

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2009 – 5:30 P.M.
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, June 1, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Municipal Building.

A. ROLL CALL

Members of Council Present:

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

Administrative Staff:

Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk
Debbie Icenhour, Town Attorney
Floyd Bailey, Director of Information Technology
Garrett Jackson, Director of Planning
Jim Cowart, Economic Development Coordinator
Rob Case, IT Department
Jim Smith, Town Engineer/Dir. of Wastewater Operations
John Dew, Dir. of Public Services/Construction
Sean Taylor, Assistant Planner

Guests:

L.B. Atkins, David Rose, Rick Humphreys

Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order and Cecile Rosenbaum, Town Clerk called the roll.

The following items were discussed by Council:

1. David Rose, Investment Consultant with Davenport & Company, LLC, appeared before the Council members to report the results of the bond proposals the Town solicited for capital improvement projects and refinancing of existing debt. Mr. Rose reported that Carter Bank had the best proposal and indicated that a closing date would be set for June 17th. The Council inquired about any required action and Mr. Kelly indicated that would be handled during the regular Council meeting.
2. Mr. Morgan briefly reviewed the Council meeting agenda and asked if any Council members had questions about certain items on the agenda. Mrs. Lowe commented about smoking policy in Town vehicles and litter control.
3. Mr. Morgan invited Rick Humphreys to come forward to provide an update on the Muster Grounds. Mr. Humphreys provided the Council with drawings of the plans for the garage area

and explained that the committee would like to proceed with bids for the proposed project to get a more accurate dollar figure for the construction. Mrs. Lowe indicated that she did not want the project to go out to bid until the final details on the conservation easement had been obtained.

4. Sean Taylor addressed the Council members to provide information about a proposed tax abatement program for Town residents living in the historic district. Mr. Morgan stated that the Planning Commission should have the opportunity to review this proposal before Council considers formal action. Mrs. Lowe requested the Town Treasurer and Town Manager provide the Council with a report detailing the potential monetary impact on the Town before Council considers formal action.

At this time, Mr. Morgan declared the work session meeting recessed for 5 minutes so Council could move upstairs to the regular meeting room for presentations.

Mr. Morgan declared the Council work session meeting back in session.

5. Ben Jennings, Chairman of the William King Regional Arts Center Board appeared before the Council members and asked that Lemont Dobson, Director, come forward to address the Council. Mr. Dobson indicated that the Arts Center was operating 30% below last year's budget. Mr. Dobson provided the hours for the Fields Penn House and they are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 to 5:00; Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 to 5:00. Council requested that Mr. Kelly and Mr. Dobson schedule a meeting to discuss the operating hours of the Fields Penn House as set forth in the Council's action to appropriate funding for the House. Mrs. Humphreys commented about extending the hours and attendance at the House. Mrs. Lowe inquired about events being held on the lawn of the House and asked about lack of signage. Mr. Morgan commented favorably on the change of the name of William King Regional Arts Center to William King Museum. Mr. Dobson indicated that he planned to run a shuttle from the William King Museum to the Fields Penn House for patrons who wanted to tour both sites and pay for only 1 admission. Mr. Berry inquired what action the Town was currently taking to market the Fields Penn House as it related to tourism. Mr. Morgan suggested that Mr. Dobson consider featuring Andrew Summers, a notable Abingdon resident.
6. Dexter Peltzer from the Abingdon Senior Center appeared before the Council and asked for consideration of an additional appropriation of funds to the Center. Mr. Peltzer provided information about the increase of the Meals on Wheels program at the Center and indicated they have started a monthly concert series. Mr. Peltzer noted several ways that the Center has cut costs such as reduction in staff hours, increase in volunteers for work at the Center, and commented that grounds maintenance is now being done by staff at the Center. Mr. Peltzer commented that he had eliminated a paid receptionist position. Mrs. Lowe commented on the amount of funding the Town has already provided to the Center for capital improvements and operational expenses. Mrs. Humphreys inquired about the groups that hold their weekly games (i.e. bridge and poker) at the Center. Mr. Berry inquired about the losses the Center had

experienced with catering services and meals on wheels budget. Resident Nancy Metcalfe, 135 Valley Street, Abingdon appeared before the Council to comment about her bridge groups use of the facility.

At this time, Mr. Morgan noted that it was 7:30 and time to begin the regular Council meeting. He asked Mr. Peltzer to remain at the podium while the Council was called to order and indicated that he could resume after the Roll Call.

Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk