

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 3, 2020 – 6:00 P.M.**

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN HALL, 100 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA, ON MARCH 3, 2020 AT 6:00 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; Director of Engineering and Special Projects Wayne Nelson; Finance Director Val Tweedie; Director of IT Craig Hatmaker; Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley; Director of Public Works Jim Lancianese; Superintendent of Streets Travis Moles; Police Chief Mark Sisson.

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. DISCUSSION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A. Farmers' Market.

The Finance Committee requested guidance from Council on its vision for the future of the Farmers' Market, and how to proceed with the budget amendment request related to employee management of the market. Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley has requested funds to promote an existing permanent part-time recreation department employee to full-time to serve as assistant to the Special Events Coordinator in overseeing the Farmers' Market. Council discussed the viability of the Farmers' Market, with a focus on location, date, and time, and talked about the voiced support and opposition of the market by members of the community. Councilman Huppert noted he had received comments from the community expressing support for the market, but recommended Council consider a change in market hours from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. to encourage attendance. Councilwoman Hicks commented that she believed the community wanted a change in location, date, and time, of the market, and she voiced her support for the Farmers' Market, but added she wanted to see a change in location and proposed the Armory Park location. Ms. Hicks stated that on March 2, 2020, she had spoken with the owner of Macados, and Pastor Donald Makin of the Christiansburg Presbyterian Church, and that both had expressed opposition to the Farmers' Market location on Hickok Street, and further noted that Pastor Makin had expressed interest in charging market customers who chose to park in the Church parking lot. The majority of Council agreed to keep the Hickok Street location for the 2020 market season, and to consider an alternate location once the downtown box culvert replacement project began in late 2020. Following the discussion, Council requested that the Hickok Street closure be placed on the March 10 regular meeting agenda for further discussion.

B. Budget Amendment for FY 2019-2020

Town Manager Randy Wingfield provided an overview of the proposed budget amendment that included a request from Brad Epperley, Director of Parks and Recreation, to promote a current permanent part-time recreation department employee to serve as full-time assistant to the Special Events Coordinator; a request by rescue and fire to reallocate capital improvement funds; and an employee salary adjustment of \$664,618. After discussion, Council requested that the salary adjustment request be removed from the budget amendment and included for discussion during the 2020-2021 budget process. Council expressed support for the requests by the recreation department, and fire and rescue, and agreed to take action on the modified budget amendment on March 10, 2020.

III. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 6:35 P.M.

Michele Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor