



AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ABINGDON, VIRGINIA TO ESTABLISH CHAPTER 22, ARTICLE III, SECTIONS 22-41 – 22-45, THE ARTHUR CAMPBELL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

WHEREAS, the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, §15.2-1102 established the non-exclusive, general grant and enumeration of powers that a municipal corporation shall have and may exercise in the conduct of its affairs and functions of the municipal government; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty of all peoples, and municipalities as is this case, to acknowledge those who have gone on before them and to be grateful of the services, accomplishments and achievements they have provided the community; and

WHEREAS, it is right to show appreciation for those in our community who have made extraordinary contributions to the Town of Abingdon; and

WHEREAS, of the many great citizens in our town's history, it is proper to recognize and honor the man who recommended the name, Abingdon; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Arthur Campbell was born on November 3, 1743, in Augusta County, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, at the age of fifteen, Campbell began his public service by volunteering for militia service on the frontier of Virginia, where he was subsequently captured by Indians and lived among the tribes of modern-day Detroit, Michigan, for as many as six-years, before escaping and finding himself in the safety of the British Army and there educated by Jesuit priests; and

WHEREAS, in 1765, Arthur Campbell was granted lands in the Holston Valley of Southwest Virginia, for his service to the British Crown during the French and Indian War, where he established his home, 'Royal Oak', near present-day Marion, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, in 1770, Campbell displayed his industrial nature and quest for commerce on the frontier by erecting a mill on the Holston River, becoming the first on either the Holston or Clinch Rivers, or their tributaries, to do so; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Campbell helped draft and was one of the thirteen signers of the Fincastle Resolutions of 1775, the earliest statement of armed resistance to the British Crown in the American Colonies; and

WHEREAS, in 1776, Campbell, as a member of the House of Burgesses, represented Fincastle County at the First Virginia Constitutional Convention in Richmond, where the Virginia Constitution was adopted, a document widely influential both in the United States and abroad, making Virginia the first state to adopt a Constitution in response to the adoption of the Declaration of Independence; and

WHEREAS, with the creation of the County of Washington in 1776, Campbell was commissioned County Lieutenant; and

WHEREAS, was appointed as one of the first Trustees of Washington College, now Washington & Lee University, in 1776, after having attended that academic institution when known as the Augusta Academy; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Campbell was appointed a Trustee of the new Town of Abingdon in 1778; and

WHEREAS, Colonel Arthur Campbell, as early as the autumn of 1777, championed a petition to the Virginia General Assembly, to create a town, to be known as the seat of government of Washington County, and located immediately north of Black's Fort and through his efforts and a year-long pursuit of the same, the petition was successful when the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Virginia established the Town of Abingdon by Act of the Assembly, on October 7, 1778; and

WHEREAS, by his example, Campbell clearly defined what it means to be a Citizen, and through his actions exemplified the meaning of citizenship through his Service, Ideals, Innovation, Devotion and Intellectual Pursuits; and

WHEREAS, Campbell was commissioned as Sheriff of Washington County in 1779; and

WHEREAS, on September 23rd and 24th of the year 1780, the threat of British invasion of the Overmountain settlements being imminent, Campbell and the leaders of Washington County assembled the militia of said county at Abingdon, to rendezvous with militia troops from western North Carolina and the Watauga Settlements; and

WHEREAS, fearing that a sufficient number of men from Washington County was not sent on this campaign, Campbell personally delivered an additional two-hundred men to the rendezvous at Fort Watauga to help secure a sufficient number to be victorious over the British forces in South Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in his position as County Lieutenant, Campbell remained behind in the Holston Settlements, with a small number of militia men, in order to maintain peace negotiations with the Indians, while the greater number of their brothers-in-arms were preventing British Invasion into the Overmountain Settlements; and

WHEREAS, recognizing the independence and self-sufficient nature of the Overmountain settlements from their eastern Virginia colleagues, in 1782, recommended the formation of a new state, to be known as "Frankland", incorporating Washington County, VA and the

western North Carolina settlements of modern day Tennessee and held the first meeting of interest to that cause at the log courthouse at Abingdon; and

WHEREAS, In 1782, while digging the first well for the manufacture of salt in present-day Saltville, VA, Campbell discovered, “bones of uncommon size”, which he quickly sent off to his collector friend, Thomas Jefferson, who recorded the find in his 1785 “notes on the State of Virginia”, said remains being displayed at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. as a near full specimen of the Giant Ground Sloth; and

WHEREAS, in 1788, Campbell represented Washington County at the Constitutional Convention in Richmond, to consider the ratification of the newly proposed United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, seeing the wisdom gained from his lifelong experiences with the Indians, President George Washington appointed Campbell as the United States Indian Agent for the Southwest Territory, a post he held until his retirement from public service in 1799; and

WHEREAS, Campbell led a quiet life on his lands in the new State of Kentucky, which he helped form and began writing a history of the Revolutionary War in the Southwest, a work which was unfortunately never completed; and

WHEREAS, Arthur Campbell passed from this life in August 8, 1811 and was buried in the Cumberland Gap, at the juncture of the three states that shaped his life; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Town Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia wish to create the Arthur Campbell Community Service Award, to honor a man whom Abingdon, Southwest Virginia and the Commonwealth-at-large, the State of Tennessee and the Commonwealth of Kentucky owe much appreciation and honor to for his service and industry; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia, there is hereby established The Arthur Campbell Community Service Award, the Abingdon Medal for Extraordinary Service, which Ordinance shall be adopted pursuant to the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, §15.2-1102.

Sec. 22-41. Purpose.

Hereby established is the Arthur Campbell Community Service Award, an award and medal that shall be presented to individuals who, at the sole discretion of the majority opinion of the Council for the Town of Abingdon, have made extraordinary contributions to the town, specifically discussed below.

Sec. 22-42. Medal.

The medal, created and authorized herein by this ordinance, shall be the design product of the Council and whatsoever design craftsmen or consultants it collectively decides to employ for advice in arriving at its final product.

Sec. 22-43. Council to receive annual nominations and name recipient(s).

The medal(s) shall be given on an annual basis at an event designated by Council. The medal(s) shall be awarded to individuals who have first been duly nominated via completion of a nomination packet made available to the public. Recipients shall be those chosen from nominees who are deemed by the majority of the Council to have met the qualifications set forth herein. While the medal may be awarded posthumously, it shall be the intent of Council to make the award whenever possible when it is deemed that worthy nominees are reaching the pinnacle of their respective careers.

The medal(s) shall be considered the highest award presented by the Town of Abingdon and while there shall be no set maximum or minimum per annum with regard to recipients, it shall be awarded with great scrutiny as it is intended exclusively for extraordinary service and achievement as set forth herein.

Sec. 22-44. Recipient qualifications, eligibility.

Recipients shall be those persons who have either made extraordinary contributions to the Town and/or people of Abingdon, Virginia, southwest Virginia or those from Abingdon who have made extraordinary contributions on a state or national level. The medal shall be presented for service and achievement in areas including, but not limited to:

Government/Public Service	The Arts (Performing and Visual)	Literature
Education	Science	Medicine
Humanitarian Service	Philanthropy	Athletic Achievement
Heroism		

Sec. 22-45. Recipients to become Arthur Campbell Society Fellows.

The medal shall be awarded subject to a resolution by Council which shall state the basis for creation of the award and provide the basis for its presentation. Recipients shall be named "Arthur Campbell Fellows" and be automatically added as members of the "Arthur Campbell Society". All Arthur Campbell Fellows shall be invited to a Town of Abingdon social event, the time and location of which shall be determined by Council on an annual basis.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia, there is hereby established The Arthur Campbell Community Service Award, the Abingdon Medal for Extraordinary Service, which Ordinance shall be adopted pursuant to the Code of Virginia 1950, as amended, §15.2-1102.