

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 28, 2017 – 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 28, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Steve Biggs; Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Theresa Fontana; Planning Director Andrew Warren; Finance Director/Treasurer Valerie Tweedie; Director of Public Relations Melissa Powell; Director of Aquatics Terry Caldwell; Building Official Jerry Heinline; Director of Engineering Wayne Nelson; Director of Public Works Jim Lancianese.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Moment of Reflection
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

- A. Add a Proclamation Proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month as item VI.A.
- B. Add the Introduction of New Employees as item VI.B.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Proposed Amendment to the Annual Budget for FY 2016 – 2017.

Council was provided a copy of the proposed amendment to the Annual Budget for FY 2016-2017 in the agenda packet, and it was reviewed and discussed at the March 14, 2017 council meeting. Finance Director/Treasurer Valerie Tweedie reported that the proposed amendment had been advertised in the newspaper and on the Town's website. No citizen comments were received.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Meeting Minutes of March 14, 2017
- B. Schedule a Public Hearing for May 9, 2017 for a Conditional Use Permit request for a game room at 77 Scattergood Drive, N.W. in the B-3 General Business District.
- C. Authorize Treasurer Department employee to sign Town checks.
- D. Monthly Bills

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

V. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. Stacy Martin, owner of Adventure Hobbies at 1645

N. Franklin Street, introduced to Council a new local business coalition known as *BURG*, which he created in partnership with Marie March, who operates Due South Bar-B-Que at 1465 Roanoke Street and Fatback Soul Shack at 2440 Roanoke Street, to assist the Town in promoting small businesses. Mr. Martin said *BURG* would like to work with Christiansburg to meet the goals outlined in its Destination 2022 pertaining to working with local businesses. Mr. Martin invited Council to attend a round table to meet with local small business owners, which would be scheduled within the next couple of months. Council thanked Mr. Martin for his presentation and requested ample notification of the meeting date to allow for public advertisement.

VI. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Proclamation Proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Dionne Harrison and Julie Dellorso of NRV Cares were present to receive a Proclamation Proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month presented by Mayor Barber. Mrs. Harrison and Ms. Dellorso thanked the Town for its support of NRV Cares and talked about the organization's efforts to bring awareness to the issue of child abuse, and to promote child abuse prevention through the annual pinwheel fundraiser and the *Wear Blue Day* on April 7. Councilman Hall commended NRV Cares for its efforts and involvements in serving the community and families affected by child abuse through community outreach and social programs designed to strengthen families. Councilman Hall reminded those present that child abuse awareness and prevention programs were scheduled for April 6, 6:00 p.m. at Pulaski County Courthouse, and April 27, 6:00 p.m. at Montgomery County Courthouse. The programs are open to the community and everyone was welcome to attend. In closing, Julie Dellorso, Executive Director of NRV Cares, announced that April 26 was designated "GiveBigNRV", which is a day of fundraising to benefit nonprofit organizations in the New River Valley. Mayor Barber noted that he would present a proclamation for that event at an upcoming council meeting.

B. Introduction of New Employees

1. Introduction by Scott Coppock, Customer Service Supervisor:
- Ivy Cobb, full-time housekeeping staff.

C. Presentation by Building Official Jerry Heinline regarding property maintenance.

Building Official Jerry Heinline provided an overview of the Virginia Property Maintenance Code, noting that enforcement was optional, and talked about property maintenance violations in Christiansburg. He reviewed the definition of *condemnation* as presented in the Virginia Property Maintenance Code and explained the meaning of blighted buildings and structures, as well as impacts on surrounding properties. Mr. Heinline then called attention to the goals of the Building Inspections Department that provide a proactive approach to property maintenance, which was recently featured by WSLS and WDBJ. Mr. Heinline explained the differences between property maintenance and the Code Enforcement Program, which is handled by the Planning Department, and he used photographs to show examples of blighted properties in Christiansburg and talked about the different approaches in addressing the needs of each property. He noted that the Town made every effort to hold the property owner responsible in cases of demolition. Mr. Heinline announced that the Town recently hosted the 2012 Virginia Rehabilitation Code training, which he, Mayor Barber, Councilman Collins, and Town Manager Biggs, attended. The training seminar was given by the State and was designed to educate localities on strategies to manage/prevent areas of blight. Mr. Heinline then talked about the challenges of enforcing property maintenance and the often-lengthy process of bringing resolution to active cases. Mr. Heinline then offered to answer questions of Council. Councilman Huppert expressed support for the efforts of the Town in addressing areas of blight, and spoke about the need for trash placement regulations during Spring/Fall Clean-up. Councilman Hall said that while he supported personal property rights, he also supported the Building Department's effective program that focused on properties that were a direct threat, and he expressed appreciation for the department's proactive approach to deterring blight. Councilman Collins noted that vacant/unused properties were a concern of his when he ran for Council, and he expressed appreciation for the policies in place that address blight. Councilman Showalter asked what type of plan was in place to assist property owners who financially were unable to maintain their property. Mr. Heinline said in those cases the Town refers the property owner to organizations and groups that can help them through

funding and personal assistance. Councilman Stipes expressed support for the proactive approach outlined by Mr. Heinline, and while he cautioned against aggression in some cases, he noted the importance of addressing properties that have become a threat to public welfare. Council thanked Mr. Heinline for his presentation.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion on appointment to the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority.

Mayor Barber announced that former Town Manager Barry Helms had agreed to serve on the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority. Councilman Hall made a motion to appoint Barry Helms to the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority effective June 1, 2017. Councilman Showalter seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye. Council thanked Mr. Helms for his willingness to serve as a representative of the Town and requested that he keep Council informed of important matters discussed by the authority.

B. Consideration of VML Policy Committee nominations.

Town Manager Biggs inquired if Council was interested in making nominations to the VML Policy Committees prior to the April 14 deadline. Council expressed concern with possible difficulties in attending meetings that were typically held in Richmond on weekdays. Mayor Barber offered to request a tentative meeting schedule from VML for Council to review prior to making a decision.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Professional Design Services Contract for the Quin W. Stuart Boulevard Intersection Improvement Project.

Director of Engineering Wayne Nelson reported on the proposed contract for Professional Design Services for the traffic signal project at the intersection of Quin W. Stuart Boulevard and Peppers Ferry Road, NW. The contract included project design and construction, and would be funded by a private donor and a VDOT 50/50 Revenue Sharing program. Construction services would begin immediately upon approval by Council. Town Attorney Fontana has reviewed and approved the contract as written. Councilman Hall made a motion to approve the contract as presented, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye. Council expressed appreciation for Mr. Nelson's efforts in bringing this matter to fruition.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

X. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager Steve Biggs:

1. Request for Council action on the proposed amendment to the Annual Budget for FY 2016-2017. Councilman Hall made a motion to add the item to the agenda under Other Business, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

B. Town Attorney:

C. Other Staff:

XI. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Councilman Collins reported that Christiansburg High School has requested the Town postpone the celebration in honor of the wrestling program until the fall. Councilman Collins said he was continuing to work with the high school to establish a program for students interested in becoming involved with Town Council.
- B. Councilman Bishop – No report.
- C. Councilman Hall reported on continuing efforts to partner with Christiansburg High School in developing a program that would allow for student representation/involvement on Town Council. He then reported that the next Recreation Advisory Meeting was scheduled for April 3 at 6:00 p.m., and gave a reminder of the child abuse prevention programs to be held at the courthouses in Pulaski and Montgomery County in April.
- D. Councilman Stipes expressed his condolence Marty Gordon on the recent loss of his father.
- E. Councilman Showalter reported on the recent NRV Regional Commission meeting where concerns were discussed regarding the possible impact of the new federal budget on the region. The group heard a presentation on a proposed I-81 traffic management program, and appointed a Go Virginia Commission. Councilman Showalter said he learned so much about the region by attending the meetings, and he invited Council and the community to also attend.
- F. Councilman Huppert reported on recently held swim meets and upcoming summer programs at the aquatic center.
- G. Mayor Barber said he was working on proclamations for GiveBigNRV, Volunteerism, and recognition of the Rescue Squad, for presentation in April. He and Director of Public Relations Melissa Powell planned to visit the three Christiansburg elementary schools for Local Government Education Week in early April.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Council action on:
 - 1. Proposed amendment to the Annual Budget for FY 2016-2017. Councilman Huppert made a motion to approve the budget amendment as proposed, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor