

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2007 AT 7:30 P.M.**

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN HALL, 100 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA, ON JANUARY 16, 2007 AT 7:30 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Mayor Huppert, Councilmembers Barber, Canada, Carter, Stipes, and Wade. COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Ballengee. Also present Town Manager Terpenny, Assistant Town Manager Helms, Town Clerk Stipes, and Town Attorney Memmer.

MAYOR BALLENGEE stated there was a quorum present of Council Members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

REGULAR MEETING

VICE-MAYOR HUPPERT called the Regular Meeting of Council to order and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of January 2, 2007. Councilwoman Carter made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Canada, Carter, Stipes, and Wade. NAYS: None.

CITIZEN HEARINGS:

VICE-MAYOR HUPPERT opened the Citizen Hearings for those desiring to address Council.

There being no one to address Council, VICE-MAYOR HUPPERT closed the Citizen Hearings.

DISCUSSIONS BY VICE-MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION TO FORMER COUNCILMEMBER DALE F. ASHWORTH. Vice-Mayor Huppert said Council wanted to express its appreciation to former Councilmember, Dale Ashworth, for his faithful service to the Town as a member of Council. Mr. Ashworth served on Council for eight years. The Resolution will be presented to Mr. Ashworth at a future meeting, since he was unable to attend tonight.
2. COUNCIL DISCUSSION ON DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION. Vice-Mayor Huppert reported that the Town met with H.T. Bowling Construction last week to discuss the contractor's timeframe for downtown sidewalk and streetscape construction. They plan to begin sidewalk construction, including posting lightpoles, this week. H.T. Bowling hopes to finish by September, before the annual Wilderness Trail Day. Town Manager Terpenny commented that the schedule is dependent on the weather. Councilwoman Carter commented that it is important to install handicapped sidewalk at regular intervals along Main Street. Manager Terpenny agreed, commenting that handicapped accessible sidewalk is already included in the sidewalk plan. Councilman Canada asked that this matter be placed on the agenda to discuss ways to draw people and commerce to the downtown area. Councilman Canada shared several of his ideas, such as, encouraging people to live downtown by building apartments/condos above storefronts. The Town could make concessions for property owners willing to invest in this manner. The Town could develop a small amphitheater type greenspace as a community gathering place for outdoor musical acts, craft shows, etc.; an active place for people to gather. Councilman Canada said that true revitalization will begin when the people are drawn to the downtown area. Councilman Canada clarified that he is not making any proposals or recommendations, only offering suggestions for discussion and consideration. He advised that if the correct plan is put into place, true revitalization will happen. Councilman Barber said that, in the past, the Town has offered downtown property owners incentives for developing a portion of their building residential. At that time, there was no interest expressed by the property owners to take advantage of the incentives offered. Councilman Barber also commented that he likes the concept of an amphitheater type greenspace, and there are grants available for this type of development. Councilman Wade commented that there used to be a committee that focused on the interests of the downtown area. He suggested possibly reviving the committee to act as a liaison for Town Council. Councilman Canada proposed forming such a committee, inside Council, to work with Town administration regarding financial and legal possibilities. Once a plan is in place, the committee could then approach downtown property owners.

Councilman Stipes said he likes the ideas discussed, and completely supports efforts to provide opportunities that will draw folks to the downtown area. He also commented that the Town should take advantage of grant funding available for this type of revitalization. Councilwoman Carter agreed, commenting that people won't come if there is no reason to. Town Manager Terpenny said the Central Business Committee covers the downtown area, and Councilmen Wade and Huppert serve on this committee. Vice-Mayor Huppert suggested working with the Parks and Recreation department to hold events downtown. Vice-Mayor Huppert said he will relay this discussion to Mayor Ballengee.

3. APPOINTMENT TO MONTGOMERY REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION. Vice-Mayor Huppert said Councilwoman Carter has agreed to serve another term on the Montgomery Regional Economic Development Commission, and he thanked her for her continued willingness to serve in this capacity. Councilman Stipes made a motion to reappointment Councilwoman Carter to serve another term on the Montgomery Regional Economic Development Commission, seconded by Councilman Barber. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Canada, Stipes, and Wade. NAYS: None. ABSTAIN: Carter. Councilwoman Carter said she enjoys serving on this commission and thanked Council for the reappointment.

MR. BARBER AND MR. STIPES – Street Committee Recommendation on:

1. Plat of Minor Subdivision of Cambria Pointe, Phase I; creating 4 lots; Cambria Street, N.W. Councilman Barber explained that this property is the old Rowe Furniture property consisting of nine acres. Of the nine acres, three will be made into lots and much of the remaining will be right-of-way for the future Rt. 114 connector road. The existing building will be demolished. All is in order with the plat and Councilman Barber made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Councilman Wade. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Canada, Carter, Stipes, and Wade. NAYS: None.

TOWN MANAGER REPORTS:

TAXI CAB BUSINESS AND LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS – Town Manager Terpenny submitted to Council taxi cab renewal applications for Christiansburg Cab Service, Inc., and its drivers. The Christiansburg Police Department has investigated the following taxi cab drivers and recommends approval: Robert Vaughn, Irene Vaughn, Bonnie East, Charles Bryant, Sharon Vaughn, Rita Bradbury, and Michael Loveland. The Christiansburg Police Department has investigated the following applicant and recommends denying the license renewal request: Katherine Morrow. On motion by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Canada, Council voted to approve the requested taxi cab license renewals, with the exception of Katherine Morrow, as stated above. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Canada, Carter, Stipes, and Wade. NAYS: None.

COUNCILMAN BARBER reported that he has not met with the Parks and Recreation Commission since the last Town Council meeting and, therefore, is unable to report to Council regarding the Recreation Department's hours of operation during Town holiday closings. Councilman Barber plans to discuss this matter with the Commission at its next regularly scheduled meeting on February 5, 2007.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to bring before Council the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 P.M, on motion by Councilman Wade, seconded by Councilman Barber. Council voted as follows: AYES: Barber, Canada, Carter, Stipes, and Wade. NAYS: None.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

Steve Huppert, Vice-Mayor