

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL  
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 26, 2016 – 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, VIRGINIA, ON JANUARY 26, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Theresa Fontana; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell; Police Chief Mark Sisson; Farmers' Market Manager Sarah Belcher. ABSENT: Town Manager Barry Helms.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**REGULAR MEETING**

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR BARBER. Mayor Barber stated there was a quorum of Council present

*Councilman Hall made a motion to amend the agenda to include a request by Police Chief Sisson regarding the Mutual Aid Agreement between Christiansburg and Montgomery County. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion and Council was polled as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye. The matter was placed as item 1 under Staff Reports.*

II. CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Council Meeting Minutes of January 12, 2016 as amended.
2. Monthly Bills

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

III. RECOGNITIONS:

1. Proclamation naming the week of February 21-27, 2016 *Lions Club of Christiansburg Week* in recognition of the club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mayor Barber introduced Doug Kanney, a local minister and president of the Christiansburg Lions Club, and presented him with a proclamation declaring February 21-27, 2016 *Lions Club of Christiansburg Week* in recognition of the club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Mr. Kanney expressed appreciation for the support the club has received from Christiansburg and Montgomery County over the years. Mr. Kanney said the support the club receives allows it to meet its motto "We Serve" every day. In celebration of the club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Mr. Kanney announced that the Christiansburg Lions Club will make a financial contribution to Christiansburg's emergency services. Councilman Hall thanked the Lions Club for its commitment to serving the children of Christiansburg, stating that he has personally seen a benefit to the children he has worked with.

IV. CITIZEN'S HEARING:

1. Sue Farrar, Executive Director of Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center, to address Council. Ms. Farrar introduced the members of museum board who were present: Jean Galloway, Nancy Miller, Marg Modlin, Marvi Stine, Dewey Rodenberry, and council representative Steve Huppert. She began her presentation by thanking Town Council for its continued support of the museum, and she

expressed her gratitude for the Town's willingness to partner with the museum in hosting community events. The Town's partnership, along with other community partnerships, including the Kiwanis Club in Christiansburg and the Rotary Club in Blacksburg, were vital to the success of the museum and have led to grant opportunities including a recent grant secured from the National Endowment for the Arts for a digitization program. Ms. Farrar then provided an overview of the events held at the museum in 2015, and was pleased to announce the proposed events for 2016, several of which would expand into the downtown area. New to the museum in 2015 are off-site galleries for artwork, including a sculpture exhibit in front of the New River Valley Mall. Ms. Farrar recognized Montgomery County Tourism Director, Lisa Bleakley, who has been working with the museum to promote and advertise events. Councilman Huppert said he is pleased with the way the museum follows through in using the funds provided through donations for organizing events and making downtown a place to visit. Council thanked Ms. Farrar for her report.

2. Citizen Comments:
  - a. No comments.

V. STAFF REPORTS:

1. Police Chief Mark Sisson regarding the Mutual Aid Agreement between Christiansburg and Montgomery County. Police Chief Sisson requested that Council approve an updated Mutual Aid Agreement between Christiansburg and Montgomery County, which was changed to replace the former sheriff's name with the name of the newly-elected sheriff, Hank Partin. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office and the Christiansburg Police Department have reviewed the revised document and approve of the administrative name change. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the document as requested by Chief Sisson, seconded by Councilman Hall. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye. Council requested it be provided a copy of the revised document once finalized.

*Mayor Barber recognized Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield who was acting-Town Manager in Barry Helms absence.*

VI. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. Discussion regarding purchase of electronic tablets for Council use. Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield reported that Assistant to the Town Manager Adam Carpenetti would provide Council with a presentation on electronic tablet options during the February 9 council meeting. Mr. Carpenetti sent a survey to Council to gather information on each member's expectation regarding tablets, and Mr. Wingfield asked that each council member complete the survey, if not done so already. Council decided to discuss this matter during the work session scheduled for February 9, prior to the regular council meeting.
2. Planning Commission reappointment for Jennifer Sowers, whose term expires February 6, 2016. Jennifer Sowers was present. Councilman Collins reported that members of the Planning Commission unanimously voted to appoint Ms. Sowers to serve as vice-chairperson of the commission. Mayor Barber reported that Ms. Sowers' meeting attendance was good. Councilman Hall made a motion to reappoint Jennifer Sowers to serve another term on the Planning Commission, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS

- a. Councilman Huppert commended the Public Works Department crews for a job well done during recent snow removal and he asked that his comments be passed along to the Public Works Department. He reported that the aquatic center was scheduled to host five swim meets in February, with approximately 1,000 swimmers expected to participate. Also, the aquatic center will be offering paddleboarding classes and Council was invited to participate.

- b. Councilman Showalter reported on the Central Business Advisory Commission meeting held today, noting he was impressed with attendance that included: Tacy Newell, Steve Huppert, Harry Collins, Randy Wingfield, and Lisa Bleakley. He then encouraged Council to attend the swim meets at the aquatic center.
- c. Councilman Stipes provided an update on legislative House Bill 2 (HB2). Over 300 projects were requested under the HB2 process with five from Christiansburg. The Salem District has \$109 million available for inclusion in the Six-Year Improvements Program in a district with twelve counties and fourteen cities and towns. Last week VDOT announced that of the 400 projects submitted, three areas in Christiansburg were identified for placement in the 6-year plan, which will be presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for consideration. Final action on the 6-year plan is expected in June 2016, and he is hopeful that the Christiansburg projects will be included on the final list.
- d. Councilman Hall commended town crews on the recent snow removal, but reported that he had heard concerns from numerous citizens about the Town's lack of road preparation prior to the snowstorm last week. He said he understands that temperature is a factor in determining the type of road preparation, but noted that neighboring communities benefited from chemically treating the roads prior to the snowfall. He then reported that the Recreation Advisory Commission would hold its next meeting on February 1, where discussions will continue regarding the Truman Wilson property. Lastly, he noted that he received an email from a citizen regarding town involvement with county affairs, specifically noting issues that involve Montgomery County schools. He said he hopes that town residents are comfortable approaching council concerning issues that affect them, regardless of jurisdiction.
- e. Councilman Collins reported that since Councilman Huppert stepped down as representative on the Planning Commission, the commission is down to ten members. He then expressed his concern with limits to ordinance enforcement regarding personal properties in disrepair that negatively affect, and devalue, neighboring properties. He requested that the building official, Jerry Heinline, come before Council to discuss ordinances pertaining to this issue and to discuss its enforcement options.
- f. Mayor Barber reported that he would be traveling to Richmond to help with the planning for the next VML conference. He asked Council to provide him with ideas they want presented during the planning phase. Councilman Hall requested that sessions pertain to hot topics, topics that are relevant to current times and applicable to communities.

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1. PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST: Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield presented the following request and recommended setting the Public Hearing for March 8, 2016:

- 1. Conditional Use Permit for a commercial garage and towing service in the I-2 General Industrial District, 980 Roanoke Street.

On motion by Councilman Hall, seconded by Councilman Huppert, Council voted to set the Public Hearings for March 8, 2016, as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

2. PROGRESS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The House Bill 2 (HB 2) applications included the Franklin Street/Cambria Street intersection improvement, and Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield explained the different phases included in the project. The phases could be modified depending on final funding. He reported that the town did very well on a regional level securing grant funding. The MPO applied for a grant to construct the ramp coming off the 460 Bypass into Christiansburg north of the Cambria Street intersection.
- Christiansburg received a Local Foods, Local Places grants, which provides funds to be centered around farmers' markets and downtown areas. The grant recommended a steering committee of four to six members and Mayor Barber recommended appointing Tacy Newell, Randy Wingfield, Sarah Belcher, and Pamela Ray, to serve on the committee. Councilman Showalter recommended appointing someone from Downtown Christiansburg, Inc. (DCI) to also serve on the

- steering committee. Mayor Barber asked Council to provide him with emails recommending additional appointees; the steering committee will be appointed at a future council meeting.
- Regarding HB 2, Councilman Stipes recommended that Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield and staff develop a resolution in support of the three Christiansburg projects included in the preliminary announcements, with signatures from each council member, to be sent to the Commonwealth Transportation Board, prior to its review of the proposed 6-year plan. Council supported the recommendation and determined it would also request local delegates to do the same.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:08 P.M.

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Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

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D. Michael Barber, Mayor