

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 25, 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 FEBRUARY 25, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor D. Michael D. Barber; Vice-Mayor Merissa Sachs; Samuel M. Bishop; Johana Hicks; Steve Huppert; 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 Reid Broughton; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Public Relations Director Melissa Demmitt; Police Chief Mark Sisson, Planning Director Will Drake; Assistant Engineering Director for Capital Projects and Utilities Justin St. Clair; Public Works Director Jim Lanciañese; Human Resources Director Alicia Dials.

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

- A. Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to add a presentation by Joni Dadras to the agenda, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Nay; Showalter – Nay; Stipes – Nay. Mayor Barber voted Nay to break the tie and the motion was denied. Mayor Barber noted that citizens were welcome to address council on any matter during the Citizen Hearing portion of the meeting.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- 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 westbound off-ramp (tax map no. 529-A-48) to the B-3. General Business District. The property was acquired from the Virginia Department of Transportation and does not currently lie within a designated zoning district. The property is undesignated on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

James Wesel, employee of RWW36, LLC, provided a brief history of the property that was the former Park & Ride near I-81 Exit 118 that was moved several years ago due to its close proximity to the elementary school. Since that time, RWW36 purchased the front 1.9 acres of the property from VDOT, which it intends to market as two commercial lots for development.

The property had previously been zoned B-3 General Business by Montgomery County. RWW36 is currently requesting that the undesignated property be zoned B-3 General Business to facilitate sale of the property for commercial development. Mr. Wesel noted that Steve Semones of Balzer and Associates had provided the Town with additional information related the property's ingress/egress, as requested by the Planning Commission. Councilwoman Hicks expressed appreciation for the efforts that resulted in a new location for the Park & Ride, and expressed support for the rezoning request.

- B. Proposed Ordinance Amending Chapter 28 "Solid Waste and Recycling" of the Christiansburg Town Code by adding Article III. Solid Waste Flow Control, establishing an obligation to obtain a Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Permit and the requirement that all garbage, trash, or refuse generated or collected within the Town of Christiansburg shall be only delivered to facilities of the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority. Montgomery County adopted a similar ordinance on February 10, 2020.

Dan Miles, CEO of Roanoke Valley Resource Authority, sister-authority to MRSWA, addressed Council in support of the proposed ordinance amendment that would allow MRSWA to continue its solid waste disposal operation, and he outlined the broad spectrum of disposal services offered to the Montgomery County community, many of which were not offered by private disposal companies due to costs. Mr. Miles said the ordinance amendment would create a fair playing field within the solid waste disposal industry, and would allow MRSWA to stay viable.

Steve Fijalkowski, 2557 Mt. Pleasant Road, Shawsville, requested Council approve the Flow Control Ordinance amendment, and presented a statement that outlined its benefits to the community as an efficient model in keeping solid waste disposal costs low. Mr. Fijalkowski outlined the disposal services and duties of MRSWA and asked Council to consider all aspects of the matter when taking action.

Robert Guidry, CFS/Blue Ridge and 611 Woodland Drive, Blacksburg, spoke against flow control as the President/CEO of CFS/Blue Ridge, a solid waste disposal company invested in Christiansburg and Montgomery County. Mr. Guidry shared details of the company's financial investment in Christiansburg, and reported that the company had collaborated with MRSWA during initial start-up, to develop a successful business model. CFS/Blue Ridge has been in business in Christiansburg for two years, and has operated properly, ethically, and with Town involvement the entire time. Mr. Guidry questioned how the Town could now propose an ordinance that would damage his business through unreasonable restrictions, and requested Council consider the negative impact on private business before taking action on the matter. CFS currently employs thirty-four employees with plans to grow to sixty with future acquisition.

Alan Cummins, 235 Citrine Court and Director of Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority, provided a letter of support from Barry Helms, the Town's representative on the MRSWA Board, for the proposed ordinance amendment as an avenue to ensuring the health and welfare of residents by keeping solid waste disposal services at a sustainable rate. Mr. Cummins added that, without the ordinance, there was a significant potential for a loss of tonnage, which would result in reduced services to the community, including services not offered by private companies due to costs.

Councilwoman Sachs asked when CFS/Blue Ridge was notified that flow control was under consideration. Mr. Guidry said they were notified when the matter went to Montgomery County for public hearing in February 2019. Mr. Guidry further noted that CFS received a letter from the Town on February 5, 2018 - the letter verified the capacity of the street where CFS/Blue Ridge operates (Scattergood Drive, NW) to support the additional tonnage (as required by the Department of Environmental Quality) and contained a code compliance verification statement based on the January 26, 2018 Engineering Report. Councilman Showalter noted that there would be potential for an increase in fees and a loss of recycling services without the ordinance amendment, and requested Mr. Cummins provide Council with details of the specific impacts to residents, if the proposed ordinance amendment was not approved. Mayor Barber thanked everyone who came and spoke on the ordinance amendment.

Ashleigh Garnes, CFS/Blue Ridge, 205 Scattergood Drive, NW and Blacksburg resident, provided information on the operations of CFS and services offered to the community. Ms. Garnes stated CFS has been transparent in its business operations and intentions within Christiansburg and Montgomery County, and had received approval from the Town during its start-up process and continued growth. Ms. Garnes provided a breakdown of services provided and noted that CFS utilized MRSWA for disposal of solid waste/recycling that it was unable to dispose of. She requested Council consider the negative impact the proposed ordinance would have on private business and offered to work with the Town to develop a solid waste disposal plan that would be beneficial to all. At the request of Councilwoman Hicks, Ms. Garnes confirmed that CFS provided dumpster service to approximately 75% of former Christiansburg dumpster customers.

Joe Benedetto of Roanoke, addressed Council in support of flow control as a model that would keep trash disposal local and keep costs of solid waste disposal low. Mr. Benedetto pointed out that MRSWA offers hazardous materials and e-waste collection and other such services that are not offered by the private sector. Mr. Benedetto works with Montgomery County on recycling services, and cautioned that, without the proposed flow control, continued private trash disposal would result in higher disposal fees and reduced services.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of February 11, 2020 and February 18, 2020.

B. Monthly Bill List

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

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Introduction of New Employees:

1. Human Resources, introduced by Town Manager Wingfield:
 - Alicia Dials, Human Resources Director

2. Public Works:

- Brandon Agee, Utility Maintenance Technician Trainee, introduced by J.W. Bishop
- Christopher Wright, Maintenance Worker Trainee, Stormwater, introduced by Jason Price
- William Eanes, Maintenance Worker Trainee, ROW, introduced by Micheal Huesman
- Corey Smith, Traffic Control Tech Trainee, introduced by Curtis Goad

B. Presentation of Resolution Recognizing Barry and Adrienne Bowling and Bowling Creative Media for Volunteering to Produce Videos for the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority.

Mayor Barber presented the Resolution of Recognition adopted February 11, 2020 to Barry and Adrienne Bowling for volunteering to produce videos for the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority. Councilwoman Sachs added that Mr. and Mrs. Bowling had donated their services to RALLY, as well. Mr. Bowling thanked the Town for accepting their offer and shared that they had learned a lot about MRSWA and its involvements in the community during the filming process.

C. Executive Director/CEO Terry Smusz to present on New River Community Action, Inc. program and activities.

Ms. Terry Smusz presented the New River Community Action, Inc. annual report for the FY 2018-2019, and provided an overview of agency programs and activities within the New River Valley. Ms. Smusz highlighted the homeless and housing programs directly supported by Christiansburg that addresses broad housing needs. Ms. Tonia Winn, agency representative appointed by Montgomery County Board of Supervisors, explained the details of the housing programs and how Christiansburg funds were used to support housing efforts. Ms. Smusz and Ms. Winn expressed appreciation for the Town's support of New River Community Action, Inc.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

A. Joni Dadras, 450 Peppers Ferry Road NW, presented her concern to Council regarding the easement off Route 114 that has been used as ingress/egress to her property for twenty-years. The easement would be impacted by development of the new town park, and Ms. Dadras voiced concern that her property would be landlocked if the park property was developed as proposed. Ms. Dadras explained she has retained an attorney to work with the Town to find a solution satisfactory to her. Councilwoman Sachs commented that, if the matter was currently in litigation, Council should not be a part of discussions at this point, and Council agreed that Town Manager Wingfield and the Town's attorneys should continue working with Ms. Dadras and her attorney to find a satisfactory solution to the matter.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Bishop and Sachs – Central Business District Committee:

1. Presentation and approval of recommended Public Arts Advisory Board candidates for appointment.

Councilman Bishop presented to Council the Central Business District Committee's recommendation and his motion that the selected Public Arts Advisory Board candidates be appointed as follows: Paula Alston (2-yr term); Katy Shepard (2-yr term); Charlie Whitescarver (2-yr term); Heather Browning (1-yr term); and Dakota Spradlin (1-yr). Councilwoman Sachs seconded the motion. As part of the nominating slate submitted by Central Business, it included a Councilperson (Merissa Sachs) and a non-voting staff person (Andrew Warren) to serve 2-yr terms. Councilwoman Hicks commented that she supported appointment of the proposed candidates, but felt it unnecessary to appoint a paid employee to sit on the board along with an elected official. Councilwoman Sachs countered that including a staff member on each board/committee that was knowledgeable about Town history and Town business matters, was valuable to the success of each board/committee during the discussion and decision making process. Councilman Huppert echoed Ms. Sachs' comments, and Councilman Stipes added that staff guidance was integral to the success of the Town's various committees and boards. In addition, Councilman Stipes requested that the format of the Public Arts Advisory Board meetings be reconsidered to allow all interested citizens to attend and participate. Councilwoman Sachs noted that each applicant not chosen for appointment were contacted and invited to attend and participate in meetings. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Nay; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A. Council action on:

1. Comcast Franchise Agreement. The Public Hearing was held February 11, 2020. Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the Comcast Franchise Agreement, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop - Aye; Hicks - Aye; Huppert - Aye; Sachs - Aye; Showalter - Aye; Stipes - Aye.
2. MMI Atlantic Franchise Agreement. The Public Hearing was held February 11, 2020. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the MMI Atlantic Franchise Agreement, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop - Aye; Hicks - Aye; Huppert - Aye; Sachs - Aye; Showalter - Aye; Stipes - Aye.

B. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Between the Virginia National Guard and the Christiansburg Police Department.

Police Chief Sisson provided background on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and explained the parameters of the agreement and its purpose in providing support for the Police Department's counter-drug operations. Included in the MOU is a six-month review to consider the viability of the program. The MOU has been reviewed and approved by the Town Attorney. Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the MOU, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop - Aye; Hicks - Aye; Huppert - Aye; Sachs - Aye; Showalter - Aye; Stipes - Aye.

Mayor Barber recognized and welcomed Montgomery County School Board member, Jamie Bond.

C. Discussion of Stormwater Utility Program and Stormwater Review Committee.

Assistant Engineering Director for Capital Projects and Utilities Justin St. Clair provided Council with a brief background on the Stormwater Utility fee and Stormwater Enterprise Fund, and highlighted the stormwater projects that had benefited from funds provided through the fee. Council recently requested a reevaluation of the fee, and Mr. St. Clair offered an outline of the proposed process for a reevaluation, noting that Council would need to reestablish a Stakeholder Advisory Group to perform the reevaluation. Mr. St. Clair offered to answer questions of Council. Councilman Stipes commented that the fee benefited the Town twofold by generating funds for stormwater projects, and by allowing the Town to qualify for various revenue sharing grants that were typically 50/50 matching.

D. Farmers' Market Policies and Procedures

Councilman Showalter made a motion to table the discussion until after the council work session on March 3, 2020. Councilman Stipes seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop - Aye; Hicks - Aye; Huppert - Aye; Sachs - Aye; Showalter - Aye; Stipes - Aye.

E. Request by Ann Sandbrook for a leave of absence from the Planning Commission for April 1 – July 3, 2020 for work and educational commitments.

Mayor Barber reported that Ms. Sandbrook had served in good standing on the Planning Commission for three years. Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve Ms. Sandbrook's request, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. 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:

- Schedule Public Hearing, March 24, rezoning request and Conditional Use Permit request for a Planned Housing Development, Magnolia Point.
- Schedule Public Hearing, April 14, rezoning request and Conditional Use Permit request by Montgomery County School Board for a commercial garage/maintenance shop/contractor storage yard, College Street.
- Scheduled Work Sessions:
- March 3, 2020, 6:00 P.M., Farmers' Market, Proposed Budget Amendment #3
- March 10, 2020, 5:30 P.M., Proposed Flow Control Ordinance
- March 17, 2020, 6:00 P.M., Community Support Applications for FY 20-21

B. Town Attorney:

C. Other Staff:

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Councilwoman Sachs reported on the RALLY meeting held February 24, and welcomed all to attend the next scheduled meeting on March 16.
- B. Councilman Huppert reported on the Christiansburg High School wrestling team, which recently placed 2nd at states.
- C. Councilman Stipes reported that Michael St. Jean of the Virginia Tech Montgomery Executive Airport Authority would present to Council on March 24.
- D. Councilman Showalter, no report.
- E. Councilman Bishop, no report.
- F. Councilwoman Hicks, no report.
- G. Mayor Barber noted that Council would soon present resolutions of recognition to Christiansburg High School athletes that did well at states.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 9:18 P.M.

Michele Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor