

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 24, 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 MAY 24, 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; Director of Public Works Jim Lancianese; Assistant Director of Public Works, Streets Travis Moles; Chief of Police Mark Sisson; Finance Director Valerie Tweedie; Planning Director Benjamin Tripp.

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Jenkins.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

Mayor Barber noted that he had received an email from the United Daughters of the Confederacy requesting to place a wreath at the confederate monument from May 29th to May 30th to honor their ancestors.

Council voted to allow the placement of the wreath as follows: Councilman Bishop – Aye; Councilwoman Hicks – Aye; Councilwoman Hockett – Aye; Councilman Jenkins – Aye; Councilman Showalter – Aye; Councilman Wilson – Aye.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Conditional Use Permit request by McNeil Property Management LLC, owner, to allow a Private School in the General Business District (B-3) on property located at 1650 Cambria Street N.E., Tax Parcel 467 – ((A)) – 55, Parcel ID 020103. The property is designated as

Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Mark Howard, 233 W. Main Street, Danville, Virginia, came before Council representing the Hughes Center, who was proposing to create a private special education school on the property at 1650 Cambria Street, N.E. Mr. Howard explained that the school would be serving children with special needs and noted that Christiansburg was an area of need for those services. He expressed that currently special needs children in the Christiansburg area were being bused to different areas of the state which involved long bus rides and explained their services could be provided at the proposed site in Christiansburg instead. Mr. Howard expressed that the Hughes Center has the full support of the Department of Education to expand their services in Christiansburg. He noted that the school would hold twenty-eight students with eight staff members, and they would serve Montgomery County and the surrounding areas. Mr. Bowman added that the hope was to start in August 2022 with approximately eight to ten students. Councilman Bishop asked if the current students attended Montgomery County Schools. Mr. Howard explained that typically these students were already in a private day placement school and the public-school system pays for the placement through the Children's Services Act (CSA). Councilwoman Hicks expressed her appreciation for the private school and supported the idea of more options for parents with special needs children. Mayor Barber requested that Council consider this request now due to a two-month build-out schedule.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to add the above conditional use permit to the agenda for discussion and potential action, seconded by Councilman Jenkins.

Councilwoman Hicks expressed that typically Council does not vote the same day on items presented as Public Hearings, but felt this item was important as far as timing for building restraints. Mrs. Hicks questioned if there would be additions built in the future to add more students. Mr. Howard explained that this facility would have three classrooms and if more room was needed the hope was to build elsewhere. Councilman Bishop asked if waiting two weeks for a decision would make a difference in their schedule. Mr. Howard explained that because of the special requirements for the children inside the school it would take longer to complete, and a fall opening would be delayed. Councilman Showalter noted that previously Council has been accused of selecting favorites to eliminate a two week wait period on requests and due to that he would not support to place this item on the agenda to vote.

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

Mayor Barber noted that this item would be placed under agenda item VIII. G.

- B. Town of Christiansburg 2022-2026 Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Plan and 2022 Annual Action Plan

Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren explained this was a housing and urban community development block grant program and noted the Town receives approximately \$100,000 per year and has historically focused those funds in the Park Street area which qualifies as a low- to moderate-income area. Mr. Warren expressed that the Park Street area has had sidewalk replacement as well as waterline replacement in the last year. He explained that if funds allowed, sidewalks could be placed on East Main Street. He noted the need for home emergency repair in the area and the possible coordination with the Town's Neighborhood Enhancement Coordinator to identify potential properties. Mr. Warren also noted the continued work with homelessness prevention and working with New River Community Action.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned if the block grant was a grant the Town had to apply for each year. Mr. Warren explained that the Town was considered an entitlement community and receives funding directly through the Housing and Urban Development Office. Mrs. Hicks also questioned how the Town decides the amount of funds for each household that qualifies for the emergency home repair. Mr. Warren explained that the since the Town would not give the grants directly to the recipient, they would work through a non-profit community housing organization and there would be a cap of the total money allocated for those efforts.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of May 10, 2022
- B. Monthly Bill List
- C. Contract Amendment #1 with Mattern and Craig, Inc. for Professional Engineering Services for Construction Engineering and Inspections for Primary Extension Paving in the amount of \$79,525.00.
- D. Contract renewal #1 with Rummel, Klepper, & Kahl, LLP d/b/a RK&K for Signal Structure Evaluations and Traffic Engineering On-Call Services in the amount of \$100,000 or more.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Councilman Jenkins.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned the monthly bill list line item for Marketing on Main and asked what the amount pertained to. Finance Director Valerie Tweedie explained this item was for two invoices: one for the Aquatic Center for set-up of artwork for color imprints on cups and other promotional items for an event. The other item was for t-shirts for the Fire Department.

Council voted on the motion as follows: Councilman Bishop – Aye; Councilwoman Hicks – Aye; Councilwoman Hockett – Aye; Councilman Jenkins – Aye; Councilman Showalter – Aye; Councilman Wilson – Aye.

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Wing Policy and Governmental Affairs Manager Nicholas Devereux to provide an update on Wing operations and discuss potential public drone delivery location

Mr. Nicholas Devereux spoke to Council concerning the status of Wing and a public delivery proposal that would involve the Town. Mr. Devereux explained the value of community support from local and elected leaders for Wing. He noted that Wing launched in October of 2019 and shortly after Covid-19 impacted their services and caused a rise in services. He spoke about how Wing's drone package delivery service continues to have success and high levels of support in Christiansburg and explained that last fall a new aircraft was approved by the FAA to fly in more varied weather conditions as well as approval to fly more drones simultaneously. Mr. Devereux also talked about current local partners and site improvements with community involvement. He included that Wing was making improvements to the nest as well, transforming areas for a more permanent location to handle baristas on site. He explained there would be a re-opening of public tours at the nest and Wing was working with Virginia Tech on a week-long drone summer camp in July.

Councilman Bishop questioned the delivery hours for Wing. Mr. Steve Yates, Director of US Business Operations with Wing explained that hours of operation were from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday but beginning June 28th they would open at 8:00 a.m. to offer breakfast items and coffee. Councilman Jenkins questioned what demand for services looked like from 2019 throughout the pandemic. Mr. Yates explained that since Wing changed aircrafts last year it affected services during that time due to waiting on the new aircraft but since it was replaced, they expect demand to rise. Councilwoman Hicks expressed the need for Wing services to provide for areas of low income in Christiansburg. Mr. Yates explained that it was a process with the FAA and their regulations and that air space observers would be needed in other locations so that all air space was covered to observe more locations.

Mr. Yates explained that Wing was currently looking at new drop zones and the focus now was on the Recreation Center in Christiansburg. He noted this would support local merchants and Wing would provide support and safety on site. Mr. Yates referenced a map that showed a proposed location for the public drop zone at the Recreation Center. He explained that signage of the drop zone could be provided, and that a QR code could be used for patrons to scan and place orders. He continued that Wing would work with the Recreation Center on the hours of operation for the drop zone.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned if there was a way for a permanent concrete pad for deliveries at the Recreation Center. Mr. Yates explained there would not be a permanent concrete pad, but that temporary signage and markings would help identify the area. He noted that no additional landscaping or infrastructure would be needed. Councilwoman Hicks expressed that she would like to see a more permanent area for deliveries. Councilman Showalter questioned how Wing would be able to prevent stealing of items that would be dropped off. Mr. Yates explained there would be Wing employees at the Recreation Center to educate customers in the beginning but has never had an issue with deliveries being stolen. Councilwoman Hockett asked if a customer would need to be in

the vicinity of the Recreation Center when ordering from the drop zone. Mr. Devereaux explained that a customer would need to be in the area of the Recreation Center to be able to order.

- B. Public Works Director Jim Lancianese to present on Public Works programs and operations

Jim Lancianese presented an overview of Public Works and the department's goals and objectives for the future. Mr. Lancianese explained Public Works divisional structure and talked about the importance of good customer service. He touched on Covid-19 and the development of policies and procedures in accordance with CDC guidelines. He explained that the department increased and expanded Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as well as facility cleaning efforts for staff safety. Mr. Lancianese noted that during the pandemic their department averaged one employee absence per workday. He explained that operations had to be adjusted to ensure that employees and customers were safe. He added that supporting the emergency services and the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) was a high priority that added to their department's workload.

Mr. Lancianese talked about recruitment and retention in the Public Works department and explained that currently there was 35 full-time open positions and due to the number of vacancies they have increased their recruitment efforts by expanding advertising resources to include professional organizations. He touched on contract management in Public Works and the multiple operational departments projects that were current and completed. Mr. Lancianese spoke about Spring and Fall Cleanup in Town and noted that 1,077 tons of material was collected last year. He talked about the department's completed projects such as new LED signs for the Recreation Center, Town Hall, and the Fire Department which were funded by Cares Act money. He continued that staffing, increased material and equipment cost, and fuel cost would be several future challenges for Public Works. Mr. Lancianese expressed that the department's future goals would be to look at possible land acquisition for the Public Works Facility since they were outgrowing their facility and mentioned that he would like to see the department be accredited with the American Public Works Association (APWA). Mr. Lancianese concluded that several upcoming special events would be taking place downtown, as well as Fall Cleanup and the Citizens Academy in October. Mayor Barber and Town Council thanked Public Works for a job well done and expressed appreciation for events that have ran so smoothly in the past.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Chris Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, addressed Council concerning the new park and that the County has spent \$12.5 million for new parks in Riner and Shawsville, which served approximately 3,000 citizens and noted the Town of Christiansburg's population was approximately 23% of the tax paying population of the County. He expressed that this should be mentioned in the upcoming meeting with Montgomery County Supervisors. He concluded that the County should allocate funds to the Town for the new park and noted that he had not seen results concerning sponsors for the new park.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Showalter – no report

Councilman Bishop reported that the Aquatic Center Beach Bash on May 20th was well attended.

Councilwoman Hicks agreed with Mr. Bishop concerning the Aquatic Center event and expressed thanks to staff for a job well done. Mrs. Hicks also reported that a Central Business Committee meeting would take place at noon on May 25th. She included that her trip on May 16th to the Main Street America Conference in Richmond was a success and would discuss details at the upcoming Central Business Committee meeting.

Councilwoman Hockett – no report

Councilman Wilson – no report

Councilman Jenkins reported that he had attended the Richmond Conference as well and expressed that a better understanding of how the Town could bring more life to the historic and business districts had taken place.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A. Proposed Sunset Cemetery 2022 Supplement to 2014 Master Plan

Town Manager Wingfield gave a brief background on the 2014 Cemetery master plan. He explained that the master plan details improvements to the cemetery including landscaping, benches and upgraded signing, and a proposal for 4,000 grave site lots and 16,000 columbarium and cremains spaces. He explained that in order to update the document he had started a spreadsheet that showed projected operating costs and capital outlays. Mr. Wingfield expressed that when the master plan was previously prepared there had been fifteen people on the committee and a Council member that was assigned to the Cemetery. Mr. Wingfield questioned if Council would like to either reconstitute the committee or assign a Council member to work with him on price increases and lot sales. Councilman Showalter noted that the previous committee had little to no members attending the meetings and would not recommend that again. He expressed that Mr. Wingfield working with Mrs. Tweedie and Jim Lancianese would hopefully provide a good plan moving forward instead. Mr. Showalter also expressed that the Town had a reason for taking over the Cemetery and it was not to break even financially or profit and explained it would be heavily subsidized more in the years to come. Councilwoman Hicks questioned if there was available lot space at the Cemetery. Mr. Wingfield explained there was room left for 4,000 lots. Councilwoman Hicks asked if a Town had an obligation to keep a cemetery open. Mr. Wingfield explained that the Town is not obligated to sell lots but is obligated to maintain it. Mr. Showalter further explained that the Town Council could opt to shut down the Cemetery now and not offer burials or plots since it was owned by the Town of Christiansburg. Mrs. Hicks further questioned if the Cemetery ran out of space for burial lots then would Town Council shut

it down. Councilman Wilson explained that that decision would be up to the Council at that time. Mr. Showalter noted that Town residents pay attention to how the Town takes care of their dead.

Councilwoman Hockett asked Mr. Wingfield what he would like to see accomplished with the provided spreadsheet. Mr. Wingfield explained that Councilwoman Hicks had mentioned the Cemetery in relation to the budget and wanted to make Council aware that the Cemetery would likely not be self-sufficient one hundred years from now. He explained that he was working on scheduling out capital improvements to the Cemetery. He noted that they would need a new columbarium in about three years, but the Town did have enough money in the cemetery capital funds to cover the cost.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned if the current budget included cost for sidewalks on S. Franklin Street in front of the Cemetery. Mr. Wingfield explained that sidewalks there would be a Town street expense, not a Cemetery expense and it would involve a grant through revenue sharing with VDOT. He noted that sidewalk construction could be directed to the Bikeway-Walkway Committee in order to schedule the construction. Councilman Showalter encouraged Mrs. Hicks to bring this topic of discussion to the upcoming Council retreat. Mayor Barber explained a motion or second was not needed and this item was a work in progress. He expressed that Council could look at this spreadsheet periodically to make sure goals are being met.

B. Ordinance to Adopt Personal Property tax rate for 2022 (no rate increase proposed)

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the ordinance to Adopt the Personal Property tax rate for 2022, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted on the motion as follows: Councilman Bishop – Aye; Councilwoman Hicks – Aye; Councilwoman Hockett – Aye; Councilman Jenkins – Aye; Councilman Showalter – Aye; Councilman Wilson – Aye.

C. Ordinance to Adopt Real Estate tax rate for 2022 (no rate increase proposed)

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the ordinance to Adopt the Real Estate tax rate for 2022, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted on the motion as follows: Councilman Bishop – Aye; Councilwoman Hicks – Aye; Councilwoman Hockett – Aye; Councilman Jenkins – Aye; Councilman Showalter – Aye; Councilman Wilson – Aye.

D. Resolution for Adoption of Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the Resolution for Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget, seconded by Councilman Bishop.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned the \$68,000 in easements on Hickok Street and if they were included in last year's budget. Mrs. Tweedie explained this amount was a budgeted line item that was never used and was a carry-over number to this year's budget. Mr. Warren expressed that a link could be provided to Council showing the executed contracts. Councilman Showalter asked if the Town was still pursuing matching grants from the state for the College Street project and if grants were received would the

stimulus money possibly go towards another project. Mr. Wingfield explained that the project was currently not at the application deadline but when the Town is at the 30% design point and easement acquisitions were completed, yes grants could be pursued, at Council's direction. Mr. Showalter also inquired concerning the compassionate billing by Rescue and explained the Town was not using this billing as general operational cost but instead for additional funds for staff and equipment. Mrs. Tweedie explained that Rescue as a budget was funded out of general fund and the Revenue Recovery fund. Mr. Showalter asked if the fuel costs that were in the proposed budget were still accurate numbers since prices were rising. Mrs. Tweedie expressed that the estimated number may have to be raised to afford fuel costs. Mr. Showalter stated he would not be supporting the budget at this time. He expressed concern of overextending funds in the human resources capital and noted that he did support awarding Town employees for their hard work but felt that the increase was not sustainable at this time.

Council voted on the motion as follows: Councilman Bishop – Aye; Councilwoman Hicks – Nay; Councilwoman Hockett – Aye; Councilman Jenkins – Aye; Councilman Showalter – Nay; Councilman Wilson – Aye.

E. Resolution Authorizing Appropriations regarding the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the Resolution to Authorize Appropriations regarding the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett.

Councilwoman Hicks agreed with Mr. Showalter's previous statement concerning overextending funds.

Council voted on the motion as follows: Councilman Bishop – Aye; Councilwoman Hicks – Nay; Councilwoman Hockett – Aye; Councilman Jenkins – Aye; Councilman Showalter – Nay; Councilman Wilson – Aye.

F. United Daughters of the Confederacy wreath placement downtown

Mayo Barber noted this item was added previously in the meeting and explained that the United Daughters of the Confederacy would like to place a wreath at the confederate monument downtown to honor their ancestors. Mr. Barber noted this wreath would be placed at sunset on Sunday, May 29th and removed on Monday, May 30th.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the wreath placement at the confederate monument downtown, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Mr. Showalter asked to extend the motion to any organization that has a display on the Town Square are welcome if they meet the Town's criteria.

Mr. Showalter also asked if a wreath would be placed for Memorial Day at the Veteran's Memorial. Mayor Barber explained that a ceremony would be held at Sunset Cemetery at 6 p.m. on May 30th.

Council voted on the motion as follows: Councilman Bishop – Aye; Councilwoman Hicks – Aye; Councilwoman Hockett – Aye; Councilman Jenkins – Aye; Councilman Showalter – Aye; Councilman Wilson – Aye.

G. Conditional Use Permit request by McNeil Property Management LLC, owner, to allow a Private School in the General Business District (B-3) on property located at 1650 Cambria Street, N.E., Tax Parcel 467 – ((A)) – 55, Parcel ID 020103.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the conditional use permit request to allow a private school at 1650 Cambria Street, N.E., seconded by Councilman Wilson.

Mrs. Hicks expressed that generally Council waits two weeks to vote on a Public Hearing but feels this is an exception due to providing services to special needs children in the community. Mr. Wingfield asked if the conditions from the recommendation of the Planning Commission were included with this approval. Council agreed that the recommendation was included.

Council voted on the motion as follows: Councilman Bishop – Aye; Councilwoman Hicks – Aye; Councilwoman Hockett – Aye; Councilman Jenkins – Aye; Councilman Showalter – Aye; Councilman Wilson – Aye.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager

Mr. Wingfield reported that he would provide tours for Council the following week for the new park.

He also reported that Councilman Showalter had asked for an update on the sustainability plan. Mr. Wingfield asked that the update be provided at the next Council meeting.

Mr. Wingfield reported that he had retreat dates available for discussion. Council agreed that June 17th (all day) and June 21st (a follow-up day, if needed) would work for retreat dates for Council.

He reported that he would set a public hearing date for the new Wing drone delivery location at the Parks and Recreation Center.

Mr. Wingfield reported that he has added the Recreation Center as a topic to the potential meeting with Montgomery County and if Council would like to add other topics to please let him know. Mr. Wingfield also inquired about preferred meeting dates. Councilwoman Hicks expressed that a meeting should be held as soon as possible since the Town of Blacksburg has already met with the County. Mr. Wingfield noted that he would send a list to Council of the meeting topics.

B. Town Attorney – No report

C. Other Staff – No report

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

No Council reports.

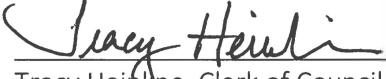
Mayor Barber reported that he would be a guest speaker on May 30th at Sunset Cemetery for the annual Memorial Day celebration.

Councilman Showalter inquired if the public hearing for the proposal on Houchins Road to remove acreage from the Town was still scheduled. Mr. Wingfield explained that he has expressed to Montgomery County that Town Council would consider it. Councilman Showalter asked if a work session was needed to discuss the criteria for proposals to take the property out of Town. He expressed concern that there needed to be clarification from Council when assigning zoning for a boundary adjustment. Council agreed that a work session should take place for this topic before the public hearing and agreed on June 7th.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m.


Tracy Heinlein, Clerk of Council


D. Michael Barber, Mayor