

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 25, 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 OCTOBER 25, 2022, AT 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Mayor Henry Showalter (presiding in Mayor Barber's absence); Samuel M. Bishop; Johana Hicks; Tanya Hockett; Casey Jenkins; Tim Wilson. COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor D. Michael Barber

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Town Attorney Reid Broughton; Clerk of Council/Executive Assistant Tracy Heinline; Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren; Police Chief Mark Sisson; Finance Director Valerie Tweedie; Director of Public Works Jim Lanciaise; Superintendent of Public Works, Streets Travis Moles

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Wilson.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

No adjustment to the agenda

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Public Hearing for vacation of 0.2 acres of right-of-way associated with the former Patricks Way, N.W. location

The public hearing was opened. With no speakers on the item, the public hearing was closed.

B. Public hearing for 2021 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

The public hearing was opened. With no speakers on the item, the public hearing was closed.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of October 11, 2022
- B. Monthly Bill List
- C. Acknowledgement of Proclamation Recognizing November 1, 2022 as Extra Mile Day
- D. Schedule a public hearing on December 13, 2022 for a Conditional Use Permit request by Burch Properties LLC, property owner, and Montgomery County Moose Lodge #1470, lessee, to allow a lodge on the property located at 1637 N. Franklin Street (a portion of Northgate Village Shopping Center, Tax Parcel 466 – ((A)) – 20C, Parcel ID 013214) zoned B-3 General Business District. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Town Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Executive Director of New River Community College Educational Foundation Angie Covey to present on Access to Community College Education (ACCE)

Angie Covey introduced several individuals to Council and asked they speak in order for everyone to hear directly from students in the ACCE program. Ms. Covey voiced appreciation to the Town of Christiansburg for past funding for ACCE and noted that since the program began in 2018 there had been approximately 788 students participating in the program from Montgomery County. She touched on the community service component of the ACCE program and explained that each student is required to perform 80 hours of community service in their locality which meant that over 91,000 hours of community service was given back to Montgomery County since the program began.

Michael Geary, Montgomery County's Director of Fire and EMS and volunteer coordinator for the ACCE program, addressed Council and explained his role in coordinating the ACCE community service in Montgomery County. He noted that in 2022 there had been 13 organizations that had received support from ACCE volunteers.

Jesse Hundall, Christiansburg High School graduate, explained that he had attended NRCC through the ACCE program and would be transferring to Virginia Tech next semester. He expressed that the Town's support of the ACCE program was much appreciated and noted that it was a great relief to not worry over student loans at such a young age and he could focus on school and what was important.

Kaden Berg, currently a NRCC student through the ACCE program, explained he would benefit from coming out of NRCC debt free so he could focus on transferring to Radford University and put that money towards furthering his education.

Councilman Wilson noted that ACCE was a great program and, in the beginning, did not realize the community service component side of it which made him appreciate it more. Mr. Wilson questioned on average how many Christiansburg students took part in the program. Ms. Covey answered that around 60 students each year took advantage of the offer. She noted that students are walked through the financial aid component of the FAFSA application and that if there are federal dollars that can be used, they are used first. Ms. Covey expressed that if a student was not successful in a class that the ACCE program pays for they reimburse the program back those dollars. Councilman Bishop expressed support for the program and noted it was great to hear from students that benefit from it. Councilwoman Hicks agreed and thanked them for reaching out to Council. Councilman Jenkins expressed this program was a great way to give back to the community and thanked them for the information. Councilman Showalter expressed his appreciation for the program as well and noted that there was one student that he was aware of that volunteered with the Christiansburg Police Department (CPD) and their plans were to come back and work for CPD once they graduate.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Chris Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, talked about the plans on Hickok Street and previous meetings that discussed moving the drainage fix to Hickok Street and noted that the Town had agreed with the move. He noted that as of last week the project was still on hold and questioned the reasoning of paying for easements. Councilman Showalter asked Town Manager Wingfield to reach out to Council regarding Mr. Waltz's concerns and respond to Mr. Waltz if there was anything that can be clarified.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Hicks reported that several topics were discussed at the last Water and Waste Committee meeting. One topic she noted was the penalty for nonpayment of utilities in regard to water, sewer, solid waste, and storm water fees. Mrs. Hicks noted this item was on the agenda for discussion by Town Council. She explained that a request for Request for Proposals (RFPs) for trash services for the Town had been discussed as well. She then asked Finance Director Valerie Tweedie if the Town could have a trash truck reserve fund. Mrs. Tweedie explained that the Town typically covered trucks in the capital budget each year. Councilman Wilson clarified the RFPs were to have waste and recyclable pick-up services through a private company to see if it would be more cost effective.

Councilwoman Hicks reported that the Central Business Committee had met, and the façade grant program was a main focus and wanted to thank the Selection Committee participants that helped with the application process. Mrs. Hicks proceeded to read a Conflict of Interest (COIA) statement pertaining to her own local business that could potentially benefit from the façade grant program. *The COIA statement has been added to the final minutes of the Council meeting.* Mrs. Hicks noted that she would not be applying for a façade grant for her business at this time.

Councilman Jenkins referenced a PowerPoint displaying the committees façade grant finalists for Council approval and noted that there were three downtown properties and two properties in the Cambria area. The properties presented were 560 Depot Street, N.E., 41 W. Main Street, 630 Depot Street, N.E. 8 Roanoke Street, and 127 N. Franklin Street. Mr. Jenkins noted that \$4,500 would be allocated for 560 Depot Street, N.E. for full color rendering. He added that 41 W. Main Street would be granted \$4,500 for awning removal to be historically accurate. Mr. Jenkins explained that 630 Depot Street, N.E. would receive \$5,000 for preservation efforts for doors and windows. He included a funding of \$4,500 for 8 Roanoke Street for front windows. Mr. Jenkins concluded that 127 N. Franklin St. would be allotted \$4,500 for façade improvements. He expressed that he would like to move forward with the five mentioned properties at Council's approval. Councilman Showalter suggested waiting to vote until the November 15th Council meeting. Councilwoman Hicks also suggested adding to that discussion how they would like to proceed as far as extending façade grants to the rest of the town next year as well as continued work on the application process. Councilman Jenkins added that applicants would have 12 months to complete the work on a reimbursable basis. Councilman Showalter communicated that he would like Mrs. Hicks and Mr. Jenkins to meet and revise the façade grant application and suggested a work session in the future. Councilman Showalter inquired if Council wanted to amend the agenda to include this item under Discussion and Action or add to the next agenda. Council agreed it could be added to the next agenda for a vote on the approval of the 5 applications listed above.

Councilwoman Hockett reported that now the Emergency Services Committee meetings would be held quarterly. She added that secondary locations for Emergency Services expansion had been discussed and would ultimately come to Council for approval. Mrs. Hockett noted that there had been discussion concerning resources for elected officials and how they could support local government during disasters.

Councilman Bishop reported that the Aquatic Center has tried opening the last couple months on Sunday and due to visitors, the Aquatic Advisory Board has made a recommendation to continue with Sunday hours.

Councilman Wilson reported that the Sustainability Committee would next meet on Friday, October 29th and noted that the shopping bag recycling project was still in effect and the community could drop off used shopping bags at the Farmers Market, Food Lion, and downtown event sites. He noted that four benches had been provided due to this program and it had been a great success.

Councilman Showalter thanked Council for their participation and attendance in all the Council appointed committees.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Request for street closures for the Christiansburg Veterans Day Parade for November 11, 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The streets included in the closure are Main Street from Park Street to Dunkley Street; Roanoke Street from E. Main Street to First Street; Pepper Street from First Street to Hill Street; Franklin Street from First Street to Commerce Street; and Hickok Street from First Street to Commerce Street.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the request for street closures for the Christiansburg Veterans Day Parade for November 11, 2022 from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., seconded by Councilman Jenkins. Town Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

- B. An ordinance amending Sec. 36-156 “Penalty for nonpayment” of Chapter 36 Utilities of the Christiansburg Town Code in regard to water, sewer, solid waste, and storm water fee nonpayment and codifying provisions for payment plans.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the ordinance amending Sec. 36-156 “Penalty for nonpayment” of Chapter 36 Utilities of the Christiansburg Town Code, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Town Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

- C. Authorization to pursue acquisition of 0.876 acre located on W. Main Street (Tax Parcel 556 – ((A)) – 48A; Parcel ID 020000) from West Main Street Investment Co., Inc. for \$185,000.00

Councilman Bishop inquired if the Town was purchasing this parcel as part of the College Street drainage improvement plans. Town Manager Wingfield explained that it would be needed to develop an upper basin pond and explained that is in addition to the easements that are being pursued for the remainder of the basin as well as in the channel.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the authorization to pursue acquisition of 0.876 acre located on W. Main Street, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Town Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

IX. CLOSED MEETING

- A. Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to enter into a Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711(A)(3), for the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. The Closed Meeting is being held for discussion of outparcels at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park at the intersection of Peppers Ferry

Road, N.W. and future Booker T. Washington Parkway, N.W. (under construction) (an approximately 7.5-acre portion of Tax Parcel 435 – ((A)) – 3A; Parcel ID 270079). Councilman Wilson seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

B. Reconvene in Open Meeting.

C. Certification.

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

D. Council action on the matters.

No action on the matter.

X. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager

Mr. Wingfield scheduled a public hearing for January 10th to rezone the outparcels at the Huckleberry Park property from Agriculture to General Business. He also scheduled a public hearing on December 13th for comments on the Huckleberry Park Naming Rights Request for Proposal (Diamond Sponsorship). Mr. Wingfield reported that the Chamber of Commerce would hold their annual dinner on December 1st at Virginia Tech and asked if Council would like to attend. He noted that Mayor Barber and Police Chief Mark Sisson had been nominated. Councilwoman Hicks noted that in the past, spouses paid for their own annual dinner tickets. Councilman Wilson suggested that the Police Chief and the Mayor's spouses be paid for by the Town since they were nominated. Councilman Showalter suggested reserving two tables if needed and noted that Council would need to respond to Mr. Wingfield concerning their attendance plans for the dinner.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve table(s) at the Chamber of Commerce dinner, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

B. Town Attorney – no report.

C. Other Staff – no report.

XI. COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Bishop - no report.

Councilwoman Hockett - no report.

Councilman Wilson - no report.

Councilman Jenkins - no report.

Councilwoman Hicks reported that she would still like to discuss the downtown bathrooms for the Downtown Park and have it included in the next budget cycle.

Finance Director Valerie Tweedie asked Council if they would like to have a budget work session or a presentation at a Council meeting. Councilman Showalter suggested a work session. Council agreed to discuss the budget at a work session on November 15th at 6:00 p.m. before the Council meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Wingfield suggested having work sessions in 2023 for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Conflict of Interest Act (COIA) in regard to roles during emergency situations in the future.

XII. OTHER BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Vice Mayor Showalter adjourned the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Tracy Hein
Tracy Hein, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber
D. Michael Barber, Mayor