

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 2019 – 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 MAY 14, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor D. Michael Barber; Vice-Mayor Steve Huppert; Samuel M. Bishop; Harry Collins; Merissa Sachs; Henry Showalter; Bradford J. Stipes. ABSENT: None.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Jim Gynn; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Public Relations Director Melissa Demmitt; Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley; Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell; Police Chief Mark Sisson; Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Billy Hanks; Assistant Director of Engineering for Land Development and Operations Steve Palmer; Civil Engineer II - Water and Wastewater Division Administrator Justin St. Clair.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Public Hearing in regards to the real property rate of \$0.16 per \$100 in assessed value proposed for Fiscal Year 2019-20.

Finance Director Val Tweedie reported that the real estate tax rate would remain at 16 cents per \$100 of assessed value; and, due to the recent general real estate reassessment by Montgomery County, the revenue neutral tax rate would be 15.26 cents per \$100, a reduction of 0.74 cents.

- B. Public Hearing in regards to water rates proposed for Fiscal Year 2019-20.

Town Manager Wingfield provided a brief overview of the proposed water rate increases, and noted the increases were necessary to cover the cost of increased water rates from the water authority, and to aid in improving aging infrastructure, as based on the schedule set forth in the 2017 Water Rate Study.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Council meeting minutes of April 16, 2019, April 23, 2019, April 30, 2019.

- B. Resolution honoring former Christiansburg Fire Chief Jimmy Epperly for his service to the community.
- C. Approval of an updated Exhibit A for federal procurement, as recommended by Town Auditors.
- D. **Schedule Public Hearing on June 11, 2019** for an ordinance approving and authorizing the execution of a small cell franchise agreement by and between the Town of Christiansburg and Shenandoah Personal Communications, LLC (Collectively, “Shentel”).
- E. Engineering contract with Hurt and Proffitt to design a sidewalk extension from near the Falling Branch Intersection to Hubbell Drive, NW.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Councilman Collins. 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 High School State Champions: Mayor Barber and Councilman Showalter presented each student athlete with a certificate of recognition as follows, and Councilman Collins expressed appreciation for the achievements of each student.
 - Christiansburg Boys Indoor Track 3A State Championship
 - Boys Indoor Track Individual 3A State Championship – Ethan Mills (1,000-meter and 1,600-meter)
 - Boys Indoor Track Group 3A State Championship – Alex Watty, Trey Wilson, Ethan Wilson and Cooper Neeble (4x800)
 - Girls Indoor Track Individual 3A State Championship – Rachel Lloyd (pole vault)
 - Boys Diving Individual 3A State Championship – Caleb Hatcher
 - Wrestling Individual 3A State Championship – Brandon Crowder (120 pounds)
 - Wrestling Individual 3A State Championship – Nate Warden (170 pounds)
 - Wrestling Individual 3A State Championship – Andy Smith (220 pounds)
- B. Presentation of resolution honoring former Christiansburg Fire Chief Jimmy Epperly. Mayor Barber invited Fire Chief Billy Hanks and members of the Fire Department to come forward as he read and presented a resolution honoring former fire chief, Jimmy Epperly.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- A. Rita Irvin, 135 Hunters Ridge Lane, addressed Council in support of Christiansburg Institute as an important example of African American heritage in Christiansburg, and talked about CI’s efforts to connect with the Town through its comprehensive plan and tourism department to promote CI, and she encouraged Council to support CI’s vision to become a thriving part of the Christiansburg community.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Councilwoman Sachs provided an update from the Central Business District that included upcoming art installments in Cambria and downtown, the downtown façade program progress, Farmers' Market plans, and the new Take 60 event designed to get people downtown during their lunch hour. Ms. Sachs then welcomed Home Goods, Ulta, and Kirkland's, and noted the stores combined would bring one hundred new jobs to Christiansburg.
- B. Councilman Huppert also welcomed the three new stores to Christiansburg, and announced the grand opening of the hot-dog stand located in the NRV Mall.
- C. Councilman Stipes reported that he learned during a recent Virginia Tech – Montgomery Executive Airport that every dollar invested in the airport resulted in \$18.60 of additional airport funding, and that the rental camping spaces brought in \$109,000 for the airport, calling the Town's involvement in the airport a good investment.
- D. Councilman Showalter requested, on behalf of a concerned citizen, that Council discuss additional garbage container options, with regard to size and cost, at its upcoming retreat.
- E. Councilman Bishop reported that he recently toured the rescue squad facility and complemented the ongoing renovations that were geared toward attracting the younger generation to volunteering. Renovation completion is expected in the next several weeks and an open house will be held shortly after the completion.
- F. Councilman Collins expressed appreciation for those who attended the recent annual lung transplant fundraiser. There was no Recreation Advisory Commission meeting in May.

VIII. DISCUSSION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Real Estate Purchase Contract between the Town of Christiansburg and Community Housing Partners for the Town's purchase of five parcels (Tax Map IDs # 496-A-21; #496-22-1; #496-22-2; #497-A-17; and #497-A-21) for \$200,000.

Council has discussed this matter in the past and determined it to be an important investment for the Town as a dual-use property for a potential train station and overflow parking for the aquatic center. Councilman Stipes made a motion to authorize Town Manager Wingfield to execute the real estate purchase contract with Community Housing Partners, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye. Council expressed appreciation for Town staff on efforts to obtain properties that would facilitate bringing rail to the New River Valley.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Town Manager Wingfield:

- The Town has received a request from Blacksburg Transit to consider providing free bus fare for high school students during the summer months. On the recommendation of the transit working group, Council agreed to approve the request.
- Town Manager Wingfield requested Council review and consider approving proposed health insurance rates for FY 2019-2020 for advertisement to employees who will need to make insurance sign-up decisions, which were provided as a comparison with FY 2018-2019. It was the consensus of Council to approve the rates as proposed for FY 2019-2020.
- Council discussed options for maintaining the downtown clock that, according to Mr. Wingfield isn't keeping accurate time and is in constant need of maintenance. Mayor Barber suggested replacing the face of the clock with the Town seal, and Councilwoman

Sachs recommended talking with Bob Poff, who donated the clock to the town, about changing the clock to the seal.

- Council was presented a request from the rescue squad to start a scout affiliate program that would partner with the Boys/Girls Scouts in getting youth involved in volunteering. Council approved the request.
- Council scheduled Public Hearings for June 11, 2019 as follows:
 - a) Boundary Line Adjustment with Montgomery County for a recent 25.184-acre property on Falling Branch Road as well as properties from previous requests.
 - b) Contingent on the above, a town zoning assignment for the properties affected by the boundary line adjustment.

B. Town Attorney:

C. Other Staff:

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Mayor Barber announced the Police Department would hold a press conference to unveil the new military patriotic vehicle tomorrow at Town Hall. The new vehicle is a tribute to former and fallen officers and would replace a phased-out vehicle. In further tribute, officers will wear retired uniform colors during National Police Week. Mayor Barber reminded Council that the New River Valley Regional Commission awards dinner is scheduled for May 22 at Lane Stadium in Blacksburg.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Closed Meeting

1. Councilman Huppert made a motion to enter into a Closed Meeting in accordance with Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711(A)(6) for the discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected; and § 2.2-3711(A)(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 purpose of the meeting is to consider proposals for the park located on the former Truman Wilson property on Peppers Ferry Road, NW. Councilman Showalter seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
2. Reconvene in Open Meeting.
3. Certification. Councilman Huppert 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 voted upon as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes - Aye.

4. Council action on the matter. Councilman Showalter made a motion to authorize Town Manager Wingfield to negotiate an interim PPEA agreement for development of a public park off Peppers Ferry Road, and to schedule a Public Hearing for May 28 for PPEA proposals. Councilman Collins seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes - Aye.

B. Closed Meeting

1. Councilman Huppert made a motion to enter into a Closed Meeting under Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), for the discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body, for the purpose of a discussion pertaining to a Council appointee. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes - Aye
2. Reconvene in Open Meeting.
3. Certification. Councilman Huppert 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 Councilwoman Sachs and voted upon as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes - Aye.
4. Council action on the matter. No action was taken.

XII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:51 P.M.

Michele Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor