

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
WORK SESSION – 5:30 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – 7:00 P.M.
MARCH 22, 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. ABSENT: Bradford J. Stipes.

WORK SESSION

1. Blacksburg Transit update.

---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 22, 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. ABSENT: Bradford J. Stipes.

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; Farmers Market Manager Sarah Belcher.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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 March 8, 2016
2. Monthly Bills

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.

III. RECOGNITIONS:

1. Child Abuse Prevention Month. Councilman Hall presented Laura Guilliams, Executive Director of NRV Cares, with a resolution recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ms. Guilliams thanked Council for the resolution and spoke about the efforts to bring community awareness to child abuse and child abuse prevention through various campaigns and events. Mayor Barber noted that child abuse

prevention awareness banners would be placed across Main Street and at various Town facilities during the month of April, and Councilman Hall noted that two free community events celebrating the prevention of child abuse would be held in Pulaski and Christiansburg in April, and he invited all to attend.

IV. CITIZEN'S HEARING:

1. Citizen Comments:

- a. Kevin Stoner, 1630 Providence Boulevard, addressed Council regarding an article in the Sunday newspaper about the \$33M proposal for development of the Truman Wilson property. He offered the following suggestions as ways to reduce the overall cost of development by utilizing existing Town properties/facilities for various proposed park features: 1) Amphitheater. An amphitheater and amenities already exist behind Christiansburg Middle School and have never been utilized. 2) Splash park. Seems related to the aquatic center; could be developed on the park property located behind Kroger, next to the aquatic center. 3) Girls' softball field. According to Mr. Stoner, at one time the Harkrader Sports Complex was designed for girls' softball, but was modified to accommodate the world-series baseball events. The existing Kiwanis Park could be adapted for girls' softball. 4) Dog park. The Town property located behind Southern States ties in with Kiwanis Park, but is in the flood plain. A dog park would be a creative use for property that is otherwise undevelopable. Mr. Stoner asked Town Council to consider ways it could partner with Christiansburg Institute to utilize its land for recreational use, while bringing community awareness to the institute. He urged Council to consider the long-term impact a \$33M investment could have on Christiansburg, and to discuss ways it could reduce the overall investment by utilizing existing properties and facilities.

V. STAFF REPORTS: None

VI. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. Council action on:

- a. 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. The Public Hearing was held on March 8, 2016. Town Manager Helms reported that VDOT may need to grade a portion of the road during its future intersection upgrade, and Town staff has recommended that the Town retain an easement for grading, drainage, and public utilities. Councilman Hall made a motion to approve the request, with the Town retaining an easement for grading, drainage, and public utilities. Councilman Showalter seconded the motion and Council was polled as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye.

2. Proposed Employee Wellness Program (Huppert). In response to a number of employee health problems over the past year, Council Huppert said he felt compelled to find ways to motivate employees to get healthy by engaging in physical activity and becoming more diet conscious. He proposed a program that would pay a \$25 bonus to full-time employees who participated in a pledge to walk a certain number of miles each month, and he explained the details of how the program would work. Councilman Huppert noted that there was budget funding designated for employee wellness that could be used to initiate the program, and he recommended a six-month trial beginning June 1. Councilman Hall said it was an excellent idea to help facilitate healthy habits, but that the Town had already done that through free memberships to the aquatic center, and free classes at the Recreation and Aquatic Centers. He also expressed concern with using money in this manner to modify employee behavior. Councilman Huppert said his proposed plan would not limit employee activity to facility/program hours, but would allow them to exercise at their convenience, which he believes would be a practical incentive. Councilman Huppert further stated that it was important that employees know Council cared about their health. Councilman Bishop said it was important to note that monetary bonuses would be taxable income. Councilman Showalter expressed his appreciation for Councilman Huppert's focus on the health of employees, and stated support for the discussion as a starting point. However, he recommended further discussions take place after a human resource director is hired, who can then draw employees into discussions regarding additional health-related benefits. Town Manager Helms said he is currently in the process of interviewing applicants for the human resource director position.

3. Discussion and action on Enhanced VRS Benefits for Emergency Medical Technicians. Town Manager Helms explained that VRS had recently notified the Town that emergency medical technicians were not included in the Enhanced VRS Benefits resolution adopted by Council in 1996. The Town now has two full-time medical technicians; one is already covered, but the other full-time technician isn't. Participation would cost approximately \$8,000 annually, unless overall rates increase. Because of the dangerous situations faced by emergency medical technicians in the course of their duties, Town Manager Helms recommended approving the Enhanced VRS Benefits for full-time emergency medical technicians. Councilman Hall made a motion to adopt a resolution supporting enhanced VRS benefits for full-time emergency medical technicians, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
4. Request for street closures for the Wilderness Trail Festival. The request was presented to Council during the March 8, 2016 Council meeting. Councilman Hall made a motion to approve the street closures as requested, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Councilman Bishop expressed concern with the street closures as requested by Kiwanis, and he referred to a letter from Captain Ramsey of the police department, stating that, based on his study, the closure of the North Franklin/Main Street intersection would create a significant disruption to the flow of traffic, especially on a Saturday, and a Virginia Tech home game day. In his letter, Captain Ramsey stated he believed the "best compromise would be to leave Franklin Street open to through traffic", and he recommended approving the remaining street closures as requested. Also included in Captain Ramsey's letter, were recommendations for conducting the festival in a successful manner. Police Chief Sisson explained the recommendations of the committee, expressed in Captain Ramsey's letter, regarding ways to successfully conduct the festival, while leaving a portion of North Franklin Street open for traffic flow. However, Chief Sisson stated that he and Captain Ramsey agreed that if Council chose to approve the street closures as originally requested, the police department would find a way to handle the logistics, even though it may be difficult, to create a safe environment. Town Manager Helms used an aerial map to indicate the requested closures, detour routes, and the streets/parking lots/driveways that would remain open. Ernie Wade and Jim Vanhoozier of the Kiwanis Club explained the festival's newly organized events that have resulted in the need for location expansion, and noted that Union Bank, Angles Florist, and Antiques on Main, have expressed support for the festival and proposed street closures. Councilman Hall asked Police Chief Sisson to clarify his opinion concerning the public safety of the street closures as requested by Kiwanis, and resulting detour routes. Police Chief Sisson stated that he did not see a public safety issue with the street closures and detour routes. Council agreed that the Town should utilize mobile signs to notify residents of the street closures at least one week in advance of the festival. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye.
5. Councilmen Stipes and Collins – Street Committee Reports/Recommendations on:
 - a. Lot Line Vacation and Relocation for Tax Parcels 529-2-83B and 529-2-84A for JBC Properties, LLC located at 2065 Fairview Street S.E. Councilman Collins reported that he met with Town Manager Helms and Planning Director Andrew Warren to study the following requests presented to the Street Committee. For this request, he explained that the property owner has requested a lot line vacation/relocation to increase the size of one lot to accommodate the construction of a garage near an existing house. Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye.
 - b. Lot Line Vacation and Relocation for Tax Parcels 530-2-84B and 530-2-84D for JBC Properties, LLC, Tax Parcel 529-2-84A for Albert's Five, LLC, and Tax Parcel 530-2-85 for Margie A. Conner located on the south side of Fairview Street. Councilman Collins explained that the request was to relocate a lot line that allow street frontage for both lots. Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye.
 - c. Right of Way (1.102 Acres) Dedication for a new street (John Adams Drive N.W.) and Temporary Turnaround Easement Dedication (.174 Acre) of Tax Parcel 435-A-40 from Snyder-Hunt Company, LLP to the Town of Christiansburg located off of Quin W. Stuart Boulevard N.W. Councilman Collins

reported that the request was for the development of a new road off Quin W. Stuart Boulevard to serve property previously approved by Council for residential development. Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Hall. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye.

- d. Subdivision Plat for Tax Parcel 501-(1)-26A creating Lots 1 thru 12 for Patricia Lane Townhomes; and Public Easement Dedication for SHAH Development located on the corner of Patricia Lane S.E. and Roanoke Street. Councilman Collins explained the subdivision plat and made a motion to approve the plat as presented, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye.
- e. Subdivision Plat from Records of Kensington Phase IV creating Lots 1 thru 13 and an Open Space Parcel (.152 Acre); and Right-of-Way Dedication for Keystone Drive (.587 Acre) and Public Easement Dedication located off of Diana Drive. Councilman Collins explained the subdivision plat, which is the next phase of the original subdivision. Councilman Showalter asked if there was a plan in place for permanent pavement on Diana Drive. Town Manager Helms explained that permanent pavement would be put down on Diana Drive and Keystone Drive, by the developer, before the Town accepts the streets for maintenance. Planning Director Warren took a moment to explain the multi-use trail plans included in the plat. Councilman Collins made a motion to approve the subdivision plat, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye.

VIII. COUNCIL REPORTS

- a. Councilman Collins asked for an update on the status of the ordinance amendment pertaining to political signs. Town Attorney Fontana replied that she is working with Planning Director Warren on amendments to the sign ordinance and the zoning ordinance pertaining to temporary signage. The draft amendments will be brought to Council for consideration once completed.
- b. Councilman Bishop reported that the Virginia Fire Service Council has invited Fire Chief Hanks to join as a member and he has accepted the honor.
- c. Councilman Hall reminded Council of the events scheduled in Pulaski and Montgomery County in honor of April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. The events are free to the community and are efforts to bring awareness to the issue of child abuse. He spoke of the fundraising efforts of NRV Cares and encouraged all to participate by purchasing pinwheels from the organization's website. He then reported that a Recreation Advisory Commission meeting was scheduled for April 4 at the recreation center.
- d. Councilman Showalter reported that Council could soon expect to receive a draft copy of the Annual Budget for FY 2016-2017, and should expect to attend several work sessions to review and discuss the proposed budget.
- e. Council Huppert complemented Councilman Collins on the Street Committee reports/recommendations in Councilman Stipes' absence.
- f. Mayor Barber asked if a council member was willing to attend the chamber of commerce meeting on March 23, in his absence. Councilman Huppert offered to go. A closed work session to discuss applicants of the town manager search was scheduled for March 30 at 5:30 P.M.

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS:

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

April 12, 2016

- 1. Verizon lease for cell service antennae at former Hills location.

April 26, 2016

- 2. Storm water fee

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

2. Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie provided each council member with a draft copy of the Annual Budget or FY 2016-2017, for review prior to the council work session that was scheduled for April 5 at 6:00 P.M. She provided a brief overview of the budget, encouraging council to begin its review by reading the initial letter and budget summary. Town Manager Helms noted that the draft budget provided to Council was a balanced budget. Mayor Barber requested that Council direct its questions via email to Town Manager Helms, with Council copied. Councilman Showalter, on behalf of Council, thanked Town staff, including Val Tweedie, Randy Wingfield, Barry Helms, and the department heads, for working together to present a balanced budget.

X. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:13 P.M.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor