

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 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 MARCH 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; Finance Director Valerie Tweedie; Planning Director Benjamin Tripp; Information Technology Director Craig Hatmaker; Chief of Police Mark Sisson; Fire Chief Billy Hanks.

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Hockett.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

No adjustments to the agenda.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Conditional Use Permit request by Jacqueline Marshall, owner, and Shaun Chuyka, lessee, to allow a contractor's equipment storage yard in the General Business District (B-3) on property located at 301 Depot Street, N.W. (Tax Parcel 526 – ((23)) – (BK1) – 12, Parcel ID 007535). The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Shaun Chuyka, owner of Goliath Softwash, addressed Council and explained his company was a mobile power washing company that provided exterior cleaning for both residential and commercial clients. Mr. Chuyka noted that the garage at 301 Depot

Street would be utilized as storage for larger trucks and no work would take place at the location due to his company being mobile.

- B. An ordinance regarding a rezoning request by John D. and Arnedo V. Elmore, owners, and Garard Hopkins III, contract purchaser, from Agricultural District A to General Business District B-3 for a portion of the property located at 710 Peppers Ferry Road, N.W. (Tax Parcel 435 – ((A)) – 23; Parcel ID 021274). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Garard Hopkins III, Stafford Drive, explained there was an existing storage business on the property, and the request was for additional space to expand for more storage operations. Mr. Hopkins explained his goal was to phase out the outdoor contractor equipment and replace the buildings with prefabricated white steel buildings. He expressed that the storage area was a good location due to it being near new housing and businesses.

Cristina Ryplansky, owner of property nearby on Peppers Ferry Road, asked Council to deny the request for additional space for a storage business. Ms. Ryplansky explained she had visited the site and expressed the storage units were cosmetically unfriendly. She expressed that her family owns 100 acres (agricultural) near the property and that there was an abundance of storage units already there. She noted that after researching the zoning ordinances online she discovered there were no residential zoning districts that allow storage units. She expressed that allowing more units on the property would lower the value of land in that area. Ms. Ryplansky requested that Council send this request back to the Planning Commission for further study.

Mr. Hopkins, responded to Ms. Ryplansky and explained the colors for the units could be changed if requested and that his plan was to make the area look nicer. He talked about the need for storage units when you have residential properties in the area.

Mayor Barber noted that this request had been recommended by the Planning Commission and polled Council to see if they wished to send it back to them for further study. Councilwoman Hicks-yes, Wilson-no, Hockett-no, Bishop-no, Showalter-no, Jenkins-no.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of March 8, 2022
- B. Monthly Bill List
- C. Resolution recognizing March 29, 2022, as Vietnam Veteran's Day
- D. Resolution recognizing April 4 – 10, 2022 as National Public Health Week
- E. Resolution recognizing April 10 – 16, 2022 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

F. Resolution recognizing April 2022 as Child Abuse Prevention Month

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Showalter 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. Information Technology Director Craig Hatmaker to update Council on the IT Department

IT Director Craig Hatmaker presented an update on the IT Department and spoke about the department's mission and values. Mr. Hatmaker explained that essentially the IT Department supports other departments with technology and protects and informs citizens and staff with ransomware protection. He expressed that the IT Department ensures that citizen information such as taxes, utility, and property information is not compromised. Mr. Hatmaker touched on several projects his department was currently either working on or had completed recently. He spoke about the implementation of new software in Finance, enabling telework during the pandemic, and expanding mobile communications with the Police, Fire, and Rescue Departments. Mr. Hatmaker spoke about cybersecurity and explained the IT Department's countermeasures to block malicious attacks.

B. Finance Director Valerie Tweedie and Town Manager Randy Wingfield to present the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-2023 Budget.

Finance Director Valerie Tweedie presented Council with a brief overview of the proposed FY 2022-2023 budget. Mrs. Tweedie noted that meals lodging, and sales tax were all trending upward and exceeding current year expectations. She explained the proposed water rate increase of \$1 per month for the first 1,000 gallons was deferred from 2022 and there would be no change in fees for use over 1,000 gallons. She noted that the Water Authority intended to continue to raise their rates 2% per year. Mrs. Tweedie included that operating budgets had been adjusted due to increased costs of material and fuel. She explained that the proposed budget included the continued construction of the signature park, four new full-time positions, a merit increase and a cost-of-living increase for employees, as well as a part-time wage increase to reflect a minimum of \$15 per hour. Mrs. Tweedie referenced a list of capital projects for the Town and explained that several of the projects had been under design and were now reaching construction stage. Mrs. Tweedie concluded that a final budget would need to be adopted by June 30, 2022.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Paul Leichner, 160 Alexa Lane, questioned the budget amendment #8 Council had voted on at a previous Town Council meeting. Mr. Leichner also inquired why Councilman Wilson voted nay for

the budget amendment #8. Councilman Wilson explained that he believes the Town should not allocate money to organizations using tax-payer dollars.

Henry Guess, 810 College Street, expressed concern that there had been demeaning remarks made by Council concerning College Street. He asked Council to not degrade the College Street neighborhood and expressed hope the budget would assist with repairs and beautification of the neighborhood.

Christine Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, expressed to Council she had attended the March 15th work session and was disappointed with Council's behavior. She expressed that Council needed to listen to each other instead of raising their voices. Mrs. Waltz noted that it was frustrating as a citizen for Town Council to disagree so loudly and would like to think they have the citizen's best interest in mind. She concluded with saying she hoped all Council had the same goal in mind to work together instead of apart.

Charles Dustin Robins, 1720 Old Farm Village Road, thanked Council and encouraged the new Council members to volunteer in the community. He expressed he would particularly like to see Council volunteer their time with the community gardens in Town.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Bishop and Hockett – Street Committee Report/Recommendation

1. Plat of Lot Line and Public Utility Easement Relocation between Tax Parcel 529 ((47)) 2D and Tax Parcel ((34)) 2A located on Corporate Drive in Falling Branch Corporate Park

Councilman Bishop explained the Street Committee's recommendation was to approve a boundary line and a utility easement relocation within the Falling Branch Corporate Park. He noted that this had been brought before Council and approved in July 2021, but due to time constraints it had expired. Councilman Jenkins inquired why it had expired. Mr. Wingfield explained that plat approvals are good for sixty days and if they are not recorded within that time frame, they are brought back to Council for reapproval.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Street Committee for a boundary line and a utility easement relocation located on Corporate Drive. Councilwoman Hicks seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

2. Plat Showing Subdivision of Tax Parcel 497 ((A)) 29 Situated on Depot Street, N.E.

Councilman Bishop explained the above request was to split the Depot Street property into two parcels.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Street Committee for a plat showing subdivision on Depot Street, N.E. Councilwoman Hockett seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

3. Plat from Records Showing Right-of-way Vacation and Boundary Line

Councilman Bishop explained to Council that the recommendation of the Street Committee was to vacate a portion of right-of-way at the end of Scattergood Drive. Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren explained that in July 2020 Council did take action to vacate an unbuilt portion of right-of-way and require the dedication of a public access easement to Diamond Hill Park.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Street Committee for a plat from records showing right of way vacation and boundary line. Councilwoman Hockett seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Nay; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Andi Golusky, Executive Director of NRV Cares, to request street closure of Hickok Street, N.W. (between W. Main Street and Commerce Street) on April 21, 2022, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for the Spring Family Fun Festival in conjunction with Child Abuse Prevention Month

Andi Golusky, NRV Cares, spoke to Council about the request for street closure of Hickok Street for the Spring Family Fun Festival. She talked about Child Abuse Prevention Month and explained that the pinwheels in Town was a national symbol for child abuse prevention and served as a reminder of the great childhoods we want for all children.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the request for street closure of Hickok Street, N.W. on April 21, 2022. Councilman Showalter seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

- B. Ernie Wade of the Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg to request street closure of Main Street (between Dunkley Street and Pepper Street), Franklin Street (between First Street and Commerce Street), Hickok Street (between Commerce Street and First Street), and Marvin Jarels Circle (in its entirety) for Wilderness Trail Festival on September 17, 2022, from 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Ernie Wade, Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg, addressed Council concerning the annual request for street closure for the Wilderness Trail Festival. Steve Simmons, Kiwanis Club member, addressed the members of Council and explained what the Kiwanis Club provides for the community. He spoke about the Head Start program that offers gift cards to children in need for six schools in the Montgomery County school strand as well

as providing scholarships for students. The Kiwanis Club helps support the Christiansburg High School football and cheerleading programs and during Christmas younger children are visited by Santa. Mr. Simmons explained that the Kiwanis Club had developed a gift card program with the Aquatic Center and the Parks and Recreation Center for children that cannot afford the programs at those facilities. Mr. Simmons expressed his appreciation for Council's support throughout the years.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the closure of Main Street, Franklin Street, Hickok Street, and Marvin Jarels Circle on September 17, 2022. Councilwoman Hicks seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

C. Adoption of the Emergency Operations Plan

Mayor Barber explained that Councilwoman Hockett and Councilman Wilson had looked over the Emergency Operations Plan thoroughly and agreed it was viable. Fire Chief Billy Hanks expressed appreciation for both Council members thorough inspection of the document.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the adoption of the Emergency Operations Plan. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

D. Update on Community Garden Locations

Mr. Wingfield explained that he had met with Parks and Recreation Director Brad Epperley and a list of locations for community gardens were reviewed. He explained that the Town's priority locations should be Palmer Street and Roanoke Street and he would like to include soil tests at those locations and move forward. Mr. Wingfield expressed that a third site in the Slate Creek Subdivision would be an option as well. He explained he would like to poll the homeowners in the subdivision to make sure there is still interest in a community garden. Councilwoman Hockett inquired when the Town decides to pursue these sites, what would the role of the Town and community be. Mr. Wingfield explained that after testing there may be a need for better topsoil and if the soil is not suitable then the Town would reach out to the Agricultural Extension Office for direction. He noted that once the soil was approved then the areas could be tilled for use.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the Community Garden locations. Councilman Jenkins seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

E. Proposed Rescue Pay Increases

Mr. Wingfield spoke about the proposed Rescue pay increase that included an increase of \$20.00 an hour for EMTs, \$21.00 an hour for Advanced EMTs, and \$23.00 an hour for Paramedics effective March 28, 2022. Mayor Barber noted the money would come out of the revenue recovery funds. Councilwoman Hicks expressed that this increase for Rescue

felt like a competition with Montgomery County for the same services and felt that the Town and the County should be working together. Councilman Wilson disagreed and explained the Town and the County were different jurisdictions and not the same and expressed that the Town needed to keep people in the Town's jurisdiction, otherwise they could be lost to other jurisdictions. Mr. Wilson expressed the need to show the Town's employees they were valued.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the proposed Rescue pay increases. 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 unveiling of the storyboard in the Town's square had been well attended. He noted the Christiansburg Institute proposed event for Opal Lee had been canceled. Mr. Wingfield announced that the Dialogue on Race would be held Saturday, March 26th from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Christiansburg Middle School. He also stated that Montgomery County had relayed that a joint work session with Montgomery County Board of Supervisors would be possible after April and the Board of Supervisors would like a confirmation vote from Town Council to meet and have a proposed agenda for discussion.

B. Town Attorney

No report

C. Other Staff

No report

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Barber

Mayor Barber reported that the storyboard unveiling was a success and thanked Councilman Jenkins for a job well done. Mr. Barber noted that he was looking forward to the expansion.

Councilman Showalter

No report

Councilman Bishop

No report

Councilwoman Hicks

Mrs. Hicks reported a Central Business meeting March 23, 2022, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. She agreed that the storyboard unveiling downtown was well attended. Mrs. Hicks noted the downtown event at Macado's for Saint Patrick's Day was well attended and recognized several managers and sponsors that were part of the event. She also included that the Agency for Aging

had received an award for second place in the Commonwealth for the Covid Companions Program, a program that helped get supplies to those in need during the Covid pandemic. She also added that the Agency on Aging would be hosting an event with live music, dinner, and a silent auction to benefit the home delivered meals program on May 26, 2022, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Councilwoman Hockett
No report

Councilman Wilson
No report

Councilman Jenkins
No report

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:48 p.m.


Tracy Heintz, Clerk of Council


D. Michael Barber, Mayor