

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 24, 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 OCTOBER 24, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

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 Planning Andrew Warren; Director of Human Resources Dave Brahmstadt; Director of Public Works Jim Lancianese; Assistant Superintendent of Streets Travis Moles; Police Chief Mark Sisson.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Public Hearing 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. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Industrial) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Robert Young of 8338 Plantation Road, Roanoke, is purchasing the property and has pledged to donate 60% of the existing building to the current occupant, New River Thunder, for continued use as a baseball practice site. Councilman Collins reported that the Planning Commission has recommended approval of the CUP, and Montgomery County Emergency Services has expressed no concerns with the two businesses operating in the same building.

Mike Harris, Vice-President of New River Thunder, thanked Council for allowing the site to be used as a non-profit baseball practice site, which has been an asset for youth sports in Christiansburg. Under the new five-year contract with Robert Young, ballplayers would continue using the facility through an access located in the back portion of the building, along with continued access of the outdoor grass area. The towing/storage operation would be located in the front portion of the building.

- B. Public Hearing 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. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Elijah Bowen of Floyd requested permission to set up a parkour gym, which he explained was obstacle course style training, at 492 Reading Road. Mr. Bowen said he has performed this type of training for ten years and has taught it for five, with no serious injuries to himself or others. The facility could accommodate thirty-five participants at one time, although fewer is expected, and can be accessed through the front entry door or a bay door. Parking is an open gravel lot that is shared with other tenants and can accommodate sixteen vehicles. Mr. Bowen reported that he was in the process of getting estimates on the cost of general liability insurance for the business. Planning Director Andrew Warren

noted that Town staff was scheduled to meet with Mr. Bowen Friday, on site, and would forward informational details of the building and parking to the Planning Commission.

- C. Public Hearing for a proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 42 "Zoning" of the Christiansburg Town Code to permit a single-chair beauty parlor (hair salon) or barbershop as a Major Home Occupation.

Applicant April Collins of 315 Circle Drive explained that she has worked in a Christiansburg hair salon for sixteen years and would like to downsize to a home business with one chair. Parking is adequate and service would be by appointment only, with one client present at a time. The Planning Commission has reviewed the request and unanimously recommended approval.

- D. Public Hearing for a Conditional Use Permit request, contingent on the above item, 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. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

See above comments. April Collins holds a Virginia Cosmetology license and is licensed to teach cosmetology. According to Planning Director Andrew Warren, the Town has received no negative comments regarding the request to amend Town Code or for the Conditional Use Permit request. The Town has received one petition in support of the requests signed by Ms. Collins' neighbors.

Councilman Stipes made a motion to amend the agenda to include Council action on Public Hearing items A, C and D, seconded by Councilman Hall. It was noted that the three items had unanimous support of the Planning Commission. Council voted on the motion as follows: Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Council meeting minutes of October 10, 2017.
- B. Monthly Bills.
- C. Downtown Watershed Study Engineering Contract.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council voted on the motion as follows: Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- A. Chris Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, expressed concern with the Public Hearing request by Elijah Bowen of Blue Ridge Motion LLC, agent for Kevin Carter, for a private recreational facility at 492 Reading Road. Mr. Waltz noted that back in July, Ashley Jones requested a Conditional Use Permit for a barbell and fitness facility at 492 Reading Road, as an agent for Kevin Carter. Mr. Waltz questioned the use of the word "agent" in the requests, and commented that he believed the businesses may already be in operation prior to the requests coming before Council for approval. Kevin Carter has been acknowledged in two requests for the same property, and presumably will benefit from Council action, but Mr. Waltz pointed out that he has not attended the Council meetings himself, but has someone else represent on his behalf. In closing, Mr. Waltz questioned Council's prior action to deny atypical businesses in the industrial park, while allowing recreational facilities in the I-2 General Industrial District on Reading Road. Town Manager Randy Wingfield noted that Kevin Carter was the owner of 492 Reading Road, who rents to various businesses.

VII. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Introduction of New Town Employees:
 - 1. Jim Williamson/Travis Moles – Public Works Department
 - Calvin Graham, Traffic Control Tech Trainee
 - Randall (Taylor) Green, Traffic Control Tech Trainee
- B. Introduction of the Christiansburg Town Council / Christiansburg High School Government Partnership. Reegal Patel, SGA Co-President will speak.

Councilman Collins gave a brief background into the development of the Christiansburg Town Council/Christiansburg High School Government Partnership, and introduced SGA Co-President Reegal Patel who addressed Council regarding the SGA and its anticipated involvement in town government. Mr. Patel said he was pleased that students would be given a voice in Town matters, and stated he believed the partnership would benefit both the Town and the high school through better understanding and an open avenue of communication. Mr. Patel said students were eager to become informed with Town matters, and used the current ongoing paving construction near the high school as an example of how communication with the Town could benefit students. Councilman Collins thanked Virginia Tech student, Alexandra Kahl, for her assistance in creating the partnership. Ms. Kahl attended a Town Planning Commission meeting as part of a community involvement class, which was how she became involved with the Town. Ms. Kahl said that often young people lack a voice in their community, and she was pleased to work with the Town on developing a groundbreaking program that would strengthen the community through a partnership with high school students. Councilman Showalter expressed appreciation for Reegal Patel's serious attitude toward school and community involvement, and he challenged Mr. Patel to work with other students to come up with ideas that would enhance the partnership, and to be the communicator between the Town and students. Councilman Showalter and Councilman Stipes suggested ideas for staff "shadowing", and mock Town Council election/day, as ways to further students' understanding of local government.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

IX. DISCUSSION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Public Hearing 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. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Industrial) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Councilman Hall made a motion to approve the Conditional Use Permit, seconded by Councilman Collins. Councilman Hall then made a motion to amend his motion to include approval of the CUP with the eight (8) conditions as recommended in the Planning Commission resolution. Councilman Collins seconded the amended motion and Council voted as follows: Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
- B. Public Hearing for a proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 42 "Zoning" of the Christiansburg Town Code to permit a single-chair beauty parlor (hair salon) or barbershop as a Major Home Occupation. Councilman Hall made a motion to approve the amendment to Chapter 42 as requested, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council voted on the motion as follows: Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
- C. Public Hearing for a Conditional Use Permit request, contingent on the above item, 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. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Councilman Stipes made a motion to issue the CUP with the conditions set forth in the Planning Commission resolution, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council voted on the motion as follows: Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

X. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Town Manager Wingfield:
 - Recognition of Assistant Director of Engineering Operations and Development Todd Walters who will be leaving the Town on November 3 to become the Town Manager of New Market, Virginia. Mr. Walters has been an exemplary employee and will be an asset to the Town of New Market.
 - Public Hearing for FY 2017-2018 Annual Budget amendment scheduled for November 28.
 - Work session scheduled for November 14 at 5:30p.m. to discuss VDOT mowing and Farmers' Market insurance requirements, and the photo project at Town facilities,
- B. Town Attorney:
- C. Other Staff:

XI. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Councilman Huppert reported on the recent VT Swim/Dive meet at the aquatic center. The event, Pack the CAC, hosted a tailgate and featured Frank Beamer and the Hokie Bird. The free event was well attended and Mr. Huppert expressed appreciation for VT's efforts in working with the community.
- B. Councilman Showalter reported on the NRV Regional Commission meeting. Jody Keenan and Bart Smith spoke to the group about the importance of small business incubators, and specifically spoke to the one in Roanoke that has served a number of New River Valley small businesses. The incubator is an asset to Christiansburg and Mr. Showalter recommended Council discuss future support for the small business development center. He invited all to attend NRV Regional Commission meetings to learn.
- C. Councilman Stipes reported that he was recently contacted by a vendor of the Farmers' Market who wanted assurance that the Town had a plan in place for a coordinator since the former coordinator, Sarah Belcher, recently resigned. Town Manager Wingfield informed that the Town was working to hire an Events Coordinator, which would include management of the Farmers' Market. Public Relations Department is handling organization of Christmas Market vendors.
- D. Councilman Hall expressed support for hiring an Events Coordinator who would also be responsible for Farmers' Market management. Mr. Hall then thanked Town Manager Wingfield and Public Works Director Lancianese for moving forward with the recycling RFP, which has resulted in positive feedback from the community. He also thanked Councilman Showalter as a driving force in curbside recycling. Lastly, Mr. Hall invited all to attend the November 6 Recreation Advisory Commission meeting.
- E. Councilman Collins asked if Council intended to walk as a group during the Christmas Parade on December 8. Council agreed to walk in the parade and Councilman Collins requested that the CHS student representatives walk alongside Council. In closing, he commended Vice-Mayor Bishop on running tonight's meeting.
- F. Vice-Mayor Bishop reported that Town and Country Veterinarian would have its groundbreaking for a new office on October 25 at 12:00 P.M., and all were invited to attend.

XII. CLOSED MEETING:

- A. Councilman Stipes made a motion to enter into a Closed Meeting in accordance with Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body. The Closed Meeting was in reference to the town manager position. Councilman Showalter seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
- B. Reconvene in Open Meeting. Councilman Stipes made a motion to reconvene in Open Meeting, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council voted on the motion as follows: Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
- C. Certification. Councilman Stipes 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 Collins and Council voted as follows: Collins – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes - Aye.

- D. Council action on the matter. No action was taken by Council.

XIII. ADJOURN

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

Michele Stipes, Clerk of Council

Samuel M. Bishop, Vice-Mayor