

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 24, 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 MARCH 24, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor D. Michael 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; Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Billy Hanks; Planning Director Will Drake.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Moment of Reflection. Mayor Barber encouraged all to keep those affected by the coronavirus in their thoughts and prayers.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS –

(Rezoning and Conditional Use Permit requests by Magnolia Point Community, LLC - postponed)

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of March 3, 2020 and March 10, 2020.
- B. Schedule Public Hearing on May 12, 2020 for a rezoning request by Golden Triangle Development, LLC for a 2 acre property (tax map no. 530-2-87C) located north of Glade Drive SE and south of Interstate 81, adjacent to the Reagan's Pointe Subdivision. The request is to rezone the property from A – Agricultural to R-3, Multi-Family Residential. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- C. Schedule Public Hearing on May 12, 2020 for a Conditional Use Permit – contingent on the preceding request – to amend the approved planned housing development for the Reagan's

Pointe Subdivision. The request is to modify the approved development plan in order to allow nine additional single-family dwellings to be constructed within the development, a portion of which will be located on tax map no. 530-2-87C, in the R-3, Multi-Family Residential District. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

D. Monthly Bill List.

Councilman Showalter made motion to approve the consent agenda, 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

A. Montgomery - Virginia Tech Executive Airport Director Michael St. Jean to present on airport operations (via teleconference).

Mr. Michael St. Jean thanked Council on behalf of the airport authority for the opportunity to provide an update on airport operations. Mr. St. Jean explained the structure of the airport authority by the General Assembly in 2001, comprised of Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Virginia Tech, and Montgomery County, and he talked about the authority's mission and vision statements that guided the authority as an economic development tool. Mr. St. Jean provided an overview of airport operational revenue and expenditures, both of which have seen an upward trend over the years, and provided a breakdown of airport funding. Mr. St. Jean described planned capital improvements to the airport that would increase airport capabilities, furthering its ability to attract economic development in the region, and offered to answer questions of Council. Councilwoman Hicks asked how many Christiansburg residents utilized the airport for Christiansburg business. Mr. St. Jean responded that the airport did not collect data on where airport users were from, but stated that many Christiansburg businesses did utilize the airport for business purposes and provided numerous examples.

B. Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie to present draft Fiscal Year 2020-21 Budget.

Council was provided a copy of the draft annual budget for review in preparation for the initial draft budget presentation. Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie presented an overview of the draft budget and highlighted revenue projections that took into consideration economic impacts of the coronavirus, and included an increase in water rates, which is a flow through increase to the NRV Regional Water Authority. Ms. Tweedie reported on projected appropriations, and capital equipment and projects, then offered to answer questions of Council. Council discussed the potential impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Town Park development project, and Town Manager Wingfield noted he was in communication with Faulconer Construction regarding potential cutbacks to park development due to current events as well as delaying construction a year. Mayor Barber requested Council be provided with a budget summary that did not include funds for the Town Park as a comparison to the current draft budget.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- A. Citizens were provided the opportunity to submit emails to info@christiansburg.org if they preferred instead of attending the meeting. Council received one email from a citizen regarding the request by Magnolia Point Community LLC to rezone property (public hearing cancelled due to COVID-19 State of Emergency Declaration) located at the intersection of Peppers Ferry Road and New Village Drive (email attached). The citizen—Andrew--expressed concern that increased residential development in the area of New River Village would put additional burden on an already unstable and inadequate internet service, and he asked Council to consider incentivizing internet service providers to develop more reliable internet options.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. At Mayor Barber's request, Police Chief Sisson and Fire Chief Billy Hanks provided an update on the proactive efforts of the Montgomery County Public Health Task Force to keep the community informed on ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and to prepare for managing confirmed cases of the virus. The task force meets daily and is in frequent communication with Virginia's Department of Emergency Management. Chief Sisson noted that early planning has allowed Montgomery County to be regionally ahead of any locality in Virginia in preparedness for the pandemic. Chief Hanks encouraged citizens who think they have COVID-19 to contact the Virginia Department of Health hotline.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Council action on:
 1. Conditional Use Permit request by Cole Shows Amusement Co., Inc. (applicant) for property owned by Rockstep Christiansburg, LLC for a carnival at 782 New River Road, N.W. (tax map no. 435-A-41) in the B-3, General Business zoning district. The Public Hearing was held March 10, 2020.

Planning Director Will Drake presented the Planning Commission recommendation for approval of the CUP with fifteen conditions. Mr. Drake recommended that the carnival dates be amended to “unspecified future dates” due to the current “stay-at-home” order resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Councilman Stipes made a motion to issue the CUP, with the amendment recommended by Planning Director Drake and added that the Town Manager should approve the date change if it occurs, and the motion was seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye. Mr. Cole said he would notify the Town if a delay is necessary and coordinate the rescheduled dates if necessary with the Town Manager.

- B. Resolution Adopting Temporary Tax Relief Measures for Hospitality Businesses.

Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren provided a brief overview of the resolution, which was included in the agenda packet for review. Councilman Stipes proposed extending the temporary relief measures from 90 days to 120 days, which Council supported. Councilman Stipes made a motion to adopt the resolution as amended, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs.

Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

C. Resolution Adopting Temporary Utility Billing Measures for Coronavirus Emergency Response.

Councilwoman Sachs made a motion to adopt the resolution, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

D. Consent to Director of Emergency Management’s Declaration of Local Emergency.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to give consent to the Director of Emergency Management’s Declaration of Local Emergency, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

E. Ordinance in Accordance with Code of Virginia § 15.2-1413 Confirming the Declaration of Local Emergency and Providing for the Continuity of Government.

Councilwoman Sachs made a motion to adopt the ordinance as presented, seconded by Councilman Showalter. 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:

- Noted a confirmed case of COVID-19 at the New River Valley Medical Center. The patient is a Radford University student.
- A COVID-19 command center has been set up at the New River Valley Mall.
- A test site will be announced as soon as test kits are available.

B. Town Attorney:

C. Other Staff:

IX. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Councilwoman Hicks requested Council provide assistance to restaurants, and other businesses, in addition to the measures already taken, specifically a reduction in meals tax over the next year and eliminating the water rate increase proposed in the annual budget for FY 2020-2021.
- B. Councilman Stipes thanked Chief Sisson and Chief Hanks for the update on COVID-19 preparations, and he encouraged all to pray for the community and all those impacted by the pandemic.
- C. Councilman Huppert echoed Mr. Stipes’ comments and said it was reassuring to know of the preparations being made within the community. Mr. Huppert thanked task force members and said he was proud to be a resident of Christiansburg.

- D. Councilwoman Sachs called attention to the t-shirt she was wearing, which encouraged frequent, thorough handwashing to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Ms. Sachs said, with the support of Mayor Barber, she had created a short video about handwashing as an educational Public Service Announcement (PSA). She encouraged citizens to create their own PSA videos on ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to send them to the town using hashtag "Are You a Handwashing Hero".
- E. Mayor Barber noted that the Vietnam Veteran's Day sign had been placed in the downtown area this morning. Mr. Barber thanked Merissa Sachs and LOGO Hub for donating the sign.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:36 P.M.

Michele Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor