

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
WORK SESSION – 6:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – 7:00 P.M.
FEBRUARY 9, 2016**

A WORK SESSION OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN HALL, 100 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA, ON FEBRUARY 9, 2016 AT 6:00 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Barry Helms; Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Assistant to the Town Manager Adam Carpenetti.

WORK SESSION

- I. Call to order by Mayor Barber
- II. Discussion by Mayor and Council Members:
 - 1. Council Follow-up Task List
 - 2. Electronic Tablets for Council use
- III. Adjournment

---Recess 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, VIRGINIA, ON FEBRUARY 9, 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: Town Manager Barry Helms; Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Theresa Fontana; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell; Rescue Chief Joe Coyle; Farmers' Market Manager Sarah Belcher; Planner Will Drake.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Consideration of an ordinance amending Chapter 42 "Zoning" of the *Christiansburg Town Code* in regards to provisions for urban agriculture including the keeping of chicken hens, chicks, and beehive stands, and amending Chapter 8 "Animals" regarding vicious and wild animals. Mr. Steve Hall of 1200 Flint Drive expressed his support for the ordinance amendment by sharing his experience with raising 120 chickens and 3 roosters years ago. Mr. Hall, a Town resident since 1966, said in all his years of raising chickens, he never once heard of a complaint from his neighbors about noise, smell, or predators. He said the proposed limit of six chickens would result in virtually no adverse sounds or smells, if the chickens are properly cared for. As for predators, Mr. Hall said that predators are already in the Town as evidenced by dead carcasses; however, securing chickens at night would deter predators and keep the chickens safe. He then referenced

the City of Salem's law allowing up to six chickens as a model for success in adopting an ordinance to allow chickens in Christiansburg. In closing, Mr. Hall urged Council to look at the facts, and not personal opinions, when considering this issue.

Mr. Steve Velarde of 1265 Flint Drive expressed his support for the ordinance amendment allowing chickens in Town, noting that with appropriate guidelines in place, the keeping of chickens would not be a nuisance to neighbors and would benefit families wanting chickens for their eggs.

REGULAR MEETING

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

II. **CONSENT AGENDA:**

1. Council Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2016

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

III. **RECOGNITIONS:**

1. Town Manager Helms introduced the Town's new planning director, Andrew Warren, whose first day of work would be tomorrow. Mr. Warren formerly worked as a planner and zoning administrator for the Town of Blacksburg. Mr. Warren said he was happy to be onboard with the Town of Christiansburg and was looking forward to getting to know everyone.

IV. **CITIZEN'S HEARING:**

1. Citizen Comments:
 - a. No comments.

V. **STAFF REPORTS:**

1. Chief Joe Coyle of the Christiansburg Rescue Squad. Chief Coyle provided a brief background of the revenue recovery program, which saw its soft start in January 2014. Over the past year, the program has generated close to \$700,000 in revenue, and Chief Coyle said he expects a similar amount for this year. He explained that the revenue recovery program was designed to enhance the delivery of emergency services in Christiansburg by billing the insurance companies of individuals using ambulance services, and then investing those funds back into emergency services. The program uses a "compassionate billing" process, which means that Christiansburg residents are not billed out-of-pocket for services. Non-town residents may receive a bill for services, but the Town does not pursue collections if they are unable to pay. The revenue generated is invested in emergency services by funding vehicles, equipment, and staff. Chief Coyle said the rescue squad has a strong partnership with the other Town emergency service providers. He was pleased to announce that the squad had partnered with the police department to place AED devices, purchased with revenue recovery funds, in all Town police cars. All Christiansburg police officers are trained in AED use and in CPR. Chief Coyle then talked about the importance of agency branding and explained the decisions to shorten the squad's name to Christiansburg Rescue, and to change the color scheme of the new ambulance, both of which were intended to tie in the rescue squad with the Town of Christiansburg. Councilman Hall asked if it was typical to place AED devices in police cars, and to have officers trained in AED use. Chief Coyle replied that it was becoming a common trend to place those devices in all public service vehicles. Councilman Hall then asked Chief Coyle if he thought the program was meeting its purpose to enhance emergency services in Christiansburg. Chief Coyle said the revenue recovery program has allowed the squad to purchase vehicles, equipment, and to hire staff, that otherwise

would not have been possible if relying only on general funds. Councilman Collins questioned the charges for ambulance services and asked for a breakdown of the financial responsibility of the insurance companies and the patients. Chief Coyle clarified that there are no out-of-pocket charges for Town residents, and insurance companies are billed using rates established in the revenue recovery ordinance. Patients who live outside Town limits may receive a bill; however, if they are unable to pay, the Town does not pursue collection. Councilman Stipes expressed his appreciation for all that Chief Coyle has accomplished at the rescue squad in the last five years. Councilman Showalter asked what the squad would be like without the benefit of the revenue recovery program. Chief Coyle said they would have to work with dated vehicles and equipment, and would need to cut back on services offered to citizens, such as the AED devices. Council thanked Chief Coyle for the update.

VI. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. Consideration of personal property tax proration. This is a carryover item from January 12, 2016. Town Manager Helms reported that the Town's legal counsel recommended Council vote on this matter with the Annual Budget for FY 2016-2017, since a change to tax proration would be considered a tax increase. Town Attorney Fontana is in the process of preparing an ordinance that would concur with Montgomery County's ordinance. Finance Director Val Tweedie explained that a change to proration may require new tax assessment software or a change to our existing software; however, she was already planning to do an RFP for new software in 2016.
2. 911 Call Center (Collins). A presentation on the new 911 Call Center will be presented to Council on March 9. Councilman Collins asked Finance Director Val Tweedie to go over the Town's financial contributions to the new call center. Finance Director Tweedie reported that in 2015 the Town provided \$450,000 in financial support, and that figure is expected to be approximately \$700,000 for the year 2016. Most of the increase will come from the Town's current dispatch personnel moving over to the 911 Authority. The Town will be removing all dispatch funds from the Annual Budget for FY 2017. At that time, the individual localities will not handle their own calls, but calls will be dispatched to the appropriate locality. A goal of the 911 Authority is to have each dispatcher medically trained. The call center is expected to open in July 2016.

VII. CLOSED MEETING:

1. Councilman Showalter made a motion to enter into a Closed Meeting under Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), for the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. The discussion pertains to property located on Mill Lane. Councilman Hall seconded the motion and Council was polled as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
2. Reconvene in Open Meeting.
3. Certification. Councilman Showalter moved to certify that the Town Council of the Town of Christiansburg, meeting in Closed Meeting, to the best of each member's knowledge, discussed only the matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law and only such matters as are identified in the Resolution to enter into Closed Meeting, seconded by Councilman Hall. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
4. Council action on the matter. No action taken.

VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS

- a. Councilman Huppert provided details on swim meets scheduled for February and encouraged Council to visit the aquatic center during the meets.
- b. Councilman Showalter reported that the New River Valley Regional Commission is currently setting up livability studies and he encouraged Council to get involved with the project. Council was

provided details of the studies via email. The Commission is currently taking nominations for regional awards and Council was invited to name candidates for consideration. Councilman Collins recommended retired Virginia Tech football coach, Frank Beamer.

- c. Councilman Stipes reported that the Bikeway Walkway Committee is working on a plan for next year to provide emergency call towers, benches, shelters, and water stations, along various multi-use paths in Town. The goal is to have the accommodations sponsored. The next committee meeting will be a joint meeting with the Blacksburg Corridor Committee on March 4.
- d. Councilman Hall reported that the day after Council recognized the Lions Club for its contributions to the children of Montgomery County, the club made a financial donation to benefit children in need in the community. He then reported that John Neel and Trevor Kimzey of Gay and Neel continue to work on the master plan of the Truman Wilson property and he hopes they will have renderings for Council review by the end of February. The Recreation Advisory Commission has developed a program for an internet safety course, in partnership with Randy Bonds of the Police Department, to bring awareness to parents of the various types of social media that exist. The course will be advertised throughout Town, and in a press release, and is for adults only, free of charge.
- e. Mayor Barber reported on the VML conference planning session he attended, and provided Council with a synopsis of the programs the conference has offered over the years. He asked Council to review the list and let him know if any look interesting. The Annual VML Conference will be held in October in Virginia Beach. He is working on the following proclamations for Council consideration: National Down Syndrome Awareness, National Autistic Awareness Day, and Child Abuse Prevention Month. The proclamations will be presented at a future meeting. Lastly, he presented Council with a cover letter and resolution for the Commonwealth Transportation Board expressing support for HB 2. Councilman Hall made a motion to approve and endorse the resolution as presented, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1. PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST: Town Manager Helms presented the following requests and recommended setting the Public Hearings as indicated:

February 23, 2016

1. Amendment to the Annual Budget for FY 2015-2016.

March 8, 2016

2. Street vacation request for property between W. Main Street and Moose Drive (former Mud Pike Road).

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

2. PROGRESS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- A joint meeting with the Recreation Advisory Commission to hear an update from Gay and Neel on the Wilson property is scheduled for March 7, 2016 at 5:30 P.M., with a public information meeting at 7:00 P.M.
- A tour of the new 911 Center has been scheduled for Council on March 8, 2016 at 6:00 P.M.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:59 P.M.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor