

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL  
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MARCH 25, 2014 – 7:00 P.M.**

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN HALL, 100 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA, ON MARCH 11, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor D. Michael Barber; Vice-Mayor James W. Vanhoozier; Samuel M. Bishop; R. Cord Hall; Steve Huppert; Henry D. Showalter; Bradford J. Stipes. ABSENT: None.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Barry Helms; Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Theresa Fontana; Finance Director/Treasurer Valerie Tweedie; Planning Director Nichole Hair; Director of Engineering and Special Projects Wayne Nelson; Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley; Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell; Assistant Public Works Superintendent James Lancianese.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**PUBLIC HEARING**

1. Rezoning request by Mark Willard for property located at 205 Robert Street, S.E. (tax parcel 527 – ((17 BK A)) – 29R) from B-3 General Business to R-2 Two-Family Residential. The property is scheduled as Residential in the Future Land Use Map of the Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. There was no one to speak for or against this matter.

**REGULAR MEETING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:**

MAYOR BARBER called the regular meeting of Council to order and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the meeting minutes of March 11, 2014. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

**II. CITIZEN'S HEARING:**

**1. RESOLUTIONS IN RECOGNITION OF CHRISTIANSBURG HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS.**

This matter was postponed until the April 8, 2014 meeting.

2. **TERRY CALDWELL, DIRECTOR OF AQUATICS, TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING ELECTRONIC SIGNAGE.** Terry Caldwell introduced to Council a proposal to purchase an LED sign for placement at the aquatic center. The sign, provided by Optec Displays, Inc. through BallPark Signs, would provide a highly visible avenue of communication to promote town events and to inform the public of the various offerings at the aquatic center. A representative of BallPark Signs provided Council with the specifications of the proposed sign, estimated to cost \$60,000. Council was also provided details on various sponsor package options that would help offset the cost of the sign. Councilman Huppert commented that the bright, flashy lighting of LED signs is not consistent with the small-town character of Christiansburg and he prefers a more subtle type of sign. Councilman Showalter asked if the Aquatic Center Advisory Board had a projection of the expected increase in resident participation as a result of the sign. According to Terry Caldwell, participation is expected to increase by 10% as a result of the sign, because the additional communication will help residents plan trips to the facility and will inform them of upcoming events, and available classes and special activities. Aquatic Center Advisory Board members, Shirley Hallock and Jeremy Williams, were present to support the proposal on behalf of the board.

3. JOHN KING, CHAIRMAN OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG BIKEWAY/WALKWAY COMMITTEE, TO PROVIDE A PROGRESS REPORT. Mr. King introduced to Council the members of the Christiansburg Bikeway/Walkway Committee: Brad Epperley, Nichole Hair, John King, Daniel Maderic, Joe Powers, Brad Stipes, Todd Walters, and Susan Willis. The committee was formed in 2013 for the purpose of improving town infrastructure for safe bicycle and pedestrian travel in all areas, and to build on the Vision 2020 adopted by Council. Mr. King gave an overview of the identified priorities and goals of the committee in studying future project opportunities, and addressed measures the Town can take in moving forward, such as planned pedestrian crosswalk/paths/signage for future roadway development. Mr. King urged Council to consider the needs of pedestrians/cyclists in the planning process of all current and future development projects. The committee meets the first Friday of each month at 7:30 A.M.
4. DELLA AKERS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON THE ANNUAL MONTGOMERY COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE.  
Ms. Della Akers, 2014 Event Chairperson for the Montgomery County Relay for Life, thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and explained plans for this year's Relay for Life event to be held May 30<sup>th</sup> at Christiansburg High School. Ms. Akers reported on the success of fundraising efforts in 2013 and she requested Council approve the "Paint the Town Purple" fundraising campaign as an annual event to be held the week of the event. She also requested that Mayor Barber proclaim May 29, 2014 as a "Day of Hope" in support of the event and its participants. Mayor Barber will provide a proclamation for Council consideration at the April 8, 2014 meeting.
5. SHERRI BLEVINS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING THE PARK & RIDE LOCATED NEAR FALLING BRANCH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.  
Sherri Blevins, on behalf of the family and friends of Falling Branch Elementary School, acknowledged the efforts of Mayor Barber, Town Council, and Police Chief Sisson, to bring attention to the safety concerns, and to provide safety support, at Falling Branch Elementary School, and for their continued support of the school. Ms. Blevins presented Mayor Barber with a plaque of public recognition, and Mayor Barber requested that Police Chief Sisson display the plaque in a prominent location at the Police Department.
6. CITIZEN COMMENTS.
  - a. Brian Smith, the new soccer head coach at Christiansburg High School (CHS), thanked Council for its efforts in developing Depot Park, which provides needed practice space for soccer teams in Christiansburg. Mr. Smith spoke about the demographics of the CHS team and its practice partnership with Christiansburg Soccer Club. He stated that soccer is a growing sport in Christiansburg and encouraged the Town to continue its focus on providing and maintaining recreational fields for athletic practice and competitions.
  - a. Dennis Nagel, President of the Christiansburg Soccer Club, spoke about the growth of the soccer club and its practice partnership with the Christiansburg High School soccer team. Depot Park has been an important resource for the teams in preparing for competition. Mr. Nagel expressed his support for continued development of the park, which would provide an even greater asset for the Town. Councilman Showalter noted that Christiansburg Soccer Club, a private club that receives no financial support from the Town, donated \$5,000 towards improvements to Depot Park.
  - b. Jeff Roland, Founder and Director of New River Valley Lacrosse Club, addressed Council regarding the growing popularity of lacrosse in Montgomery County and the continued need for athletic fields. New River Valley Lacrosse Club currently consists of six teams of members from Christiansburg, Blacksburg, and Riner. The club is expected to increase to nine teams in 2015.
  - c. Bev Walters, Executive Director of NRV Cares, expressed her appreciation for Council's recognition of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and spoke briefly about the efforts within Christiansburg to address the concern of child abuse. Ms. Walters gave each Council member a pinwheel in recognition of the organization's "pinwheel garden" awareness campaign.

### III. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. COUNCIL ACTION ON:
  - a. Council's intention to adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 28 "Solid Waste" of the *Christiansburg Town Code* in regards to garbage collection. The Public Hearing was held March 11, 2014. Councilman Vanhoozier made a

motion to adopt the ordinance amendment, seconded by Councilman Hall. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall - Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.

2. PROPOSED RESOLUTION DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH (HALL). Councilman Hall read the resolution and made a motion to adopt as presented. Councilman Vanhoozier seconded the motion and Council was polled as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall - Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye. A copy of the resolution is attached herewith.
3. DISCUSSION REGARDING FUTURE USE OF THE TRUMAN WILSON PROPERTY (HALL). Councilman Hall reported that, in March, the Recreation Advisory Commission informally discussed future use of the Truman Wilson property. In April, Councilman Hall would like to bring to the commission direction from Council concerning the timeframe/timeline/financial information, etc., to continue discussions in order to utilize the property for recreational use in the near future. Town Manager Helms reported that the Recreation Master Plan, expected to be finalized in June, should provide a guideline for potential uses of the property, and a more detailed concept plan is included in the annual budget. Mayor Barber commented that development of the property is expected to be a long-term project, planned for and completed in phases, and that recreational grants can be pursued by the Town once the Recreation Master Plan has been adopted. Councilman Hall responded that he would prefer short-term development and is in support of an aggressive campaign to fund development through land reinvestment and reserve funding. At Town Manager Helms request, Council authorized him to begin clearing the property by removing the existing buildings. Council will continue discussions at a future date and preliminary studies will begin once the annual budget is approved.
4. COUNCIL DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING SPONSORSHIP ADVERTISING POLICY. Town Manager Helms reported that this matter relates to the aquatic center sign proposal, which if approved in the budget, Council would need to adopt a policy allowing for sponsorship advertising. Council recommended discussing this matter at a future meeting.
5. RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL 6 – 12, 2014 AS LOCAL VOLUNTEER WEEK. Mayor Barber presented a resolution declaring April 6 – 12, 2014 as local volunteer week. Councilman Huppert made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council was polled as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall - Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye. A copy of the resolution is attached herewith.
6. MR. VANHOOZIER AND MR. STIPES – FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:
  - a. Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2014 – 2015.

Councilman Vanhoozier presented the draft Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 to Council for review and Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie provided a PowerPoint overview of the details within the budget, including water and sewer rate increases, a 2% bonus for full-time employees, two new full-time positions, and proposed capital equipment and projects with matching grant funding. Reserve funding was necessary to balance the budget, but reserves remain at 38% of the budget, which is within the target parameters. Council discussed various ideas for streamlining costs and complimented the budget process. The Finance Committee recommended Council review the proposed budget and be prepared for discussion at the next budget work session.

#### IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1. MONTHLY BILLS: On motion by Councilman Hall, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier, Council voted to approve the monthly bills to be paid on April 10, 2014 in the amount of \$1,137,582.27. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.
2. PROGRESS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:
  - The Street Committee will study the following requests for recommendation to Council: Parking restrictions along Lions Drive and Oak Tree Boulevard; Stoplight improvement at the intersection of Roanoke Street and Depot Street; placement of a child safety sign on Diana Drive from the direction of the water tower.
  - A work session was scheduled for April 9, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. for the purpose of discussing the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015, and the proposed Paid-Time-Off policy. Town Attorney Elizabeth Dillon will participate in the work session.
  - Councilman Showalter was contacted by a resident at 105 Ellett Drive who is on a septic tank, but has been paying for sewer service since 2008. The resident now has the opportunity to connect to Town sewer and Councilman Showalter recommended assisting him by waiving the connection fee in lieu of providing a refund for service. Councilman Hall made a motion to waive the connection fee for the resident as recommended, seconded by

Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

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Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

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D. Michael Barber, Mayor