

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2015 – 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 FEBRUARY 10, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Barry Helms; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Theresa Fontana; Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Human Resource Director Becky Wilburn; Public Information Specialist Allison Long; Director of Public Works Ricky Bourne; Director of Aquatics Terry Caldwell; Police Chief Mark Sisson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Barber presented Councilman Samuel Bishop with a plaque from the Commonwealth of Virginia acknowledging his 2014 election to Town Council. He then thanked Mr. Bishop for his willingness to serve the Town as a member of Council and congratulated him on his election win.

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 January 27, 2015. Councilman Hall made a motion to adopt the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

Councilman Hall moved to amend the agenda to table item III.6. until the February 24, 2015 regular meeting of council to allow for review of the Aquatic Center Business Plan. Councilman Vanhoozier seconded the motion and Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

II. CITIZEN'S HEARING:

1. INTRODUCTION AND OATH OF OFFICE – NEW POLICE OFFICERS.

Christiansburg Police Chief Mark Sisson presented the Oath of Office to four new members of the Christiansburg Police Department: Dispatcher Ronald Raines; Officer Adam Horn; Officer Garrison Ellis; and part-time Parking Enforcement Officer Warren Palmer. Mayor Barber thanked Chief Sisson and the new officers for their dedicated service to the community.

2. MR. CHRIS TUCK TO ADDRESS

COUNCIL. Chris Tuck, Christiansburg representative on the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, updated Council on the operations of the county as it works to develop its upcoming annual budget. Mr. Tuck reported that there are many financial demands on the county and state funding is uncertain at this time. The Montgomery County School Board has proposed a 5.5% tax increase to allow for employee raises and to manage the impact of the Affordable Care Act. Without an increase in funding, the school system could face possible lay-offs. Montgomery County did not give employee pay increases last year, and must consider it this year to remain competitive. Mr. Tuck acknowledged the needs of the Christiansburg High School, the only high school in the county that still utilizes mobile unit classrooms, one of which has been condemned for student usage. He reported that money is being set aside for the future remodeling and construction of Christiansburg schools in need, and he explained his vision to remodel the old middle school for use as an elementary school. Funding for a new animal shelter will be included in the proposed budget, which will include an expansion to care for felines. Mr. Tuck reported that roll-over funds were used by the Sheriff's department to supply body cameras and car cameras for use by officers.

In closing, Mr. Tuck expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the county and the town to work together for the good of the community, and he used the recent relocation of the park-and-ride as an example of that partnership. Mr. Tuck offered to answer questions of Council. Council thanked Mr. Tuck for advocating for Christiansburg and for the update.

3. SARAH BALLARD AND BETH CONNELLY, SPONSOR AND CO-SPONSOR OF "HELP SAVE THE NEXT GIRL", TO ADDRESS COUNCIL.

Sarah Ballard, co-sponsor of the Christiansburg High School chapter of Help Save the Next Girl, and a guidance counselor at the high school, shared with Council the goals and objectives of the newly established club designed to provide education, opportunities for involvement, and support services to communities and law enforcement agencies. Six student club members from the high school were introduced to Council and three spoke on what the club personally means to them.

Jane Lillian Vance, vice-president of the board of directors of the national chapter of Help Save the Next Girl, and campus advisor of the Virginia Tech chapter, spoke about the Morgan Harrington murder that began the Help Save the Next Girl campaign. Morgan Harrington had been a student of Professor Vance's, and her experiences with the Harrington family have given her a personal perspective in fighting violence against young women. Professor Vance reported that the club is now twenty chapters strong.

Beth Connelly, co-sponsor of the Christiansburg High School chapter, reported that the Christiansburg chapter began last year with the disappearance of UVA student, Hannah Graham, and it provided assistance to local law enforcement agencies during the recent disappearance of one of their own students. The CHS chapter currently has eighty student members and many community supporters.

Sarah Ballard reported that the club works with many groups that help to prevent violence against women, and recently representatives of National Center for Missing and Exploited Children addressed CHS students during the search for a missing CHS student. To serve its goal of preventing future crimes against women, the club distributes educational material at school basketball games, and the school is considering offering personal safety classes to students. Councilman Hall commented that his daughter is a member of the CHS chapter and he spoke of the positive impact being a part of the club has had on his daughter, especially with the recent disappearance of a CHS student. He then commended the leaders responsible for inspiring the students to become involved with the club.

4. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

- a. Lisa Gardner of 11 Phlegar Street voiced her support for the Help Save the Next Girl campaign, commenting that community partnerships with police are important in establishing trust of law enforcement. She stated that missing girls should be able to call the police when in need, without the worry of getting into trouble.

III. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF ELIZABETH DILLON. Councilman Vanhoozier moved to adopt a resolution recognizing the service of Elizabeth Kay Dillon, seconded by Councilman Hall. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye. A copy of the resolution is attached herewith.
2. TOWN PERSONNEL RESPONSE TO ENDANGERED MISSING TEENAGER CASE. Councilman Huppert expressed his appreciation for the actions and response of the Christiansburg police force in handling the recent disappearance and recovery of a Christiansburg High School student. He reported that he received comments from within the community concerning how well the situation was handled by Police Chief Sisson and the police department as a whole. Council agreed with Councilman Huppert and commended Chief Sisson, Public Information Officer Becky Wilburn, and Public Information Specialist Allison Long, for the continuous communication during the missing teen crisis. Police Chief Sisson assured Council that he and the police department work hard each day to strengthen the bonds of trust within the community, and that those bonds were evident during the recent search for the Christiansburg teen. Police Chief Sisson commended the Christiansburg High School community for taking an initiative to become involved and active through the Help Save the Next Girl club.
3. PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FY 2014 – 2015. Town Manager Helms reviewed the description of each line item, and the changes in funding estimation, included in the proposed budget amendment,

which was included in the agenda packet for review, and he answered questions of Council. Councilman Vanhoozier reported that the amendment, which has been reviewed by the Finance Committee, resulted in a net decrease in expenditures and an overall bottom line total of \$19,000. Councilman Hall made a motion to approve the budget amendment as proposed, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye. Council stated its appreciation for the budget amendment updates throughout the year.

4. RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR NAMING THE NEW CHRISTIANSBURG PARK-AND-RIDE THE "KENNETH B. GIBSON MEMORIAL PARK-AND-RIDE". Councilman Hall made a motion to adopt the Resolution of Support for Naming the New Christiansburg Park-and-Ride the "Kenneth B. Gibson Memorial Park-and-Ride", seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye. A copy of the resolution is attached herewith.
5. DISCUSSION CONCERNING THE TOWN'S PARTICIPATION IN CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH, APRIL 2015. Councilman Hall asked for Council's approval in inviting two speakers from the community to address Council at each meeting in April with a short presentation on the different disciplines involved in preventing child abuse. In addition to the speakers, Councilman Hall requested that the Child Abuse Prevention banner and signs from last year be placed along Main Street. Council expressed support for the requests of Councilman Hall, and Councilman Showalter recommended that Child Abuse Prevention month become an annual recognition of Christiansburg. Mayor Barber offered to present a resolution recognizing the month of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and he asked Councilman Hall to chair the speaker line-up.
6. COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING A COMMITTEE FOR THE PURPOSE OF UPDATING THE AQUATIC CENTER BUSINESS PLAN. This matter was tabled until the February 24, 2015 regular meeting of Council.
7. DISCUSSION CONCERNING WHETHER THE TOWN OF CHRISTIANSBURG SHOULD UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY AND EVALUATION CONCERNING THE EFFECTS AND FEASIBILITY OF A MOVE TOWARD CITY STATUS IN 2018. Councilman Hall recommended that Council appoint a committee, led by Finance Director Val Tweedie, to use the next two years to study the feasibility and the beneficial/detrimental effects of establishing city status, with the year 2018 as a projected discussion date. The year 2018 is the earliest the Town could request a change in status. Results of the study should include complete costs and the pros and cons of the town becoming a city. Mayor Barber suggested tabling this matter until after the FY 15-16 Annual Budget has been approved. Council agreed to table this matter until July 2015.
8. CONSIDERATION OF ESTABLISHING 501(C)(3) STATUS FOR THE CHRISTIANSBURG FARMERS MARKET. Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield reported that the Farmers Market Committee will meet tomorrow to consider a logo and to discuss establishing a 501(c)(3) status for added insurance liability purposes. The committee is also designing a vendor application form. Town Attorney Fontana briefly spoke about the process of requesting tax exempt status. Council expressed its appreciation for the progress being made by the committee.
9. ITEMIZED LIST FOR THE PROPOSED CONSENT AGENDA. Town Manager Helms provided Council with a sample consent agenda for review and offered to answer questions of Council. It was the consensus of Council to proceed with using a consent agenda beginning with the February 24 regular meeting of Council.
10. MR. STIPES AND MR. VANHOOZIER – STREET COMMITTEE REPORT/RECOMMENDATION ON:
 - a. Subdivision Plat for New River Village Townhomes; located on New Village Drive; creating lots 1-31. Councilman Stipes reported that the Street Committee reviewed the subdivision plat and found it to be consistent with the 2001 Master Plan for New River Village, previously approved by Council. The submitted plat was found to conform with the subdivision ordinance and Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the plat, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council discussed the potential traffic impact the development would create, with Councilman Hall noting that an estimated ten trips per resident per day was quoted during a previous traffic discussion. Assistant Town Manager Wingfield commented that proffers require a second connection to Peppers Ferry Road upon development of the property in between the proposed townhouses and Peppers Ferry Road, which would eventually provide two ingress/egress points for the development. Councilman Stipes noted that the developer could build ten units per acre, by Code, but has proffered a lesser density of seven units. Councilmen Hall

and Showalter expressed concern that the subdivision plat was not required to meet the new subdivision requirements, including building sidewalks, because the original subdivision master plan was approved in 2001. Councilman Huppert suggested a traffic study to determine if the area can accommodate the additional traffic, but Councilman Stipes replied that there would not be enough traffic generated to warrant a study. Councilman Hall asked if the Town could impose restrictions based on public safety concerns with traffic, but Town Manager Helms commented that a two-lane road, like New Village Drive, can accommodate two-thousand cars per day. Councilman Showalter asked how many subdivisions are considered grandfathered under the new subdivision requirements. Assistant Town Manager Wingfield replied that there are approximately eight grandfathered subdivisions. Town Manager Helms expressed concern with denying a subdivision plat without grounds and Councilman Stipes said he would like to know what the Town's options are if the subdivision plat is not approved. Councilman Showalter stated that the Town needs to be proactive in setting aside funds to build subdivision connectivity, if it is not going to be required of the developers. Councilman Bishop commented that Council has not had adequate time to review and understand the details of the request, and he recommended tabling the matter for further review. Councilman Stipes withdrew his motion and Councilman Vanhoozier withdrew his second. Council directed Town Manager Helms and Town Attorney Fontana to gather information regarding the Town's options in this matter for discussion at the next Council meeting. Councilman Hall made a motion to table the request until February 24, 2015, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

- b. Boundary Line Adjustment for Machenzie W. Moses, Lorie L. Moses; located at 407 and 409 E. Main Street; contains 2 lots. Councilman Stipes reported that this request is to slightly decrease the size of a large parcel, and slightly increase the size of a small parcel, the purpose of which is to move the property line currently encroached by a paved driveway. The Street Committee studied the request and found it to be in conformity with the subdivision ordinance. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.
- c. Slate Creek Commons, Phase II; located on Walters Drive; creating 3 lots.
Councilman Stipes reported that this request is to divide one parcel into three lots for the development of two duplexes and one single-family home and was found to comply with the subdivision ordinance by the Street Committee. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the request, which was seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier, who noted that the Town denied a request for apartments on this property one year ago, and that the current request is consistent with the surrounding area. Councilman Huppert expressed concern for the continual requests for subdivision developments because of the subsequent impact on the roads, and on safety, from increased traffic. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

IV. COUNCIL REPORTS:

- 1. Councilman Huppert reported that the aquatic center continues to seek ways to get the community involved with the facility. Recently, the principal and PTA of the Christiansburg Primary School brought the students on a field trip to the facility to swim.
- 2. Councilman Showalter reported that the Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Committee will meet next Tuesday at 6:00 P.M.; the Town intends to distribute a community information memo about single-stream recycling. He restated his request for minutes of the meetings of the Farmers Market Committee.
- 3. Councilman Stipes commended Police Chief Sisson and Town staff for the way they handled the recent missing teen case. He expressed his appreciation for the Christiansburg community.
- 4. Councilman Vanhoozier reported on the measures to bring community awareness to single stream recycling, and noted that all the street lights are installed along the newly widened portion of Route 114.
- 5. Councilman Hall reported that he has received positive comments from the community on the new street lights along Route 114, and also on how quickly the Town responds to concerns in the community. From the Recreation Advisory Commission, he reported that the Town is organizing an eight mile run/walk that will coincide with the grand opening of the Huckleberry Trail bridge in May 2015. Councilman Hall also thanked and commended Chief Sisson and Town staff for the communication and interconnectivity during the search for the missing teen.

6. Mayor Barber reported that he and Town staff will write an attendance policy for Town committees/boards/commissions for Council adoption, and he thanked Town staff for its efforts that shed a positive light on Christiansburg during the recent search for the missing high school student. He also expressed his appreciation for the efforts of the Farmers Market Committee in moving forward to develop a plan that will result in a successful farmers market.

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1. PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST: Town Manager Helms presented the following request and recommended setting the Public Hearing for March 24, 2015:

- a. Request by the Planning Commission to amend the zoning ordinance.

On motion by Councilman Stipes, seconded by Councilman Showalter, Council voted to set the Public Hearing for March 24, 2015 as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

2. PROGRESS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Town received one bid on the downtown sidewalk project and will rebid the project since the one received came in higher than expected.
- Site plans have been received for Panda Express, Dairy Queen, and North West True Value.
- Four applications were received in response to the Planning Commission vacancies. Interviews will be held in Closed Meeting on February 24, 2015 at 5:30 P.M.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before Council, Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 P.M., seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor