

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
WORK SESSION MINUTES – 5:30 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – 7:00 P.M.
MARCH 10, 2015**

A WORK SESSION OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN HALL, 100 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA, ON MARCH 10, 2015 AT 5:30 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor D. Michael Barber; Vice-Mayor R. Cord Hall; Samuel M. Bishop; Steve Huppert; Henry D. Showalter; James W. Vanhoozier. ABSENT: Bradford J. Stipes.

WORK SESSION

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR BARBER.

II. CLOSED MEETING

a. Council met in Closed Meeting under Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), to receive legal advice regarding a subdivision plat for New River Village Townhomes. No action was taken by Council.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

---Adjourned until 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 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; James W. Vanhoozier. ABSENT: Bradford J. Stipes.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Barry Helms; Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Theresa Fontana; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Director of Aquatics Terry Caldwell; Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR BARBER.

II. RECOGNITIONS

III. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2015.

Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.

Councilman Hall made a motion to amend the agenda to add the reappointment of Mike Saylors to the Recreation Advisory Commission. Councilman Vanhoozier seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None. The matter was placed as item # 1 under Citizen's Hearings.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to amend the agenda to add a discussion regarding his proposal for a review of Town enforcement policies pertaining to violations of Town ordinances. Councilman Huppert seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None. The matter was placed as item #5 under Discussions by Mayor and Council Members.

IV. CITIZEN'S HEARING

1. RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION – REAPPOINTMENT OF MIKE SAYLORS. Councilman Hall commended Mike Saylors on his valuable contributions to the Recreation Advisory Commission as an engineer, and as a member committed in his service to the Town. He then made a motion to reappoint Mr. Saylors to serve another term on the commission. Councilman Huppert seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None. Mr. Saylors thanked Council for the privilege to serve another term on the Recreation Advisory Commission.
2. UPDATE BY PAULA ALSTON, DIRECTOR OF MONTGOMERY-FLOYD REGIONAL LIBRARY. Paula Alston provided each Council member with a copy of the 2014 Annual Report for the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library, along with a program flier describing upcoming library-sponsored events. Ms. Alston spoke to Council about the value and necessity of the library to the community in its efforts to provide opportunities for early childhood literacy, and for providing opportunities for citizens to gain knowledge and learn important skills. She thanked Council for its continued annual support which has helped to fund small pocket libraries at the aquatic center, the Department of Social Services, and other locations in the county. Ms. Alston updated Council on the success of the outreach programs intended to keep citizens interested and involved with reading, and on the numerous community partnerships that support the library efforts. The library plans to host a reception in honor of those who provide financial support to the library, and she invited Council to attend.
3. UPDATE BY SUE FARRAR REGARDING THE MOUNTAINS OF MUSIC HOMECOMING EVENT SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 13, 2015. Sue Farrar, Director of Montgomery Museum, introduced the following members of the Board of Directors and other supporters, who were present in support of the museum: Dewey Rotenberry, Jimmy Blanchard, Kevin Stoner, and Kim Harich. Ms. Farrar updated Council on the museum-sponsored events for 2015, including the first annual Mountains of Music Homecoming scheduled for June 13. This event is widely anticipated and is expected to have a significant impact on tourism in Christiansburg. The museum is looking forward to working with the town and the county in planning and organizing the major music event. Council asked what the Town could do to support the museum in hosting the Mountains of Music Homecoming event and Ms. Farrar responded that assistance with advertising would be welcomed. Council discussed various ways to provide support for the museum and decided to further discuss the matter in detail at a future Council meeting.
4. UPDATE BY TERRY CALDWELL, AQUATICS DIRECTOR, REGARDING THE AQUATIC CENTER. Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell thanked Paula Alston and Sue Farrar for their work within the community and for their partnerships with the aquatic center. She then announced the winner of the new pool sliding board community vote, which was the alligator slide, and thanked Council for the funds to purchase and install the new slide. Council was updated on progresses within the aquatic center including online membership sales, installation of security cameras at the skate park, and the spring construction of a 12x12 outdoor shelter by Eagle Scout, Will Rhodes. Nine advertisement banners have been sold for the competition pool area, with more available for sale. Ms. Caldwell reported on upcoming events designed to increase community participation at the facility, and efforts to honor Child Abuse Prevention Month by hanging a banner and providing an information table during the month of April. The facility is organizing a five-year celebration to be held June 26. The aquatic center continues to advertise and communicate through social media. Ms. Caldwell reported that the facility intends to submit a budget request for funding for an LED sign and for a separate website for the aquatic center. Councilman Hall expressed his appreciation for the partnerships the aquatic center has established within the community as noted tonight, and Councilman Huppert reported on recent swim meets that had a significant impact on revenue within the town.
5. CITIZEN COMMENTS.
 - a. Steve Semones, 325 Windsor Drive, president of the New River Valley Home Builder's Association, reported on the annual New River Valley Home Show scheduled for March 13 -15 at the recreation center. Mr. Semones thanked the staff at the recreation center for partnering in the home show, and he invited all to attend the event.

V. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. COUNCIL ACTION ON:

- a. Subdivision Plat for New River Village Townhomes; located on New Village Drive; creating lots 1-2. (This is a carryover item from February 10, 2015 and February 24, 2015.) Councilman Hall made a motion to approve the subdivision plat as requested, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.
2. ENFORCEMENT POLICIES FOR ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS. Councilman Showalter expressed concern that violation of town ordinances continue to be a frequent topic of Council discussions, with no changes that would allow Council to effectively address and deal with violators, especially repeat offenders. Council discussed ways to strengthen Town policies that would hold individuals accountable in complying with Town ordinances. Town Manager Helms was asked to research current enforcement policies as a beginning point to making necessary changes to policy. Councilman Vanhoozier added that it would be wise for the Town to periodically review its policies and procedures for improvements. Council agreed to hold a work session after the budget process to discuss ways to improve enforcement of Town ordinances, with a focus on past violators. A work session of Council will be scheduled at a future Council meeting.

VI. COUNCIL REPORTS

1. Councilman Huppert passed along citizen compliments on the newly implemented Town newsletter, and on the snow removal during the month of February.
2. Councilman Showalter passed along compliments to Town staff regarding the Town newsletter.
3. Councilman Vanhoozier reported that the Aquatic Center Advisory Board met on February 4 and discussed establishing a separate website for the aquatic center, an idea that was supported by Town Manager Helms, and one that he supports. The advisory board recommended that Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell submit a budget request for funds to cover the costs of implementing and maintaining a website for the aquatic center. The advisory board also recommended giving a free annual membership to all full-time Town employees and fire/rescue volunteers as a way to encourage attendance at the facility. The board further recommended giving these same employees and volunteers the opportunity to pay the difference for a family membership. Councilman Vanhoozier asked Council to consider the recommendations of the advisory commission.
4. Councilman Hall reported that community speakers have been scheduled for the month of April in honor of Child Abuse Prevention month; the Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Committee met and discussed the possibility of implementing mandatory garbage pick-up next year, and the committee has continued to study the commercial garbage pick-up program. At the meeting, Engineering Director Wayne Nelson was able to identify several sites in Town for improvements and upgrades to water and sewer systems. The Green Initiative is the current focus of the committee and federal funding is currently being sought to support the Town's green efforts.
5. Mayor Barber reported that the Town has again been awarded a Certificate of Achievement of Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association for preparation of the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year 2013-2014. This is the third year in a row that the Town has received this award. Mayor Barber thanked Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie and her staff for their efforts in submitting an award-winning report.

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1. PROGRESS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Ricky Bourne, Director of Public Works, plans to report on the Town's snow removal program at an upcoming Council meeting.
- Council was provided a *Drive Tourism* brochure, which outlined a tourism program aimed at making Montgomery County communities competitive in the tourism market. Randy Rose will present to Council information on the program at a future meeting to determine if Christiansburg is interested in participating.
- Organizers planning events to honor the anniversary of Civil War Trails have requested a plaque of recognition to be placed in Christiansburg, which the organizers agreed to install and maintain. An easement would be required for placement of the plaque and Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to authorize Town Manager Helms to approve the sign easement, seconded by Councilman Hall. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Vanhoozier.

- Councilman Vanhoozier requested that Council consider the recommendations of the aquatic center presented above. Council agreed to discuss the matter in a work session, which will be scheduled at a later date.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before Council, Councilman Hall made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 P.M., seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor