

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 9, 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 JUNE 9, 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; Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Jim Guynn; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY COUNCILMAN BISHOP.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Request for a Conditional Use Permit to allow a commercial garage at 405 Roanoke Street. **This request was withdrawn by the applicant.**

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR BARBER.

II. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Council Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2015
2. Proposed Water and Sewer Leak Adjustment Policy

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; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.

III. RECOGNITIONS:

IV. CITIZEN'S HEARING:

1. DALE BUCKNER TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON A PROPOSED GOSPEL SINGING EVENT DOWNTOWN.

Dale Buckner and Jamie Bond thanked Council for the opportunity to present their proposal for a first annual gospel singing festival to be held on Main Street on August 29, 2015 from 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. The four- member committee that has organized the event has provided a letter to the 175 churches in the Christiansburg-Montgomery County area notifying them of the proposal and requesting support. Food trucks will be included at the festival. The committee has met with the Parks and Recreation Department and the Planning Department in planning and organizing the event and they have notified the only business expected to be open during the event hours. The event will feature mostly local talent of four to five music groups and there will be no charge to attend the event. Mr. Buckner requested that the Town close Main Street from the Square to Dunkley Street for the duration of the event. The committee has submitted an event application to the Town. Council was provided a packet that included an information letter and map outlining the proposed event location.

Councilman Huppert made a motion to amend the agenda to include Council discussion and action on the request for a downtown gospel singing event on August 29, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted to amend the agenda as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

- a. Lisa Bleakley, Executive Director of the Tourism Development Council, offered to answer questions of Council regarding the Drive Tourism program presented by Randy Rose on March 10, 2015. She thanked Council for its ongoing support and provided information on current tourism trends that showed an increase in tourism spending for Montgomery County.

V. STAFF REPORTS: None

V. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. PROPOSAL BY DALE BUCKNER FOR A DOWNTOWN GOSPEL SINGING FESTIVAL. Councilman Hall made a motion to approve the proposal as presented by Dale Buckner and Jamie Bond for a gospel singing festival to be held downtown on August 29, 2015 from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Councilman Stipes seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.
2. A PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT TIMELINE FOR CHRISTIANSBURG INSTITUTE. In response to a request by Council during the May 12 Council meeting, Mr. David Moore submitted a redevelopment timeline for Christiansburg Institute (CI) that outlined the activities that CI plans to undertake during the next year to begin renovations of the Edgar A. Long building. However, Council found that the aggressive timeline did not address some important issues such as specific construction goals and funding. Council agreed that the submitted information leaves many unanswered questions and decided to reconsider providing financial support once progress on the renovations begins.
3. COUNCIL ACTION ON:
 - a. Proposed Annual Budget for FY 2015-2016. The Public Hearing was held on May 26, 2015. Town Manager Helms explained a change to the previous draft budget adjustment dated March 24, 2015 that resulted in a balanced budget. The change had to do with turning a part-time employment position into a full-time position. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to adopt the Annual Budget for FY 2015-2016 as presented during the May 26 Public Hearing, with the change presented tonight that resulted in a budget balance of \$0. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion and Council was polled as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.
 - b. Conditional Use Permit request by Billy Massie (agent for Starlight MHP, LLC) for the expansion of an existing mobile home park with one single-wide mobile home and one single family residence on Starlight Drive (tax parcel 529 – ((A)) – 41) in the B-3 General Business District. This item is a carryover from May 26, 2015 and the Public Hearing was held on May 12, 2015. Mayor Barber reported that Mr. Massie, who is present, has requested to remove placement of a mobile home from the CUP request. This change would also remove the playground requirement. It was reported that Mr. Massey is in a hurry to build the single-family residence that he will live in within the mobile home park. Town Manager Helms read the Planning Commission resolution recommending Town Council approve the modified CUP request with four conditions. Councilman Huppert made a motion to issue the CUP with the second and third conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Councilman Stipes stated that he could not support the motion because of the material change that resulted in losing the requirement for a playground, which he believes would enhance the mobile home park. He also noted the opposition to the request by Mr. Alvin Humes during the Public Hearing on May 12. Town Manager Helms noted that the change was substantial, but that it reduced the intensity of the property use. He also reported that the Planning Commission's biggest concern with the request was the addition of another mobile home. Mr. Massey noted that currently there are approximately three children living in this particular park. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Nay; Vanhoozier – Aye.
3. CONSIDERATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DRIVE TOURISM PROGRAM. Councilman Hall made a motion to participate in the Drive Tourism Program, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.
4. RESOLUTION ADOPTING/SUPPORTING CONTINUOUS AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION LAND USE PERMITS. Councilman Hall made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.

VI. COUNCIL REPORTS

- a. Councilman Huppert asked for an update on the Main Street property redevelopment project proposed by Mr. Miller on April 28, 2015. Town Manager Helms reported that he and Mayor Barber have met with Mr. Miller twice since then and their discussions will be presented to Council during the June 23 work session. Councilman Huppert reminded Council of the Mountains of Music event scheduled for June 13 at the Montgomery Museum, and he encouraged all to support the event that is co-sponsored by the Town.
- b. Councilman Showalter noted that Montgomery Museum has requested Town funding for replacement of a destroyed directional sign along I-81. Assistant Town Manager Wingfield reported that the approximate cost to replace the sign would be \$6,000 or \$7,000. The Town has provided for partial funding in the FY 15-16 budget, however, Councilman Showalter recommended that the museum agree to recognize the Town of Christiansburg on the sign prior to releasing the funds. Mayor Barber turned this matter over to Assistant Town Manager Wingfield to work with the museum on drafting the wording of the sign to be approved by Council. The New River Valley Regional Commission provided Council with cups and tote bags featuring the new name of the commission. Councilman Showalter then reported that 4,100 responses were received from the passenger rail survey and so plans are being made to include Virginia Tech and Radford University students in the survey.
- c. Councilman Hall reported that the railings are currently being installed on the Huckleberry Trail bridge, and he expressed his appreciation for the increasing number and variety of downtown community events. Concerning the work session scheduled for June 23, he requested that Mr. Miller provide written information to Council prior to the work session detailing the expectations Mr. Miller has of Town involvement in the redevelopment project, financial and otherwise. He then reported that work has begun on replacement of sidewalks at Christiansburg High School.
- d. Councilman Bishop asked for a status update on the consideration of a left-hand turn signal at the intersection of North Franklin and Depot Street. Town Manager Helms reported that VDOT originally denied the need for a left-hand turn signal at that intersection, but that the Town can study the issue again.
- e. Councilman Stipes reported that the Bikeway-Walkway Committee expressed its appreciation for funding in the annual budget that will allow it to move forward with the next step of the project to reconfigure a portion of Roanoke Street to allow for bike lanes, scheduled to be included in the planned water line replacement in 2016-2017. The top priority of the Bikeway-Walkway Committee during the 2015-2016 year is the Crab Creek connector trail that will connect Roanoke Street with North Franklin Street. The shared-use path will resemble the Huckleberry Trail and the Town has provided enough funding to commission a preliminary engineering study.
- f. Mayor Barber announced that the aquatic center will hold a five-year anniversary celebration with aquatic events, games, and competitions on June 26 – 27. Events are free and all are invited to attend. The Town employee picnic is scheduled for June 12 at 5:30 P.M. at the aquatic center.

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1. PUBLIC HEARING REQUESTS: Town Manager Helms presented the following request and recommended setting the Public Hearing for July 28, 2015:

- a. Conditional Use Permit request for a single-family residence in the B-3 General Business District, Depot Street.

On motion by Councilman Hall, seconded by Councilman Huppert, Council voted to set the Public Hearing for July 28, 2015 as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier - Aye.

2. PROGRESS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Human Resource Department has finalized the development of an application form to be used by individuals seeking appointment to Town boards, commissions, and committees. A copy of the form was provided for Council information.
- Town Manager Helms will be out of the office June 10 – 12 to attend the Virginia Local Government Management Association conference in Virginia Beach.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before Council, Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 P.M., seconded by Councilman Bishop. 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