

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 12, 2020 – 7:00 P.M.**

(The meeting was delayed 13 minutes due to technical difficulties with streaming on Facebook Live)

Declarations of Emergency have been made at all levels of government including the Town of Christiansburg. During a declared disaster, the Code of Virginia requires and allows governing bodies of localities and other public entities to conduct their meetings in manners which are consistent with providing continuity of government and in a safe and healthy manner, and for the public safety, health and welfare for the governing body and all attendees/interested parties consistent with open government. The COVID-19 virus makes it impractical and unsafe for Christiansburg Town Council to physically assemble in one location. The virus also makes it impractical and unsafe, as well as potentially life threatening, for the public, and the Town staff, to gather in the same location. As a result, the meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom. The Council members and any necessary staff joined the meeting via electronic communications without a quorum of Town Council physically assembled at one location pursuant to, and authorized by, Code of Virginia § 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) and the Continuity of Government Ordinance passed by Christiansburg Town Council on March 24, 2020. Members of the public were invited to call into the meeting using this phone number: +1 646 558 8656 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799. Webinar ID: 896 9854 3432. The meeting was also streamed live on the Town of Christiansburg's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cburgvagov and was uploaded to the Town's YouTube page at the conclusion of the meeting.

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY,
CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM ON MAY 12, 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; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Reid Broughton; Finance Director Val Tweedie; Police Chief Mark Sisson; Fire Chief/Fire Marshal Billy Hanks; Rescue Chief Joe Coyle.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Moment of Reflection. Mayor Barber asked those participating to remember first responders and the individuals directly affected by COVID-19.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of April 28, 2020
- B. Award contract to CHA in the amount of \$521,200.00 for field inspection, design, bidding and contract administration services for the Arrowhead Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation and Replacement Project.
- C. Acceptance of approximately \$36,000 in Cares Act funding for EMS Medicare billing loss of revenue associated with COVID-19.
- D. Reschedule public hearing for lease agreement of 415 Cambria Street, N.W. to May 26, 2020.

Councilman Bishop 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

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- A. Email comment received by Alecia Vaught of Den Hill Road: *“When are the meetings going to be held in the town hall again? I would also like to know why the public isn't allowed to call in the zoom meetings and comment during the meetings for the last 2 months and will they be able to going forward? Thank you.”*

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Consideration of donation of use of mobile stage by Montgomery County Public Schools for High School graduations

Mayor Barber presented a request by Dr. Mear, Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to rent the mobile stage to MCPS for use during four high school graduation ceremonies on May 30. MCPS would provide the sound system and banners. Mayor Barber proposed donating, rather than renting, the stage in support of the schools and graduating seniors. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve donating the mobile stage to MCPS for use during its graduation ceremonies on May 30. Councilwoman Hicks seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

B. Update on and discussion of public hearing procedures

Town Manager Wingfield provided an overview of the public hearing schedule for the FY 2020-2021 Annual Budget that included plans to hold an online forum for public comment submittal from May 12 – 26, as permitted under COVID 19 government orders. The public would have the option to comment live during the Council meeting via Zoom, and would be asked to sign up ahead of time. Notice of the public hearing for the budget would be posted in the newspaper on May 16, with budget adoption scheduled for June 9. Mr. Wingfield reviewed other upcoming public hearings and announced that staff would plan to resume committee meetings in June if recommended. Council thanked Mr. Wingfield for the report and encouraged him to follow government guidelines in this matter.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager:

- Council was asked to review and comment on a spreadsheet outlining action items discussed during the Council retreat.
- A decontamination center for N95 masks has opened at Virginia Tech and is available free of charge to the region's emergency responders.
- Virginia has received \$3.3B from the Cares Act, which will be distributed to localities based on population. Montgomery County is expected to receive \$8.5 million and the Town will work with the County on distribution. Local government expenditure reimbursement is the purpose of the funding.
- Virginia's governor has issued guidelines on the re-opening of businesses, which will be posted on the Town's website.

B. Town Attorney:

C. Other Staff:

- Fire Chief Billy Hanks, Police Chief Mark Sisson, and Rescue Chief Joe Coyle reported on ongoing activities and efforts of the NRV Public Health Task Force to address public health and safety during the coronavirus outbreak. Chief Sisson highlighted the newly opened decontamination center at Virginia Tech, which is only one of three in Virginia, and that is available free of charge to essential fields for decontamination of N95 masks. Chief Hanks provided a brief overview of the region's test site operations, which included photos of each site. Mr. Hanks, Mr. Sisson, and Mr. Coyle thanked community partners that included the NRV Mall, Walmart, and Dr. Mear of MCPS, and expressed gratitude for their support of the efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19.

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Councilman Stipes expressed appreciation for the information shared with the community on the Town's Splash Page, written by Amy Southall, PR Generalist. He then shared comments

from citizens who had expressed appreciation for the Town's efforts to support the community during the pandemic through vehicle parades in celebration of birthdays and other events.

- B. Councilman Showalter echoed Councilman Stipes' comments and praised the Police Department and Public Works for going above and beyond to support the community through special recognitions.
- C. Councilman Huppert thanked Town Manager Wingfield for clarifying the intended use of the Cares Act state/local funding, and commended the Christiansburg community for supporting its local businesses.
- D. Councilman Bishop, no report.
- E. Councilwoman Sachs echoed the comments of Councilman Stipes and Councilman Showalter with regard to the support given to the community by the Police Department and Public Works during this challenging time.
- F. Councilwoman Hicks noted that a box had been placed outside Town Hall for the collection of greeting cards to be sent to senior citizens, and she thanked the Town departments involved in celebrating individuals in the community. She then referred to the Town's community support funding and suggested that Montgomery County Tourism Development Council provide financial support to Downtown Christiansburg, Inc. instead of the Town. Ms. Hicks asked for details regarding Appalachian Regional Commission funds, and Town Manager Wingfield noted he would look into finding additional information.
- G. Mayor Barber echoed comments in appreciation of the Police Department and Public Works for efforts to celebrate the community during the "stay-at-home" order, and noted he had received many comments of appreciation from the community.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 7:57 P.M.

Michele Stipes, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber, Mayor