

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 13, 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 NOVEMBER 13, 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 Jim Guynn; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Public Relations Director Melissa Demmitt; Events Coordinator Casey Jenkins; Director of Aquatics Terry Caldwell; Police Chief Mark Sisson; Superintendent of Streets Travis Moles; Director of Public Works Jim Lancianese; Assistant to the Town Manager Adam Carpenetti; Planning Director Will Drake; Building Official Jerry Heinline; Parks and Recreation Director Brad Epperley; Operations Supervisor Chrystal Jones.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

Councilwoman Sachs made a motion to amend the agenda as follows, seconded by Councilman Showalter, and voted upon as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye:

- Remove the request to schedule a Conditional Use Permit request by the Montgomery County School Board for a flag pole up to eighty (80) feet in height at 100 Independence Blvd, N.W. (tax map no. 466-2-11) in the I-2, General Industrial District. The CUP application was withdrawn by the applicant.
- Add three resolutions to the consent agenda for Council approval.
- Add a Closed Meeting for the discussion of potential acquisition of real property located in Cambria.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Conditional Use Permit request the Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, for an electronic messaging sign located at 107 W. Main Street (tax map nos. 526-A-203, 206) in the B-2, Central Business District.

Dr. Don Makin, 940 Hummingbird Drive, Pastor of the Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, explained the intent of the church to effectively share announcements with the community

through the use of an electronic messaging sign, and stated that the design of the sign would be suitable to downtown and would comply with Town Code. Dr. Makin expressed appreciation for the Planning Commission study and recommendation, and requested permission to shorten the minimum message display time from six seconds to four seconds to accommodate moving traffic, as allowed for in the State Code. Dr. Makin offered to answer questions of Council.

- B. Conditional Use Permit request by David P. Hill, agent for Junkin Street Partners LLC for a Planned Housing Development to consist of a multiple-family dwelling with up to 20 dwelling units on an approximately 1.031-acre parcel (tax map no. 527-12-7) located at 200 Junkin Street, N.E. in the R-3, Multi-Family Residential District. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

David Hill provided a brief overview of the proposal that would bring seventeen loft-style, upscale housing units to 200 Junkin Street. The developer held a neighborhood collaboration meeting for input and noted that the project was national register compliant in design and construction. Mr. Hill provided an aerial map of the location and shared renderings of the finished product, while noting that the developer had offered a reduction in parking spaces and change in location of recreation space to improve site layout. He then offered to answer questions of Council. Councilman Huppert said he had heard neighborhood concerns regarding the increase in traffic on Junkin Street that would result from the development. Mr. Hill said that traffic would increase, but would be lesser in volume than when the property was used as the local school board office.

Paul Trout, 9 Park Street, asked if privacy fencing was included in the proposal. Mr. Hill said the developer was willing to consider placing privacy fencing along portions of the property.

Henri De Hahn, 203 E. Main Street, an architect, talked about the importance of preserving historical properties in an appropriate manner and location, and questioned the fit of the proposed project on Junkin Street considering the housing nature of the existing neighborhood. He encouraged the Town to consider the difference between homes and housing when studying the request.

Chris Wyatt, sixteen-year resident of 102 Junkin Street, spoke in support of the request as an effective way to preserve the property and raise property values in the neighborhood, noting that historic preservation had been shown to increase surrounding property values. Mr. Wyatt expressed his respect for the concerns of his neighbors, but said he believed the developer had acted in good faith in addressing areas of concern, and that he had looked at other properties successfully renovated by the developer.

Daniel Maderic, 595 Arrowhead Trail, encouraged the developer to include provisions for cyclists and pedestrians in his proposal for the community.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Council Minutes of October 23, 2018.
- B. Contract with Stageline for a mobile stage for the Parks and Recreation Department in the amount of \$140,455.

- C. Award of a contract in the amount of \$697,212.57 to NXL Construction Services, Inc. for Construction Engineering and Inspection Services on the Cambria / N. Franklin Corridor Improvements Project.
- D. Resolution in Recognition of Becky Mann and Scott Mann, owners of Invision, for their contributions to art and culture within the Town of Christiansburg.
- E. Resolution in Recognition of Jay Nagle, owner of New River Engraving, for his contributions to art and culture within the Town of Christiansburg.
- F. Resolution in Recognition of Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center for its contributions to art and culture within the Town of Christiansburg.

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. Councilwoman Sachs commented on her initial concern with purchasing a portable stage from Canada, but stated that after speaking with Brad Epperley, she understood that the company purchased from was the leading company for this type of structure and she supported the purchase as beneficial to the Town.

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Introduction of New Employees
 - 1. Chrystal Jones, Operations Supervisor, Aquatic Center
 - Nate Destree, Aquatic Tournaments Coordinator
- B. Parks and Recreation Director Brad Epperley to introduce Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Member Candidate R. Cord Hall.

Mr. Brad Epperley introduced Cord Hall, former council member and council liaison to the commission, and expressed appreciation for Mr. Hall's interest in serving as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission. The Commission voted unanimously to recommend the appointment of Mr. Hall. Mr. Hall said he was blessed to be considered for the position and would be honored to serve the Town in this capacity.

- C. Building Official Jerry Heinline to introduce Board of Building Code Appeals Members Richard Caldwell and Chris Pfohl and Alternates Larry S. Martin and Earl Shrader.

Mr. Jerry Heinline introduced Richard Caldwell, Larry Martin and Earl Shrader to Council, and noted that Mr. Poff was unable to attend the meeting due to deployment and Mr. Pfohl was unable to attend due to a scheduling conflict.

- D. Recognition of Shirley Hallock on receiving the *2018 Distinguished Volunteer Service Award*, and the Christiansburg Aquatic Center for being awarded *Best New Special Event* for its First Responders Battleship fundraiser, by the Virginia Parks and Recreation Society.

Ms. Caldwell introduced Shirley Hallock and talked about her valuable service to the Town through her volunteer work at the aquatic center. Ms. Hallock's involvement with the aquatic center led to her being awarded the *2018 Distinguished Volunteer Service Award* by the Virginia Parks and Recreation Society, and Ms. Caldwell thanked her for her valuable service. Mayor Barber congratulated Ms. Hallock and talked about her volunteer work with the aquatic center, the Police Department support group, and RSVP, and he thanked her for her service and presented her with a resolution of recognition from the Town. Ms. Caldwell then talked about

the collaborative efforts of the aquatics staff, Chief Sisson, and Chief Hanks, in establishing the annual First Responders Battleship fundraiser that was named the *2018 Best New Special Event* by the Virginia Parks and Recreation Society. Council expressed its appreciation for Ms. Hallock, Ms. Caldwell, and the aquatics staff, in supporting and growing the aquatics facility.

- E. Virginia Tech Foundation, Inc. Chief Executive Officer Dr. John Dooley to present on Go Virginia Region 2 Council activities.

Mr. John Dooley, a Region 2 Council Member, explained Go Virginia, a statewide initiative to encourage economic growth through the development of high paying jobs, and used a map to describe the program's nine regions. Mr. Dooley talked about the role of the regional councils in researching and collecting data that is then used in maintaining a Growth and Diversification Plan for each region, and referred to the Go Virginia website for details on the assessments and metrics used in developing the plan for Region 2. Mr. Dooley requested Christiansburg consider participating in the Go Virginia program by offering its support through a \$1 per capita cash fund for future projects, then offered to answer questions of Council.

- F. Recognition of Becky Mann, Scott Mann, Jay Nagle and Bob Poff and the Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center for their contributions to art and culture within the Town of Christiansburg.

Mayor Barber presented resolutions of recognition to Becky and Scott Mann, and Sue Farrar of Montgomery Museum, for investing their time and resources to bring a focus on art to the downtown/Cambria areas. Mr. and Mrs. Mann, and Sue Farrar, thanked Council for the recognition, and Ms. Farrar announced that the Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center had recently been renamed Montgomery Museum of Art and History. Mr. Nagle and Mr. Poff were unable to be present.

- G. Andrew Warren, Assistant Town Manager & Will Drake, Planning Director to present on Planning Department.

Planning Director Will Drake provided Council with an overview of Planning Department operations and talked about the core values of the department in working cooperatively with other Town departments, and department responsiveness and consistency in processing matters. Mr. Drake explained to Council the major areas of responsibility of the department, including support on several committees and commissions, and provided details on the operations processed by the department in FY 2018. Code enforcement is a major area of responsibility of the department, and Mr. Drake shared the various types of complaints received and handled by department staff. Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren informed that Mr. Drake had recently been appointed Planning Director and he talked about his important involvements in his previous position as Planner I. Mr. Warren talked about the additional responsibilities of the department in managing the Urban Agriculture and Urban Archery Programs, Special Events Grants Program, CDBG Program, and representation on the NRV Regional Commission, MPO Technical Advisory Commission, and ROAM NRV. The department was involved in a number of code amendments in FY 2018, and in FY 2019, will focus on drafting an ordinance for "homestay", recommend updates to industrial districts, and recommend updates to guidelines regarding tow lots. The department's long-range goals include updating the comprehensive plan to include strategic planning in line with the Town's *Destination 2022*, a focus on urban development areas, and grant planning for an Appalachian Regional Commission. Mr. Warren and Mr. Drake thanked Council for its time and offered to

answer questions. Councilman Huppert thanked Councilman Collins for serving as Council liaison to the Planning Commission.

H. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- A. Ellie Travis, 1215 Plum Street, Vice-President of DCI, Inc., addressed Council regarding the **proposed Downtown/Cambria Façade Grant Program**, and stated DCI's support for the program that would support property owners who want to invest in their community through building revitalization. Ms. Travis talked about DCI's desire to see several buildings in downtown/Cambria preserved and noted that the program could be a catalyst for future economic development and increased property values. Councilman Stipes expressed his appreciation for the involvement and support of DCI in matters concerning downtown/Cambria areas and explained that the program would make additional funding available for more downtown art and building façade improvements. Councilman Collins talked about the successful downtown events hosted by DCI and suggested the group consider the Cambria Depot as a future event location. Councilman Showalter reminded Ms. Travis that as a non-profit organization, DCI, was eligible to apply for grants through the Town's annual budget for its cultural events.
- B. Rachel Waltz, 185 Pops Lane, introduced herself to Council as the person who filed a complaint in 2017 against the former Town Manager for harassment and questioned how the situation was able to occur. Ms. Waltz said she has struggled to move past her experience and questioned the decisions made in handling her complaint. Ms. Waltz said she feels she was failed by those hired to protect her and questioned why police records were sealed. She stressed that she wanted to see changes that would prevent this type of situation from happening to someone else.
- C. Christine Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, provided Council with information on state stalking laws and talked about the difficulties faced by her daughter, Rachel Waltz, as a result of decisions made after her daughter filed a complaint with the Montgomery County Magistrate's Office in 2017. Mrs. Waltz asked the Town to consider the impact on others when making decisions.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Councilman Stipes reported that the Finance Committee had reviewed the budget amendment, provided to Council for review in the agenda packet, and explained that the employee compensation study had been removed from the budget amendment and would be handled as a separate issue. Mr. Stipes explained the Finance Committee recommendation to turn down the playground equipment offered through a grant obtained by Brad Epperley, because of a time limitation that would require the Town to pay \$450,000 by the end of the month to accept the grant. At this time, with no plan in place to develop the Town park property, the Town has no place to put the equipment. Mr. Showalter reported that the Finance Committee recommended the creation of a special revenue fund for the monetary gift offered by the Thompson and the Nixon families, to be used for downtown/Cambria arts, with the goal of obtaining future donations to grow the fund. The Town will recognize both families at a future meeting.

- B. Councilwoman Sachs and Councilman Bishop reported on the proposed Downtown/Cambria Façade Grant Program and announced the mural unveiling at the Police Department on November 15 at 12:00 P.M.
- C. Councilman Collins, liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, welcomed Cord Hall as the anticipated newly appointed member on the commission.

VIII. DISCUSSION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Appointment of R. Cord Hall to fill the vacant term on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission with a term ending December 31, 2023. Councilman Stipes made a motion to appointment R. Cord Hall, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
- B. Reappointment of Richard Caldwell, Chris Pfohl, and Bob Poff to the Board of Building Code Appeals for four-year terms ending December 31, 2022, and reappointment of Larry S. Martin and Earl Shrader as Alternates to the Board of Building Code Appeals with terms ending December 31, 2021. Councilman Huppert made a motion to reappointment Richard Caldwell, Chris Pfohl, and Bob Poff to the Board of Building Code Appeals, and to reappoint Larry Martin and Earl Shrader as alternates. The motion was seconded by Councilman Showalter and voted upon by Council as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
- C. Proposed Downtown/Cambria Façade grant program.
Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren thanked members of the Central Business District Committee for their involvement in drafting the **façade grant program**, and explained the pilot program that would partner with property owners in the downtown/Cambria areas by providing matching funds for **façade improvements**. The program was modeled after the **façade grant program** in Salem. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the pilot grant program, seconded by Councilman Collins. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
- D. Reallocation of funds in the capital projects for EMS revenue recovery funds from the communications building to the rescue building renovations.
Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Ayes; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Town Manager Wingfield:
 - Schedule Public Hearings for December 11 as follows:
 1. Budget Amendment.
 2. Alley/access easement vacation, Cambria Emporium.
 - Cancel second meeting in December with option to reschedule as needed.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to schedule the Public Hearings as noted, and to cancel the second meeting in December, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

B. Town Attorney:

C. Other Staff:

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Councilman Huppert reported on recent and future swim meets hosted by the aquatic center.
- B. Councilwoman Sachs – No report
- C. Councilman Stipes – No report
- D. Councilman Showalter – No report
- E. Councilman Bishop – No report
- F. Councilman Collins asked for Council opinion on starting a government shadow program for high school students. Mr. Collins said with Council's blessing, he would discuss the idea with the school. Council agreed to discuss the idea at a future meeting.
- G. Mayor Barber asked for Council's opinion on recognizing George Shaffer on his efforts to bring the skate park to fruition with a plaque and brief ceremony. Council agreed to support Mr. Barber's idea.

XI. 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(A)3 for the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. The Closed Meeting pertains to discussions regarding a potential recreational property in Montgomery County, a potential public works property in Montgomery County, and a historical property in Cambria; and
- 2. In accordance with Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711(A)7 for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter. The Closed Meeting pertains to a recent cyber security incident. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop and voted on as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
- 3. Reconvene in Open Meeting.
- 4. 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 Bishop and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Absent; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes - Absent.

5. Council action on the matter. No action was taken by Council.

XII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 10:25 P.M.

Michele Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor