

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 10, 2018 – 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 APRIL 10, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

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 Engineering Wayne Nelson; Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley; Public Relations Specialist Anaika Miller; Police Chief Mark Sisson.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

- A. Councilman Bishop made a motion to move Item B from the Consent Agenda to Discussions and Action by Mayor and Council to allow for discussion on the matter. Councilman Stipes seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye. The matter was placed as Item B under VIII. Discussions by Mayor and Council.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Ordinance to amend Chapter 24 “Nuisances” of the Christiansburg Town Code in regards to Article II – Regulation of Noise. There was no one to speak for or against this matter.
- B. Ordinance to amend Chapter 42 “Zoning” of the Christiansburg Town Code in regards to permitting a loudspeaker/sound amplification/outdoor sound system to be used in excess of the Chapter 24 “Nuisances” Article II – Regulation of Noise by Conditional Use Permit in the A, MU-1, MU-2, B-1, B-2, B-3, I-1, and I-2 zoning districts.

Stacy Martin, 72 New River Road, voiced his concern that Christiansburg businesses were not receiving fair representation from Town government, and he called attention to the decibel ratings outlined in the proposed noise ordinance amendment that he stated would be restrictive to small businesses and difficult to comply with during normal business operation. Mr. Martin said his ongoing questions regarding the decibel ratings and enforcement had not been answered which caused him serious concern with the proposed changes. Mr. Martin reminded Council

that small businesses generate tax revenue for the Town and he encouraged Council to be fair to both businesses and residents when considering community matters of concern.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Council meeting minutes of March 27, 2018.
- B. Approval of Bike Sharing Program Memorandum of Understanding.
- C. Resolution Recognizing April 8 – 14, 2018 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.
- D. Proclamation for the Week of the Young Child, April 16–20, 2018.
- E. Proclamation for National Work Zone Awareness Week – April 9 – 13, 2018.
- F. Notice of Intent to Award a Contract to Adams Construction for Primary Extension Paving. Estimated project cost is \$698,076.76, with a 50/50 VDOT matching grant.
- G. Schedule Public Hearing on May 22, 2018 for a Conditional Use Permit request by Safe Haven Family Services, Inc., agent for Quorum Holding Corporation for a single-family residential dwelling at 2175 Palmer Street, N.E., tax map no. 466 – A – 17 in the B-3, General Business zoning district. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- H. Reschedule Public Hearing from April 10, 2018 to April 24, 2018 for the closure of Hickok Street, N.W. to vehicular traffic from W. Main Street to Commerce Street.

Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the consent agenda with correction to minutes, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

V. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- A. William Craft of Blacksburg, owner of Craft Self-Storage and Craft Real Estate Holdings in Christiansburg, addressed Council with his concern that Christiansburg was perceived to be unfriendly to small businesses and he gave three examples in support of his belief: 1) Town businesses were excluded from the annual Town-sponsored Shred-A-Thon; 2) Recently implemented storm water management fee; 3) Criminal charges brought against Peggy Beasley, owner of Star Lite Drive-In Theater, for noise violations. Mr. Craft talked about the negative impact of the storm water management fee on small businesses, and he expressed his belief that the Town knew the court would not uphold the charges against the owner of the Starlite Drive-In Theater but forced her to defend herself by pursuing the charge. Mr. Craft said he believes he has a good perspective on Christiansburg since his businesses have been local and family-owned since 1919, and his father was once Christiansburg's town attorney. Councilman Huppert commented that the concern with allowing businesses to participate in the Shred-A-Thon was with the lack of facilities to handle potentially large volumes of paper and he suggested the Town look into placing certain controls that would allow businesses to participate in the event.

VI. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

Melissa Demmitt reported that the Town was experiencing audio problems with its video recording and she was attempting to record audio with a cellphone to include with the video recording online.

- A. Introduction of New Employees:
 - 1. Melissa Demmitt, Director of Public Relations, Public Relations Department
 - Casey Jenkins, Events Coordinator and Farmer's Market Manager.
- B. Christiansburg High School - Town Council Partnership. No students were present.

- C. Recognition of Parks and Recreation employee Alan Johnson for receiving the MLK Community Service Award from the Montgomery County – Radford City – Floyd County Branch of the NAACP.

Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley and Director of Public Relations Melissa Demmitt introduced Mr. Alan Johnson and reported on his 48 years of service with the Town as a basketball/volleyball official and recreation assistant. Mr. Epperley talked about the positive impact Mr. Johnson has had on those he has worked with, and on the Christiansburg community, and he thanked him for his dedication to the Town and congratulated him on being awarded the MLK Community Service Award. Mrs. Demmitt read the award certificate and presented it to Mr. Johnson with her congratulations. Mr. Johnson thanked the Town for the recognition and talked about the ways working with the recreation department had fulfilled him as he watched children grow into adulthood and saw the positive impact the sports programs had on them. Council thanked Mr. Johnson for his dedicated service to the Town.

- D. Christopher Sanchez, Project Organizer with Christiansburg Institute, Inc. (CI) to present in regards to Christiansburg Institute, Inc. budget request.

Bob Leonard, Chairman of the Board of Directors, and Christopher Sanchez, Project Organizer, provided an update on the work being done to advance the vision to preserve CI as a historical asset, and promote it as a public place to learn, gather, and recreate through community partnerships; a coalition of CI, the Christiansburg Community Center, and Christiansburg Institute Alumni Association; and the future goal to appoint an authority of community members to oversee various aspects of the revitalization project. Mr. Leonard spoke of the financial challenges faced by CI over the years and shared how Christiansburg contributions had been the lifeline for general operating costs over the past eight years. A developmental committee had been created to work with students from VT and RU to establish a media presence for the purpose of bringing awareness and funds to CI, and Mr. Leonard noted the new CI website. Mr. Leonard and Mr. Sanchez talked about the challenges faced in renovating the Edgar A. Long building, including its age and high costs associated with requirements that construction must reflect the integrity of the original building, due to its historical status. Snyder and Associates had prepared a roof restoration quote of \$150,000, and Mr. Leonard clarified rumors regarding a USDA loan of \$1.6M, stating that the required match had not been reached and the debt was not incurred. Councilman Stipes noted that CI's budget request for FY 2019 had failed to receive a majority of Council support at this time, but stated that development of a coalition and a proposed authority to include the Town, Montgomery County, etc., sparked interest in discussing how to move forward in working with CI in a productive and effective manner. Councilman Huppert referred to the Town's contributions to CI over the years and commented that he wanted to see effective action by the board to generate public interest and funds for CI. Mayor Barber noted that VT had an advisory interest in CI and asked if VT also provided financial backing. Mr. Leonard responded that VT had not offered financial support at this time. Council expressed strong support for preserving the history of CI and asked to be notified in advance of future coalition meetings. Councilman Showalter recommended the CI board use the Town's new Events Coordinator and representatives of DCI as resources in planning future events. Mr. Leonard noted that he met with Casey Jenkins, Events Coordinator, on Friday.

- E. Wayne Nelson to provide an update on NRV Regional Water Authority.
Mr. Nelson thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and provided a brief background of the Joinder Study that led to the creation of a regional water authority comprised of Montgomery County, Christiansburg, Blacksburg, and Virginia Tech. The focus of the report was on water line projects currently underway in the Prices Fork and Plum Creek areas, and Mr. Nelson used slides to indicate the location and details of the projects. Mr. Nelson talked about the necessity

of upgrades to the Town's water facilities, due to age and disrepair, including the immediate need for a generator to address power outages and electrical system failures. Mr. Nelson outlined in detail the plan in place for construction upgrades to the water facility, then reported on the progress of improvements to the Waste Water Treatment Plant, estimated at \$27.5M, and explained the construction approach and financial decisions made in managing the complex project. Construction at the WWTP is scheduled to begin in Summer 2018, with completion expected in Fall 2020.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Councilwoman Sachs provided updates from the Central Business District Committee on its review of Department of Housing and Community Development Programs in search of available grants for downtown areas; continued plans for the permanent closure of Hickok Street; and continued discussions regarding parking to accommodate events on Hickok Street.

VIII. DISCUSSION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Council action on:

1. Council action on:

- a. Request by Downtown Christiansburg, Inc. (DCI) for a street closure of Hickok Street, N.W. from W. Main Street to Commerce Street, N.W. for a Wine & Artisans event on April 27, 2018.

Justin Sanders of DCI reported on the DCI Board decision to create four standing committees, Design, Economic Vitality, Promotion, and Organization, to assist in meeting the long-term goals of the group's Visioning Study currently underway. Mr. Sanders talked about DCI sponsored events for 2018 and outlined the street closure request for the Wine & Artisans 2018 event. According to Mr. Sanders, parking was adequate and adjacent property owners had been notified and invited to promote their businesses during the event. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the street closure as requested, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

2. Approval of Scoreboard Addendum for Kiwanis Park Operating Agreement.

At Councilman Bishop's inquiry, Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley explained that the Kiwanis Club had requested to release ownership of the scoreboard at Kiwanis Park to the Town. The scoreboard is old, but operable, and per the operating agreement, the Town provides for its maintenance. Mr. Epperley noted that, with Town ownership, sponsorships could be obtained for the maintenance, or even replacement, of the board, and he expressed that he believed it would be beneficial to the Town to own the scoreboard for tournaments. Councilman Showalter pointed out that the Town could end up eventually buying and installing a new scoreboard, even if it doesn't take ownership. Mr. Epperley stated that if the Town does not assume ownership, Kiwanis may choose to remove the scoreboard.

Mayor Barber asked Council if it would be interested in holding a work session to discuss the proposed noise ordinance amendments prior to Council action on April 24. Dr. Casali, an expert on the decibel system, offered to provide a presentation on the noise levels outlined in the amendment. Dr. Casali presented to the Planning Commission during its

review of the ordinance amendment. Council agreed to hold a work session on this matter, which has been scheduled for Wednesday, April 18 at 6:00 P.M.

X. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager Wingfield:

- Schedule Public Hearing for May 8, 2018 for water and sewer rate increase and the FY 2018-2019 Annual Budget. Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve setting the Public Hearings as recommended, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
- In response to earlier comments regarding the annual Shred-A-Thon, Mr. Wingfield explained that originally the program was grant-sponsored through the TRIAD seniors group and was only open to seniors and then residents, with the number of trucks being dictated by grant funding amounts, with volume so great that at times residents had been turned away. Two trucks are currently used during the event, which would not be enough to handle the potential volume of paper businesses could present, and additional funding would be needed to accommodate small businesses (which is a possibility).

B. Town Attorney:

- Town Attorney Theresa Fontana said she was planning to work at Town Hall on Thursday and offered to meet with any council members to discuss or answer questions pertaining to the proposed noise ordinance amendment. She agreed that a presentation by Dr. Casali would be beneficial in understanding guidelines outlined in the proposed amendment.

C. Other Staff:

- Planning Director Andrew Warren offered to answer questions of Council regarding the proposed noise ordinance and called attention to his staff report in the agenda packet that highlighted the proposed changes.
- Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley reported that the bike share program was moving forward and expected to begin in May 2018. The program has been named Roam NRV and is in partnership with Blacksburg and Montgomery County.

XI. COUNCIL REPORTS

- a. Councilwoman Sachs asked if Council would be interested in a discussion on eliminating the Town's payment of merchant service fees and charging customers for the use of credit card payments. Council agreed to study this matter for FY 2019-2020.
- b. Councilman Huppert – No report.
- c. Councilman Stipes recognized and welcomed Dr. Casali to the meeting, and commended Councilwoman Sachs on her service as a member of Council.
- d. Councilman Showalter – No report.
- e. Councilman Bishop – No report.
- f. Councilman Collins commented on the Planning Commission Public Hearing on the proposed noise ordinance amendment and expressed support for Dr. Casali's presentation that provided clarification on the decibel system.
- g. Mayor Barber reported that a renaming dedication of Armory Park, to be called the Town of Christiansburg Downtown Park Dedicated to Our Fallen Officers, is scheduled for May 9 and is

in honor of Officers Terry Griffith and Scott Hylton who were killed in the line of duty. Public Works and Parks and Recreation have assisted the Police Department on this endeavor.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 9:09 P.M.

Michele Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor