism in Virginia, specifically in the southwestern region.

Discussion ensued with Mrs. Rice stating that the streets are the Towns, however if we want projects completed, VDOT must approve.

O. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 1:05:31 – 1:09:30)

Mr. Webb reminded that April 5 is Arbor Day at Abingdon Elementary School and the online reservations for the tree giveaway will open in a week or so. Also, the Recreation Advisory Committee discussed rebuilding of the Coomes Recreation Center playground with Town Council contributing approximately \$400,000 and wants to solicit community involvement.

Mayor Pillion reminded April 20th is Community Service Day and Earth Day and volunteers are still needed. The day will kick-off at 9:00 am at the Coomes Recreation Center.

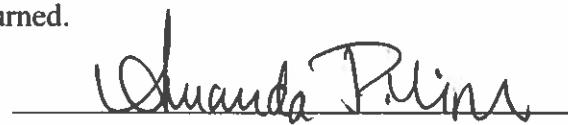
Mrs. Quetsch attended the Washington County Business Challenge awards this morning and encouraged everyone to support local business.

P. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Q. CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Pillion declared the meeting adjourned.


Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk


Mayor Amanda Pillion