

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL  
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.  
WORK SESSION – 5:45 P.M.  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – 7:00 P.M.  
MARCH 8, 2016**

A WORK SESSION OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING, 1 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA, ON MARCH 8, 2016 AT 5:45 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.

**WORK SESSION**

1. The purpose of the work session is to tour the new Montgomery County 911 Call Center.

---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 MARCH 8, 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; Planning Director Andrew Warren; Police Chief Mark Sisson; Aquatics Service Manager Allison Zuchowski; Farmers Market Manager Sarah Belcher; Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Billy Hanks.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

1. A Conditional Use Permit request by Cory Hubbard, agent for Paul A. Haynes, for towing service and a commercial garage at 980 Roanoke Street (tax parcel 498 – ((12)) – 1) in the I-2 General Industrial District located in the Town of Christiansburg, Virginia. Mayor Barber announced that the request had been withdrawn by the property owner of 980 Roanoke Street.
2. Council's intention to adopt an ordinance in regards to a request to vacate a portion of old Mud Pike Road adjoining tax parcels 556-((A))-31, 556-((A))-37, 556-((A))-24B, and 556-((A))-38 along the 1200 block of West Main Street and in proximity to the corner of the 1200 block of Moose Drive N.W. in the Town of Christiansburg, Virginia. Chris Nietzold of 1012 Oak Pointe Court, Blacksburg, said that he and his wife were requesting the street vacation to accommodate parking for their anticipated business, Route 8 Donuts, at 1225 West Main Street, and to allow for appropriate placement of a business sign. The Nietzolds will provide maintenance to the property with respect to paving. Town Manager Helms said that he is waiting to hear from VDOT on whether or not they will need use of the portion of street in the request during upcoming I-81 bridge repairs. A response from VDOT is expected prior to the regular Council meeting on March 22.

## **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 February 23, 2016
  2. Resolution to proceed with land transfer at the National Guard Armory with the State and authorizing the Mayor to execute the documents.

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

- III. RECOGNITIONS:
  1. Mayor Barber presented to Council for consideration a resolution bringing recognition to April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. He also provided to Council for information purposes a proclamation he is drafting for Down Syndrome Awareness. Councilman Hall made a motion to approve the resolution recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Councilman Hall expressed his appreciation for the proclamation for Down Syndrome Awareness, which included statistics and facts regarding Down Syndrome. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye. Councilman Hall announced that a presentation on child abuse will be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Pulaski County Courthouse and on April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Montgomery County Courthouse, with special guest speakers at both presentations, and he invited Council to attend. Councilman Hall said that these types of recognitions make him proud to be a member of Christiansburg Town Council, and he stated his appreciation for Council's support of the presented resolution and proclamation.
  
- IV. CITIZEN'S HEARING:
  1. Paula Alston Director of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library to address Council. Ms. Alston thanked Town Council for its continued support, and for its generous financial donation that was used to purchase books for the library. She also took a moment to pay special thanks to Town Manager Helms, in honor of his upcoming retirement, for his service to the Town and the library. Ms. Alston introduced to Council new library manager, Monena Hall, who came to Christiansburg with extensive experience in library services. Ms. Hall was hired to replace Pamela Hale who recently moved out of the area. Ms. Alston began her report by explaining the various library programs designed to encourage parents to read to their young children, including a partnership with social services to provide mothers in need with board books for babies. In 2015, new databases were added to the library collections that provide tutorials on using electronics and library services, and a passport acceptance program that has been so successful that additional staff training has been needed to meet demand. She then provided Council with information regarding library visitors and program participants, and was pleased to report that over 120,000 items were checked out of the library by 117,095 visitors during 2015. Ms. Hall spoke about the various community programs hosted by the library in partnership with community organizations and businesses, including the annual summer music on the lawn series at the library. Ms. Alston said that the library budget is expected to receive a slight increase in state aid for 2016, and she asked Council to support encouraging legislators to increase state aid to all Virginia libraries. In closing, Ms. Alston commended Town crews for snow removal services and other in-kind services provided to the library during 2015, and she requested Council consider the library in the annual budget for FY 2016-17. Councilman Hall expressed his appreciation for the children's programs at the library, especially "storytime", and he encouraged parents to get their children involved in reading by participating in those programs. He then noted that the National Honor Society was honoring students at Christiansburg High School in May, and the society requires that honor students perform a certain number of community service hours. He asked if the library was interested in providing work for the students. Ms. Alston said she would appreciate the library being a community service location for Christiansburg High School. Councilman Stipes

commented that he was impressed by the data provided on the number of visitors and the amount of business at the library in 2015. Council thanked Ms. Alston and Ms. Hall for the update.

2. Donna Brown to update Council on the 911 Authority. Ms. Brown said it was an honor to take Council on a tour of the Public Safety Building where the 911 Call Center is located, and she provided background information on the process that brought the call center to fruition. The center began as a vision for a regional operation in 2007, when it was realized that emergency services to communities could be enhanced through regional collaboration. Through much planning, an executive committee and work groups were formed, which led to the development of a board of directors that oversees the authority. Ms. Brown explained the plans and goals of the operation designed to improve the response time for emergency calls by consolidating four separate agencies, Montgomery County, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, and Virginia Tech, into one call center. The combined center is expected to answer over 35,000 911 calls each year and process over 140,000 calls for service. She went on to explain how the calls were processed and dispersed when received, and the various computer software applications used in performing duties. She then provided information on wireless 911 calls and explained the difficulties involved in determining caller location when processing those calls for response. The benefits of the consolidated call center are improved emergency response times, standardized dispatch procedures and protocol, increased safety for emergency responders, and collaborative efforts to advance technology and services. Ms. Brown reported that the authority is currently working to implement emergency medical training for dispatchers that would qualify them to provide medical instruction over the telephone until medical technicians arrive on location. Ms. Brown thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and for its support of the 911 Authority. Councilman Huppert expressed his appreciation for the tour and requested another tour once the facility was operational.
3. Rita Irvin to address Council regarding the NRV Reentry Council. Ms. Irvin thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and explained the NRV Reentry Council that provides community support to facilitate a successful transition into society for individuals released from incarceration. The program works by connecting programs with individuals faced with the challenges of reintegrating back into a community, and individuals from the community, local government, and law enforcement, were invited to participate in partnering with the reentry council. The program focuses on three phases of reintegration which involve pre-release planning, reentry, and lastly reintegration, and she explained the involvements of each phase. Ms. Irvin reported that through interagency collaboration, the first interview held by the NRV Reentry Council was in October 2015, with positive feedback from agencies and individuals involved. The program has already had a positive impact on the community with eleven individuals experiencing a successful transition into the New River Valley, and five who have transitioned to other localities. Ms. Irvin said she hopes to come back to Council in January 2017 to provide information for consideration in the Town's annual budget. She asked that Council provide her with any information that may give her a better understanding of the direction to go in with regards to Christiansburg government, and she provided Council with her contact information. Councilman Hall asked if the GED program was offered at the New River Valley Regional Jail and Western Virginia Regional Jail, which he strongly supports as an important step to integration back into society. Ms. Irvin agreed and replied that the reentry council has future plans to offer the program at both jails.
4. Marty Gordon to provide information on sports championship signs. Mr. Gordon provided Council with pictures of signs from area localities highlighting community youth championships, and recommended Council consider placing a similar sign in the Town's five gateway locations. Mr. Steve Hall of Christiansburg voiced support for this type of youth recognition during the February 23<sup>rd</sup> Council meeting. Mr. Gordon said he has spoken with Parks and Recreation Director Brad Epperley about the proposed wording on the signs, and he has received input from the booster clubs, too. Signarama has given him a price quote of \$735 per sign, not including poles and placement, and he provided ideas on various sign detail options. Council discussed possible wording and agreed the recognition should be all inclusive to high school youth championships. If Council is interested in building on the small prototype presented, Mr. Gordon said he would publicize the project and see what kind of response is received from the community. He also suggested that there may be individuals and civic clubs that might be interested in providing sponsorship for the signs. Council decided to meet in a work session to further discuss the proposal, and Councilman Showalter recommended that Council receive information from Christiansburg High School on student championships, prior to the work session, along with information on civic clubs

interested in sponsorship. Council expressed its appreciation to Mr. Gordon for putting the information together and presenting it to them for consideration.

5. Citizen Comments:

a. Ernie Wade and Jim Vanhoozier of the Kiwanis Club brought to Council a request to expand the location of the Wilderness Trail Festival scheduled for September 17 by closing Main Street from Town Hall to Burger King, and Franklin Street from Main Street to Papa John's. The other street closings would remain the same as last year and businesses would be able to stay open during the festival. The street closings would be from 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The men explained that the number of participating vendors has doubled since the Kiwanis Club assumed ownership of the festival in 2009, and there were approximately 8,000 visitors to the 2015 festival. All proceeds from the festival are invested back into the local community, with a majority of funds supporting youth programs. Organizers expect to add a new section to the festival called "Heritage Trades" that offers hands on demonstrations of making heritage items. Council discussed the impact the additional street closures could have on downtown businesses, and Mayor Barber expressed concern that the closures could cause a bottleneck affect in traffic. Mr. Wade reported that he has met with Captain Ramsey of the police department, along with a member of the Town's street crew and Charlton McCoy of the recreation center, to discuss possible concerns with the requested closures, and each determined that traffic could be effectively rerouted/detoured without incident. Councilman Hall noted that September 17 was a home Virginia Tech game, and he wondered how that might affect the festival and street closures. Town Manager Helms explained the possible detour route mapped by the police department. Councilman Stipes said he was not aware of any community/business complaints from street closures for the festival, and he has no reason to not support the request. Councilman Huppert agreed and recommended notifying the public of the closures days in advance. In closing, Mr. Vanhoozier reported that the event organizers are considering using vacant parking lots for event parking and providing shuttle service to the festival location.

V. STAFF REPORTS:

1. Update on the Christiansburg Aquatic Center (CAC) by Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell. Ms. Caldwell provided Council with an update on the operations of the aquatic center, beginning with an overview of employee positions at the facility, noting that all employees are trained in CPR/first aid and AED. She reviewed with Council the facilities mission, vision, and values, and talked about the various ways the employees work together to meet those set goals on a daily basis. Information on the number of memberships and daily visitors was provided, along with current rates that have not increased in five years. The CAC currently has a contract with Radford University for 248 memberships and with Radford City for 431 memberships. Ms. Caldwell was excited to announce that the aquatic center had received several community recognitions during 2015, including a first place award from VRPS for "Best Promotional Effort" for the CAC car. The facility was also voted first place for "Best Place to Swim" and second place for "Best Kids Birthday Spot" by the New River Valley community. The CAC hosted 205 birthday parties in FY 2014-15, and 1,709 since opening. Ms. Caldwell provided information on community involvements designed to promote the CAC, and reported on the various camps and club opportunities offered at the facility. The CAC provides community outreach through the support and recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, Water Safety Month, Fire Safety Month and through a fundraiser for Help Save The Next Girl. The facility was recently awarded a \$1,500 grant from the Swimming Saves Lives Foundation to provide free swimming lessons for adults, and the Blacksburg Lions Club donated funds to teach 750 students in Montgomery County to swim. Ms. Caldwell provided information on corporate members, new services and programs offered at the facility, and upcoming events. A copy of Ms. Caldwell's report is attached herewith. Councilman Collins said he initially believed that the CAC was too much of a burden because of the cost. However, he has done research on the facility and has found that it is actually beneficial to the community and he shared a personal experience with taking his grandchildren to the pool to swim. Councilman Showalter said he was overwhelmed with all the information provided by Ms. Caldwell, and appreciates that she has embraced the wishes of Council to find ways to increase participation at the facility. He said he gets a lot of positive feedback from the community on the CAC, and in his own experience with his children participating in swim programs, the facility is always clean and professional. Ms. Caldwell noted that the custodians often receive complements from swim meet visitors. Councilman Showalter and Councilman Huppert both encouraged those present to attend a swim meet at the aquatic center to

get an idea of the magnitude and excitement of a swim event. Councilman Stipes said the swim meets are evident at local businesses and restaurants.

**VI. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

1. Council action on:
  - a. Amendment to the Annual Budget for FY 2015-2016. The Public Hearing was held February 23, 2016. Councilman Hall made a motion to approve the amendment as presented and discussed during the February 23<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
  2. Request for street closures during the Wilderness Days Festival. Councilman Bishop made a motion to table the request until March 22, to allow for additional information on the street closures and detour plan from the police department and the street department. Councilman Stipes seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
  3. Mr. Stipes and Mr. Collins – Street Committee Recommendation/Report on:
    - a. Lot Line Vacation and Relocation for Tax Parcels 526 – ((A)) – 239 (Town) and 526 – ((A)) – 240 (DMA) and Easement Dedication on Tax Parcel 526 – ((A)) – 219 (Town) for the Department of Military Affairs and the Town of Christiansburg at 15 College Street located in the Town of Christiansburg, Virginia. Councilman Stipes reported that the lot line vacation and relocation request was for a land swap between the National Guard Armory and the Town of Christiansburg. Using a sketch, he indicated the lot lines to be vacated/relocated that would result in the state receiving a vacant lot for additional parking, and the Town receiving the park/playground lot. The Street Committee and reviewed the request and Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
    - b. Subdivision for Seneca Springs – Phase III for Golden Triangle Development showing new lots 45 – 84.(total 40 lots) off of Chrisman Mill Road located in the Town of Christiansburg, Virginia. Councilman Stipes reported that the request was for Phase III of a Planned Housing Development approved by Council for Seneca Springs approximately ten years ago. The Street Committee has reviewed the request and Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the subdivision plat, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
    - c. Councilman Stipes reported that the Street Committee has studied a request to post "No Parking" signs along a portion of Railroad Street for safety reasons. Using an aerial map, he indicated the property in the request and explained the safety concerns due to the narrowness of the road and an existing sharp curve. Councilman Stipes said the Street Committee could revisit the issue if eliminating parking becomes a burden for nearby businesses. The consensus of Council was to post "No Parking" signs on Railroad Street where indicated, and to revisit the issue if parking complaints are received by the Town.

**VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS**

- a. Councilman Collins, referring to the Public Hearing withdrawn earlier in the meeting, said that there was confusion with the Planning Commission as to who "owns" a CUP, the property owner or the agent. The concern in this particular request was that the agent made the application and paid the \$750 application fee then the property owner cancelled the application, leaving no recourse for reimbursement of the fee. Town Council clarified that the property owner has authority over CUP applications; however, the CUP stays with the property, not the owner. An existing CUP stays with the property regardless of who owns the property, unless conditions of the CUP specify otherwise.
- b. Councilman Bishop reported that the Central Business Advisory Commission is currently working on a grant for Drive Tourism, and he will provide further details on the grant as they come available. CBAC submitted the grant for Drive Tourism to the Tourism Development Council for review, which has come back for editing, with a submission deadline at the end of this month.

- c. Councilman Hall said he was impressed with the 911 Call Center that Council toured prior to tonight's meeting, and with the report given by Ms. Brown. He then reported that the meeting on the Truman Wilson property, held on March 7, went well and that he appreciated the use of color renditions of the property. He said he understands there are challenges to face in developing the property and he hopes a meeting will soon be scheduled with marketing agents as part the financial planning of development. Lastly, he reported that the Virginia Cooperative Extension will be hosting a free educational seminar in Pulaski County on how to care for residential chickens, and he offered to request that the program be brought to Christiansburg, which Council expressed interest in.
- d. Councilman Showalter expressed his appreciation for the meeting on March 7 regarding the Truman Wilson property, and he talked about the growing presence of soccer and lacrosse in Christiansburg, and the need to accommodate those sports. He encouraged Councilman Hall to talk with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission about including representation of those two sports on the advisory commission. Councilman Hall noted that he has talked with the advisory commission about filling the student representative position.
- e. Councilman Huppert said he was impressed with the meeting regarding the Truman Wilson property, but is concerned with the potential costs of development. He cautioned Council to consider the future of Christiansburg when making decisions about development, and to avoid getting into a situation where a future tax increase may be necessary to cover development costs.
- f. Mayor Barber reported on the status of the town manager search, informing Council that it would soon need to meet in a work session to discuss its criteria for applicants. He then commended Planning Director Andrew Warren, and Town Planner Will Drake, for appropriately addressing a resident's concern regarding the chicken ordinance, and for taking the time to map the resident's neighborhood to assure her that her neighboring properties would not meet the requirements for keeping chickens.
- g. Councilman Stipes reported that a Finance Committee meeting to begin working on the budget would be held on March 11 at 7:30 a.m., and he would appreciate Council attendance for input.

**IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS:**

- 1. PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST: Town Manager Helms presented the following requests and recommended setting the Public Hearing for April 26, 2016:
  - 1. Conditional Use Permit for a private recreational facility, 1265 Moose Drive, B-3 General Business District.
  - 2. Conditional Use Permit request for a single-family residence, 1120 Radford Street, B-3 General Business District.
  - 3. Conditional Use Permit request for Commercial Septic Services Storage business in the I-2 Zoning District at 350 Industrial Drive, NE (vacant portion of the Collision Plus II property).
  - 4. Conditional Use Permit for a welding shop, 1360 Mud Pike Road, B-3 General Business District.

On motion by Councilman Hall, seconded by Councilman Collins, Council voted to set the Public Hearings for April 26, 2016, as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

**2. PROGRESS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- A work session was scheduled for March 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the stormwater program.
- The employee picnic is scheduled for June 10, 2016 at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center.

**X. ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 9:30 P.M.