

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 14, 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 AUGUST 14, 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; Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Theresa Fontana; Assistant to the Town Manager Adam Carpenetti; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Engineering Director Wayne Nelson; Director of Aquatics Terry Caldwell; Public Relations Director Melissa Demmitt; Building Official Jerry Heinline; Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley; Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Billy Hanks; Public Works Director Jim Lancianese; Superintendent of Streets Travis Moles; Superintendent of General Services David Sutphin; Events Coordinator Casey Jenkins.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Town Council meeting minutes of July 24, 2018.
- B. Resolution Affirming Support for NRV Regional Water Authority Projects and Bond Financing by the Authority.
- C. Resolution in Recognition of Finance Office Manager Sherry Hunter.
- D. Construction contract award to King General Contractors for the Hans Meadow Drainage Improvements Project.
- E. Construction contract award to HT Bowling for a portion of the Street Repair and Reconstruction Project.

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

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Recognition of Christiansburg Middle School teacher Kathleen O'Dell for receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. Mayor Barber and Vice-Mayor Stipes presented Ms. O'Dell with a resolution recognizing her receipt of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, the highest teaching award in the country. Mayor Barber and Vice-Mayor Stipes talked about the importance of STEM and expressed appreciation for Ms. O'Dell's accomplishments and commitment to her students.
- B. Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley to present on Parks and Recreation operations.

Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley thanked Council for the opportunity to provide an update on the Recreation Department for the FY 2017-2018 and highlighted the following:

- The department currently has 6,173 memberships, with 108,767 membership scans last year.
- 575 programs were offered with 28,000 participants, including 69 special events at the recreation center and Harkrader Sports Complex.
- The facilities management program oversees seven town-owned parks, the recreation center, aspects of the Huckleberry Trail, and Harkrader Sports Complex.
- Bikeway Walkway Sponsorship Program has provided benches, water stations, and pet pick-up stations along portions of the Huckleberry Trail.
- NRV Roam Bike Share launched in August 2018 and currently has 379 active members with bike stations at the recreation center and NRV Mall.
- The Town was awarded a grant from Virginia Recreation and Park Society (VRPS) for construction of a playground and challenge course, and a grant from National Fitness Court for the construction of an outdoor fitness court. Because of these grants, Christiansburg has been selected as a 2019 NRC Healthy City.

Mr. Epperley talked about the baseball tournaments held at Harkrader Sports Complex, and the impact of those tournaments on the community through lodging and meals, and called attention to what he called one of his favorite special events, Jill's Buddy Camp. Jill's Buddy Camp is a collaboration between Christiansburg and Montgomery County Public Schools to pair teenage buddies with children with disabilities ages preschool to 2nd grade for a one-week camp. The active camp offers music, art, reading, physical activities, and field trips, and serves as Extended School Year Services (ESY) for Montgomery County. Mr. Epperley also highlighted the annual Tony L. Huddleston Trout Rodeo, named for Tony Huddleston who was a long-time coach with the recreation center who tragically drowned.

Council thanked Mr. Epperley for his presentation and Council Showalter expressed his appreciation for the amenities that are offered along the Christiansburg strand of the Huckleberry Trail. Mr. Epperley noted that Girl Scout 51 recently planted more than thirty huckleberry bushes along the Huckleberry Trail. Councilman Huppert expressed his appreciation for the programs at the recreation center that offer something for people of all ages and abilities.

- C. Building Official Jerry Heinline to present on the blighted building program.

Building Official Jerry Heinline presented Council with an update on measures taken by the Town to address blighted properties over the past eighteen months. The Town has enlisted the help of Bane Compton of Roanoke who works part-time with building staff in enforcing the blighted building program. Using photograph slides, Mr. Heinline called attention to the eleven properties identified as blighted in 2017, and offered an overview of how each property had been

addressed and the current status of each, which included the demolition of seven of those properties. Mr. Heinline noted that four buildings had been identified for demolition in FY 2018-2019 and he talked about progresses being made in working with property owners to establish a plan for moving forward with renovation or demolition. Mr. Heinline discussed with Council the costs of structure demolition and recourse for recouping costs incurred by the Town in addressing blighted properties, including pre-demolition maintenance/management. He also reviewed state guidelines pertaining to properties in disrepair and the challenges faced by his department due to limited staff and financial resources, suggesting that the department would benefit from a full-time staff member to oversee the blighted building program. Council directed Mr. Heinline to be aggressive in addressing blighted properties in Town, and further requested he advise Council of his department needs in regards to enforcing the blighted building program. Mr. Heinline briefly addressed government regulations pertaining to the clean-up of meth labs in response to Mr. Waltz's earlier comments.

D. Events Coordinator Casey Jenkins to present regarding the Culture Crossing brochure.

Events Coordinator Casey Jenkins provided Council with a new Town brochure, designed by Public Relations Specialist Anaika Miller, that mapped a downtown walking tour that highlighted the history and art in Christiansburg. The walking tour includes twenty-six stops and was a collaborative effort between himself, Tourism Director Lisa Bleakley, and the Montgomery Museum. The brochure has been placed in all Christiansburg hotels and bed and breakfasts.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- A. Chris Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, asked Council to establish guidelines for the clean-up of meth labs to address the former meth lab across the street from his house. Mr. Waltz said the vacant property was deemed unsafe in March 2016, but has not been cleaned up.
- B. Linda Wurtzburger of The Oaks Victorian Inn at 311 E. Main Street, commented on the student-painted parking spaces at Christiansburg High School and suggested the Town enlist the help of the students to paint parking spaces and other murals in the downtown area as part of the efforts to bring the arts to Christiansburg.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Sachs and Showalter - Water, Sewer, Solid Waste Committee:
 - 1. Discussion regarding privatization of garbage service.

Councilman Showalter reported that the Water, Sewer, Solid Waste Committee was studying privatization of the Town's garbage service and requested approval to submit a Request for Proposal (RFP) to determine the cost benefit to residents. Purchase of the Town's garbage trucks would be included in the RFP. It was the consensus of Council to approve submitting an RFP as requested.

- B. Collins and Stipes - Street Committee:
 - 1. Redesign of Roanoke Street between E. Main Street and First Street.

Councilman Stipes reported that the Street Committee recommended that the right turn lane from the intersection of Roanoke Street and First Street to the intersection of Roanoke Street and Main Street, be shortened to provide additional on-street parking spaces for the downtown area. After Council discussion regarding concerns with possible bottlenecking in

the area, the Street Committee recommended a modified plan that would eliminate the parking space closest to the intersection of Roanoke Street and First Street. The change in street design would be monitored and adjusted as necessary. It was the consensus of Council to approve the modified recommended street design. An effective date would be determined at a future time.

Councilman Huppert requested that Town Manager Wingfield contact VDOT to request that the traffic signal at the Cambria/North Franklin intersection be adjusted to provide for a more efficient traffic flow.

VIII. DISCUSSION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

X. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager Wingfield:

1. Montgomery County is constructing a burn building on Merrimac Road to be used as a regional fire training facility for emergency departments in Montgomery County. The county has requested equipment donations for use at the site and Town Manager Wingfield recommended the Town donate a surplus dump truck. It was noted that Blacksburg donated a surplus backhoe. Construction on the building was expected to be completed in December and Fire Chief Billy Hanks offered to give Council a tour of the facility. Construction of the facility is supported through a grant and funding from Montgomery County. It was the consensus of Council to donate the surplus dump truck.

B. Town Attorney:

C. Other Staff:

XI. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Councilwoman Sachs invited all to attend the Central Business District meeting tomorrow.
- B. Councilman Huppert reminded all of the Montgomery Museum hosted Heritage Day on August 25 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- C. Councilman Stipes informed Council that retired VT professor, Dr. David Orcutt, met with Town staff recently to discuss the recent Depot Park stream restoration and offered his professional services to work with the Town in tracking the long-term effects of the restoration quality. Mr. Stipes added that information provided by Dr. Orcutt's study could be of interest to citizens.
- D. Councilman Showalter, no report.
- E. Councilman Bishop encouraged Council to attend the Farmer's Market as a show of support and for the opportunity to interact with citizens.
- F. Councilman Collins expressed appreciation for the staff presentations tonight and asked Events Coordinator Casey Jenkins to provide a timeline for the arts program mentioned.
- G. Mayor Barber reported that the first Coffee with the Mayor would be held on August 25 at 8:00 a.m. at Mockingbird Café. The monthly series is intended to provide opportunities for dialogue between elected officials and the community and will be held at various businesses. Mayor Barber reported on the upcoming Touch a Truck event sponsored by NRV Home Builders, and the Police Department Fallen Officers softball game on August 18 at Harkrader Sports Complex.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Closed Meeting:

1. Motion by Councilman Stipes 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. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop and voted upon 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 – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes - Aye.
4. Council action on the matter. No action taken.

XIII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 10:47 P.M.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor