

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 12, 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 SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Theresa Fontana; Planner Will Drake; Public Relations Specialist Anaika Miller; Director of Aquatics Terry Caldwell; Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley; Aquatic Tournaments Coordinator Ian Dye; Fire Chief Billy Hanks; Police Chief Mark Sisson.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Schedule Public Hearing on October 24, 2017 for a Conditional Use Permit request by Robert Young for a Towing/Storage Facility at 375 Bell Road, N.E. in the I-2, General Industrial District.
- B. Schedule Public Hearing on October 24, 2017 for a Conditional Use Permit request by Elijah Bowen of Blue Ridge Motion LLC, agent for Kevin Carter, for a private recreational facility (gym) at 492 Reading Road, S.E., Unit D in the I-2 General Industrial District.
- C. Schedule Public Hearing on October 24, 2017 for a proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 42 "Zoning" of the Christiansburg Town Code to permit single-chair beauty parlors (hair salons) and barbershops as Major Home Occupations.
- D. Schedule Public Hearing on October 24, 2017, contingent on the above item, for a Conditional Use Permit request by April and Russell Collins for a Major Home Occupation (hair salon) at 315 Circle Drive, S.E. in the R-2, Two-Family Residential District.

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.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- A. Remon Yassa, owner of the Christiansburg Handy Mart, referred to the Town's annual report, which reflected a decrease in cigarette tax since 2012, and offered an explanation for the decline and a suggestion for increasing sales. Mr. Yassa, a member of the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce who is teaching on leadership, said he believed the Town's cigarette tax was responsible for

the decline in cigarette sales, because customers could purchase from cigarette stores/convenience stores located just outside Town limits, without paying cigarette tax. Current cigarette tax rates in Christiansburg are \$0.40 per pack, or \$4.00 per carton. According to Mr. Yassa, the decline in cigarette sales has also resulted in a loss of revenue on other convenience/grocer purchases, and he expressed concern that this could be a factor in the closing of several local convenience stores. Mr. Yassa talked about the recent closing of the convenience store located near Corning, and noted that a cigarette store was located a short distance away, just over Town limits. Mr. Yassa, who said he has successfully advised on business matters in the past, recommended the Town lower its cigarette tax to \$0.10 per pack or \$1.00 per carton as a way to encourage patronage, increase overall sales, and allow Christiansburg stores to compete with stores outside Town limits. Town Council thanked Mr. Yassa for his comments.

- B. Daniel Musselman, 275 Maple Drive, addressed Council with concerns about a letter he received regarding plans to remove the trophies/awards housed at the rescue squad as part of current renovations. Council said it was aware of the letter, and reported that renovation plans had been changed and the trophies/awards would remain at the rescue squad. Mr. Musselman then asked for clarification of the use of revenue recovery funds. Councilman Hall responded that revenue recovery funds went directly back into emergency services to support upgrades and improvements. As examples, revenue recovery funds were used to install defibrillators in all Christiansburg police cars, and to upgrade medical equipment in ambulances.

VII. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Christiansburg Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell, Aquatic Tournaments Coordinator Ian Dye, and Susan Bricken, to present on a plan to promote the Christiansburg Aquatic Center and increase attendance and interest in the sport of swimming.

Director of Aquatics Terry Caldwell introduced Ian Dye, Aquatics Tournaments Coordinator, Susan Bricken, member of the community, lifelong member of the Christiansburg Rescue Squad, and active member of the aquatic center. Ms. Caldwell took a moment to talk about *Battleship*, an upcoming fundraiser for emergency services scheduled for September 29 at the aquatic center. *Battleship* will pit first responders from Christiansburg, Blacksburg, and Montgomery County, against each other in the competition pool, with the winner claiming funds raised for department improvements. There will be no charge for the event, but donations will be accepted. Ms. Caldwell reported on a collaboration with Christiansburg Elementary School, in partnership with Montgomery County Public Schools, to participate in the Just Run Club, by offering swim lessons by Virginia Tech swim team and opening the diving boards for use by the club. Lastly, Ms. Caldwell reported on the collaboration with the school system to teach all public school second graders how to swim. The annual program started this week with close to two hundred students participating. The program runs through November. Ms. Susan Bricken, who assists with teaching water safety and swim lessons to the second graders, talked about her experiences working with the students, and the positive impact the program has had on them as they become more comfortable in the water. Ms. Bricken stated she hoped teaching the young children to swim would impact the statistics on drowning incidences. Ms. Bricken then introduced a new program she and Ian Dye developed with the goal of getting children and their families exposed to the water and sparking interest in the aquatic center. The program "Pack the CAC", scheduled for October 7 at 8:00 A.M. at the aquatic center, will be a family-oriented event that will feature a swim clinic, pizza and goody bags, various kid contests, and elite swimmers and divers. There will be no cost to participate. Another community program planned for the aquatic center is a tailgating event with food trucks and live music on October 20. Former Virginia Tech football coach, Frank Beamer, and the Hokie Bird, are scheduled to make an appearance. The events are free and multiple media avenues are being used to promote each of the upcoming aquatic center events. Council expressed their support and agreed to allocate \$1,000 of tourism funds for the promotion of the events.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

IX. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. A rezoning request by the Montgomery County Economic Development Authority, agent for Cox Family Farms LLC, for an approximately 64.114 acre property, Tax Map No. 558-A 24. The request is to rezone the property from the A Agricultural District to the I-2 General Industrial District. The Public Hearing was held on August 22, 2017.

Town Manager Wingfield reported that Montgomery County Economic Development Authority has requested this matter be tabled until the next regular council meeting to allow time to collect necessary signatures on the proffer statement. Councilman Hall made a motion to table the matter until September 26, 2017, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

- B. Proposed ordinance amending Chapter 42 – Zoning of the Town Code for the purpose of regulating the time, place, and manner of displaying signs in the Town of Christiansburg.

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

- C. Contingent on the above ordinance, proposed ordinance amending Chapter 4 -- Advertising related to striking signage regulations in this chapter and moving regulations to Chapter 42 -- Zoning.

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

- D. Resolution Supporting the Amendment of Chapter 638 of Virginia Acts of Assembly Relating to the New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority.

Councilman Hall expressed appreciation for the informative work session held on this issue prior to the Council meeting, then made a motion to not support the resolution, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Nay; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Nay; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

- E. Resolution Amending an Agreement with the Department of Military Affairs Relating to the Maintenance and Use of the National Guard Readiness Center.

Town Manager Wingfield reported that the resolution would result in the Town losing the right to schedule the armory; however, the amendment was mandated by the Department of Military Affairs, and compliance was required. Councilman Hall made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

- F. Appointment of representative to attend the ACCE Parent/Student informational session at Christiansburg High School on September 25, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. Councilman Hall made a motion to appoint Councilman Huppert as representative, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye. It was noted that Mayor Barber, Councilman Hall, and Councilman Showalter also planned to attend the ACCE informational session.

X. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Town Manager Wingfield noted the recent passing of Ryan Hubbard, a six-year volunteer with the Christiansburg Rescue Squad, and reported on the following upcoming events:

- NRV Apartment Council Meet and Greet, September 14.
- Terry Griffith Memorial Service, September 18, Sunset Cemetery.
- NRV Rail Passenger 2020 Legislative Reception, September 20, Radford University.
- NRV Regional Water Authority Reception and Dinner, September 14.
- 8-Mile Bridge Walk and Wilderness Trail Festival, September 16.
- Food Truck Rodeo, September 22.

B. Town Attorney:

C. Other Staff:

XI. COUNCIL REPORTS

- Councilman Hall announced that he had decided he would not seek reelection in November. Mr. Hall said he has been humbled during his service on Council, and was pleased by Council's commitment to the Christiansburg community and its youth. Mr. Hall said he valued the time he has spent on Council, and the relationships he has formed, but had made a family decision to step aside, based in part on a growing business and a daughter starting college. Councilman Hall said he looked forward to his remaining time on Council.
- Councilman Bishop – No report.
- Councilman Collins expressed support for Councilman Hall's service to the Town as a member of Council and stated it was a sad day for Christiansburg because of his decision to not seek a third term. Mr. Collins then reported on his meetings with Christiansburg High School to develop a leadership partnership with the Town of Christiansburg. Mr. Collins announced the program was officially underway and students would be present at the next regular council meeting to report to Council.
- Councilman Stipes commended Councilman Hall's service as a member of Council who he said brought class, integrity, transparency, passion, and input to the government body. Mr. Stipes called Councilman Hall a personal friend and said he would be missed. Mr. Stipes then reported on the upcoming Wilderness Trail Festival and Wayne Henderson concert sponsored by Kiwanis Club.
- Councilman Showalter stated that Councilman Hall was an important part of Council who provided much information on matters before Council and was not afraid to ask questions. Mr. Showalter said Mr. Hall's contributions helped Council to make informed decision and he has enjoyed serving with him.
- Councilman Huppert commended Councilman Hall's service to Christiansburg as a member of Council, then reported on the Wilderness Trail Festival and 8-Mile Bridge Walk.
- Mayor Barber expressed appreciation for Councilman Hall's service to the Town and his involvements, and also how deeply he researched matters before Council.

XIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:05 P.M.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor