

**TOWN OF ABINGDON
COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026 – 6:30 pm
COUNCIL CHAMBERS – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

The meeting of the Abingdon Town Council was held on Monday, May 4, 2026, in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

A. WELCOME – *Mayor Anderson*

B. ROLL CALL (VIDEO 5:13 – 5:23)

Members of Council Present:	Mrs. Quetsch Mrs. Pillion Vice Mayor Austin Mayor Anderson
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Member(s) of Council Absent:	Mr. Webb
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C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

D. PRAYER

E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA (VIDEO 7:44 – 8:00)

On motion by Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Mrs. Quetsch, Council approved the agenda as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Webb	Absent
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Vice Mayor Austin	Aye
Mayor Anderson	Aye

F. APPROVAL OF MINUTES (VIDEO 8:00 – 8:48)

- April 7, 2026
- April 23, 2026

On motion by Mrs. Quetsch, seconded by Vice Mayor Austin, approved the April 7, 2026 minutes as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Webb	Absent
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Vice Mayor Austin	Aye
Mayor Anderson	Aye

On motion by Mrs. Pillion, seconded by Vice Mayor Austin, approved the April 23, 2026 minutes as presented.

The roll call vote was as follows:

Mr. Webb	Absent
Mrs. Quetsch	Aye
Mrs. Pillion	Aye
Vice Mayor Austin	Aye
Mayor Anderson	Aye

G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

H. PROCLAMATIONS (VIDEO 9:00 – 11:30)

1. Proclamation recognizing 57th Annual Professional Clerks Week, May 3 – 9, 2026

Mrs. Pillion read the Proclamation into the record recognizing the 57th Annual Professional Clerks Week.

I. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Public hearing to adopt an Ordinance amending the Fiscal year 2025-2026 annual budget (VIDEO 11:32 – 16:28)

Director of Finance Amanda Henegar and Town Manager Mike Cochran presented a proposed FY 2025-2026 budget amendment for the Sewer Fund and General Fund.

For the Sewer Fund, Mrs. Henegar explained that several unbudgeted expenditures arose during the fiscal year and were being addressed through a year-end amendment process. Expenditures included \$139,120 for an emergency wastewater treatment plant transfer switch upgrade by Acorn Electrical, \$46,320 for an ongoing sewer rate study by Willdan Financial Services, and \$285,000 for participation in a regional wastewater study. Mr. Cochran clarified that the Town's direct share of the regional study cost was approximately \$34,000, with the remainder covered through grant funding and contributions from participating entities. Mrs. Henegar also noted a reduction of \$86,617 in FY26 debt service expenses due to the timing of project completion and loan payments, resulting in only a partial-year payment requirement. Total Sewer Fund expenditures were amended to \$383,813.

On the revenue side, the Sewer Fund received reimbursements from study participants totaling \$251,250, resulting in a net fund balance change of \$132,563. Mrs. Henegar stated that while the amendment reduced the projected reserve contribution from \$423,902 to \$291,339, current forecasts indicate reserves may still exceed the original budget estimate by year-end.

For the General Fund, Mrs. Henegar presented budget amendments including a Wellspring grant for trail repair in the amount of \$1,068,000, a DEQ grant and required match for Wheeler Street totaling \$107,575 each, a DCR Community Flood Preparedness grant of \$225,000, and carryover of \$724,359.24 in lost revenue funds from the prior fiscal year. Mrs. Henegar explained that these items would offset equally in revenues and expenditures, resulting in no net impact to the General Fund balance, but budget amendments were necessary to authorize expenditures within the appropriate accounts.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing. Hearing no comments, Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

2. Public hearing - 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, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.
(VIDEO 16:28 – 45:10)

Town Manager Mike Cochran and Director of Finance Amanda Henegar presented an overview of current Town projects, studies, infrastructure improvements, and the proposed FY 2026-2027 budget.

Mr. Cochran highlighted several ongoing studies and planning initiatives, including a historical marketing and cultural assessment, a countywide sewer availability study, senior programming assessment at the Coomes Center, Arts Depot facility planning, Preston Street flood mitigation study, Virginia Creeper Trail trestle repair planning, and redevelopment studies for the Farmers Market and Remsburg area. He explained that these studies position the Town to pursue grant funding and develop “shovel-ready” projects for future improvements.

Infrastructure updates included completion of the new playground, renovations to the train station, Park Street sidewalks Phase I, pedestrian safety improvements, and multiple utility and transportation projects. Mr. Cochran also reported that the Town had received approximately \$1.196 million in grant funding for emergency management generators at key facilities. Updates were provided on the Thompson Street roundabout, Cook Street extension, East and West Main Street improvements, and Virginia Creeper Trail trestle repairs, including additional FEMA-related funding assistance.

Mr. Cochran also discussed the Town’s wastewater system and regional sewer planning efforts, emphasizing the importance of understanding future growth capacity and infrastructure needs within the Town and surrounding county areas.

The Town's fire service operations and county response statistics were reviewed. Mr. Cochran stated that approximately 38.4% of fire calls handled by the department occur in the county while county funding accounts for approximately 16% of department costs, resulting in a subsidy by the Town for regional service delivery.

Mrs. Henegar presented a summary of the proposed FY 2026-2027 General Fund and Sewer Fund budgets. The General Fund budget proposes no increase in tax rates, including real estate, meals, and lodging taxes. Revenue projections for sales, meals, and lodging taxes remain flat. Budget assumptions include a 3% cost-of-living adjustment for personnel, an 11.6% increase in health insurance premiums, three additional positions, \$188,904 in grant matches, and \$404,395 in capital outlay projects.

For the Sewer Fund, Mrs. Henegar stated the budget projects adding approximately \$64,635 to reserves and includes a proposed 4% sewer rate increase. The increase would result in an estimated monthly increase of \$1.31 for in-town residential customers and \$2.38 for out-of-town residential customers. Budget assumptions also include continuation of major capital improvement projects, including the South View Pump Station and Wolf Creek Water Reclamation Facility improvements. Additional debt service of \$173,233 related to Phase I improvements was also included.

Mrs. Henegar explained that future rate adjustments would be guided by the ongoing sewer rate study and projected infrastructure costs necessary to maintain required financial ratios and reserve levels.

Council discussion included questions regarding the impact of the sewer rate increase on reserve funding and anticipated future revenues associated with increased tourism activity and Virginia Creeper Trail improvements. Mr. Cochran noted that meals tax revenues were currently exceeding projections and expressed optimism regarding future tourism-related revenue growth.

Mayor Anderson opened the public hearing for the FY 2026-2027 budget ordinance. Hearing no comments, Mayor Anderson closed the public hearing.

J. RESOLUTIONS

K. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES

1. Ordinance to amend the Fiscal year 2025-2026 annual budget (**VIDEO 45:14 – 45:48**)

Mayor Anderson questioned should this matter be rejected. Hearing no discussion, the matter will pass for a second reading.

2. 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, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027.
(**VIDEO 45:48 – 46:24**)

Mayor Anderson questioned should this matter be rejected. Hearing no discussion, the matter will pass to a second reading.

L. SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES

M. CONSIDERATION OF BIDS

N. NEW BUSINESS

O. OLD BUSINESS

**P. MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS/COMMUNICATIONS FROM TOWN MANAGER
(VIDEO 46:35 – 47:27)**

Town Manager Mike Cochran noted several upcoming community events, including Cinco de Mayo celebrations, Clerks Week activities, and the Thursday Jams concert series. Mr. Cochran also referenced the recent Prom event in town, stating that local businesses, including florists, appeared to benefit from the increased activity. He provided an update on the “Wolves” public art project and announced the anticipated launch of the “Van Wingo” app, which will feature a scavenger hunt-style experience encouraging visitors to explore town attractions.

Q. COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS (VIDEO 47:27 – 49:11)

Council members also recognized recent community events, including Historic Preservation Day held at the Martha Washington Inn. Appreciation was expressed to Gabe and the Historic Preservation Board for organizing the event, which drew strong attendance from local residents and visitors, including attendees from Christiansburg. Council further noted the successful ribbon cutting for the renovated kitchen at the train station and expressed optimism regarding future business opportunities and community use generated by the facility.

Mrs. Quetsch recognized International Firefighters Day, which is celebrated around the world on May 4th.

R. APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

S. CLOSED SESSION

Having no further matters, Mayor Anderson adjourned the meeting.


Dwyane Anderson, Mayor


Kimberly Kingsley, Clerk