

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024 – 6:30 Pm  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, June 3, 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 3:15 – 4:53)**

**On motion of Mr. Austin, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, the agenda was amended to move Item P-3, the presentation of the “Coomes Center Playground Renovation Art Contest” to recognize this young lady earlier after Item G, Public Comments, and to move a closed session (Item S) after Item H-1 Proclamation. At that time, I will make an appropriate motion to discuss personnel matters involving employee salaries.**

**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>

**F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (VIDEO 4:53 - 5:58)**

- May 3, 2024
- May 22, 2024
- May 22, 2024 (Town Hall meeting)

**On motion of Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, the minutes of May 3, May 22, and May 22, 2024 Town Hall meeting minutes were approved as presented.**

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

<b>Mr. Austin</b>	<b>Aye to the May 6<sup>th</sup> minutes Abstained (absent on May 22)</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>

**On motion of Mr. Austin, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, requested the May 22 Council meeting and the May 22 Town Hall meeting minutes be corrected to show Mr. Austin was present. The minutes were approved with this correction. (VIDEO 6:54 – 8:29)**

<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>

**G. PUBLIC COMMENTS (VIDEO 6:00 – 6:42)**

- Eddie Copenhaver

**H. PROCLAMATIONS (VIDEO 11:24 – 14:13 )**

1. Proclamation recognizing June 2-8, 2024 as National Garden Week

Mr. Webb read the Proclamation into the record. Mayor Pillion and Councilmembers presented the Proclamation to the Garden Club members.

**I. PUBLIC HEARING (VIDEO 1:05:12 - 1:40:42)**

1. Public Hearing - An Ordinance of the Council for the Town of Abingdon, proposing a budget, make appropriation for the current expenses, and to fix a tax rate upon real and personal property, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.

Town Manager Mike Cochran and Director of Finance Steve Trotman provided information regarding the proposed FY24-25 budget.

Mayor Pillion opened the public hearing. Mr. Eddie Copenhaver spoke during the public hearing regarding matters relating to the Coomes Recreation Center. Hearing no additional comments, Mayor Pillion closed the public hearing.

**J. RESOLUTIONS**

**K. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES (VIDEO 1:40:47 – 1:41:47)**

1. Public Hearing - An Ordinance of the Council for the Town of Abingdon, proposing a budget, make appropriation for the current expenses, and to fix a tax rate upon real and personal property, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.

Mayor Pillion asked Mr. Cochran and Mr. Trotman if they had anything to add to the preceding discussion. Hearing no further discussion, Counsel Cameron Bell questioned shall the proposal be rejected. Hearing no rejections, the Ordinance shall go forth for a second reading on June 20, 2024.

**L. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES**

**M. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS (VIDEO 1:41:47 – 1:43:40)**

1. Consideration of bids for the Guardrail Annual Maintenance project.

Director of Public Works Michael Surrett discussed a bid of \$14,209, from SELCO Construction for the guardrail annual maintenance project. Mrs. Quetsch questioned if the Town had previously contracted with SELCO, with Mr. Surrett answering in the affirmative. Mayor Pillion questioned if Mr. Surrett felt comfortable with the bid, with Mr. Surrett stating yes, they were our previous contractors.

**On motion of Mr. Webb, seconded by Vice Mayor Anderson, approved the bid from SELCO Construction in the amount of \$14, 209 for the guardrail annual maintenance project.**

**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>

**N. NEW BUSINESS**

**O. OLD BUSINESS**

**P. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER**

1. Update from Community Development regarding Town Hall meeting discussion on

affordable housing (**VIDEO 1:43:45 – 1:54:17**)

Assistant Town Manager and Director of Community Development Mayana Rice provided the Council with information on the May 22 Town Hall meeting discussion regarding affordable housing. Mrs. Rice discussed the work the Planning Commission and staff do to bring in affordable housing and make this a great place to live. Discussion ensued.

2. Consideration of request for banner display permit from Washington County Public Library for “Friends of the Library Book Sale” July 26 – August 4, 2024 (**VIDEO 1:54:17 – 1:56:05**)

**On motion of Vice Mayor Anderson, seconded by Mr. Webb, approved the consideration of a request for a banner display permit from the Washington County Public Library for “Friends of the Library Book Sale” for July 26 – August 4, 2024.**

Counsel Cameron Bell clarified that the list and process for banner poles is for governmental speech, making it a town-supported event, and thus eligible for inclusion.

**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>

3. Presentation of the “Coomes Center Playground Renovation Art Contest” (**VIDEO 8:29 – 11:18**)

Director of Recreation Kyle Pollard advised that the Coomes Recreation Center recently held an art contest for Washington County elementary schools, receiving over 600 submissions. After a thorough review process, several entities were sent to the Recreation Advisory Commission for review, and public voting occurred at Plumb Alley and another public day. The winner was selected to be the logo. This is significant as the present logo was also designed by an elementary school child when the center was built. Mr. Pollard recognized Libby Akers as the 2024 playground drawing winner. Mayor Pillion and Councilmembers joined in honoring Ms. Akers for her design.

**(VIDEO 1:56:05 – 1:59:38)**

Town Manager Mike Cochran announced upon Tonya Triplett's departure, Isaiah Thomas will transition to the Town's Economic Development Specialist. Mr. Cochran introduced Mr. Thomas.

**Q. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 1:59:40 – 2:02:46)**

Mr. Austin conveyed that the Veterans Memorial Day ceremony was very nice and well attended. He added the reception for Tonya Triplett at the Martha Washington Inn was very nice and that Isaiah Thomas and others would pick up the slack.

Vice Mayor Anderson announced that the Gathering of Friends and Family is scheduled for June 9, from 3-6 pm at the Southwest Virginia Cultural Heritage Center for Max Hermann.

Mayor Pillion advised that Plumb Alley Day was a great success and reminded everyone of the Blood Drive on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**R. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES**

**S. CLOSED SESSION (VIDEO 14:28 – 1:05:12)**

**On motion of Mr. Austin, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, Council convene in closed session pursuant to Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), a personnel matter involving personnel salaries, the police department be included in that specific motion.**

**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>

**On motion of Mr. Austin, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, the Council reconvened in a regular session having been in closed session to discuss the matter that was mentioned a moment ago at the proper time to certify that was all that was discussed.**

**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>

**Mayor Pillion**

**Aye**

**Mr. Austin moved that the Town Council certify that, in the closed session just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters specifically under 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia specifically involving the payroll in the proposed budget.**

**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**

**T. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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