

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL  
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 22, 2022 – 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 FEBRUARY 22, 2022, AT 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor D. Michael Barber; Vice-Mayor Henry Showalter; Samuel M. Bishop; Johana Hicks; Tanya Hockett; Casey Jenkins; Tim Wilson.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren; Town Attorney Reid Broughton; Executive Assistant/Clerk of Council Tracy Heinline; Engineering Director Mike Kelley; Finance Director Valerie Tweedie; Police Chief Mark Sisson.

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

No adjustments.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Conditional Use Permit request by Rockstep Christiansburg, LLC for operation of a carnival from April 27, 2022, through May 8, 2022, on property located at 782 New River Road NW, (Tax Parcel 435 – ((A)) – 41; Parcel ID 007741) in the B-3 General Business District. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Justin Cole, Cole Shows Amusement Company, expressed that the carnival was well received last year and offered to answer any questions Council had. Councilman Bishop questioned if there had been any issues in the past during the carnival events. Mr. Cole expressed there had been minor issues and those issues were not serious. Chief Sisson noted the Police Department worked well with the carnival each year and noted there would be police presence there.

B. Conditional Use Permit request by Taylor E. Linkous and Blair Lawton LLC for a business auction house on property located at 2790 Roanoke Street (Tax Parcel 501 – ((5)) – 2; Parcel ID 030021) in the B-3 General Business District. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Taylor Linkous, owner of 2790 Roanoke Street, offered to answer any questions Council had concerning the conditional use permit presented. He explained the property would be used for an auction house but more of an on-line type of platform and noted there would be no excessive traffic or loudspeakers on the property. Mr. Linkous talked about cosmetic improvements to the building as well as the types of items that would be auctioned. He noted that the majority auctioned would be real estate and high-end assets such as jewelry, coins, etc. Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren stated there had been no conditions recommended by the Planning Commission for this conditional use permit.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2022
- B. Monthly Bill List

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. Councilwoman Hicks seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

#### V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. David Rotenizer, Executive Director of Montgomery County, Blacksburg, Christiansburg Regional Tourism to present on agency operations

David Rotenizer introduced himself to Town Council and gave a brief background of the joint tourism program and talked about the direct economic impact in the area from 2016 to 2020. He explained that Covid had negatively impacted tourism and hospitality in the area. He noted the positive economic impact of the Aquatic Center and the future signature park and stated that these facilities are crucial in bringing in visitors for Christiansburg's hotels and restaurants. Mr. Rotenizer talked about the vibrancy and potential for the Downtown and Uptown areas in Christiansburg and complimented the wayfinding signs in Town. He referenced the Huckleberry Trail bridge that runs across Route 114 and suggested there be a Huckleberry Trail sign for the bridge. He talked about the new NRV Passenger Rail, Christiansburg Institute, the Trans America Bicycle Trail, and the Huckleberry Trail connecting the community. Councilman Jenkins questioned the regional collaboration concerning tourism and any challenges he may foresee. Mr. Rotenizer explained that tourism looked at the regional collaboration as an opportunity, not a challenge, to meet new people and start something new.

Councilwoman Hicks invited Mr. Rotenizer to the Central Business District meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and expressed that she liked the idea of the Huckleberry Bridge sign. Mayor Barber explained that the Town's tourism is funded by a one percent increase approved many years ago on the lodging tax. Mr. Barber also agreed a Town of Christiansburg sign along with the Huckleberry Trail sign would be nice. Councilman Showalter expressed that he was looking forward to working with Mr. Rotenizer and the tourism's historic angle. Mr. Showalter expressed interest in the Huckleberry Trail bridge sign as well and asked that the Central Business Committee work with the Bikeway-Walkway Committee or the Friends of the Huckleberry Trail to produce a sign.

B. Tina King, Executive Director of New River Valley Agency on Aging to present on agency operations

Tina King addressed Council and explained that the Town of Christiansburg has provided funds to the New River Valley Agency on Aging for forty-seven years. Ms. King talked about the agency's different services they provide. She explained that the NRV Agency on Aging was a governmental cooperative formed in 1975 that received funding from public sources, grants, and contributions/donations. Ms. King talked about the areas they serve and the agency's mission to help maximize independence of older adults and enhance their quality of life. She touched on the many support services the agency provides such as in-home services, transportation services, and respite care that assists caregivers. Ms. King concluded that the agency had been supportive of 2,258 individuals in the Town of Christiansburg in the year 2021. She thanked Council for their support and expressed that NRV Agency on Aging was asking for a total of \$5,049 this year in support. Councilwoman Hicks expressed that she was on the NRV Agency on Aging Board and was glad to hear the funding from the Town had helped with the number of services provided to citizens. Councilman Jenkins inquired how Ms. King's statistics compared to years prior and how the demand grows going forward. Ms. King expressed that during Covid numbers had dropped but noted that two years ago they had supported approximately 2,600 individuals. Councilwoman Hicks noted that the agency was also open to donations at any time.

## VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Bob Poff, 155 Arrowhead Trail, asked Council for support for the Montgomery Museum of Art and History with passing the budget amendment. Mr. Poff explained the Museum had outgrown its space and the Town's funding would help the museum with the upcoming relocation. He noted that the Museum had offered residents and tourists with impactful ways for the best place to live work and play. Mr. Poff referenced the Town's Destination 2022 Plan and expressed that goal #1 in the plan stated, "an active destination for culture, recreation, and entertainment." He also stated that the Town's Comprehensive Plan states that the Tourism's purpose is to stimulate economic opportunity and enhance the quality of life. Mr. Poff concluded that the Museum benefits the Town with an increase in tourism and that by relocating downtown there would be more visitors to the Museum.

Ernie Wade, 220 Emerald Blvd., President of Montgomery Museum of Art and History, expressed thanks to the Town for the continuing support over the years. He spoke about the purchased building on the Town Square and how the Museum would close on the property February 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Wade expressed that both Montgomery County and the Town of Blacksburg had agreed to accept the Museum's request for funds and expressed disappointment that Town Council had not acted at the last meeting for Museum funding. He expressed there had been a firm commitment made from the Town in November of 2021 and asked that the Town honor their commitment they had made to the Museum.

Susan Miller, MCEAP (Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program), thanked Council for the opportunity to apply for funds for the program. Ms. Miller explained that MCEAP had suffered financially because of Covid and that in January of 2021 they had assisted 78 families, this year they had helped 159 families. She explained that the need for assistance is great and continues to increase in the community.

Joe Davidson, President of the local advisory board for the New River Valley Agape Center, addressed Council and expressed excitement for the growing relationship with the Town of Christiansburg. He noted the local advisory board was formed in March 2020. Mr. Davidson explained that the Agape Center provides food, diapers, clothing, and other essentials to the community. Mr. Davidson concluded that the center was in the process of purchasing a building in the Town of Christiansburg.

Kim Bowman, 535 Arrowhead Trail, Director of the NRV Agape Center, addressed Council and expressed that the center had provided food to 1,031 individuals, clothing to 300 individuals, and Christmas gifts to several hundred children as well. Ms. Bowman expressed that the need is great for the community and appreciated Council's time.

## VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Street Committee Report/Recommendation

1. Subdivision of Tax Parcel 496-((20))-2A situated along Scattergood Drive NW (creating 2 lots)

Councilman Bishop explained the owner of the referenced subdivision along Scattergood Drive NW wanted to divide the lot to create two lots.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the recommendation by the Street Committee for the subdivision situated along Scattergood Drive NW. Councilwoman Hicks seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

2. Boundary Line Vacations and Public Utility/Access Easements Dedication for Tax Parcels 500((2))1, 500((A))7, and 500((A))7e located at 2390 Roanoke Street

Councilman Bishop explained that the two easements proposed would be for a public utility easement over two water meters and for a public access easement on the corner of Industrial Drive and Roanoke Street for a small portion of sidewalk on private property. Councilwoman Hicks inquired about the process for acquiring additional meters for a property. Town Manager Wingfield explained that if a meter was needed for watering a yard, then a resident could use an irrigation meter and not pay the sewer fees. He explained that the Town does not require a resident to connect to Town water but a connection to sewer is mandatory if living in Town limits and sewer is available. He explained the water meter connection fee is \$3,000 minimum for in Town and \$4,500 outside Town.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the recommendation by the Street Committee for the boundary line vacation and public utility/access easements dedication for 2390 Roanoke Street. Councilman Wilson seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

## VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

### A. Resolution to Budget Amendment #8 for FY 2021-2022 (Showalter, Hockett)

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the resolution to budget amendment #8 for FY 2021-2022. Councilwoman Hockett seconded the motion.

Mayor Barber noted that the funds would be for the purchase of the property on E. Main Street not specifically for Museum operations. Councilman Jenkins read a disclosure statement pertaining to his employment with the Museum and explained he would abstain from any discussions and actions. *The signed disclosure statement was included in the final minute book.* Councilwoman Hicks explained that since she abstained from the last vote concerning the Museum, she would do so again due to office space near the property. Mrs. Hicks also expressed concern that the budget amendment items on the agenda did not clarify to the public what the amendments were pertaining to. Mayor Barber expressed that the item was a public presentation in November 2021 and noted in the minutes of Town Council.

Town Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Abstain; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Abstain; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Nay.

### B. Resolution to Appropriate Funds per FY 2021-2022 Budget Amendment #8 (Showalter, Hockett)

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the resolution to appropriate funds per FY 2021-2022 budget amendment #8. Councilwoman Hockett seconded the motion.

Councilman Wilson noted that he would not support funding for outside organizations using taxpayer money.

Town Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Abstain; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Abstain; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Nay.

C. Discussion of College Street stormwater

Mr. Wingfield reported on the Water and Waste Committee meeting and explained that College Street property owners in the lower pond area had been polled and most owners would be willing to sell their property but two would not. Mr. Wingfield explained that this left the committee with essentially either do nothing or Option C, which included the upstream pond installation. He explained the project would be designed for a twenty-five-year storm but could not guarantee there would be no flooding in the future. Mr. Wingfield talked about the Resiliency Plan funding option, the VDOT Revenue Sharing option, and the General Fund/Stormwater Enterprise dollars. He explained that by using the ARPA funds there would be deadlines. He explained that Option C would cost approximately \$2.35 million which would include the design and the construction. Councilwoman Hicks expressed the importance of this project and that it should be a high priority for Council. She noted that the ARPA funds should be used for this project first before other projects. Councilman Showalter inquired if Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Hicks recommendation was for the Town to not pursue a 50/50 match from the state for the College Street project and instead take the funds directly from the Town's reserves. Mr. Wilson and Mrs. Hicks agreed that this was the recommendation. Councilwoman Hicks inquired why Montgomery County could not help with funding the project since the College Street residents pay County taxes as well. Mr. Wingfield expressed that there were other locations in Town that had issues with flooding that could be comparable to College Street. Mrs. Hicks asked Mr. Wingfield to report back to her with a list of those properties. Councilman Showalter asked about the ARPA deadlines and where the Town stands on the reserve fund policy. Mr. Wingfield and Mrs. Tweedie explained the Town's reserve fund was slightly below forty percent and explained the Town was able to designate ARPA funds for certain specific allowable items, such as emergency services pay, which meant the Town could take an existing project, complete that project using ARPA funds, and still meet the ARPA expenditure and reporting deadlines, even if the project went past the deadlines.

Mr. Wingfield stated that he preferred to apply for and receive grants to pursue the project in a timely manner. He explained that one of the concerns was that a property owner would not agree to an easement dedication. Mr. Wingfield explained that the Town could pursue easement acquisition and 30% design drawings for approximately \$200,000 and could get a final design for an additional \$150,000. Council decided to acquire permission from property owners for easements and complete the surveys. Council also agreed the channel property owners needed to dedicate their easements to the Town. Mayor Barber mentioned he would like to see an easement dedication first from the property owners and a written understanding from the property owners that

this would not be a guarantee of a flood free zone. Mrs. Tweedie clarified that Council would like this funding to come from the ARPA fund and Council agreed.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the guarantee of easement dedication from the property owners on College Street and clarified the funds would come from the ARPA fund. Councilwoman Hicks seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

## IX. STAFF REPORTS

### A. Town Manager

Mr. Wingfield reported that the Christiansburg Institute and the Montgomery Museum of Art and History would unveil the African American Storyboard March 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. Mr. Wingfield stated that he planned on temporarily closing Marvin Jarels Circle for the event.

### B. Town Attorney

No report.

### C. Other Staff

No report.

## X. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Showalter  
No report.

Councilman Bishop  
No report.

Councilwoman Hicks  
Reported that last year with the community support the NRV Agency on Aging was funded less than \$5,000 and was requesting \$5,049. Mrs. Hicks explained that they had asked for a seven percent increase over last year and that was included in what the agency was asking for this year.

Councilwoman Hockett  
No report.

Councilman Wilson  
No report.

Councilman Jenkins

Mr. Jenkins reminded everyone there would be a Central Business Committee meeting on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon.

Mayor Barber

Thanked Council for reconsidering the budget amendment for the Museum. He expressed that it was the Town's moral obligation.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.

Tracy Heinle  
Tracy Heinle, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber  
D. Michael Barber, Mayor