

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 9, 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 JULY 9, 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; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Jim Guynn; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Police Chief Mark Sisson; Director of Engineering Wayne Nelson; Planning Director Will Drake; Public Relations Specialist Amy Southall.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

- A. Councilman Showalter made a motion to add a Closed Meeting to the agenda in accordance with Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) for consultation with legal counsel. Councilwoman Sachs seconded the motion and Council voted to adjust the agenda as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Ordinance to Amend Chapter 18, Finance and Taxation, Article I, In General to enact Section 18.3 to allow the clerk of the court to collect a \$5 fee for criminal and traffic cases in order to solely fund an electronic summons system pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 17.1-279.1.

There was no one to speak for or against this matter.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Council meeting minutes of June 25, 2019.
- B. Schedule Public Hearing on August 27, 2019 for a Conditional Use Permit request by Jeff and Liz Dickson for a single-family residential dwelling at 100 South Franklin Street (tax map no. 527-A-250) in the B-2, Central Business zoning district. The property is designated as Downtown/Mixed Use on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- C. Schedule Public Hearing on August 13, 2019 for an Ordinance to amend Chapter 12 “Business Regulations” of the Christiansburg Town Code by enacting Article III. Massage establishments.

- D. Schedule Public Hearing on August 13, 2019 for an Ordinance to amend Chapter 22 "Miscellaneous Offenses" of the Christiansburg Town Code by enacting Section 22-10, Prostitution.
- E. Approval of Professional Services Engineering Contract with Mattern and Craig, Inc. in the amount of \$190,150.00 for design of Hickok Street Storm Drainage Improvements.
- F. Approval of Professional Services Engineering Contract with Mattern and Craig, Inc. in the amount of \$79,125.00 for design of the Christiansburg Industrial Park Stormwater Upgrade Project.
- G. Approval of Professional Services Engineering Contract with Rummel, Klepper, & Kahl, LLP, in the amount of \$379,206.00 for design of Roanoke Street, Tower Road, and Hampton Boulevard Intersection Improvements.
- H. Approval of Addendum 2 to Contract PW-18-0024 with Cardno, in the amount of \$50,000.00 for Phase III for Facility Assessment Services.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve 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. Executive Director of the New River Community College Educational Foundation Angie Covey and Christiansburg High School Class of 2018/ACCE student Hannah Close to present on the Access to Community College Education (ACCE) program.

Angie Covey thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and presented an update on the Access to Community College Education (ACCE) program, a public-private partnership that provides free two-year tuition to New River Community College for qualifying students. Ms. Covey talked about the program's investment into the future of students and communities through education, and reported that, during the 2018 school year, one hundred-forty students participated in the ACCE program, sixty-one of which were graduates of Christiansburg High School. Christiansburg High School saw a 34% increase in the number of graduating students who enrolled in college, and Eastern Montgomery saw an increase of 80%, through the ACCE program. Students provided over 11,000 hours of community service to Montgomery County to meet requirements of the program. Ms. Covey reported that actual costs of the program exceeded estimated costs, and she expressed appreciation for the support of local governments and program fundraisers that covered the shortfall. Ms. Covey introduced Christiansburg High School graduate and ACCE student, Hannah Close, who shared her experience as an ACCE student and expressed appreciation for the opportunities the program has given her. Ms. Covey took a moment to thank Mayor Barber for his assistance in creating an opportunity for the program to secure a \$10,000 grant from the Bud Foster Lunch Pail Defense Foundation, Police Chief Mark Sisson and local law enforcement for creating the Books & Badges Scholarship with NRCC that developed into the ACCE program, and Town Council for its support. Councilman Collins expressed appreciation for the program and for community support of the program.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Councilman Bishop, on behalf of the Central Business District Committee, reported on the efforts of Downtown Christiansburg, Inc., in partnership with the Town, to secure a state RALLY grant to be used for a community project most likely in the downtown or Cambria area. In addition, he reported on plans for a new LOVE sign, plans for re-facing the existing LOVE sign at the aquatic center, and noted that Facade Grant program and the progress on the Electrical Supply building and the Palmer building in Cambria. Mr. Bishop further noted that the committee was looking for an appropriate location to place a sign honoring the military.
- B. Mayor Barber reported on his wife's, Erlene, idea to expand downtown events to include a bar-b-que or chili cook-off, possibly a contest between first responders to coincide with the annual first responder's Battleship fundraiser at the aquatic center. Mayor Barber noted that the idea had been presented to the Central Business District Committee for review. Council expressed support for further discussing the idea, with Councilman Showalter suggesting promoting the event as an "amateur cook-off" to draw participation from the community. Mayor Barber reported that Fire Chief Billy Hanks has agreed to present the idea to Montgomery County first responders to determine interest.
- C. Councilman Huppert reported on the three large upcoming July swim meets at the aquatic center and recommended local restaurants and hotels be made aware of the details to prepare for increased business. Mr. Huppert then reported that the Town had recently marked the Continental Divide across West Main Street. Mr. Huppert then explained his change in opinion regarding the Town's recent purchase of a portable stage, noting he initially was not in favor of the purchase due to the cost, but seeing it in use during the July 4th festival made him understand its value to the community in drawing attention and as a potential leasable asset.
- D. Councilman Stipes, on behalf of the Virginia Tech Montgomery Executive Airport Authority, explained the intent of the authority to expand the airport to accommodate a corporate service line, and noted that the authority would track usage data in coming years as the airport was extended.
- E. Councilman Showalter, no report
- F. Councilwoman Sachs, no report
- G. Councilman Collins noted that Council had been provided a packet of Planning Commission applications for review in preparation for interviews. Council scheduled applicant interviews for July 22, at 5:30 P.M.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Consideration of a request for Town support for a GO Virginia grant application by the Virginia Tech Foundation.

Dr. John Dooley, Virginia Tech Foundation CEO, thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and noted that Council had been provided a packet outlining the details of the grant application by the Virginia Tech Foundation for funds that would support a blockchain resource center at Virginia Tech, and would additionally support businesses that do blockchain technology. Dr. Dooley explained that "blockchain" was a new method of digitally storing sensitive data that had a lot of potential for the future of digital financial systems. The Virginia Tech Foundation has committed \$190,000 toward the initiative and has requested \$60,000 in local matches, with the Christiansburg one-time match being \$6,000 paid over two years. Dr. Dooley asked Council to consider the request and offered to answer questions. Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the request for Town support for a GO Virginia grant application by the Virginia Tech Foundation in the amount of \$6,000 paid over two years.

Councilman Collins seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

B. Policies and procedures for elected official's consultation with legal counsel.

In an effort to streamline and provide efficiency in communication between elected officials and legal counsel, Council discussed the possibility of adopting a policy that would provide appropriate guidelines for such communications. Attorney Guynn noted it was good policy to have a designated point of contact for communication, typically administrators such as the town manager, and he offered to provide standard bylaws as a starting point in drafting a policy. Mayor Barber appointed Councilmen Showalter, Collins, and Bishop as a committee to oversee drafting of an appropriate policy for Council consideration. Following the discussion, Councilman Showalter made a motion to withdraw his request for a Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(8), seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Collins – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Town Manager: Noted that the Planning Commission interviews had been scheduled.
- B. Town Attorney:
- C. Other Staff:

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Mayor Barber reported on the success of the July 4th downtown celebration, where the Town hydration station gave away 1,000 bottles of water.
- B. Councilman Showalter requested a work session to discuss the draft Mobile Stage Rental Contract. A work session was scheduled for July 22, 2019 at 5:30.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Michele Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor