

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 12, 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 JUNE 12, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Tax Billing and Collections Specialist (serving as Acting Clerk of Council) Amber Haskins; Town Attorney Theresa Fontana; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Planning Director Andrew Warren; Events Coordinator Casey Jenkins; Director of Public Relations Melissa Demmitt; Public Relations Specialist Anaika Miller; Director of Aquatics Terry Caldwell; Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley; Engineering Director Wayne Nelson; Public Works Director Jim Lanciañese; Superintendent of Streets Travis Moles; Assistant Director of Engineering for Capital Projects and Utilities Jessie Nester; Police Chief Mark Sisson. ABSENT: Clerk of Council Michele Stipes.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

- A. Councilman Huppert made a motion to correct the agenda by removing items C and D from the Public Hearings, and item A.1 under Discussions and Action by Mayor and Council. These items were inaccurately carried over from the May 22, 2018 council meeting. Councilman Showalter seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Absent.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Conditional Use Permit request by Peggy Beasley for a loudspeaker/sound amplification/outdoor sound system to be used in excess of the Town of Christiansburg's Noise Ordinance at 255, 275, and 365 Starlight Drive, S.E., (Tax Map Nos. 529 – A – 12; 529 – A – 13; and 529 – A – 14) in the B-3, General Business zoning district.

Roger Venteicher, 435 Starlight Drive, spoke in opposition to the CUP request because of the high noise volume from movies heard at his home, and he gave an example of almost calling the police after hearing gunshots, before realizing the sound was from a movie. Mr. Venteicher said he believed the drive-in theater negatively impacted property values of surrounding homes because of excessive noise.

B. Rezoning request by Guy Matthew and Wendy W. Funk at 1800 Depot Street N.E. (Tax Map Nos. 498-A 90 and 498-A 90A) in the B-3 General Business zoning district to the R-1 Single Family Residential zoning district. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Guy and Wendy Funk were present to answer questions. Councilwoman Sachs expressed the concern that a change in rezoning from business to residential would lower the level of noise that could be generated by surrounding existing and future businesses, according to the Town's noise ordinance, and she stressed that long-term impact should be considered in this matter.

Wendy Funk noted that the only noise audible on their property was generated by vehicles, not businesses.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Council meeting minutes of May 22, 2018.

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

V. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. Andrew Schack, 1391 Dow Street, thanked Andrew Warren, Jerry Heinline, Mayor Barber and Town Council for addressing citizen complaints regarding suspicious activity at 1392 Dow Street, which resulted in the arrest of the homeowners for child abuse and animal cruelty, and led to the condemnation of the house. Mr. Schack talked about the animal cruelty involved in puppy mill operations and showed pictures of the confirmed puppy mill on Dow Street. Mr. Schack requested the Town adopt an ordinance restricting the number of litters per house per year to help prevent this type of illegal operation.

B. Ed Schack, 1391 Dow Street, asked if the Town was aware of any type of animal control database that would identify dogs to specific residences, which could slow down illegal dog operations. Mayor Barber said he was not aware of that type of database other than licensing done at the County Animal Control.

VI. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Michael Abraham to speak regarding follow-up and update on request for zoning amendment for clubs and lodges in I-2 General Industrial and Conditional Use Permit request regarding Moose Lodge at 225 Industrial Drive, N.E. (denied by Town Council on July 11, 2017).

Michael Abraham reported to Council that Moose Lodge #1470 had lost \$25,000 in income since the club's request to locate in the industrial park had been denied by Council in July 2017, and he talked about the impact the financial loss had on the civic group's ability to serve in the community. Mr. Abraham said he understood that Council wanted to preserve the park for industrial development and manufacturing that would expand the job base but noted that he thought the largest building in the industrial park only employed five people. Mr. Abraham said he was concerned Council's vision for the industrial park may be detrimental to future growth and he urged Council to reconsider its previous decision and allow the Moose Lodge to operate at 225 Industrial Drive.

B. Parks and Recreation Director Brad Epperley to present regarding new Bike Share Program, Roam NRV.

Mr. Epperley introduced Roam NRV, the regional bike share program provided in partnership with Montgomery County, Blacksburg, and Virginia Tech, along with Blacksburg Transit, New River Regional Commission, and the MPO. The program will offer seventy-five speed bikes and thirteen e-assist bikes at twelve bike stations in Christiansburg and Blacksburg for rented use. The main trail for the bike share program will be the Huckleberry Trail, with future extensions to downtown Christiansburg and Pandapas Pond. Mr. Epperley talked about the shared costs to implement the program and noted that the program received \$200,000 in funding through a grant from the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. A soft launch is scheduled for June 23, 2018, with a ceremonial launch on July 2 at the NRV Mall. Council applauded the efforts that brought the program to fruition.

C. Director of Engineering Wayne Nelson to present the 2018 Christiansburg Downtown Watershed Study.

Engineering Director Wayne Nelson and Don Rissmeyer of A. Morton Thomas and Associates, presented the 2018 Christiansburg Downtown Watershed Study that focused on street flooding, building flooding, and stream erosion in areas of Alleghany Street, Canaan Road, Epperly Drive, Third and Phlegar Street, Stone Street, Town Branch at Depot Park, Hickok Street and North Franklin Street. Mr. Rissmeyer reported that twenty-eight drainage problems had been evaluated through the study and he reviewed the ten drainage improvement plans recommended to reduce or eliminate flood risks. He then presented the recommended prioritization of the capital improvement projects and noted that funding support through VDOT and other avenues would be pursued. Mr. Nelson thanked Jessie Nester and Justin St. Clair for their assistance with the study. Project updates and plans will be posted on the Town's website.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Councilman Collins reported that work with the Ride Share program was going well through the Recreation Commission and reported that the Planning Commission had been busy with the Noise Ordinance but thought they still may need work sessions regarding the requests.
- B. Councilman Huppert reported on operations of the aquatic center including summer camp programs and a partnership with Feeding America to provide free lunches to campers and area children throughout the summer.
- C. Councilwoman Sachs reported that the Central Business Committee would meet tomorrow and would discuss lodging tax and Air BnB.
- D. Mayor Barber reported on the aquatic center partnership with Feeding America that provides free lunches for the summer campers and for children in the community each week, Monday through Friday, during the summer months at the skate park.

VIII. DISCUSSION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

1. Proposed partial closure of Hickok Street NW to vehicular traffic for a distance of approximately 170 linear feet. Councilwoman Sachs made a motion to approve the partial street closure, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Absent.
2. Budget Resolution for FY 2018 – 2019. Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the Budget Resolution for FY 2018-2019, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on

the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Absent.

3. Appropriation Resolution for FY 2018 - 2019. Councilman Huppert made a motion to approve the Appropriation Resolution for FY 2018-2019, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Absent.
4. Ordinance adopting Personal Property Tax Rate for FY 2018 – 2019. Councilman Showalter made a motion to adopt the Personal Property Tax Rate for FY 2018 – 2019 of 0.45/\$100, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Absent.
5. Ordinance adopting Real Estate Tax Rate for FY 2018 – 2019. Councilman Sachs made a motion to adopt the Real Estate Tax Rate for FY 2018 – 2019 of 0.16/\$100, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Absent.
6. Ordinance adopting Water and Sewer Fees for FY 2018 – 2019. Councilman Showalter made a motion to adopt the Water and Sewer Fees for FY 2018-2019, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Absent.

X. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Town Manager Wingfield:
 - Announced the recent passing of Eddie Smith who served the Town for 38 years in the Public Works Department.
 - Schedule Public Hearing for August 14, 2018 for a Conditional Use Permit for a boarding house at 3215 Roanoke Street.

Councilman Huppert made a motion to schedule the Public Hearing as noted, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs -Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Absent.

- B. Town Attorney:

- C. Other Staff:

XI. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Councilman Collins expressed appreciation for the Girl Scouts for planting huckleberry bushes along the Huckleberry Trail.
- B. Councilman Bishop reminded Council of the Juneteenth celebration on June 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Rosa Peters Park.
- C. Councilman Showalter reported on the recent NRV Regional Commission meeting and encouraged all to visit the Habitat for Humanity RESTORE website for information about local construction projects.
- D. Councilman Huppert – No report.
- E. Councilwoman Sachs – No report.

F. Mayor Barber requested that Town Manager Wingfield and the Planning Commission review Blacksburg's policy on Air BnB for future discussions.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:15 P.M.

Amber Haskins, Acting Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor