

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
WORK SESSION MINUTES – 5:30 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – 7:00 P.M.
APRIL 14, 2015**

A WORK SESSION OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN HALL, 100 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA, ON APRIL 14, 2015 AT 5:30 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor D. Michael Barber; Vice-Mayor R. Cord Hall; Steve Huppert; Henry D. Showalter; Bradford J. Stipes; James W. Vanhoozier. ABSENT: Samuel M. Bishop.

WORK SESSION

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR BARBER.

II. DISCUSSION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. Proposed storm water fee for FY 2015-2016.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The work session was adjourned at 6:50 P.M.

---Adjourned 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, VA, ON APRIL 14, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor D. Michael Barber; Vice-Mayor R. Cord Hall; Steve Huppert; Henry D. Showalter; Bradford J. Stipes; James W. Vanhoozier. ABSENT: Samuel M. Bishop.

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; Director of Aquatics Terry Caldwell, Fire Chief Billy Hanks.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER BY MAYOR BARBER.

II. CONSENT AGENDA

1. Council Meeting Minutes of March 24, 2015.

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

III. RECOGNITIONS

1. Christiansburg High School diving champion, Ronnie Piemonte. Councilman Stipes read a resolution adopted by Council on March 24, 2015, recognizing Christiansburg High School student Ronnie Piemonte on his 2014 State diving championship. A framed copy of the resolution was presented to Ronnie who was accompanied by his parents and sister.

2. Christiansburg High School wrestling team. Councilman Hall read a resolution adopted by Council on March 24, 2015, recognizing the fourteenth consecutive State wrestling championship by the Christiansburg High School wrestling team. A framed copy of the resolution was presented to Assistant Coach Close in Coach Weber's absence, with a copy of the resolution given to each individual wrestler. Councilman Hall was pleased to announce that fourteen consecutive State championships was the best record in Virginia for any sport.

IV. CITIZEN'S HEARING

1. PRESENTATION OF THE DRIVE TOURISM PROGRAM BY RANDY ROSE, SENIOR DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST FOR PARTNERSHIP MARKETING FOR THE VIRGINIA TOURISM CORPORATION. Mr. Randy Rose, Senior Development Specialist for Partnership Marketing for the Virginia Tourism Corporation, assisted by Montgomery County Tourism Director, Lisa Bleakley, spoke to Council about the tourism initiative, Drive Tourism. Drive Tourism is a five-year development plan designed to assist Virginia localities in tourism product design and development. The program is implemented through workshop forum and demands a commitment of people, time, and talent, with the goal of determining various ways to stay relevant to tourists and to exceed their needs and desires. The program will target specific areas within town that can be highlighted, emphasized, or improved upon, to appeal to tourists. Through the process, Mr. Rose would provide the town with options to consider in developing a tourism product that would optimize tourism opportunities and increase local revenue. Twenty-five Virginia communities are currently participating in the Drive Tourism program. Mr. Rose noted that it was Montgomery County Tourism Director Lisa Bleakley who reached out to him on behalf of Montgomery County, Blacksburg and Christiansburg, seeking options to further enhance tourism efforts. After Mr. Rose finished his presentation, Mayor Barber presented him with a proclamation recognizing May 2 – 10, 2015 as National Travel and Tourism Week.
2. BEV WALTERS, DIRECTOR OF NRV CARES, TO ADDRESS COUNCIL IN RECOGNITION OF CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH. Councilman Hall introduced Bev Walters, Director of NRV Cares, who addressed Council in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. NRV Cares is a non-profit organization that partners with the community to provide a safe, thriving, abuse-free environment for children through child abuse intervention programs and child abuse prevention education. The organization trains and supervises Court-Appointed Special Advocates, offers Parenting Young Children courses, and provides community education about child abuse through presentations, workshops, plays, and mini-conferences. The organization recently partnered with the Christiansburg Aquatic Center to provide child abuse prevention training to the employees of the facility. The overall goal of NRV Cares is to strengthen families, but another goal is to be good stewards of the generous contributions it receives, which make the many programs possible. Mrs. Walters noted that 2015 is the 40th anniversary of child abuse law in Virginia and she expressed her thanks and appreciation for the Town's partnership in protecting the children in Montgomery County. Mayor Barber presented Mrs. Walters with a proclamation recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, which was adopted by Council on March 24, 2015.
3. OPAL SQUIRES, CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES INVESTIGATOR WITH PULASKI COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, TO ADDRESS COUNCIL IN RECOGNITION OF CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH. Councilman Hall introduced Opal Squires who spoke in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ms. Squires is a Child Protective Services investigator who has worked for Pulaski County Department of Social Services for eight years. She spoke briefly of the struggles she faces each day as she works to safeguard children in the community, and she praised the Pulaski County Department of Social Services for its proactive approach to protecting children from abuse. Ms. Squires spoke of the dedication of the attorneys and other professionals within the community, and the court system, that work together to prevent child abuse and to protect those affected by abuse. Her job, she said, is a twenty-four hour per day responsibility, but the lasting bonds she creates with the children she works with makes her job even more meaningful.
4. LOIS CALIRI, OUTREACH SPECIALIST WITH ENROLL VIRGINIA AND SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA LEGAL AID SOCIETY, TO SPEAK ABOUT THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT SPECIAL ENROLLMENT. Lois Caliri, representative from the Enroll Virginia and Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society, addressed Council regarding the approaching deadline of April 30, 2015 for special enrollment in the Affordable Care Act. The special enrollment period is to allow additional time for uninsured individuals to avoid paying a government-imposed penalty by buying insurance. The penalty, she explained, would increase over time with continued non-compliance. The Legal Aid Society provide the free services of teaching the public about the Affordable Care Act and helping individuals enroll for insurance coverage. Ms. Caliri provided Council with an informational brochure and offered to answer questions. She thanked the Town for its time.

5. CHIEF BILLY HANKS TO PROVIDE AN UPDATE ON FIRE DEPARTMENT. Fire Chief Hanks provided Council with an update on the operations and community efforts of the fire department. With forty members currently on the roster, and a new Town-funded deputy fire marshal, the fire department responded to 545 emergency calls in 2014. Average response time was 6.73 minutes, which is slightly higher than the department's goal of six minutes, which Chief Hanks noted was outstanding for a volunteer service. Deputy Fire Marshall Curtis Whitt, who was hired in September 2014, has been instrumental in expanding fire prevention education within the community. He has inspected over 300 businesses since being hired, and is committed to working with local businesses to bring them into compliance with the fire code. The fire department had over fourteen hundred citizens visit the station in 2014 for educational purposes. The volunteers provide fire safety talks to citizens and special interest groups, which increases fire safety awareness within the community. Chief Hanks reported on the department's participation in a program that provides smoke detectors and batteries to families in need at no cost. Information on the smoke detector program is available on the fire department's website. Chief Hanks expressed his gratitude to Council for its continued support of the fire department. Council expressed its appreciation for the volunteers and leadership of the fire department that are committed in their service to others.

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS.

- a. No comments.

V. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. COUNCIL ACTION ON:

- a. Request by Montgomery County for a boundary line adjustment on Cinnabar Road. Using an aerial map, Town Manager Helms explained the corporate boundary line adjustment that would incorporate property that is to be used for the new county dog and cat shelter. The property is on the far side of the 460 Bypass, and the boundary line adjustment would tidy-up the land configuration. If approved, storm water management for the adjusted property would become the responsibility of the county. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to proceed with the corporate boundary line adjustment process as requested, seconded by Councilman Hall. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye. A public hearing will be scheduled at a later time for this matter.
2. Request for a property line adjustment and permanent utility easement adjustment for property located behind the Shell Station and Fairfield Inn off Roanoke Street. The request is necessary for the parking development phase of the subdivision plat. The Street Committee has reviewed the request and Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the request as presented, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.

VI. COUNCIL REPORTS

1. Councilman Hall reported that a public input meeting regarding development of the Truman Wilson property is scheduled for May 4 and a Council work session is scheduled for May 12 to begin discussions regarding development of the Truman Wilson Property Master Plan. On April 23, a child abuse prevention seminar will be held at the Montgomery County Courthouse and Council has been invited to attend.
2. Councilman Stipes, on behalf of Christiansburg resident Dr. William Sroufe, commended the Christiansburg police officers and rescue squad personnel who responded to a call concerning a vehicle accident involving Dr. Sroufe's son. Dr. Sroufe expressed gratitude to the first responders for treating his teenage son in a professional and respectful manner.
3. Councilman Showalter requested that information regarding the public input meeting for the Truman Wilson property be posted on the Town's website.
4. Councilman Huppert expressed his appreciation for the staff of the Parks and Recreation Department, and students from Ignite, who recently spent several days cleaning and making improvements to the small park on Summitridge Road.
5. Mayor Barber reported that he observed a law enforcement mall shooting training session on Sunday evening at the NRV Mall. Numerous law enforcement agencies participated, along with volunteers from Virginia Tech's Corp of

Cadets, and mall employees. Mayor Barber said he was impressed by the training and hopes to obtain a video clip for Council's viewing. Mayor Barber thanked the owner of the mall, the employees, and the volunteers from the Corp of Cadets for making the event possible.

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS:

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

April 28, 2015

- a. Tax rate increase for FY 2015-2016.

June 9, 2015

- a. Conditional Use Permit request for a commercial garage at 405 Roanoke Street in the B-3 General Business zoning district.

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

2. PROGRESS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Development of a master plan for the Truman Wilson property will begin with a public input meeting scheduled for May 4, 2015 at the recreation center, and a Council work session May 12, 2015. Information about these meetings is available on the Town's website.
- The Town's Worker's Compensation Experience Mod (Rating) has decreased to 1.02, which represents a cost savings to the Town. The reduction is attributed to continued efforts in safety training.
- The owner of property on Mill Lane has approached Town Manager Helms with an offer to sell the Town the small portion of land for \$12,000. The property is large enough for a small building, but Town Manager Helms said it could be used for aquatic center overflow parking. He recommended an offer of no more than \$3,000. Council authorized Town Manager Helms to negotiate the asking price with the owner and report back to Council.
- The crosswalk sign on Cambria Street at the Huckleberry Trail was recently damaged in a vehicle accident. Parts are on order and should arrive in a few weeks. Two other crosswalk signs are currently in place at this location.
- Sewer line problems have occurred on Pepper Street. The line, which serves seven or eight homes, was installed in the 1930's and is in bad need of repair/replacement. Town crews are currently working to correct the problem and improve service to the homes impacted. Council thanked Town staff and crews for promptly responding to the sewer line situation when it occurred over the weekend.
- A portion of the handrails for the Huckleberry Trail bridge have been delivered and are being installed.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before Council, Councilman Showalter made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M., seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor