

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
WORK SESSION MINUTES
MAY 16, 2018 – 6:00 P.M.**

A WORK SESSION OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN HALL, 100 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA, ON MAY 16, 2018 AT 6:00 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Director of Public Relations Melissa Demmitt; Assistant to the Town Manager Adam Carpenetti; Director of Public Works Jim Larianese; Superintendent of Streets Travis Moles.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

A. Discussion of the Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019.

Town Council met to revisit community support items not approved during the budget process, specifically the funding requests by Blacksburg Children's Museum for \$2,500 and Christiansburg Institute (CI) for \$75,000.

Councilman Bishop began the discussion by noting that he had met with Chris Sanchez of CI to discuss in depth the funding request, renovation plans for CI, and Council's concerns with providing funding of \$75,000. Mr. Bishop reported that Mr. Sanchez had committed to earmarking any funding provided by the Town for building improvements only. Mr. Bishop acknowledged that it could be beneficial to CI's fundraising efforts if they had financial support from Christiansburg, and he recommended contributing \$10,000 to be earmarked for building improvements only. Mr. Bishop said he shared with Mr. Sanchez that communication with the Town regarding the use of prior contributions had been inadequate, and Mr. Sanchez agreed there would be improvements in CI's communication with the Town.

Councilman Stipes commented that he wanted to see CI reach its goal to renovate the Edgar A. Long building and expressed support for approving the requested \$75,000, earmarked for building improvements only, with two contingencies: 1) CI must provide matching funds; and 2) CI must guarantee replacement of the Edgar A. Long building roof. Mr. Stipes expressed support for a \$10,000 contribution, if that was Council's desire, but stressed that the contingencies should be in place regardless of the contribution amount. Mr. Stipes expressed support for CI's stated goal to form an authority to oversee renovation of CI property, and said he believed that an authority was needed to get the project moving forward through opportunities for grants, endowments and other funding options.

Councilman Huppert said he had considered the \$75,000 request by CI and determined he could support a contribution of \$10,000 with the contingencies expressed by Mr. Stipes, including that funding be earmarked for building improvements only, and with a time frame of one-year to raise matching funds. Regarding the Blacksburg Children's Museum, Mr. Huppert recommended, in anticipation of the museum moving to Christiansburg, the Town contribute the requested \$2,500 as a show of support and as a way to welcome the program to Christiansburg. Mr. Huppert explained the purpose of the non-profit museum and reported the museum's plans to expand upon relocation. Councilman Stipes expressed support of \$2,500 for the museum if it relocated, and Town Manager Wingfield reported that Councilman Showalter had expressed support for the museum of \$2,500 if it relocated to Christiansburg. Mr. Wingfield noted that no plans or applications had been submitted by the museum at this time.

Councilwoman Sachs said she was interested in information regarding Blacksburg Children's Museum's plans for relocation to Christiansburg and expansion, which was not provided in the community funding request application. Councilwoman Sachs expressed support for the children's museum in the amount of \$2,500 if a lease was signed and relocation completed. Regarding the request by CI for \$75,000, Councilwoman Sachs commented that she was unable to support contributing that amount due to the institute's handling of past contributions and inadequate communication as to how past funds had been spent. Councilwoman Sachs expressed support for contributing \$10,000 to CI, to be earmarked for building improvements only, with the two contingencies outlined by Councilman Stipes.

Mayor Barber and Council discussed the challenges faced by CI in renovating the Edgar A. Long building, and the importance of having support from local municipalities to the fundraising efforts of CI. Mayor Barber suggested the option of placing \$10,000 in the Town's reserve fund for CI to be handled in a similar manner as the contribution to Christiansburg Community Center for its roof repairs several years ago.

It was noted by Town Manager Wingfield that Councilman Showalter expressed support for contributing \$75,000 to CI to be kept in a reserve fund until after the match was met. Councilman Collins expressed support for denying all late requests, and support of \$2,500 to Blacksburg Children's Museum if they relocated to Christiansburg. Mr. Collins offered no comments on the funding request by CI.

After Council's discussions, the consensus was to authorize Finance Director Val Tweedie to adjust the draft budget as follows:

- Contribution of \$10,000 to Christiansburg Institute to be placed in the Town's reserve fund for building improvements only, with two contingencies: 1) CI must provide matching funds within one year; and 2) CI must guarantee replacement of the Edgar A. Long building roof. It was noted that if CI were to raise the required matching funds prior to one year, Council could consider additional CI funding through a budget amendment.
- Contribution of \$2,500 to Blacksburg Children's Museum upon relocation to Christiansburg.

XIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 6:47 P.M.