

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 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 26, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Theresa Fontana; Director of Public Relations Melissa Demmitt; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Director of Engineering Wayne Nelson; Director of Planning Andrew Warren; Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell; Fire Chief Billy Hanks; Police Chief Mark Sisson; Public Works Director Jim Lancianese; WWTP Superintendent Ryan Hendrix; Public Works Facility Maintenance Supervisor Roger Leonard; Public Works Crew Supervisor - Right-of-Way Maintenance Micheal Huesman; Public Works Crew Supervisor - Streets Justin Shepherd.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

- A. Add a recommendation from the Street Committee on request to rename Shaffer Street to Schaeffer Street and Shaffer Drive to Schaeffer Drive to Discussions by Mayor and Council as Item D.
- B. Move Item F from the Consent Agenda to Discussions by Mayor and Council as Item E.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Conditional Use Permit request for an electronic readerboard in the B-2, Central Business District at 190 North Franklin Street (Pizza Inn) by J. Stuart and Jill Arbuckle. The property is designated as Downtown/Mixed Use on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Richard Ballengee, 925 Maple Drive, addressed Council in support of the CUP request by Stuart Arbuckle for a digital sign outside Pizza Inn. Mr. Ballengee stated that Mr. Arbuckle was a great corporate citizen of Christiansburg who was charitable in the community and an active member of the Chamber of Commerce, which had identified him as an outstanding business leader. Mr. Arbuckle's restaurant helped to bring people to the downtown area, and Mr. Ballengee urged Council to enhance the business by approving the requested CUP.

Stuart Arbuckle, applicant, explained his plans for upgrading his restaurant sign and showed a sample photo of a digital sign that was similar to the one he had chosen. The digital sign would be used to advertise and promote his business, but would also be used to promote local events, as he has done with his current sign. The digital sign would not be a rolling or video sign, and would not be a distraction for motorists. Mr. Arbuckle agreed to comply with any guidelines set forth by the Town pertaining to his request. Councilman Huppert, who noted that in the past has not been in favor of digital signs, recognized Pizza Inn's efforts in advertising local community events, and expressed his support for the request. Planning Director Warren noted that the request was recommended for approval by the Planning Commission 8 – 0, with no conditions. Councilman Stipes made a motion to place the CUP request under Discussions by Mayor and Council for discussion and action. Councilman Collins

seconded the motion and Council voted as follows:
Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Absent; Huppert
– Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye. The item was placed as Item F.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Council meeting minutes of August 22, 2017 and September 12, 2017.
- B. Monthly Bills.
- C. NRV Cares letter of appreciation for FY 17-18 contribution.
- D. Purchase orders with Carter Machinery Company for Public Works as follows:
 - Backhoe Loader, \$138,139
 - Excavator, \$123,131
 - Wheel Loader, \$176,932
- E. Schedule Public Hearing on November 14, 2017 for a Conditional Use Permit request by Linda S. McMurray, agent for J & E Inc., for a Kennel (animal daycare/overnight boarding) at 569 North Franklin Street in the B-3 General Business District. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Wingfield requested that the minutes of September 12, 2017 be amended to reflect, under Item VII Introductions and Presentations A. Christiansburg Aquatic Center Presentation, that following discussion Council agreed to allocate \$1,000 of tourism funds for the promotion. Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the change to the minutes, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Absent; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- A. Jared and Marie March, owners of Due South and Fatback Soul Shack, spoke to Council regarding a situation they experienced during a recent Saturday night, outdoor, live music event at Fatback Soul Shack. Mrs. March explained that during the event, they received two warnings from Police regarding a noise complaint from a nearby resident. The first officer arrived around 9:30 p.m., and the other shortly after. Although the officers expressed support for the event while issuing the warnings, Mrs. March stated that their presence raised concern with many of the customers who weren't aware of what was going on. The Marchs' reviewed with Council portions of the noise ordinance that pertained to General Business Districts and talked about the differences between business zonings and residential areas when addressing noise concerns. They requested that the ordinance be studied and amended to accommodate business and music venues, and recommended the Town consider including a tourism district as provided for in the State Code. According to the Marchs', the recent event was well-attended, and received support from local businesses; however, they agreed to postpone future outdoor, live music events until they hear back from the Town on this matter.
- B. Stacy Martin, 1645 N. Franklin St., spoke to Council in support of the Marchs' and their endeavor to establish their restaurant, Fatback Soul Shack, as a destination point by holding occasional outdoor music events. Regarding the noise complaint received during the recent live music event, Mr. Martin said he believed vague wording in the Town's noise ordinance contributed to confusion concerning guidelines pertaining to noise volumes. Mr. Martin shared portions of noise ordinances from nearby localities as examples of clarity, and he recommended the Town considering using Municode's codification services to rewrite a noise ordinance that would be more fair and supportive of small businesses. In closing, Mr. Martin recommended the Town postpone the hiring of a new town manager until after the local election in November.
- A. Sherwood Wilson, Chairman of the NRV Emergency Communications Regional Authority, spoke to Council regarding the Resolution Regarding the Amendment of Chapter 638 of Virginia Acts of Assembly

Relating to the New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority that Council

voted to deny on September 12, out of concerns that the Town's interests were not represented in the resolution. Dr. Wilson provided background on how the Authority came into being in response to the Virginia Tech shooting in 2006, with the goal of establishing a means for Montgomery County, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, and Virginia Tech to work together and to strengthen communication between the four localities. The Authority was established with representation from each locality and costs would be shared based on the number of calls from each locality. Dr. Wilson said he understood that Council had concerns about the specifics of the resolution, particularly as they pertained to call assignment. Dr. Wilson further noted that the Authority understood Christiansburg's concerns and was in the process of revising the resolution to be presented to the Virginia General Assembly. Dr. Wilson also noted his personal, and the Authority's, concern with the accuracy of the call data. Dr. Wilson said that a revised resolution would soon be presented to the Town, and the other three jurisdictional partners, outlining that the cost assignment for the Authority would require unanimous consent by all four partners.

VII. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Introduction of New Town Employees:
 - 1. Roger Leonard, Public Works Facility Maintenance Supervisor
 - Joey Griffith, Facility Maintenance Technician
 - 2. Micheal Huesman, Public Works Crew Supervisor - Right-of-Way Maintenance
 - Luther "Max" Brown, Maintenance Worker, Right-of-Way
 - 3. Justin Shepherd, Public Works Crew Supervisor - Streets
 - Adam Eagle, Maintenance Worker, Streets
- B. Bethany Mott, Executive Director of Alliance for Better Childcare Strategies (ABCs) to provide an update on their recent strategies and accomplishments.

Bethany Mott, Executive Director of Alliance for Better Childcare Strategies (ABCs), introduced to Council the local ABCs program that was developed and launched through community/business partnerships in the New River Valley, including the Town of Christiansburg. Ms. Mott provided background on how the non-profit organization was initiated to address a shortage of affordable, quality childcare and early education, and she talked about the negative impact poor childcare had on community workforces and family stability. Through the ABCs program, parents have access to affordable, quality care for their children, which results in fewer missed days at work and better productivity, and children are nurtured in preparation for kindergarten. Ms. Mott explained how the Christiansburg community was being strengthened by the organization through the recruitment of childcare facilities to participate in the program, and through seminars to recruit new, licensed home providers and co-ops. The organization plans to soon launch the first regional symposium for early child care education, which will educate the community on the importance of kindergarten preparedness, noting that ABCs was working to launch a scholarship program that will focus on investing in early education for three and four-year olds. Council was shown a brief video of Craig Ramey of Virginia Tech speaking about the impact of early childhood education on individuals and communities. Ms. Mott thanked the Town for its past support and requested that ABCs be considered during FY 2018-2019 budget planning.

- C. Recognition of Christiansburg Wastewater Treatment Plant staff for being awarded the 2016 Water Environment Federation - George W. Burke, Jr. Facility Safety Award for their work in establishing and maintaining an active and effective safety program.

Director of Public Relations, Melissa Demmitt, reported that the staff of the WWTP had been awarded the 2016 Water Environment Federation – George W. Burke, Jr. Facility Safety Award for their efforts in establishing and maintaining an active and effective safety program, and she presented each staff member with a certificate of recognition of the award on behalf of the Town, and thanked them for positively representing the Town. The award is presented annually, and awarded through a nomination and safety audit process. Ryan Hendrix, WWTP Superintendent, provided background on the Water

Environment Federation Facility Safety Award, and talked about the goal set by the WWTP in 2014 to create a safety culture at the plant, which was supported by the Town Administration and Department Heads over the past two years. That support, along with the dedication of the WWTP staff, resulted in the award and Mr. Hendrix expressed appreciation for the efforts of all who were involved in the achievement.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

IX. DISCUSSION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- B. 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 applicant has requested Council consider the rezoning of a 57.114-acre portion of the property from the A Agricultural District to the I-2 General Industrial District. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Industrial) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. (Carryover item from September 12). The proffer has been signed and submitted. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the rezoning, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Absent; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
- C. Resolution proclaiming October 8 – 14, 2017 as Fire Prevention Week Councilman Showalter made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Absent; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
- D. Resolution Regarding the Amendment of Chapter 638 of 2010 Virginia Acts of Assembly Relating to the New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority.

Councilman Stipes thanked Sherman Wilson for taking time out of his schedule to clarify the intent of the resolution regarding the proposed amendment to the Virginia Acts of Assembly by the NRV Emergency Communications Regional Authority, and for the Authority's willingness to revisit/modify the request, noting that his concerns have been satisfied and he was willing to revisit the matter. Councilman Stipes then made a motion to table the request with the intent to discuss a redraft once presented, seconded by Councilman Collins. Councilman Showalter and Councilman Collins expressed appreciation for Mr. Wilson's time and for the Authority's willingness to embrace the Town's concerns. Mayor Barber and Council thanked Mr. Wilson for speaking with them regarding this matter.

- E. Street Committee Recommendation on the renaming of Shaffer Street and Shaffer Drive in response to a request by Rita Irvin on August 22, 2017. Councilman Stipes reported that it was believed the intent was to name the streets after Captain Charles Schaeffer, who founded Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church, and the Christiansburg Community Center, but that the name Schaeffer was misspelled on the street signs. As such, Council Stipes made a motion to change the sign spelling from Shaffer Street to Schaeffer Street and Shaffer Drive to Schaeffer Drive. Councilman Huppert seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Absent; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
- F. Council to set the personal property tax relief percentage at 37.85% as required by the Personal Property Tax Relief Act. Council is required to set the personal property tax relief percentage on an annual basis. Councilman Showalter made a motion to set the personal property tax relief percentage at 37.85%, as recommended by Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Absent; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
- G. Conditional Use Permit request for an electronic readerboard in the B-2, Central Business District at 190 North Franklin Street (Pizza Inn) by J. Stuart and Jill Arbuckle. The property is designated as Downtown/Mixed Use on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Councilman Stipes made a motion to issue the CUP with no conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Absent; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

X. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Town Manager Wingfield:
 - Provided Council with information on the transportation capital project options for grant funding for the FY 18-19 and FY 19-20 funding cycle that was presented as the Street Committee meeting.
 - Reported that an estimated 9,000 – 10,000 people attended the recent Food Truck Rodeo. Credited DCI for organizing and thanked staff of Parks and Recreation, Public Works, and Police Department for assisting.
 - Gave reminder for upcoming emergency services fundraiser, Battleship, at the aquatic center on September 29.
 - Announced the Kenneth B. Gibson Memorial Park & Ride dedication on October 14 at 10:00 a.m.
- B. Town Attorney:
- C. Other Staff:

XI. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Councilman Collins recognized the award winning staff of the WWTP and expressed appreciation for their dedication to the Town.
- B. Councilman Bishop requested that Town Manager Wingfield work with the owners of certain properties along West Main Street that were in significant disrepair to clean-up and beautify the area, noting it was a gateway to Christiansburg.
- C. Councilman Stipes expressed appreciation for the manner in which the Marchs' presented their concerns to Council, and for the specific recommendations for Council to consider, further commenting that the Town should consider revisiting the noise ordinance in light of recent concerns by local businesses.
- D. Councilman Showalter echoed Councilman Stipes comments regarding the Marchs' impact on the community, and agreed that the Town needed to revisit its noise ordinance with the goal of creating guidelines that would be more supportive of local businesses that are bringing people together and enhancing tourism. He then reported on the recent Food Truck Rodeo and thanked DCI and Town Departments for their efforts in organizing the event.
- E. Councilman Huppert echoed the comments regarding the Marchs' and the success of the Food Truck Rodeo. He then reminded all of the Battleship fundraiser at the aquatic center on September 29.
- F. Mayor Barber reiterated Council's comments regarding the Food Truck Rodeo, noting the amount of work and expense to DCI in organizing the event. He expressed appreciation for the Marchs' and Mr. Martin for addressing Council, and agreed the noise ordinance should be reviewed. He and Councilman Huppert then reported on the ACCE meeting they attended at CHS, and talked about the importance of the program to the Christiansburg community.

XII. CLOSED MEETING:

1. Councilman Bishop made a motion to enter into a Closed Meeting in accordance with Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711(3) for the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. The Closed Meeting pertains to discussions regarding potential recreational property in Montgomery County. Councilman Collins seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Absent; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
2. Reconvene in Open Meeting. Councilman Bishop made a motion to reconvene in Open Meeting, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Absent; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
3. Certification. Councilman Bishop moved to certify that the Town Council of the Town of Christiansburg, meeting in Closed Meeting, to the best of each member's knowledge, discussed only the matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law and only such matters as are identified in the Resolution to enter into Closed Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Stipes and Council

voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Hall – Absent; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes - Aye.

4. Council action on the matter. No action was taken by Council.

XIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 9:12 P.M.

Michele Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor