

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 14, 2020 – 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 JANUARY 14, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor D. Michael D. Barber; Vice-Mayor Steve Huppert; Samuel M. Bishop; Johana Hicks; 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; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Public Relations Director Melissa Demmitt; Director of Engineering Wayne Nelson; Police Chief Mark Sisson; Public Works Director Jim Lanciañese; Superintendent of Streets Travis Moles.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

- A. Add appointment of Council representative to the Planning Commission.
- B. Add appointment of Council representative to the Recreation Advisory Commission.
- C. Add appointment of Council representative to the NRV Regional Commission.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of December 10, 2019 and January 2, 2020.
- B. Recognition of Proclamation of January 9, 2020 as Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.
- C. Recognition of Proclamation of January 26 to February 1, 2020 as School Choice Week.
- D. Award Contract to Boxley Materials Company in the amount of \$995,089.55 for Construction of the FY 19-20 Annual and Primary Extension Paving project.
- E. Schedule Public Hearings for:
 - Comcast Franchise Agreement for February 11, 2020.
 - MMI Atlantic Franchise Agreement for February 11, 2020.
 - A rezoning request by RWW36, LLC (applicant/property owner) for an approximately 1.976 acre property located at the intersection of Roanoke Street and the 460 Bypass westbound off-ramp (tax map no. 529-A-48) to the B-3, General Business District, for February 25, 2020. The property was acquired from the Virginia Department of Transportation and does not currently lie within a designated zoning district.

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

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Mayor Barber presented Clerk of Council Michele Stipes with a resolution and lapel pin recognizing her 20 years of service with the Town. Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

Mayor Barber welcomed Councilwoman Hicks to her first regular meeting as a member of council.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

1. Sherri Blevins, recently elected Montgomery County Board of Supervisor, District B, expressed her appreciation for Christiansburg and extended her assistance to the Town as she eagerly begins serving its citizens.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Amendments to Chapter 28 “Solid Waste and Recycling” of the Christiansburg Town Code regarding the elimination of dumpster service and provision of recycling carts to commercial customers. The Public Hearing was held December 10, 2019.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the amendments as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Town Manager Wingfield noted that this matter had been discussed previously by Council, and that approval would eliminate all commercial dumpster service provided by the Town. The second proposed change was to now permit businesses to have access to a recycling cart as part of the standard cart service. It was further noted that the amendments were a recommendation of the Solid Waste Committee. Councilwoman Sachs commented that the dumpster issue had been taken seriously by the committee and that a thorough study had been done prior to the recommendation. Commercial dumpster service would still be available to businesses through private companies. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

- B. Consideration of elimination of free solid waste collection to non-profits.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the elimination of free solid waste collection for non-profits, as recommended by the Central Business District Committee, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Town Manager Wingfield reported that the policy to provide the free service came at a cost to the town of approximately \$20,000. Councilman Showalter said the recommendation was not an easy decision and had been discussion numerous time over the years. Councilman Huppert noted that area churches were not happy with the

recommendation, and Councilwoman Sachs said she understands that non-profits were appreciative of the service, but that it was difficult to determine non-profits from other businesses, and that this was a fair approach for all non-profits. Town Manager Wingfield noted that providing free solid waste collection was not a standard practice for local governments. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Nay; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

C. Consideration of donation of Christiansburg Fire Department Safety Trailer to the Newport Volunteer Fire Department.

Mayor Barber referenced a letter provided by Chief Hanks informing that the trailer had been purchased in 2006 for \$8,700, and the Town no longer had a need for the equipment due to the county's new burn facility. The Town has loaned the equipment to area localities over the past few years. Councilman Showalter made a motion to donate the fire department safety trailer to the Newport Volunteer Fire Department in Giles County, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Town Manager:
 - Reminder that financial disclosure forms are due February 3.
 - Reminder that Dialogue on Race, 2020 Winter Summit will be held at Christiansburg Middle School on January 25.
 - Council retreat scheduled for February 18 and 22. Location to be determined.
- B. Town Attorney:
- C. Other Staff:

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Councilwoman Hicks recommended that two public comment periods be provided for on future regular meeting agendas, to allow citizens more than one opportunity to speak during meetings. Mayor Barber noted that at one time public comments were presented toward the end of meetings, and the change was made at the request of citizens due to the length of meetings. Council agreed to discuss the matter at the upcoming retreat, and Councilman Showalter encouraged Mayor Barber and Councilwoman Hicks to research the matter for the retreat discussion.
- B. Councilwoman Sachs reported on recycling concerns caused by contaminated recycling bins recently discussed by the Solid Waste Committee. The contamination is occurring at unmanned sites and is caused by people throwing trash in the recycling bins. When this misuse occurs, the recycling must be sent to the county landfill at a cost to the town. Ms. Sachs stated it was unfair to have town residents pay the county dumping fee, and she presented the Solid Waste Committee recommendation that free recycling sites be eliminated through a tiered process, beginning with the Cambria site where most of the contamination occurs. She noted that Montgomery County provided trash dump sites at numerous locations for town and county residents, and Councilman Showalter reminded that curbside recycling service was available to all town citizens and would soon be available to businesses. Councilman Bishop

said he has seen the mess misuse has caused, but he hesitated to penalize everyone for the actions of a few. Councilman Showalter said he understood his concerns, but did not want to continue funding a recycling program that had become a dump program, with additional costs to the town through dumping fees. Community complaints have been received, and Councilman Showalter said the town must address the ongoing concern. The town has five free recycling sites and the Town's electronic message board would inform of closures. It was reiterated that recycling and collection sites are available to all residents through Montgomery County. Councilwoman Sachs made a motion to approve the elimination of the Town's five free recycling sites, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Nay; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

- C. Mayor Barber announced that council photos would be taken by Charlie Whitescarver on January 28, and he reminded Council of the PPEA Committee meeting on January 16, at 6:00 P.M.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

- A. Re-organization for the Year 2020:

1. Election of Vice-Mayor.

On a motion, Councilman Huppert nominated Councilwoman Sachs to serve as Vice-Mayor for the Year 2020. Councilman Stipes seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Nay; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Abstain; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

2. Set regular meeting dates of Council.

Councilman Stipes made a motion to set the regular meeting dates of Council as the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M. Councilman Showalter seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

3. Appointment to Committees of Council and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Liaison position by Mayor Barber:

- a. Water, Sewer, Solid Waste, and Stormwater Committee: Sachs, Showalter

- b. Street Committee: Bishop, Stipes

- c. Finance Committee: Showalter, Stipes

- d. Emergency Services Committee: Bishop, Huppert

- e. Central Business District Committee: Bishop, Sachs

- f. Public Health and Welfare Committee: Ad hoc

- g. Council on Human Relations Committee: Ad hoc

- h. Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Liaison: Hicks

4. Appointment as representative to the Planning Commission. Councilman Showalter made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Hicks as representative to the Planning Commission, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Abstain; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

5. Appointment as representative to the NRV Regional Commission. Councilman Showalter made a motion to appoint Councilwoman Sachs as representative to the NRV Regional Commission, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Abstain; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

B. Closed Meeting:

1. Councilwoman Sachs 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. The Closed Meeting was for discussion of personnel, specifically the appointment of officers for the year 2020. Councilman Huppert seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Nay; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.
2. Reconvene in Open Meeting.
3. Certification.
Councilwoman Sachs 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 Stipes and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes - Aye.
4. Council action on the matters. Council appointed officers as follows.

C. Appointment of Officers:

1. Town Manager

Councilman Showalter made a motion to reappoint Randy Wingfield as town manager with a six-month formal review. Councilwoman Sachs seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

2. Finance Director/Treasurer

Councilwoman Sachs made a motion to reappoint Valerie Tweedie as Finance Director/Treasurer, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

3. Police Chief

Councilman Huppert made a motion to reappoint Mark Sisson as police chief, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

4. Clerk of Council

Councilman Showalter made a motion to reappoint Michele Stipes as clerk of council, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Abstain.

5. Town Attorney

Councilman Showalter made a motion to appoint Sands Anderson, PC as town attorney, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – No; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

XII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 9:11 P.M.

Michele Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor