

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL  
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 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 JULY 14, 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. ABSENT: Bradford J. Stipes

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren, Executive Assistant Tracy Heinline (serving in absence of Clerk of Council Michele Stipes); Town Attorney Reid Broughton; Public Relations Director Melissa Demmitt; Public Relations Specialist Amy Southall; Engineering Director Wayne Nelson; Fire Chief Billy Hanks; Rescue Chief Joe Coyle; Police Chief Mark Sisson; Planning Director Will Drake.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA**

A. Councilman Showalter made a motion to move the presentation of a resolution for Al Bowman to the front of the Public Hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop - Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye.

B. Postponed items under Discussion and Action by Mayor and Council concerning rezoning and conditional use permit requests by Magnolia Point to the July 28, 2020 Town Council meeting so as to include all council members.

Councilman Bishop commented that although it's nice to have all council members present he felt a decision should be made on Magnolia Point to move forward.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to postpone the Magnolia Point rezoning and conditional use permit requests, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Nay; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye.

C. Removed street vacation request by Gay and Neel, Inc. under Discussion and Action by Mayor and Council from the agenda since it was previously voted on.

D. Postponed the Closed Meeting discussion from the agenda and placed on the July 28, 2020 agenda when all Council Members could be present.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to remove the Closed Meeting discussion from the agenda to the July 28, 2020 agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned not having the proposed Closed Meeting discussion. Mayor Barber informed Mrs. Hicks that the PPEA Committee asked Council to postpone. Mrs. Hicks also questioned if Council would negotiate the price on the future park and would the discussion be opened to the public instead of a closed meeting. The Mayor expressed that all PPEA Committee meetings that involved price negotiations have been closed and there would be no final decisions made at the upcoming closed meeting. Mrs. Hicks expressed concern that the PPEA did not have enough public input on the committee. The Mayor commented that all decisions concerning the park would be made in a public forum with input from the citizens.

### III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Rezoning request by the Montgomery County School Board (applicant/owner) for an approximately 16.66 acre property located at 208 College Street NW (tax map no. 526- A – 175). The request is to rezone the property from the R-2, Two-Family Residential District to the B-3, General Business District. The property is designated as Downtown/Mixed-Use on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Barber expressed the rezoning request was a land use issue and had nothing to do with the conditions of the schools in Montgomery County or whether the School Board should sell the properties for it to be developed.

Dr. Mark Miear, Superintendent of Montgomery County Public Schools reported that for years the operations space for the current school buses had been insufficient and there was great need to research other options. The College Street building was renovated, at a reasonable price, and made an adequate space for all operations employees to be in one place. The last transition of the move to College Street would be transitioning the old gym into a bus garage. Dr. Miear expressed that the County would rather put money into renovating Montgomery County Public Schools rather than building a brand new facility to house buses. Dr. Miear discussed accomplishments and future plans for school facilities within the Christiansburg strand, as well as County funding limitations. Dr. Miear explained that money spent on a new facility for buses would affect funds available for other capital projects such as Christiansburg High School.

Councilman Huppert expressed that the College Street property would be considered a great site for redevelopment by contractors and was concerned that developing the site into a garage for buses could be a potential eyesore. Mr. Huppert questioned the Cambria area and potentially moving the buses there instead. Dr. Miear expressed that Cambria is not a sufficient site for the school buses because it would be too costly. Dr. Miear informed Council that the employees need something now so the buses can be fixed properly.

Councilwoman Hicks expressed concern over the state of the current bus garage property, referencing pictures she had and wanted to know how the College Street property would be maintained. Mrs. Hicks understood that the school board had many tough decisions ahead of them and was grateful they wanted to spend money to make things more efficient but was concerned the bus garage/rezoning may be an eyesore and also could cause stormwater issues to downtown. Mrs. Hicks questioned the water/oil run off during cleaning of buses and how it would be handled. Dr. Miear noted the current property that housed the school buses has not been updated due to not wanting to invest money into property if they would potentially move locations. Dr. Miear also noted that the school had an environmental specialist on staff that would address any water/oil run off from the bus garage and would follow all federal, state and local guidelines to make it safe for the community. In regards to the maintenance yard, bus parking and parking garage, Dr. Miear informed Council that a chain link screening fence would be placed around the property, new trees planted, and starting in September of this year the building would have new windows. Dr. Miear also expressed that the lower field at the middle school would be available for use but the upper field would not since there is new turf at the high school football field. Councilman Showalter and Mayor Barber expressed interest in hearing from the general public on this situation.

Jamie Bond, 2263 Pilot Road, addressed Council as a School Board member and supporter of the old middle school renovation and expressed that a rezoning of the 208 College Street property would be just one step closer to being a fully functional operations building. Ms. Bond noted that buses, students, faculty, vehicles and sports had been a part of this property since 1935 and said she couldn't imagine it not being a part of the history of downtown. As a business owner, Ms. Bond wanted to thank Christiansburg for making downtown look nice and funding the grant program to help downtown store fronts.

Penny Franklin, School Board member, thanked Mayor Barber for making this a zoning issue. Since her time on the school board Ms. Franklin expressed there's been an issue with rezoning in Blacksburg that makes it difficult for funds to come back into the County to support schools. Ms. Franklin believed this transition would allow the school to move employees not only to a safe facility but there would be ample room for maintenance on buses. Ms. Franklin expressed this would not take away from the appearance of downtown. She mentioned moving all their operations into this one building had already made it more efficient and brought life back into the building. Ms. Franklin noted that because of the economy Christiansburg had waited a long time for new schools and it would be a tragedy if money had to be spent to build a new maintenance building instead.

Tim Cromer, Athletic Director of Christiansburg High School, informed Council he had been involved in Christiansburg athletics for over 19 years as coach and athletic director. Mr. Cromer mentioned that outdoor facilities had been upgraded at the high school but unfortunately there had been no upgrades to the inside. Mr. Cromer expressed that Christiansburg is the only secondary school in the county that had only one gym and he would rather see funds go towards those types of renovations. He noted that the school had over 1200 students and over 400 students that are involved in athletics, 24 sports that they outfit and 38 teams that use Christiansburg's facilities. And from a scheduling standpoint, having only one gym made it hard to get everyone in to receive the quality practice time they deserved.

Tony Deibler, 240 Gibson Drive, Christiansburg High School Principal, provided to Council that Christiansburg High School has over 1,000 students and would continue to grow over the next few

years and noted that the school is already over capacity. Mr. Deibler reported that the school rooms were very small, less than the state's recommended guidelines pertaining to square footage. Additionally, the schools walls were very thin which sometimes caused students to become distracted because of the noise next door in other classrooms. Mr. Deibler also reported that currently the school had five mobile classrooms behind the building and many teachers did not have their own instructional space so they had to move multiple times during the day which made it difficult for teachers to make it a personalized learning environment for instruction. Christiansburg High School is scheduled to have upgrades in the next few years and Mr. Deibler believed these upgrades were necessary to meet the educational needs of the students. Mr. Deibler expressed that the additional upgrades would add to the value of living and visiting the Town of Christiansburg. Also he recommended they not lose the 5-6 million dollars that was currently slated to Christiansburg High School to build a new garage.

Abby Bond, 2263 Pilot Road, expressed interest in seeing the old Christiansburg Middle School be rezoned so the bus garage could be added to the operations center. She believed it's very important for different groups to work together to reach a common goal. Ms. Bond stated that Christiansburg High School had amazing programs for students and imagined that if everyone could work together under the same roof then it would only make new opportunities for the students.

Jason Lawrence, Fleet Shop Foreman for Montgomery County Public Schools Transportation Department, expressed to Council that the current facility's ceiling height is so low that maintenance employees were on the floor for the majority of their time working on the buses. Moving the buses to the new facility would mean new bays so buses could be lifted and be more accessible. Mr. Lawrence expressed there had also been a carbon monoxide problem in the transportation building for some time due to the building being added onto which created an air flow/cross flow problem. He believed that moving to the College Street property would be a big benefit to the health and safety of all the hard working mechanics, the school system and the Town.

Warren Rosborough, 107 College St., expressed concern about using a 16-acre downtown property as a bus garage. Mr. Rosborough's noted that his property was within yards of what would be a bus shop. Mr. Rosborough stated that when he moved to Christiansburg he didn't think he would have to worry about a diesel bus shop being next to his property. Mr. Rosborough expressed that the smell from the bus shop would be unpleasant and he was worried the air outside would be compromised. Mr. Rosborough also believed the sounds from the bus garage would not be conducive to a pleasant downtown area.

Liz Dickson, 100 S. Franklin Street, voiced that her family purchased a property downtown Christiansburg and did not feel a bus garage was what investors would want to see in the future. Ms. Dickson believed the Town needed to make downtown beautiful and make people want to invest.

- B. Conditional Use Permit request – contingent on the preceding item - by the Montgomery County School Board (applicant/owner) for a commercial garage/maintenance shop and contractor storage yard on property located at 208 College Street NW (tax map no. 526- A – 175) in the B-3, General Business District. The property is designated as Downtown/Mixed-Use on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

No comments.

- C. Rezoning request by Golden Triangle Development LLC (applicant/owner) for an approximately two acre property located north of Glade Drive SE and south of Interstate 81, adjacent to the Reagan's Pointe Subdivision (tax map no. 530- 2- 87C). The request is to rezone the property from the A, Agricultural District to 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.

Bryant Altizer, Gay & Neel Engineer, represented owners of property. Gay & Neel recently sent a thorough summary of said project to Council and asked for feedback.

Mayor Barber questioned if this project was a VDOT owned property that was used for stormwater management and had since moved the stormwater management elsewhere and recovered the four acres of land. Mr. Altizer explained that during the original rezoning there were efforts made with VDOT to purchase the property and/or build the stormwater facility that was ear-marked for that property. Mr. Altizer believed the overall plan fit much better with the area.

- D. Conditional Use Permit request – contingent on the preceding item – by Golden Triangle Development LLC (applicant/owner) to amend the approved Planned Housing Development for the Reagan's Pointe Subdivision, located at the western end of Giles Drive SE and Glade Drive SE. The request is to include tax map no. 530- 2- 87C in the Planned Housing Development and to modify the approved development plan and regulations in order to add nine additional single-family units within the development at an approximate density of development of 4.4 units per acre and to reconfigure the open space and stormwater management facility. The portion of affected property includes tax map nos. 530-2-87C, 530-18-A-E, 530-18-34, and 530-18-46 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.

No comments.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of June 23, 2020.
- B. Smart Scale Project Resolution of Support for Peppers Ferry Road – Cambria Street Connector Route
- C. Smart Scale Project Resolution of Support for N. Franklin Street - Elm to Depot, Lighting and Pedestrian Improvements
- D. Smart Scale Project Resolution of Support for N. Franklin Street – Depot Street Intersection improvements

E. Schedule a Public Hearing on July 28, 2020 for a street vacation request by Gay and Neel, Inc. for an ordinance to vacate Scattergood Drive, N.W. right-of-way, (approximately 1.3 acres) from its western terminus at Diamond Hills Park and along the full portion of the right-of-way adjoining the property located at 680, 690, and 700 Scattergood Drive, N.W. (tax map no. 495-1-1C).

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve Consent Agenda items A, B, and E, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items C and D, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Councilwoman Hicks inquired whether the Smart Scale project was a state project or a town project. Town Manager Wingfield informed Ms. Hicks it was a town project funded by VDOT. Mr. Wingfield explained there was a competitive application process for the town and the town would administer the project and VDOT would fund the project.

Mayor Barber mentioned the Smart Scale resolution concerning the Peppers Ferry Road – Cambria Street Connector Route had eight comments from citizens that were emailed in to Council before the meeting. These comments would be recorded in the Town Council minute book.

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

## V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation of Resolution Recognizing Al Bowman for his Service on the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority Board and Virginia Tech - Montgomery Regional (Executive) Airport Authority Board.

Mayor Barber read the Council Resolution and presented it to Mr. Bowman.

B. Director of Engineering Wayne Nelson to present on College Street drainage.

Mr. Nelson reported on the recent College Street downtown flooding, the history of the College Street area and how the town had addressed similar flooding issues. Also, Mr. Nelson addressed two of the immediate action items in detail from the list Town Manager Wingfield provided to Council previously.

Similar flooding had occurred in the Hans Meadow area of Christiansburg, built in the mid 1980's with a shallow roadside ditch. Mr. Nelson reported that water run-off/flooding in the shallow ditch made a piped drainage project necessary, which was completed in 2020. Mr. Nelson also reported that on the western side of Cambria in a two phase drainage system was completed in 2017. Mr. Nelson clarified the Downtown Drainage Study was intended for the downtown area primarily. The study area was quite large crossing the interstate from the south, through Roanoke Street, and followed along High Street into Cambria. Mr. Nelson reported the drainage basin stopped at Radford Street and College Street and drainage solutions were not part of the Downtown Watershed Study. Mr. Nelson showed the corporate limits established in the past and certain homes that were developed both prior to and after

1966. The central conveyance system was not there at the time and the designs were made to conform to the regulations in effect at that time. Mr. Nelson mapped out College Street, Buffalo and West Main Streets and the homes currently impacted in the College Street basin. Mr. Nelson shared a picture of back yard conditions on College Street showing a fence constructed with an opening to allow water flow. Mr. Nelson shared that residents had exercised their personal rights for the enjoyment and use of their property by placing storage sheds, fences and play equipment which was subject to flooding. Also, Mr. Nelson pointed out that the town did not require permits for fences and storage sheds over 256 square feet did require a building permit. Mr. Nelson also reported on the flooding event of May 24, 2020 that focused on the southwest side of town and how obstructions and existing drainage conditions caused inundation of specific areas along College Street properties. Mr. Nelson spoke about the Town Manager's outline of immediate actions provided to Council.

Mayor Barber inquired about an immediate fix for College Street for the future. The Mayor expressed concern that this area had had issues for years during heavy rain episodes. Councilwoman Hicks also expressed concern on how to help this area and was concerned that water came from sewer lines and water lines. Councilwoman Hicks also inquired about the flooding at Hickok Street and other properties and asked about prioritizing. Councilman Showalter clarified that the Engineering team would be meeting with residents on College Street to address issues and meet with other properties and address those issues this fall to the Stormwater Committee. Mr. Nelson informed Council there were measures being taken to talk to residents' concerning flooding and would report back to Council.

## VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- A. Daniel Moodie, 610 Dewdrop Lane, spoke to Council by Zoom and expressed concern about the Cambria Street connector road. Mr. Moodie stated that a 40 mph four lane road was a significant road for his neighborhood and could possibly bring pollution and noise to his backyard. Mr. Moodie also stated he would like Council to consider the safety of the residents in this neighborhood, including and especially small children. Mr. Moodie noted the issue of security in the area if joining access to the road. He believed the potential road would be more intrusive than what was originally presented, a 25 mph road with just two lanes. Mr. Moodie suggested the new road should match the characteristics of Cambria Street and also stated it made no sense to connect Cambria to Peppers Ferry with a four lane road since Cambria is two lanes. Furthermore, Mr. Moodie stated the road runs closer to residential housing than Cambria and thus should at the very least be limited to 25 mph.
- B. Jeffrey Wilson, 505 Cambria Street, N.W., expressed his family use the Huckleberry Trail quite often, along with other residents, and was concerned about citizens being struck by vehicles and adding another crossing may increase that risk. Mr. Wilson was also concerned about the cost of the connector road and urged Council to be financially responsible.
- C. Carl Ratcliffe, 1560 Diana Drive, addressed Council on issues pertaining to Fralin Companies. Mr. Ratcliffe reached out by letter to Fralin Companies concerning floor replacing problems at his property. Mr. Ratcliffe was concerned not only for himself but future buyers that it took over six months for a resolution. Mr. Ratcliffe noted he currently had yard issues/grass growing issues and his side yard held water for days after heavy rain. Mr. Ratcliffe requested Fralin be denied

other building projects until his own situation was resolved. Mr. Ratcliffe expressed he had spoken with Mr. Fralin and was satisfied with his floor replacement but was still currently having issues with his yard.

- D. Brian McCahill, 5211 South Concourse Drive, Roanoke, COO of Fralin Companies, urged Council to make him aware of any problems that may have come to their attention recently concerning Fralin Companies. Councilwoman Sachs expressed that more than one citizen had contacted Council about Fralin Companies. Councilwoman Sachs questioned how many building permits had been denied by other surrounding municipalities in the last five years. Mr. McCahill expressed that he wasn't aware of any development being held up but there had been holds on certificates of occupancy's for various things. Councilwoman Sachs suggested Mr. McCahill report back to Council.
- E. Henry Guess, 810 College St., Mr. Guess expressed concern for potential loss of life on College Street due to the flooding issues beyond the dog that had been killed. Mr. Guess expressed that the situation on College Street could be detrimental to the residents.
- F. Grace Woodrum, 830 College Street, questioned Hickok Street and the businesses that have flooded, and also the piping that needed to be expanded and would like to know when this project would start. Also, Mrs. Woodrum thanked Councilman Huppert for bringing in the pictures of College Street and wanted to focus on one particular picture. She referenced a picture of a manhole that was overflowing and stated the overflow was a concern when they first moved in.
- G. Preston Woodrum, 830 College Street, Mr. Woodrum thanked Mr. Nelson for his presentation on the downtown area flooding and expressed he was looking forward to the project's completion. Mr. Woodrum also thanked everyone for all the thoughts and prayers concerning his property. Councilman Showalter expressed that as soon as the staff briefed the Stormwater Committee it would be forwarded to Council and this was something that would be taken care of sooner rather than later. Councilman Showalter expressed interest in a fence ordinance possibly being put in place.
- H. Susan Guess, 810 College Street, thanked Council for everything they are doing to help the residents on College Street. Mrs. Guess expressed concern about potential loss of life on College Street. Mrs. Guess also informed Council this situation was something they had dealt with for many years and was looking forward to answers in the early fall.
- I. Gerald Crow, 950 College Street, expressed to Council that his family had lived in the area for three years and unfortunately the flooding had not been disclosed to them when they moved there. Mr. Crow compared the flooding to a river flowing thru and now his home had black mold downstairs.
- J. Matthew Hicks, 607 ½ S. Franklin Street, expressed he was heavily invested in the town and was concerned how tax dollars were spent. Mr. Hicks would like to see a public meeting so the residents would understand the financial aspect of the potential park, expressing concern on how the town would finance the park and with the potential concession contract for the park. Mr. Hicks also urged Council and town staff to come directly to him if there were any questions concerning the Hicks' land. Mr. Hicks mentioned as well there had been a false statement made

at the last Town Council meeting concerning Councilwoman Hicks and previously discussed disclosure forms. Also, Mr. Hicks requested a formal job description of the Town Manager and stated that Mr. Wingfield had received complaints regarding their property and was responsive to them despite the complainants not living in town. Mr. Hicks also expressed concern about Council support for Councilwoman Hicks and stated that assault complaints were made in regards to Mr. Revin's presence on the property at 103 College Street.

K. Christine Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, questioned charging for FOIA requests when currently there was no policy in place. Mrs. Waltz also presented an invoice from May 19, 2017 that shows she was charged for a FOIA request. Mrs. Waltz was concerned that citizens were charged fairly. Mayor Barber questioned if there had ever been a policy in place. Mr. Wingfield explained that the town had had an informal policy in the past and that when someone requested a large amount of information, it could take a considerable amount of time to research and then could warrant a fee. Mr. Wingfield stated that the town was looking to formalize the policy so that there would be consistency.

## VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Stipes and Bishop – Street Committee Report/Recommendation on:

1. Plat of Subdivision of Tax Parcel 500-(A)-16 situated on Roanoke Street.

Planning Director Will Drake reported that 2347 Roanoke Street is a subdivision plat that would be carved out to make two parcels. Parcel B would have street frontage and access to Roanoke St. Both Parcel A and B would have cross access easements which would allow vehicle parking.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve Tax Parcel 500-(A)-16, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye.

2. Subdivision Plat of Kensington Phase IX Creating Hereon Lots 1 Thru 7 Situated on Diana Drive NW and Bishops Gate Road NW.

Mr. Drake reported on this plat located in the Kensington subdivision on the corner of Bishops Gate Road and Diana Drive. This subdivision plat would create seven lots, zoned single family dwellings.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve Kensington Phase IX subdivision plat, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Nay; Showalter – Aye.

3. Plat of Subdivision for Jeffery and Elizabeth Dickson Located on 100 South Franklin Street.

Mr. Drake reported that 100 South Franklin Street, owned by Jeffery and Elizabeth Dickson was granted a Conditional Use Permit in September of 2019 for residential use. The subdivision plat showed this lot being split, both having individual parking areas.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve 100 South Franklin St. plat, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye.

## VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

### A. Council action on:

1. Rezoning request by Magnolia Point Community, LLC (applicant) for property owned by International Church of the Foursquare Gospel A CA Corp, located northeast of the intersection of Peppers Ferry Road NW and New Village Drive NW (tax map no. 434-A-8A). The request is to rezone the approximately 9.14 acre property from A, Agricultural to R-3, Multi-Family Residential with proffers. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. The Public Hearing was held June 23, 2020.

This item was postponed to July 28, 2020 by earlier Council Agenda adjustment.

2. Conditional Use Permit request - contingent on the preceding item – by Magnolia Point Community, LLC (applicant) for property owned by International Church of the Foursquare Gospel A CA Corp for a planned housing development to consist of multi-family dwellings and townhomes at a density of development of approximately 16 units per acre on property located northeast of the intersection of Peppers Ferry Road NW and Village Drive NW (tax map no. 434-A-8A) 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. The Public Hearing was held June 23, 2020.

This item was postponed to July 28, 2020 by an earlier Council Agenda adjustment.

3. Street vacation request by Gay and Neel, Inc. for an ordinance to vacate an approximately 0.12 acre portion of right-of-way along the east side of N. Franklin Street, located adjacent to the intersection of N. Franklin Street and Akers Farm Road, N.E. The portion of right-of-way adjoins 100 Akers Farm Road, N.E. (tax map no. 466-22-1). The Public Hearing was held June 23, 2020.

This item was removed since action was previously taken on June 23, 2020.

### B. Discussion of Town Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Policy.

Town Manager Wingfield presented Council with a draft copy of the town policy showing potential changes to FOIA related requests and charges. Public Relations Director Melissa Demmitt reported that the town did not have a formal FOIA charging policy although large FOIA requests had been charged in the past due to the amount of staff research time. Mrs. Demmitt expressed that since there were more requests now and some requests have taken several days to research, the town would like to charge consistently for all requests. Mrs. Demmitt informed Council that a consistent charging of FOIA requests seemed to be

consistent with other municipalities across the state. Attorney Reid Broughton mentioned to Council that this is also consistent with the Code of Virginia statute. Mrs. Demmitt presented to Council that according to the proposed policy the requestor would be charged a fee of the lowest compensated employee qualified to perform the research. The hope would be to train additional staff since the town is receiving a large amount of FOIA requests. Virginia statute specifies the actual cost of the person producing the records so therefore it would be the hourly salary of the person providing the records. Mrs. Demmitt reported that once a FOIA request was gathered by town staff, an invoice would be generated and then paid by the customer. If an invoice remained unpaid for 30 days or longer, a payment would be required for previous charges before the second request would be released. Mrs. Demmitt also mentioned there was a fee schedule currently on the town website for copies of plats, permits, etc. Mayor Barber requested that Council pay a fee for requests for records as well and would like to include that in the policy. It was stated that staff will provide additional information back to Council at the next meeting.

## IX. STAFF REPORTS

### A. Town Manager:

Mr. Wingfield reported that the town received certification from the Virginia Values Veterans Program. The program is for employers to help implement nationally recognized best practices in recruiting, hiring, and retaining highly-skilled and dependable veterans. Mr. Wingfield thanked Human Resources Director Alicia Dials for including the town to participate in this program. Mr. Wingfield reported the Water - Sewer - Solid Waste - Stormwater Committee agreed on closure of the recycling sites still in town. He reported there were still recycling sites at Home Depot and the high school and would be moving forward with the removal of those sites. Mr. Wingfield reached out to County Administrator Craig Meadows to set up a briefing/meeting with Town Council and the Montgomery County School Board. Mr. Wingfield mentioned Monday Aug 31, 2020. Council suggested later in the year after schools reopen. Council suggested Mr. Wingfield report back. Mr. Wingfield reported that Montgomery County, Blacksburg and Christiansburg discussed the CARES Act money and a potential program for local businesses to stay consistent across with the local response. Mr. Wingfield expressed that he was hopeful he could report back to Council at the beginning of August.

Chief Sisson and Chief Hanks updated on the health task force for COVID19: Chief Sisson reported the task force now has met three days a week, instead of the original seven days a week previously. The Health Department was testing two days a week regionally as well as business testing and testing in the nursing homes. The Health Department had tested over 9,000 people, 200 have tested positive in Montgomery County. Chief Sisson reported that 35% of people tested positive were asymptomatic which meant they were not aware they had the virus. Mayor Barber questioned why a Christiansburg testing site was not available. Both Chief Sisson and Chief Hanks noted they would bring the suggestion of a test site in Christiansburg to the task force for consideration and report back to Council. Councilman Showalter requested a report from the task force on the reopening plans for Virginia Tech and Radford.

### B. Town Attorney: none

C. Other Staff: none

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Councilwoman Showalter-none.
- B. Councilman Huppert reported that the Aquatic Center was now open and taking appointments for swimming lanes. Also, the ACCE program would have a 5K walk/run during three different days, August 7, 2020 through August 11, 2020.
- C. Councilman Bishop reported there would be a Central Business Meeting tomorrow at noon.
- D. Councilwoman Sachs reported the Public Art Advisory Board meeting was in the stages of review and developing a public art plan.
- E. Councilwoman Hicks reported the Planning Commission Meeting coming up and encouraged the community to get involved concerning the school rezoning request.
- F. Mayor Barber reported the United Way would be setting up at the next Farmers' Market and requested supplies for schools for the "Stuff the Bus" Campaign. Mr. Barber recognized and appreciated the Town Manager's report on the Christiansburg meals program and all the efforts being made.

XI. CLOSED MEETING

No closed meeting was held per Council approving an adjustment of the agenda earlier in the meeting.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 10:09 P.M.

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Tracy Heinline, Executive Assistant

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D. Michael Barber, Mayor