

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 28, 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 28, 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; Fire Chief Billy Hanks; Deputy Fire Marshal Curtis Whitt; Human Resources Generalist Danette Poole; Human Resources Director Alicia Dials; Finance Director Valerie Tweedie; Engineering Director Mike Kelley; Planning Director Benjamin Tripp; Assistant Police Chief Chris Ramsey

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

No adjustments to the agenda

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

No public hearings

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of February 14, 2023

B. Monthly Bill List

- C. Resolution Recognizing Outstanding Town Employee Efforts
- D. Task Order with CHA Consulting, Inc., for Professional Engineering Services on the Design of Renovations to Two Screw Pumps and Aerated Grit Removal Equipment at the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) in the amount of \$209,685.00.
- E. Cancel Town Council Public Hearing for March 14, 2023 for a Conditional Use Permit request by SHAH Development, LLC, property owner, to allow a contractor's equipment storage yard on the property located at 1130 Cambria Street, NE (Tax Parcels 497 – ((2)) – A and B; Parcel IDs 018651 and 120350) in the B-3 General Business District. The request was withdrawn by the applicant.
- F. Set Town Council Public Hearing for April 11, 2023 for a rezoning request by Jones Real Estate Investments & Recycling Company, Inc., property owner, to rezone an approximately 1.1-acre portion of a 2.002-acre vacant property located between the south side of Scott Street, NE and the north side of Roanoke Street (Tax Parcel 499 – ((A)) – 10, Parcel ID 008134); all of an approximately 1.21-acre property at 1413 Scott Street, NE (Tax Parcel 529 – ((7)) – A, Parcel ID 008135) and all of an approximately 0.26-acre vacant property located adjacent to the east side of 1413 Scott Street, NE (Tax Parcel 529 – ((7)) – 76, Parcel ID 008136) from B-3 General Business to R-3 Multiple-Family Residential. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- G. Set Town Council Public Hearing for April 11, 2023 for a Conditional Use Permit request by Jones Real Estate Investment & Recycling Company, Inc., property owner, to allow a planned housing development for 49 single-family attached townhouses on approximately 4.05 acres (13 units per acre) on the property located at 1413 Scott Street, NE (Tax Parcels 499 - ((A)) - 10; 529 - ((7)) – A; 529 – ((7)) - 76; 499 – ((17)) - 48 through 56; 529 - ((7)) - 44 through 47; and 529 - ((7)) - 75; Parcel IDs 008134, 008135, 008136, and 210197) in the R-3 Multiple-Family Residential District. The property is designated as Residential 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. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Presentation by Mayor Barber

Mayor Barber and Fire Chief Billy Hanks presented Deputy Fire Marshal Curtis Whitt with a resolution of appreciation for his efforts during Covid-19.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Kati Hatfield, representative from Solar Holler, a full-service solar developer and installer company that provides services to residential homes and businesses in the area, explained that the company's mission was to spread the benefits of solar energy. She briefly discussed several types of tax credit. Ms. Hatfield added that Solar Holler has their own in-house grant writer and talked about several grants that were available to the community.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned if there were future plans for an office in Christiansburg. Ms. Hatfield explained that the company was a hybrid organization but there were several representatives that visit Christiansburg regularly.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Street Committee Report/Recommendation (Bishop, Hockett)

1. Boundary Line Adjustment and Easement Plat Showing Revised Lots 13 and 15 and Drainage Easements over Lots 12, 16, 17, and 18 in the Robin Hood Estates Subdivision, Phase II

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the recommended boundary line adjustment and easement in the Robin Hood Estates Subdivision, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Rezoning request by Southwest Investment Co. LLC, property owner, 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. The Public Hearing was held on February 14, 2023.

Mayor Barber explained that the Planning Commission previously voted in favor of the above rezoning request.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the rezoning request for 200 Scattergood Drive, NW, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

- B. Resolution Approving of the Town's Participation in the Proposed Settlement Participation of Opioid-related Claims Against Teva, Allergan, Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, and their related Corporate Entities, and Directing the Town Manager to Execute the Documents Necessary to Effectuate the Town's Participation in the Settlements

Town Manager Wingfield explained this request originally came from the state and the Town would not receive any direct funding.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the resolution approving of the Town's participation in the proposed settlement participation of opioid-related claims and directing the Town Manager to execute the documents necessary to effectuate the Town's participation in the settlements, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

C. Resolution Approving Remote Participation Policy (to supersede Electronic Meeting Policy)

Mr. Wingfield explained there had been changes within the Code of Virginia reflecting more flexibility in remote participation for individuals that could not physically attend meetings. He added that the approval of the resolution would mimic the current Code of Virginia verbiage.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the resolution approving remote participation policy, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

D. Discussion of Town real property tax rate

Finance Director Valerie Tweedie explained that the draft budget was close to being finalized and that Town staff would like to discuss the direction of Council regarding the Town's real property tax rate. She added that the County's reassessment was higher than last year's total assessed value. Mrs. Tweedie noted that property values have greatly increased over the last four years but there was still a need for continued revenue growth. She explained that staff was recommending an effective tax rate of 0.14 per \$100 in assessed value for real property. Town Council agreed to the revised tax rate and a future advertisement and public hearing at earliest convenience.

E. Benefits for retirees (Bishop and Hockett)

Councilman Bishop expressed that he would like to see the Town look at offering benefits to retirees, specifically health insurance benefits, but it could include other items such as participation in the Town employee events.

Human Resources Director Alicia Dials addressed Council and explained that currently the Town offers a sick leave divestiture plan and a retirement health savings (RHS) plan for eligible retirees in VRS Plan 1 and Plan 2. Mrs. Dials informed Council that she had reached out to other localities and found that a majority of the localities offered continued health coverage benefits to their retirees. Mrs. Dials added there were several potential changes for consideration including health insurance for retirees, allowing retirees to attend Town sponsored employee events, and allowing free membership for the retiree at both the Recreation Center and the Aquatic Center.

Council agreed that retirees should have free membership to both the Recreation Center and the Aquatic Center and there was also consensus to invite retirees to Town-wide employee functions when held. Councilman Showalter suggested a work session for Council to discuss the insurance aspect of the retiree benefits and added that this potential benefit would be a fiscal responsibility the Town would carry on behalf of the retirees and a more thorough discussion was needed. There was a brief discussion regarding past Council actions regarding retiree benefits. Councilwoman Hicks added that she would like to see health insurance coverage for volunteers and part-time employees added to the work session discussion.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager

Mr. Wingfield noted that he would set the public hearing for the new tax rate for the next Town Council meeting. He also inquired when Council would like to have the benefits for retirees work session. Mr. Wingfield explained that the presentation of the budget would be on March 28th so a prior work session would need to be held for the budget as well. Mayor Barber asked Council to email Mr. Wingfield the dates they could be available for both the retiree benefits and budget work session.

B. Town Attorney

C. Other Staff

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Showalter – no report

Councilman Bishop – no report

Councilwoman Hicks – no report

Councilwoman Hockett – no report

Councilman Wilson – no report

Councilman Jenkins – no report

Mayor Barber informed Council that the Shriners Children Hospital was holding a fundraiser and had asked if Council could support their effort by taking a picture with the Shriners fundraiser t-shirt.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

Councilwoman Hicks inquired if the TikTok app ban on government-issued mobile devices affected local government in any way. Mr. Wingfield expressed that the ban was for the federal government only and the Town should not be affected.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 7:54 p.m.


Tracy Heintz, Clerk of Council


D. Michael Barber, Mayor