

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 9, 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 AUGUST 9, 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: Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren; Town Attorney Reid Broughton; Executive Assistant/Clerk of Council Tracy Heinline; 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 Vice-Mayor Showalter.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

No adjustment to the agenda.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

No public hearings.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of July 26, 2022
- B. Schedule Public Hearing for September 27, 2022 to consider the request of Marjorie Ann Rhudy, property owner, and RWW 34 LLC, contract purchaser, to rezone the property located at 1200 Buffalo Drive, N.W., Tax Parcel 566 – ((A)) – 84; Parcel ID 111028, from A Agricultural District A and B-3 General Business District to R-3 Multiple-Family Residential

District with proffers, in order to allow 49 townhouse units. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

- C. Contract for purchase of four (4) police vehicles from Sheehy Ford in the amount of \$154,180
- D. Contract to purchase replacement generator from Carter Machinery for \$135,621.52

Councilman Showalter made a motion to separate item A. from the Consent Agenda due to his absence at the July 26, 2022 Town Council meeting and approve only items B., C., and D. Councilwoman Hicks seconded the motion. Town Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 26, 2022, Councilwoman Hicks seconded the motion. Town Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Abstain; Wilson – Aye.

Mayor Barber noted that Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren would be filling in for Town Manager Randy Wingfield.

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Planning Director Benjamin Tripp to present on the Planning Department

Benjamin Tripp addressed Council concerning the core functions of the Planning Department, including the vision of Christiansburg, and implementing that vision. Mr. Tripp touched on the specifics of public hearings and community input during the hearings and talked about land use applications in FY 2022. He explained that the Planning Department ensures that all new development in Town meets the standards that Christiansburg has set by reviewing plans, applications, and through field inspections. Mr. Tripp explained that the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan would begin soon, as well as updating the Zoning Ordinance. He expressed that the Planning Department continues process improvements to make procedures more business friendly for the citizens.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned the length of time it was taking to update the Town's Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Tripp explained that the Comprehensive Plan is required to be reviewed to some degree every five years and the origination date was 2013 for the last major rewrite with minor amendments in both 2016 and 2018.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ernie Wade, Kiwanis Wilderness Trail Festival Chair, addressed Town Council referencing item D. under Discussion and Action by Council and gave a brief history of the upcoming Kiwanis

Wilderness Trail Festival. Mr. Wade noted that the Kiwanis Club had managed organization for the Wilderness Trail Festival for many years. He explained that the Kiwanis Club had submitted a grant for support on January 28, 2022. Mr. Wade further explained that on July 25, 2022, he was informed by the Town Manager that there may be an issue with the grant due to the preliminary numbers being over the grant amount of \$8,000. Mr. Wade noted that he had placed a sponsorship brochure before all of Town Council's seats and expressed the brochure would show the different community programs the funds raised during this event would go towards. Mr. Wade concluded by asking Town Council to raise the \$8,000 limit for grants in order to continue events downtown. Mr. Wade thanked Council for their continued support of the Christiansburg Kiwanis Club.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Bishop reported that the Street Committee had received a request for a roadside memorial sign on S. Franklin Street. Mr. Bishop explained that the request had been made through VDOT (Virginia Department of Transportation) originally and noted there was currently not a policy for placement of memorial signs in Town. He expressed that the Street Committee would have a written policy in roughly two weeks for a Council vote and then a vote for the actual memorial sign would follow.

Councilman Jenkins reported that the Central Business Committee had met recently concerning façade grants and potential changes to the grant process. Mr. Jenkins referenced a mission statement the Central Business Committee had written previously and noted that the words "*property owners*" had been stricken from the statement so the emphasis could remain strictly on business owners instead. Mr. Jenkins also added that at the committee's recommendation gun stores, adult businesses, and non-profits would not be allowed to apply for façade grants moving forward. He mentioned the Downtown and Cambria districts as being eligible and the possibility of potentially expanding the districts in the future.

Councilwoman Hicks clarified that the Montgomery County Museum had withdrew their application for a façade grant and moving forward Councilman Jenkins would provide input on the selection committee. Mrs. Hicks acknowledged Rita Irwin, Liz Dixon, Jason Poff, and Lauren Trice as potential façade grant selection committee members. Mrs. Hicks also noted that the Central Business Committee had added a limitation of one year from the time the grants are approved to complete the projects. Councilman Wilson questioned the exclusion of for-profit businesses such as gun stores and noted that it came across as discriminatory in his opinion, further explaining that if the Town issues a for-profit business a permit to operate in Town they should not be excluded. Councilman Jenkins explained that the recommendations from the Central Business Committee had been based on research of other localities. Councilman Showalter agreed with Mr. Wilson and stated that if an individual could obtain a business license in the Town, they should be eligible for a façade grant. Councilman Jenkins explained that for the current year this would satisfy those requirements due to zoning of the districts. Councilman Bishop questioned the non-profits that do not apply for community grants and expressed his concern that if they were not allowed to apply for façade grants it could affect their business. Councilwoman Hockett suggested additional wording in the mission statement including the purpose of the façade grant to take tax revenue and put back into the businesses that pay taxes. Councilman Jenkins clarified the

changes Council would like to see concerning the façade grants and explained the final additions/changes could be brought back to Council at a later date.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the appointment of Rita Irwin, Liz Dixon, Jason Poff, and Lauren Trice to the Façade Grant Selection Committee, seconded by Councilman Jenkins. Town Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Councilwoman Hicks reported that the New River Valley Agency on Aging was in search of an individual to volunteer to bring input to the agency's meetings. Mrs. Hicks encouraged Town of Christiansburg residents to apply.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Amendment of Sec. 6-1 of Chapter 6 Alcoholic Beverages of the *Christiansburg Town Code* in regards to provisions for playing pool where alcoholic beverages are sold or dispensed. The Public Hearing was held on July 26, 2022.

Councilwoman Hockett noted that she was in support of the amendment but would abstain due to her husband being the General Manager of Bull and Bones and could be affected by this change.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the amendment of Sec. 6-1 of Chapter 6 Alcoholic Beverages of the *Christiansburg Town Code*, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Town Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Abstain; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

- B. Recommendation to the Montgomery County Circuit Court of reappointment of Ernie Wade to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a 5-year term from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2027.

Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren explained there could be up to five members on the Board of Zoning Appeals and that a change was made previously to allow for alternates if there were more than five candidates. Councilwoman Hicks asked for an updated list of the boards and commissions appointments from Administration and expressed that it was important for people to know there are open positions available. Mr. Warren explained that the positions are typically advertised on the Town's website to make the public aware.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the recommendation to the Montgomery County Circuit Court of reappointment of Ernie Wade to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a 5-year term, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Town Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

- C. Appointment of two representatives to the New River Valley Passenger Station Authority Board of Directors (four-year term)

Mayor Barber explained that this appointment was discussed in a previous liaison meeting with the Town of Blacksburg, Montgomery County, City of Radford, etc. and the consensus was that most localities planned on appointing their Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Elected Officer.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve appointment of Mayor Barber and Town Manager Wingfield to the New River Valley Passenger Station Authority Board of Directors for a four-year term, seconded by Councilman Jenkins. Town Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

D. Special Events Town Contribution Threshold

Mayor Barber explained that the staff recommendation was to have a threshold of \$10,000 - \$12,000. Councilwoman Hicks expressed that \$8,000 was sufficient at this time and there was plenty of opportunities for the organizations to fund raise for their events. Councilwoman Hockett noted that if the purpose of the grant was to have special events downtown then she would like to see the Town provide support for the events. Mrs. Hockett expressed that she was in support of increasing the threshold to the recommended \$10,000 and explained that costs were increasing. Councilman Showalter agreed with Councilwoman Hockett and expressed that the Town wanted to see events downtown and people wanted to attend those events. Mr. Showalter explained that the Town needs to provide police presence and the streets should be blocked-off and that attendees expect those things when attending events. Councilman Wilson expressed that he did support events downtown and the cost of doing business has increased.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the Special Events Town Contribution with a threshold of \$10,000, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Town Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Abstain; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager

Assistant Town Manager Warren requested to schedule a public hearing September 27, 2022 for a conditional use permit for a public billiard parlor and pool room located at 3165 N. Franklin Street. Mr. Warren explained that Mr. Frank had submitted a conditional use permit previously with the hope of Town Council's passing vote.

Mr. Warren also requested to schedule a public hearing September 27, 2022 for a conditional use permit for both 2091 and 2095 Roanoke Street. He explained there was a zoning violation for a business operating without a conditional use permit, and the business owner has now filed an application in an effort to come into compliance.

Mr. Warren added one additional public hearing on August 23, 2022 to consider the corporate boundary line adjustment between the Town and the unincorporated portion of the County for the purposes of removing from the Town 5.57 acres located on the northeast boundary of the Town adjacent to Houchins Road. He noted that the acreage had increased based on a field survey that had been completed and the criteria that Town Council had agreed upon previously would be available as a staff report prior to the public hearing.

B. Town Attorney - no report.

C. Other Staff - no report.

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Showalter reported for the Parks and Recreation Commission and noted that the youth participation numbers were rising. Mr. Showalter added that the Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts were continuously working on projects in the Town, including building shelters and working at the cemetery. He explained that currently there were three projects in Town the Scouts were working on, and the Town was providing the cost of material. Mayor Barber noted that the Town was fortunate to have two very active Boy Scout Troops. Mr. Barber also reminded Town Council that the Kiwanis Club has a scholarship agreement with Parks and Recreation that if a child's family cannot afford sandlot sport's participation, then that child can still participate.

Councilman Bishop – no report.

Councilwoman Hicks reported that the shelters that have been built by the Scouts are very nice, as well as the flags at the cemetery. Mayor Barber mentioned that Council needed to be more diligent in recognizing the Scouts. Councilwoman Hicks inquired about a unity bridge at Rosa Peters Park and Depot Park. Mayor Barber explained he was on the board of directors and financial issues as well as certain tasks needed to be worked out in order to proceed with a bridge.

Councilwoman Hockett reported that the Bikeway-Walkway Committee met last week and noted that the bikeshare company appears to be in bankruptcy and they were currently looking for other options to continue the bikeshare program. Mrs. Hockett explained that the citizens enjoy the service and so the committee was looking for other options and the subject would continue to be a discussion. Mayor Barber noted that the Metropolitan Planning Organization had met and discussed the bikeshare program and had suggested using a Town storage building to keep the bikes until a decision was made. Councilwoman Hicks suggested a bike program that would help individuals in the community get outside more. Councilman Showalter mentioned that it was discussed at the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission also and it was noted reaching out to groups such as those associated with the Creeper Trail bike programs would be a good resource moving forward. Mr. Warren added that it is a regional group working together and Blacksburg Transit has administered the program and were working through the details at this point.

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 8:22 p.m.

Tracy Heimline
Tracy Heimline, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber
D. Michael Barber, Mayor