

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 27, 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 OCTOBER 27, 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 Theresa Fontana; Planning Director Nichole Hair; Farmers' Market Manager Sarah Belcher.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR BARBER.

II. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Council Meeting Minutes of October 13, 2015
2. Monthly Bills

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

Councilman Hall arrived at 7:07 P.M.

III. RECOGNITIONS:

IV. CITIZEN'S HEARING:

1. Citizen comments:
 - a. Jonathan Freedom, 315 Howery Street, requested that Council allow him to use archery to control the deer population on his property at 315 Howery Street. Mr. Freedom, whose property is one acre in size, noted that the Town's urban archery ordinance limits the use of archery to properties containing three acres, but explained that the back of his property adjoins miles of forest land, and he would limit his use of archery to his backyard. Mr. Freedom said that his property has received extensive damage because of deer and fencing is not an adequate barrier. The forest property behind the Freedom property is used by a hunt club, but Mr. Freedom has not been able to get permission from the landowner to hunt on that property. Mr. Freedom said he is an experienced hunter and offered to provide the deer meat to those in need, if allowed to thin the herd. Councilman Stipes stated that Council has heard this complaint from citizens in the past, which is why Council lowered the acreage threshold to three acres; however, safety would be a major concern with shooting/archery on a one-acre sized lot. He further noted that state law regulates the distance from a public street that a weapon can be discharged. Councilman Vanhoozier commented that the Town of Blacksburg hired professionals to thin the deer population when it became a problem at the airport. Town Manager Helms agreed to talk with Blacksburg about the methods it uses to control deer, and to research instances of special permits.

V. STAFF REPORTS:

1. No staff reports.

VI. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. Resolution for VDOT Revenue Sharing Funds. Town Manager Helms reported that his staff is still working with VDOT to draft the resolution, and he recommended postponing Council action until the resolution has been completed.
2. Discussion regarding the Council Follow-up Task List. Council set a work session for November 12 at 6:00 P.M. to discuss the items outlined on the follow-up task list.

VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS

- a. Councilman Bishop reported on the Drive Tourism workshop held October 19 that was attended by members of the community, town staff, and Council. He announced that Christiansburg was now one of twenty-four towns in Virginia to be certified as tourism-ready, which will allow for future tourism grants.
- b. Councilman Hall reported on an event he recently attended hosted by New River Community Action, during which Delegate Yost and Senator Edwards spoke, and he expressed his appreciation for the event and for the organization's involvement in the community. He also reported that he will be meeting with Help Save the Next Girl advocate, Kenny Jarels, in December to discuss expanding the foundation's presence into Pulaski County.
- c. Councilman Vanhoozier reported on the recent meetings of the Stormwater Stakeholder Committee, noting that the committee is making good progress toward meeting its objective to develop a town stormwater fee.
- d. Councilman Showalter reported on the Central Business Advisory Committee meeting held before tonight's council meeting. The board meetings have seen good attendance, and the board expects to present its long-term goals to Council in December. He reminded Council of the Getting Scary on the Huckleberry 5k run/walk event scheduled for October 31 that will include various family and children activities.
- e. Councilman Huppert reported that the Planning Commission recently studied and discussed a request for allowing the keeping of chickens within town limits. The Planning Commission expects to make a recommendation to Council regarding this matter at the next regular council meeting. He then noted that the December 22 Council meeting would be Councilman Vanhoozier's last meeting as a member of council; he suggested that Council meet at Amelia's Restaurant prior to the meeting to celebrate Councilman Vanhoozier and his service to the town. Mayor Barber charged Councilman Huppert with organizing a social in honor of Councilman Vanhoozier's retirement from Town Council.
- f. Mayor Barber reported that, at the next regular Council meeting, he planned to present to Council for adoption a resolution supporting Small Business Saturday, and declaring November 28, 2015 as "Small Business Saturday", a campaign to encourage shopping locally. He then reported that the Christmas parade is scheduled for December 11, 2015 at 7:00 P.M., and on that same day from 4:00 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. a special farmers' market would be held downtown that will include artisans and crafters. Mayor Barber encouraged Council members to walk with him as a group in the Christmas parade.

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1. PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST: Town Manager Helms presented the following request and recommended setting the Public Hearing for December 8, 2015:
 - a. Conditional Use Permit request for contractor equipment storage on Palmer Street.

On motion by Councilman Hall, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier, Council voted to set the Public Hearing for December 8, 2015 as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier - Aye.

2. PROGRESS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Town Manager Helms received an email request from Rescue Captain Joe Coyle noting that the ambulance that was included in the budget for FY 15-16 came in \$12,000 over budget. To provide funds for the shortfall, Captain Coyle requested that the Simbulance, at a budgeted cost of \$25,000, be deleted from the budget, and \$12,000 moved to the ambulance budget. Councilman Hall made a motion to allow the budget amendment to move

\$12,000 from the Simbulance budget to the ambulance budget, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier - Aye.

2. Two town employees have submitted requests for leave without pay. One is applying for disability retirement and is asking for 90 days of leave without pay because he cannot return to work. The second employee is on worker's compensation and is expected to return to work in late December. One employee will be replaced; the other is expected to return to his former position. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve both requests as explained by Town Manager Helms, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier - Aye.
3. Town Manager Helms provided a report from the Engineering Department regarding water meter and software upgrades that will result in monthly utility billing beginning in early 2016. He also reported that the next phase of the Huckleberry Trail will bid out once the Town receives approval from VDOT to extend the trail to Food Lion, and he is continuing to work with the county in routing the trail near the high school. Lastly, he reported that Anderson and Associates is doing a trail study of nine different areas that will provide information valuable to meeting the goals and objectives of the Bikeway/Walkway Committee.
4. Councilman Hall reported that he intends to write a letter to the Montgomery County School Board, and the newspaper, opposing a new policy at Christiansburg High School that sends students to in-school suspension (ISS), for up to one hour, for having one tardy to school. He explained that he has received many telephone calls from concerned parents regarding the policy, and he visited the school on one occasion when more than forty students were in ISS for tardiness, including several students with a 4.0 GPA who were not chronically tardy to school.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 7:48 P.M.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor