

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 14, 2023 – 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 14, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M.

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

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

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

No adjustments to the agenda

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Rezoning request by Southwest Investment Co. LLC, property owner, and Southwest Excavating, Inc., lessee, to rezone an approximately 1.87-acre portion of the property located at 200 Scattergood Drive, NW (Tax Parcel 496 – 24 – 5; Parcel ID 033540) from B-3 General Business to I-2 General Industrial. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Industrial) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

John Neel, Foresight Design Services, addressed Council and explained that the contractor business had been operating at the location for some time and that a portion of the property was in the B-3 zoning that needed to be changed to an I-2 zoning to

match the rest of the property. Mr. Neel explained that a fence would be placed around the property which was included in the original proposed plan.

Mayor Barber noted that part of the property was close to the Christiansburg Institute property and asked if there would be any type of privacy fencing between the two properties. Mr. Neel explained that this location was down over the hill from Christiansburg Institute's property and visibility should not be an issue, but they would consider that and see if it would provide any benefit.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of January 24, 2023
- B. Resolution recognizing March 21, 2023 as Down Syndrome Awareness Day
- C. Set Town Council Public Hearing for March 28, 2023 for a Conditional Use Permit request by Rockstep Christiansburg LLC, property owner, to allow a carnival from April 29, 2023 through May 17, 2023 on the property located at 782 New River Road, NW (Tax Parcel 435 – ((A)) – 41, Parcel ID 007741) zoned B-3 General Business. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

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

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

No introductions or presentations

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Chris Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, referenced item G. under Discussion and Action by Council and asked for clarification stating that currently if there is criminal activity at Town facilities then law enforcement intervenes and stated that he believes that it is not the Town staff's place to be involved. Mr. Waltz further added that the word trespass could be left up to interpretation. Mr. Waltz also referenced item H. and disagreed that a plaque should be placed at the new Huckleberry Park stating that he felt it is a waste of taxpayer money. Mayor Barber noted that the ordinance for trespassing was pertaining to individual/individuals that have been banned previously.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Hockett reported that the Street Committee discussed the intersection at Depot Street and Franklin Street. Mrs. Hockett explained that currently there is a pedestrian crossing at

the corner of Pizza Inn and the Street Committee would like to improve the signage in that area to make it safer for pedestrians and drivers. Councilwoman Hockett added that a new sign "Turning Vehicles, Stop for Pedestrians" would be placed on the northwest corner of the intersection and the existing pedestrian sign would be moved further away from the intersection so there will be two signs visible to drivers prior to turning onto Depot Street. Mrs. Hockett concluded that no action was needed from Council at this time.

Councilman Wilson reported that the Water and Waste Committee had explored contracting out for waste pickup services. Mr. Wilson noted that those bids came back and far exceeds what the Town would be willing to pay for waste services and explained that new garbage trucks would be needed instead.

Councilwoman Hicks requested the letter and email from Tim Price be sent to Council regarding requesting funds to pay for a replacement waterline near his property be placed on a future Council agenda for discussion. Mr. Wingfield expressed that he was confident the Town would have no liability in the matter. Councilman Showalter asked if there was a recommendation from the Water and Waste Committee. Councilman Wilson explained that the committee has not had a chance to look over the information to make a recommendation to Council.

Councilman Showalter expressed appreciation for the bidding out of waste pickup and commented that having the Town collect waste usually meant better customer service. Mr. Showalter added that the Parks and Recreation Commission was looking into nonprofits and renting areas at the new Huckleberry Park. He added that the Parks and Recreation staff would bring their gathered information to the Commission in the next month for a recommendation to Council. Mr. Showalter also included there was discussion and unanimous support from the Recreation Commission concerning Christiansburg tourism and the Town creating their own tourism office if Council chose to not enter into an agreement with Blacksburg-Christiansburg-Montgomery County Regional Tourism again. Mr. Showalter added that he would like to see the Aquatic Advisory Commission discuss this as well. Councilwoman Hicks inquired if the tourism funds would be used for the new economic development position. Mr. Showalter explained that the funds would be used for helping small businesses in Christiansburg which would be the focus for the new position.

Councilman Bishop reported that the two scoreboard signs at the Aquatic Center were no longer working, and Virginia Tech has agreed to pay for half the cost to purchase new ones. Mr. Bishop said the new signs would cost approximately \$94,000 for the Town share. Mayor Barber noted that this was included in the budget amendment #2.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Request for street closure of Hickok Street from W. Main Street to Commerce Street on Thursday, April 27th from 2:00 – 7:30 pm. for the NRV Cares – Spring Family Fun Festival

Mayor Barber noted that this was the second year the Spring Family Fun Festival has taken place and was very successful last year.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the request for street closure of Hickok Street on April 27th for the NRV Cares – Spring Family Fun Festival, seconded by Councilman Jenkins. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

B. Discussion of Old Hill School Community Center request to reallocate approved Community Support grant

Mayor Barber explained that a letter from Shirley Akers, Board Member of the Christiansburg Community Center reads that the center is required to ensure certain repairs at the property in order to receive insurance on the building. Mr. Barber explained that the community center would like to use the Community Support grant funds to make the repairs to the building. Ms. Akers expressed that originally, they had intended on using the funds to improve the center's kitchen area but after the insurance company made a visit then other repairs were brought to their attention. Councilwoman Hicks expressed thanks to Ms. Akers for coming to Council before making repairs. She added that in some cases Council does not get to clearly see how the grant money is being used. Mr. Wingfield noted that the request is \$50 more than the prior grant approval.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the Old Hill School Community Center request to reallocate approved Community Support grant, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

C. Memorandum of Understanding with Montgomery County regarding acceptance of the Parkway Drive Extension

Mr. Wingfield explained that VDOT required this Memorandum of Understanding for assurance that if Montgomery County receives Economic Development Access Funds to build the extension of Parkway Drive, then the Town would accept and maintain the road once built. He added that this will serve an additional pad that is past the FedEx facility. He explained that Parkway Drive now extends across Technology Drive and is built to their entrance currently and will extend further within Fallen Branch Corporate Park which Montgomery County has been developing. Mr. Wingfield added that this will be at no cost to the Town. Councilwoman Hicks inquired if the County would help pay for a portion of the extension. Mr. Wingfield explained that would be determined if the County continues to extend the Corporate Park, then the County would be building it, otherwise the Town would be responsible.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Montgomery County regarding acceptance of the Parkway Drive Extension, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

D. Budget Amendment #2

Mr. Wingfield referenced a list of additional items for the budget amendment and explained that he did not anticipate any other large additional costs at this time for the new Huckleberry Park. He added that the Town is waiting for the transformer units for the park, which hopefully should be delivered soon. Mr. Wingfield stated that everything would need to be connected to power would take approximately 3-4 weeks, and that he was anticipated April substantial completion.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the budget amendment #2, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the appropriations resolution for budget amendment #2, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

E. Assignment of unassigned fund balance

Finance Director Valerie Tweedie explained that at the end of the fiscal year the Town's performance was better than expected which resulted in additional unassigned fund balances. Mrs. Tweedie noted that there had been discussion as to where the funds should be allocated and proceeded to reference a list of what the funds would cover.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the assignment of unassigned fund balance, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

F. Taxing Authority Consulting Services, P.C. (TACS) agreement for collections of old receivables for real estate and personal property tax

Mrs. Tweedie explained that the Taxing Authority Consulting Services currently has an agreement with Montgomery County for the collection of delinquent real estate and personal property taxes. Mrs. Tweedie explained that if the customer is delinquent with the County and the property goes to auction, then they must also collect for the Town. She added that if the property does not go to auction the Town does not collect the funds since the Town is not part of the agreement. She explained that the Town would turn over accounts that are two or more years delinquent and would continue collection efforts on the two most recent years. Mrs. Tweedie noted that due to the pandemic, the Town was behind on collections and the intention was to make the collection process more efficient.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the TACS agreement for collections of old receivables for real estate and personal property tax, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

G. Ordinance regarding Designation of Town Police Enforcement of Trespass Violations

Councilwoman Hicks expressed concern that the ordinance would give the police the ability to remove anyone from the Town's facilities. Mrs. Hicks added that someone should not be banned from all facilities in the Town because of one event. Town Attorney Broughton clarified that the resolution is not specific to Town property. He explained that it states that a property owner, who already has the authority to ban an individual from the property, can delegate that property authority to the Town police. He added that there are currently regulations on the Town's website that reads individuals can be banned from Town facilities. Councilwoman Hicks still expressed concern that a child could potentially be banned from all facilities when that child feels safe at other Town parks, etc.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the ordinance regarding Designation of Town Police Enforcement of Trespass Violations, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Nay; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

H. Plaque or other memorialization at Christiansburg Huckleberry Park

Councilwoman Hicks expressed that she felt this would be a waste of taxpayer money and questioned the names that should be placed on the plaque. She added that since the citizens are ultimately paying for the plaque, their names should be on it. Mrs. Hicks added that the Huckleberry Park would not be finished until April and that previous Councilmembers that voted for the park were not serving on Council any longer. Councilman Showalter inquired why this was brought before Council since it never was in the past for the other Town facilities. Mr. Wingfield explained that he wanted Council's input to see who should be placed on the plaque before moving forward with the project.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the plaque or other memorialization at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Mayor Barber appointed Councilman Showalter and Councilwoman Hockett to work with Town staff to help design the plaque.

I. Resolution regarding Town of Christiansburg's 2023 Legislative Positions

Mr. Wingfield explained that the Town has adopted legislative positions in the past and it is at Town Council's discretion if they would like to pursue the resolution. He added that staff has prepared a resolution that makes specific reference to the Virginia Municipal League legislative program in general and calls out specific items in the program that most directly related to the Town and Town functions. Mr. Wingfield explained that if Council would like to support a particular bill, then they could pursue that as well.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the resolution regarding the Town of Christiansburg's 2023 Legislative Positions and add an item #3. to the resolution for the state to continue to work on strengthening campaign finance reform efforts, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager – No report

B. Town Attorney

Town Attorney Reid Broughton reported to Council that the Attorney General has asked the Town to participate in another round of multistate opioid settlements. Mr. Broughton explained that Council voted to participate in the first settlement in 2021 and has until April 18th of this this year to make a final decision on this round.

C. Other Staff – No report

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Hicks expressed appreciation for the school resource officer that saved a student's life at Auburn Elementary School. Mrs. Hicks added that she would like to see Montgomery County fund at least one additional officer for Falling Branch Primary and Elementary Schools.

Councilman Wilson recognized Fire Chief Billy Hanks and the Fire Department for their victory in the WFXR Chili Bowl cookoff that was held over the weekend. Fire Chief Hanks explained that the \$2,500 received would be allocated towards training for their department.


XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilwoman Hicks expressed appreciation to Council during her time away from the last Council meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.


Tracy Heintz, Clerk of Council


D. Michael Barber, Mayor