

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, AUGUST 4, 2008 – 5:30 P.M.  
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, August 4, 2008 at 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Municipal Building.

**A. ROLL CALL**

Members of Council Present: Mayor Lois H. Humphreys  
Mr. Edward B. Morgan, Vice Mayor  
Dr. French H. Moore, Jr.  
Mrs. Cathy Lowe  
Mr. Jason N. Berry

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager  
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk  
Deborah C. Icenhour, Assistant Town Attorney  
Jim Smith, Town Engineer/Dir. Of Wastewater Operations  
John Dew, Dir. Of Public Services/Construction  
Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning  
Jim Cowart, Economic Development Coordinator  
Floyd Bailey, Information Technology Director  
Sean Taylor, Assistant Planner  
Tyler Vencill, Jr. Civil Engineer  
Michael Surrett, Engineering Technician  
Tonya Triplett, Director of Sales, Tourism Office

Visitors: L.B. Atkins

The following items were discussed:

1. Greg Kelly, Town Manager, introduced three (3) new employees to the Council members and they were Tyler Vencill, Jr. Civil Engineer, Michael Surrett, Engineering Technician, and Tonya Triplett, Tourism Sales Director.
2. Floyd Bailey, Director of Information Technology, provided a power point presentation to the Council to demonstrate the uploading of the Council packet to the website. Mr. Bailey noted that access to this site is password protected and only Council members and certain staff have access to the information. Mr. Bailey also gave a brief update on the installation of the wireless mesh system in Town.
3. Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police, presented a power point presentation regarding his request for acceptance of a grant for two (2) school resource officers. Mr. Sullivan explained the need for

these personnel for the Police Department and the contribution they could make to the local schools as Resource Officers. Mr. Sullivan commented on the future implications for the Town by accepting the grant and asked the Council members for their support.

4. Sean Taylor, Assistant Planner, gave an update on the status of the Fairview in Abingdon project. Mr. Taylor reported that the Foundation at this time has collapsed due to the withdrawal of most of the members. He stated that only three (3) members of the original board wanted to be active participants. He suggested to the Council that they may want to consider establishing an endowment which may make the Foundation easier to run. Mr. Taylor gave a brief history of the project and the need for guidance from the Council members about the future of the project. It was the consensus of the Council members to proceed with stabilizing the main structure and take steps to develop the two acres that the Town owns around the property. The Council also expressed their wishes that Mr. Allyn Morton submit his request for reimbursement and that he be paid accordingly in order to settle his matters with the Foundation.
5. John Dew, Dir. Of Public Services/Construction, gave an update on the Walden Road Pedestrian Improvement Project. Mr. Dew reported on the pedestrian bridge and the addition of a bike path to one side of the road. He also reported that a public hearing on the proposed design would be scheduled once it was complete. Mr. Dew also reported on the Hill Street extension at Washington County Fairgrounds and the status of the Depot Square Project.
6. Council members inquired about the status of the caboose to be placed at Depot Square and Mr. Dew reported that he is working on securing someone to move it into position.
7. Dr. Moore reported on the efforts of Ecumenical Faith in Action to raise money for a new facility. He reported that they had a set goal to raise \$900,000.00 and asked the Council members if they would be willing to contribute some monies from the Cigarette Tax toward this fundraising effort. The Council members asked that the matter be brought before them for recommendation at the September meeting.
8. Mrs. Lowe commented on agenda item #5 regarding the disposition and use of the Summers Law Office. Mrs. Lowe indicated that she felt the proposed new location of the Virginia Highlands Festival Officers to Retirement at The Mustering Grounds was unsatisfactory as the foundation of the house was not secure. Mrs. Lowe asked if the Tourism Office would not be a more suitable location and asked Mr. Kelly to report on the feasibility of renovating the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor for office space.

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Lois H. Humphreys, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk