

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL  
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 22, 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 SEPTEMBER 22, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor D. Michael Barber; Vice-Mayor Merissa Sachs; Samuel M. Bishop; Steve Huppert; Henry Showalter; Bradford J. Stipes. ABSENT: Johana Hicks.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren, Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Reid Broughton; Finance Director Val Tweedie; Director of Engineering Wayne Nelson; Planning Director Will Drake; Assistant Engineering Director for Capital Projects and Utilities Justin St. Clair; Public Works Director Jim Lancianese; Building Official Jerry Heinline; Building Inspector II Bane Compton; Asst. Director of Public Works Utilities Don Cole; Neighborhood Services Coordinator Patrick Saunders; Police Chief Mark Sisson.

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA**

**III. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Meeting Minutes of September 8, 2020.
- B. Monthly Bill List.
- C. Resolution Recognizing October 4 - 10, 2020 as Fire Prevention Week.

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

**V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Assistant Director of Engineering Capital Projects and Utilities Justin St. Clair to present on water and sewer capital projects.

Mr. St. Clair updated Council on the water and sewer capital projects that were included in the current annual budget, and those that had been delayed and would be included for consideration in the upcoming budget amendment. In his report, Mr. St. Clair described the details of each project and included the funding source and cost, along with the page the project could be found in the budget. Mr. St. Clair briefly overviewed less visible water and sewer projects that were soon to be completed, and offered to answer questions.

- B. Assistant Director of Public Works Utilities Don Cole to present on Wastewater Treatment Plant capital projects.

Mr. Cole talked about the history of the WWTP and facility upgrades over the past forty years that accommodated growth. He then highlighted plans for the facility that included a preliminary engineering report to identify improvements for the next 20 years, a biosolids system upgrade design, and SCADA system upgrades, that were included in the current budget. Mr. Cole explained in detail the specific repairs for the nine system areas that would be identified by the preliminary engineering report, and provided an overview of the needs related to the biosolids system and SCADA, and noted that the biosolids system upgrade, anticipated to cost approximately \$3.8M, would create a more efficient process and would produce a product that could be disposed of at the landfill. In his report, Mr. Cole included the financial status of the WWTP, including the debt service to be paid in full in March 2021. Mr. Cole noted that 100% of Christiansburg's wastewater flows to the WWTP, along with some from Montgomery County, and he offered to answer questions.

- C. Building Official Jerry Heinline and Neighborhood Services Coordinator Patrick Saunders to present on the blighted structures program and neighbor services program.

Mr. Heinline introduced Neighborhood Services Coordinator Patrick Saunders and Building Inspector II Bane Compton, and provided Council with an update on the blighted structures program, initiated in 2016, that included detailed information about the properties addressed by the Town, and before and after photos of demolitions. Mr. Heinline provided the definition of blighted property/unsafe structure according to Town Code, and referenced the State Code that provided for the implementation of a blighted structures program. Mr. Heinline stressed that the goal of the town was to seek voluntary compliance by property owners in resolving blight/unsafe issues, and to serve as a community resource, and he noted Mr. Saunders has facilitated this goal by going out into the community to introduce himself and explain the program using a handout for citizens. In addition, the Neighborhood Services Program has partnered with Virginia Tech's Big Event to foster property clean-up, and is using the Town website as a reference point to understanding the program. Mr. Heinline and Mr. Saunders explained the process of investigating complaints, and the process for enforcement when necessary, and reported that the town had received a total of 391 complaints since the beginning of the program. In closing, Mr. Heinline shared positive comments from citizens in support of Mr. Saunders' efforts and involvements in the community. Council expressed appreciation for the approach taken by the Town in addressing blight and unsafe structures as a positive resource for the community.

## VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS (no comments presented)

## VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Stipes and Bishop – Street Committee Report/Recommendation on:  
Plat from Records Showing Lot Line Vacation & Easement Dedication on Tax Parcels 529-(2)-82E, 83A, 83C, 84A & 530-(2)-84A Situated on Fairview Street, S.E.

Councilman Stipes reported that in 2007 Council approved a Conditional Use Permit for Conner's Mobile Home Park to expand by eleven lots. Since that time a site plan has been developed, and the present request to vacate internal lot lines and dedicate an easement will accommodate the additional lots previously approved. Councilman Stipes noted that staff and the Street Committee recommended approval, and he made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

## VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Appointment of Tara Talerico (Hampton Inn Manager) and Reappointment of Luke Brugh (Brugh Coffee Company Owner/Manager) to the Montgomery Tourism Development Council for terms beginning September 22, 2020 and ending September 21, 2022.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the appointment of Tara Talerico and Luke Brugh as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye. Council expressed appreciation for both Ms. Talerico and Mr. Brugh, and both thanked Council for the opportunity to serve on the Montgomery Tourism Development Council.

- B. 2020 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan. The Public Hearing was held September 8, 2020.

No comments were presented during the public comment period. Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the 2020 CDBG Annual Action Plan, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

- C. Request by David Hill, on behalf of Old School Partners Christiansburg, for a 12-month extension to the Conditional Use Permit approved for a planned housing development at 200 Junkin Street, NE to consist of up to 17 apartment units in the R-3, Multi-Family Residential District. The permit was approved by Council on November 27, 2018.

Mr. Hill explained the 12-month extension request would allow additional time to address infrastructure needs, and assured Council that they remained committed to the project. Planning Director Will Drake noted that an extension would extend from the original approval date. Councilman Stipes made motion to approve the extension request, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

D. Council options in appointment of a member to the vice-mayor position.

Town Manager Wingfield provided Council with an outline of options that was based on Council comments, for review and discussion. Councilman Huppert noted his support for the current nomination process, along with Councilman Showalter and Councilman Stipes. Councilman Bishop said he had no additional comments since his comments during the prior council meeting discussion. Council discussed revisiting the matter in one year. Councilman Stipes made a motion to continue with the current nomination process held during the annual reorganizational meeting, and to revisit the matter in one year. Councilwoman Sachs seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Nay; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

## IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager:

- Request that Council task the Planning Commission with reviewing and updating the Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan, as 2013 was the last major update. Council agreed to the request.
- Ribbon cutting for the trail and footbridge at Depot Park is scheduled for September 25 at 11:00 a.m.
- A special meeting for the discussion of the budget amendment was scheduled for October 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m.
- The town received a request from a citizen for a second recycling cart, and Finance Director Val Tweedie noted that the town had received many similar requests for additional carts since the beginning of the curbside recycling program. She explained that it would be more feasible to provide a second cart to interested residents, rather than moving to weekly recycling collection. Councilwoman Sachs noted that this request had been discussed in the past, and, to encourage recycling participation, recommended providing an additional recycling cart for a fee of \$10/month. Council expressed support for Councilwoman Sachs' recommendation, and Councilman Showalter recommended the Town issue a public announcement on ways to handle recycling compaction to optimize recycling can volume.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the \$10/month second cart fee for the citizens that request it, seconded by Councilwoman Sachs. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

- NRV Homegrown has requested that the Town sell its membership cards at the recreation center and aquatic center. However, Finance Director Val Tweedie explained that selling the cards would not be a simple process from an auditing/accountability standpoint, and that, historically, the Town did not allow advertising from private businesses and non-profits at its facilities and, therefore, she cautioned against approving the request. It was noted that the group could look into using the community posting board at the aquatic center to advertise its product. Councilman Showalter requested that a policy for uniformity of community

posting boards in town-owned facilities be drafted and presented to Council for adoption. Council expressed support for the recommendation of Mrs. Tweedie to not participate in the sale of the membership cards at town-owned facilities.

- Police Chief Sisson reported that, moving forward, the New River Health District Taskforce would provide a written Covid-19 update to local governments on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, rather than reporting verbally at each individual locality on a periodic basis.
- Councilwoman Sachs asked for an update on the Roselawn Memorial Garden complaints discussed during the previous council meeting. Town Manager Wingfield reported that there had been no feedback from the new manager of Roselawn since he relayed the concerns, and that he would follow-up this week and provide Council with any information he receives. Future complaints received by the Town would be forwarded to Mr. Joe Redling.

B. Town Attorney:

C. Other Staff:

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

- A. Councilman Stipes commended Councilman Huppert's efforts in advocating for the redevelopment of Depot Park, and for the community and staff who have been instrumental in the redevelopment. Noting the upcoming ribbon cutting at Depot Park, Mr. Stipes suggested the Town reach out to the owners of Rosa Peters Park about connecting the two parks in partnership.
- B. Councilman Huppert thanked Mr. Stipes for the comments and encouraged all to visit the park. He then requested that Town Manager Wingfield pass along his appreciation for the informative staff presentations.
- C. Councilman Bishop announced that a Central Business District Committee meeting would be held virtually tomorrow at 12:00 P.M. and all were invited to attend.
- D. Councilwoman Sachs, no report.
- E. Councilman Showalter, no report.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Closed Meeting:

- 1. Councilwoman Sachs made a motion to enter into a Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711(A)(1), for the discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any

public body. The Closed Meeting was for Council to discuss appointment of Clerk of Council. Councilman Huppert seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye.

2. Reconvene in Open Meeting.

3. Certification.

Councilwoman Sachs moved to certify that the Town Council of the Town of Christiansburg, meeting in Closed Meeting, to the best of each member's knowledge, discussed only the matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law and only such matters as are identified in the Resolution to enter into Closed Meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Bishop and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Sachs – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes - Aye.

4. Council action on the matters. No action was taken by Council.

## XII. ADJOURN

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 9:35 P.M.

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Michele Stipes, Clerk of Council

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D. Michael Barber, Mayor