

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 26, 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 26, 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; Planning Director Andrew Warren; Director of Public Relations Melissa Demmitt; Public Relations Specialist Anaika Miller; Engineering Director Wayne Nelson; Assistant Director of Engineering for Land Development and Operations Steve Palmer; Assistant Director of Engineering for Capital Projects and Utilities Jessie Nester; Events Coordinator Casey Jenkins; Planner II Will Drake.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Conditional Use Permit request by Marie E. March, agent for Big Bear Properties LLC/Fatback Soul Shack LLC for a loudspeaker/sound amplification/outdoor sound system to be used in excess of the Town of Christiansburg's Noise Ordinance at 2440 Roanoke Street (Tax Map Nos. 500 – A – 8A; 500 – A – 8; and 500 – A – 9B, 9C, 9D) in the B-3 General Business zoning district. There was no one to speak for or against this request.
- B. Conditional Use Permit request by Marie E. March, agent for Big Bear Properties LLC/Due South BBQ LLC for a loudspeaker/sound amplification/outdoor sound system to be used in excess of the Town of Christiansburg's Noise Ordinance at 1465 and 1495 Roanoke Street (Tax Map No. 529 – 8 – 27) in the B-3 General Business zoning district. There was no one to speak for or against this request.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Council meeting minutes of June 12, 2018.
- B. Monthly bills.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the consent agenda, 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. Jonathan Taylor, 685 School Lane, and Marie March, 2198 Sowers Road, Floyd, shared a video they created that opposed the recently approved noise ordinance amendment and discussed its impact on the Starlight Drive-In Theater. In the video, a narrator and Peggy Beasley, owner of the Starlight, gave a brief history of the drive-in theater and discussed events that sparked noise complaints in 2016 and led to the ordinance changes that they expressed have negatively affected the operations of the theater.

VI. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Engineering Department staff to provide an overview of the Engineering Department's responsibilities, operations and staffing.

Engineering Director Wayne Nelson, Assistant Director of Engineering for Land Development and Operations Steve Palmer; and Assistant Director of Engineering for Capital Projects and Utilities Jessie Nester provided Council with an overview of the Engineering Department that highlighted current capital improvement projects, which included details on budget, timelines, and grant funding; utilities operations; and land development coordination, including the department's responsibilities with respect to the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4), Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC), the Virginia Stormwater Management Program (VSMP), and the Geographic Information System (GIS). Mr. Palmer talked about the importance of customer service, noting that the Engineering Department was the frontline contact for issues concerning sewer, stormwater, flooding, and road maintenance. Mr. Palmer complemented the hardworking staff within the Engineering Department and reported on the land development staff credentials required by the State that ensured an effective, proficient team.

Mr. Nelson talked about the changes to the Engineering Department during his twenty-two years with the Town, and he recognized each department staff member, calling special attention to Administrative Assistant Devon Eckstein for her support and assistance each day. Mr. Nelson said staff played a vital role in the ongoing projects and operations of the department, and he also recognized Town Manager Wingfield, Finance Director Val Tweedie, and Human Resource Director Dave Brahmstadt for their support. In closing, Mr. Nelson shared the vision and future goals of the department and thanked Town Council for its continued support that was vital to bringing vision to reality. Council thanked Mr. Nelson, Mr. Palmer, and Mr. Nester for their report, and Councilman Collins suggested the department find a way to inform the public of what grant funding has allowed the Town to accomplish with regards to the operations of the Engineering Department.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Councilmen Collins and Stipes - Street Committee Report/Recommendation:
 - 1. Plat of Survey Showing A New 20' Access Easement and A Portion of An Existing 20' Access Easement Hereby Vacated in "Robin Hood Estates" Phase II.

Councilman Stipes reported that the request was to abandon an existing unusable access and create a more appropriate access to the existing stormwater facility, which is maintained by the Town. The Street Committee found the request to be in compliance with Town ordinance and Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

2. North Franklin Street speed limit reduction. In response to citizen questions regarding the speed limit reduction on North Franklin Street from 45 mph to 35 mph, Councilman Stipes reported that the decision was a safety related matter in anticipation of North Franklin Street becoming a complete street that would accommodate vehicles, pedestrians, and bicyclists, and a safety measure during the road construction scheduled to begin in late 2018/early 2019. Mr. Stipes noted that 3 ½-year crash data prior to the speed limit changes versus 3 ½ years after for Roanoke Street was used in determining the speed limit reduction, which indicated a 40% reduction in crashes on Roanoke Street since the reduction of that speed limit in 2014.

VIII. DISCUSSION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A. Council action on:

1. 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. The Public Hearing was held June 12, 2018. Planning Director Andrew Warren reported that the Planning Commission recommended approval with two conditions on a vote of 8 to 0, and Mr. Warren read the conditions set forth in the resolution. Councilman Stipes made a motion to issue the CUP with the two conditions recommended by the Planning Commission, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Nay; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye. Councilman Showalter expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Planning Commission in studying this request, and Mayor Barber thanked Peggy Beasley for her efforts to comply with the noise ordinance before and after the amendment.
2. 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. The Public Hearing was held June 12, 2018. Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the rezoning request, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

B. Discussion of zoning ordinance and direction for Planning Commission.

Town Manager Wingfield requested Council's direction with regards to the Planning Commission's involvement in recent topics of discussion that include the Town's industrial zoning uses, AirBnB type uses, and the definition of kennels in the *Town Code*. Council discussed the items mentioned and decided to direct the Planning Commission to do a broad study on industrial park uses and to provide a recommendation to Council. Councilman Collins suggested using the assistance of Virginia Tech students in the study. Town Manager Wingfield stated that the Planning Commission has a development subcommittee that could also be utilized. Planning Director Andrew Warren provided Council with a list of existing businesses

operating in the Christiansburg Industrial Park for informational purposes. Council also directed the Planning Commission to study the potential for an AirBnB policy as a priority along with the industrial park uses study, and that the study of “kennels” was a lesser priority. Mayor Barber provided Council with information from VML on AirBnB for informational purposes.

X. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager Wingfield:

1. Request for the reappointment of Al Bowman as at-large member of the NRV Water Authority, for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2018. Councilman Showalter made a motion to appoint Mr. Bowman, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
2. Council was asked to consider a request by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to conduct a housing study that would determine housing conditions related to matters such as age, weatherstripping, etc., at a cost of \$7,000. The benefits of the study would be information on the housing in Christiansburg for CDBG funding planning for housing rehabilitation. Council noted that it typically uses CDBG funding for sidewalk improvement/installation but requested Town Manager Wingfield provide Council with information on the potential benefits of the study.
3. Council was presented a Thank You note from the American Cancer Society for its support of the Relay for Life event in May 2018.

B. Town Attorney:

C. Other Staff:

XI. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Councilman Collins offered financial support for Peggy Beasley’s efforts to raise funds for the installation of car speakers at the Starlight Drive-In Theater; reported that his term on the NRV Regional Commission would expire soon and complemented the regional efforts of the commission; disputed a recent article in the local newspaper that inaccurately stated Council did not support recognition of the CHS wrestling team through public signage. Mr. Collins expressed support for the idea, but noted Council needed to decide the best way to highlight the accomplishments of the team.
- B. Councilman Bishop – No report.
- C. Councilman Showalter – No report.
- D. Councilman Stipes - No report.
- E. Councilman Huppert expressed appreciation for the efforts of the Public Works Department in informing citizens of the details of the curbside recycling program set to begin July 1, and he asked Town Manager Wingfield to pass along his comments to the department.
- F. Councilwoman Sachs highlighted the topics of discussion of the Sewer and Solid Waste Committee and the Central Business District Committee that included commercial dumpster services, partial closing of Hickok Street, Farmers Market and other downtown events, the AirBnB issue, tourism zones, and the possible inclusion of “champion” signs to the wayfinding sign project.
- G. Mayor Barber reminded all that the Aldi’s ribbon cutting was scheduled for June 28; he also referenced the recent newspaper article concerning recognition of the CHS wrestling team through signage. Mayor Barber said he planned to discuss the printed inaccuracies with the principal of CHS and the school superintendent.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Closed Meeting:

1. Councilman Stipes made a motion to enter into a Closed Meeting in accordance with Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711(29), for the discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. The discussion pertains to the former Truman Wilson land development contract. Councilman Showalter seconded the motion and Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
2. Reconvene in Open Meeting.
3. 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 Showalter and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Absent; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes - Aye.
4. Council action on the matter. No action was taken by Council.

Council discussed concerns with the large potholes and general disrepair on the private portion of Sycamore Street, which is owned by the owners of Hobby Lobby. Town Manager Wingfield offered to contact the owner with Council's concerns and request that the street be repaired.

XIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:58 P.M.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor