

**TOWN OF ABINGDON  
COUNCIL BUDGET WORK SESSION  
MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2009 – 5:30 P.M.  
DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

A budget work session of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, April 13, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room of the Municipal Building.

**A. Roll Call**

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

*Comprising a quorum of the Council*

Administrative Staff: Gregory W. Kelly, Town Manager  
Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk  
Mark Godbey, Town Treasurer/Dir. Of Finance  
Deborah Icenhour, Town Attorney

Mayor Morgan called the meeting to order and Council members agreed to discuss employee salaries as the first order of business.

- Mrs. Lowe asked Greg Kelly, Town Manager, to comment on merit increases for employees for FY08/09.
- Mrs. Lowe inquired about full time employees making less than \$10.00 per hour and indicated she had counted 21 employees in that category.
- The Council members discussed the proposed 3% salary recommendation Mr. Kelly included in the budget draft for FY09/10.
- Mrs. Lowe inquired about the budget for the Virginia Highlands Small Business Incubator.
- The Council members discussed a cash award merit system for employees in lieu of an across the board annual raise.

By consensus, the Council members agreed to the following with regard to employee salary increases:

- There will be no 3% across the board increase for employees as proposed by the Town Manager.

- There will be \$50,000 set aside for cash award payments to employees who demonstrate excellent job performance over and above their normal duties.
- Full-time employees currently making less than \$10.00 per hour will be increased to \$10.00 per hour effective July 1, 2009.
- Council has agreed that all current benefits remain in place for employees in FY09/10
- Council agreed that there will be no layoffs of current employees
- Council agreed that they will revisit the issue of employee salary increases at the December 2009 Council meeting.

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*At this time, on Motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Humphreys, the Council agreed that family members of Town employees would be eligible for membership at the Coomes Center free of charge.*

*The roll call vote was:*

|                       |                                             |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| <i>Mr. Berry</i>      | <i>Abstain (due to a personal conflict)</i> |
| <i>Mrs. Lowe</i>      | <i>Aye</i>                                  |
| <i>Dr. Moore</i>      | <i>Aye</i>                                  |
| <i>Mrs. Humphreys</i> | <i>Aye</i>                                  |
| <i>Mayor Morgan</i>   | <i>Aye</i>                                  |

*The motion carried.*

*\*\* Note: This motion was rescinded in the following action.*

Discussion ensued about the former motion and **On Motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Humphreys, the prior motion that family members of Town employees would be eligible for membership at the Coomes Center free of charge was rescinded.**

**The roll call vote was:**

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>      | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>      | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Dr. Moore</b>      | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |

**The motion carried.**

After rescinding the foregoing Motion, **on Motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Humphreys, the Council agreed that the Town Manager should develop the policy for the eligibility of family members for membership at the Coomes Center.**

**The roll call vote was:**

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>      | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>      | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Dr. Moore</b>      | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |

**The motion carried.**

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At this time, Council discussed financing options available and designated which projects they would like to include in the bond financing and they were as follows:

Gouvernaire Chiller	\$400,000
Renovation at Visitors Center	150,000
EVA Expansion	175,000
The Mustering Grounds Note	660,000
Property Acquisition	2.8 M

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**On motion of Mr. Berry, seconded by Mrs. Lowe, the Council went into closed session, upon advice of Counsel, and pursuant to the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) for the purpose of discussion of the acquisition of property and/or the disposition of public property.**

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

<b>Mr. Berry</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Lowe</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Dr. Moore</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mrs. Humphreys</b>	<b>Aye</b>
<b>Mayor Morgan</b>	<b>Aye</b>

**The motion carried.**

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**On motion of Dr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Humphreys, the Council reconvened in regular session.**

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

|                       |            |
|-----------------------|------------|
| <b>Mr. Berry</b>      | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Lowe</b>      | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Humphreys</b> | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Dr. Moore</b>      | <b>Aye</b> |
| <b>Mayor Morgan</b>   | <b>Aye</b> |

**The motion carried.**

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**The Town Clerk, Cecile Rosenbaum, read the following certification to be adopted by the Council members:**

*WHEREAS, the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia has convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and*

*WHEREAS, Sec. 2.2-3712(D) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, requires a certification by the Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law; and*

*NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Council of the Town of Abingdon, Virginia hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from an open meeting requirement by Virginia law were discussed in closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Town Council.*

**The certification was as follows:**

<b>Mr. Berry</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mrs. Lowe</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mrs. Humphreys</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Dr. Moore</b>	<b>I so certify</b>
<b>Mayor Morgan</b>	<b>I so certify</b>

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At this time, Mr. Kelly asked the Council to consider setting a date for a Council Retreat in order to establish a Capital Improvement Project Plan. Discussion ensued and it was agreed that the date for this Retreat would be July 19, 2009 and that the Town Manager and Town Clerk would finalize the details and advise the Council.

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At this time, the Council reviewed the tax rates proposed for FY09/10 and Mr. Kelly advised that it would be necessary to advertise an increase in real property taxes but stressed that the real property tax rate of \$ .28 cents per \$100 remains the same. Mr. Kelly advised that this increase was due to reassessment of real property in the Town and Washington County.

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The Council briefly discussed an admission tax and a bed tax and by consensus agreed that neither would be considered for FY09/10.

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By consensus, the Council agreed to decrease the budget line item for Music Events from the Town Manager's recommended amount of \$60,000 to \$50,000.

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The Council decided to fund the following listing of Non-Departmental Agencies as follows for the FY2009/2010:

|                                   |         |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Abingdon Farmer's Market          | \$3,000 |
| Abingdon High Band                | 2,000   |
| Animal Defense League             | 4,500   |
| Appalachian Independence Center   | 2,000   |
| Arts Depot                        | 6,000   |
| Barter Theatre – Operations       | 180,000 |
| Barter Theatre – Capital          | -0-     |
| Boys/Girls Club                   | 20,000  |
| Brain Injury Svcs of SWVA         | 500     |
| Cave House                        | 2,500   |
| Children's Advocacy Center        | 2,000   |
| Crooked Road                      | 5,000   |
| Crossroads Mission                | 10,000  |
| Faith in Action (Operational)     | 10,000  |
| Faith in Action (Heating Program) | 25,000  |
| Highlands Literacy Program        | 4,720   |
| Historical Society                | 3,000   |
| Kiwanis Christmas Parade          | 1,500   |
| Overmountain Victory Trail Assoc. | 3,000   |
| Round the Mountain                | 750     |
| Senior Center (Capital)           | -0-     |
| Senior Center (Operating)         | 20,000  |
| Star Museum                       | -0-     |
| SW VA EMS                         | 1,000   |
| SW Virginia Food Bank             | 12,500  |

|                                            |         |
|--------------------------------------------|---------|
| SW Virginia Food Bank(spread over 3 years) | 15,000  |
| Symphony of the Mountains                  | 5,000   |
| Transdominion Expressway                   | 1,000   |
| VA Creeper Trail Club                      | 25,000  |
| VA Economic Bridge                         | 500     |
| VECTEC                                     | 10,000  |
| VA Highlands Festival                      | 30,000  |
| VA Small Business Incubator                | 135,400 |
| Washington County Fair                     | 4,000   |
| Washington County Library                  | 7,500   |
| Whites Mill Foundation                     | 15,000  |
| William King – Operations                  | 60,000  |
| William King – Fields Penn House           | 50,000* |
| Wonder Kids                                | 2,000   |

\*By consensus, the Council agreed that they would provide \$50,000 to William King for the operation of the Fields Penn House with the stipulation that the House be available and open to the public 48 hours during the week. Mayor Morgan also requested that the Town Attorney draft a Memorandum of Agreement between the Town and William King.

Mayor Morgan declared the budget work session adjourned.

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Edward B. Morgan, Mayor

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Cecile M. Rosenbaum, Town Clerk