

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL  
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 8, 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 MAY 8, 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; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Director of Planning Andrew Warren; Events Coordinator Casey Jenkins; Public Relations Specialist Anaika Miller; Director of Aquatics Terry Caldwell.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

*Councilman Huppert shared a brief story of Senator John McCain's years as a POW, during which he was a cellmate with POW Mike Christian. As a prisoner, Mr. Christian made an American flag that he attached to the inside of his shirt and displayed to others in his cell block as they said the Pledge of Allegiance. One day Mr. Christian was discovered and was beaten unconscious. That night, Mr. McCain found Mr. Christian busy making another flag to attach under his shirt. Mr. McCain is in the process of dying from cancer, and Councilman Huppert suggested reflecting on the patriotism of the POW's during the Moment of Reflection and Pledge of Allegiance.*

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

**II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA**

- 1. Councilman Stipes made a motion to remove Item A under Discussions by Mayor and Council due to a scheduled meeting with Christiansburg Presbyterian Church on this matter. Councilman Showalter seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

**III. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Council meeting minutes of April 24, 2018.
- B. 13 Pepper Street, N.E. Retaining Wall Reconstruction contract with DCI Shires.

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

## V. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- a. Christine Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, addressed Council regarding the Town's participation in the Tourism Development Council and questioned why this wasn't mentioned during discussions regarding the noise ordinance and citizen requests for the development of a tourism zone. Mrs. Waltz pointed out that the Starlite Drive-In Theater was listed as an asset in the Tourism Development Council's master plan and she stated that she believes public bodies should share information with everyone.
- b. Jim Vanhoozier, Ernie Wade, and Steve Simmons addressed Council on behalf of Kiwanis Club to request the closure of Main Street from Dunkley Street to Roanoke Street, which included the closure of the intersection at South Main Street and North Franklin Street, for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual Wilderness Trail Festival. Mr. Wade talked about the expansion of the festival to the Courthouse and noted that they had spoken with local merchants about the requested street closure with no opposition. Councilwoman Sachs asked if accommodations were offered to the downtown merchants impacted by the street closure. Mr. Wade noted that organizers of the festival had offered Mockingbird Café space on the Square to sell food and had offered assistance to the Antique Mall to ease their burden during the street closure. Macado's has said they typically experience an increase in business during festival hours, and Angle Florist and the banks located on Main Street have expressed no opposition to the potential street closure. Council discussed with the Kiwanis representatives the costs to close Main Street, potential tourism grant funding, and the support of the community for the annual festival.
- c. Sue Farrar, Director of Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center, reported on the third annual Cruise-In Downtown Christiansburg event scheduled for May 12, and requested a street closure of Main Street from North Franklin Street to Dunkley Street, and apologized for the late request. The event will showcase approximately 150 cars and will have one food truck. Ms. Farrar reported that event organizers had spoken with the merchants along the street closure route and received no opposition, and she thanked the Town for placing the event advertisement banner across Main Street.

## VI. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Christiansburg High School - Town Council Partnership. No one present.
- B. John Tuttle to present an update on NRV Rail 2020.

Mr. John Tuttle provided Council with a brief background on bringing passenger rail to the New River Valley (NRV), noting that rail service currently goes as far as Roanoke, which was facilitated by Senator John Edwards over a ten-year period. The project, known as NRV Rail 2020, has received bipartisan support and significant partnerships with Virginia Tech, Radford University, municipalities, and private industries. The project to bring rail to the NRV kicked off in December of 2013, and Mr. Tuttle talked about the milestones met since then that have brought attention and support to the project. A demand study was performed and determined an expected 40,000 trips per year from the NRV, and \$350,000 was successfully lobbied for, with funding beginning FY 2019. Rail service for the NRV will be located in Christiansburg, across

from the aquatic center, and Council was shown a potential site configuration. Mr. Tuttle talked about the role of Amtrak and Norfolk and Southern in bringing rail service to Christiansburg, and in remaining on the FY 2020 timeframe. Mr. Tuttle explained the next steps in the process and encouraged the Town to submit letters of support for passenger rail to legislators.

## VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

## VIII. DISCUSSION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

### A. Council action on:

1. Proposed closure of Hickok Street, N.W. to vehicular traffic from West Main Street to Commerce Street, N.W. The Public Hearing was held on April 24, 2018. This matter was removed from the agenda.
2. Conditional Use Permit request by Roger Woody for an approximately 2.209-acre portion of tax map no. 528 A 83 located at 1145 Roanoke Street to construct seven (7) single-family dwellings in the B-3, General Business zoning district. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. The Public Hearing was held on April 24, 2018.

Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the CUP as recommended by the Planning Commission, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

### B. Request by Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg for street closures for Wilderness Trail Festival on September 15, 2018.

Councilman Huppert 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.

### C. Request by the Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center for street closures for the Downtown Cruise-In and request to assume loudspeaker permit fees.

Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the street closure and assume the fees as requested, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

### D. Approval of appointment of Dr. William R. Knocke, P.E. as Member-at-Large of the Board of the NRV Regional Water Authority.

Councilman Stipes made a motion to appoint Dr. William R. Knocke, P.E. as Member-at-Large of the Board of the NRV Regional Water Authority, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye. Councilman Showalter requested Dr. Knocke come before Council for introduction.

### E. Consideration of funding Blacksburg Children's Museum in Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget. (Huppert)

Councilman Huppert requested Council reconsider the Blacksburg Children's Museum's community support request for \$2,500 for FY 2018-2019, as a show of support for the museum's plans to relocate to the New River Valley Mall. Finance Director Val Tweedie confirmed the museum's funding request was received prior to the budget request deadline. Council discussed Mr. Huppert's request and decided to hold a work session to re-discuss several community support requests that had been denied during the budget process. A work session to discuss community support in the FY 2018-2019 budget was scheduled for May 16, 2018 at 6:00 P.M.

## X. STAFF REPORTS

### A. Town Manager Wingfield

1. Schedule a Public Hearing for a Conditional Use Permit request for deviation from the Noise Ordinance for Due South at 1465 Roanoke Street and Fatback Soul Shack at 2440 Roanoke Street, both in the B-3 General Business District, for June 26, 2018.
2. A joint work session with the Street Committee, Central Business Committee, and Christiansburg Presbyterian Church has been scheduled for May 10 at 6:00 P.M. to further discuss permanent closure of Hickok Street.

### B. Town Attorney:

### C. Other Staff:

## XI. COUNCIL REPORTS

- a. Councilman Collins reminded Council of the NRV Regional Commission annual dinner on May 15 at 6:00 P.M. at Sinkland Farms.
- b. Councilman Bishop, no report.
- c. Councilman Showalter, no report.
- d. Councilman Stipes, no report.
- e. Councilman Huppert reported on the successful opening of the Farmers' Market on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- f. Councilwoman Sachs reported on the opening of the Farmers' Market and commended Event Coordinator Casey Jenkins and staff for a successful opening. She then reported on her attendance at the NRV Progressive Men's Club meeting held at the Christiansburg Community Center and reported on the club's annual fish fry scheduled for June at the Rosa Peters Park.
- g. Mayor Barber reported that the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors has requested a joint meeting with Council on June 18 at 6:00 P.M. and requested an RSVP from those invited. He then reminded Council of the dedication and renaming of Downtown Park in honor of the Town's fallen officers, and asked Council to keep Shirley Hallock in thoughts and prayers over the recent loss of her husband, Grant Hallock.

## XII. OTHER BUSINESS

## XIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 7:59 P.M.