

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 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 MARCH 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 (via phone)

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

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to allow Councilman Wilson to join the Council meeting via phone, seconded by Councilman Jenkins. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye.

A. Moment of Reflection

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Hockett.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

No adjustment of the agenda

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

No public hearings

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of February 28, 2023 and March 7, 2023

- B. Resolution recognizing March 19 – 23, 2023 as Emergency Management Professionals Week
- C. Set Town Council Public Hearing for April 25, 2023 for a rezoning request by Jerry Beasley and Gina Beasley, property owners, to rezone an approximately 0.802-acre portion of the property located at 2475 Glade Drive, SE (Tax Parcel 530 – ((A)) – 6; Parcel ID 027238) from A Agricultural District to R-1 Single Family Residential. The property is designated as Residential 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

- A. Merissa Sachs, Board Chair of Salvation Army, to update Council on services provided to citizens and upcoming plans for 2023

Merissa Sachs, Board Chair of Salvation Army introduced Captain Charlene Cover.

Captain Cover spoke to Council concerning the Salvation Army meeting the needs of individuals around the world. Ms. Cover explained that the Salvation Army has been serving Southwest Virginia for more than 100 years in the counties of Floyd, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Giles, along with the City of Radford. Ms. Cover talked about the local Salvation Army providing community meals, participating in the angel tree distribution during the holidays, and working with the youth in the area with special activities among many other services. She added that the Salvation Army provides clothing assistance, utility and rental assistance, and emergency assistance to individuals. Ms. Cover also explained there are always volunteer opportunities at the Salvation Army such as helping with local food pantries, event planning, and volunteering at the local Thrift Store. Ms. Cover concluded by thanking Town Council for their support with the Salvation Army throughout the years.

Councilman Bishop and Councilwoman Hicks thanked Ms. Cover for the presentation to Council. Mr. Bishop expressed that the information provided was very useful to Council and the community.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

1. Plat Showing a 15-foot Public Utility Easement, a 10-foot by 10-foot Public Utility Easement, and a Variable Width Sidewalk Easement on Tax Parcel 525-(A)-19 at 975 Radford Street.

Councilwoman Hockett explained the separate easements at 975 Radford Street would provide sewer and water meters for future townhomes. She also noted that there was also an easement shown on the plat not described in the title. This easement was requested by Town staff and will cover the water meters. Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren added that a variable width sidewalk easement would be added that would cover the area that is outside of the public right-of-way.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Street Committee and allow the placement of the public utility easements and a variable width sidewalk easement at 975 Radford Street, 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. Reappointment of Kevin Foust as At-large Representative on the New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority Board of Directors for a term of April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2027

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the reappointment of Kevin Foust as At-large Representative on the New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority Board of Director, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

- B. Reappointment of John Overton to the Montgomery County Economic Development Commission for a term of May 12, 2023 to May 11, 2026

Mayor Barber introduced Mr. Overton to Council.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the reappointment of John Overton to the Montgomery County Economic Development Commission, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

- C. Kiwanis Club of Christiansburg to request street closure of Main Street (between Dunkley Street and Pepper Street), Franklin Street (between First Street and Commerce Street), Hickok Street (between Commerce Street and First Street), and Marvin Jarels Circle (in its entirety) for Wilderness Trail Festival on September 16, 2023 from 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the Kiwanis Club request for the street closures above, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

- D. Future capital commitment for purchase order for replacement of two solid waste trucks with an estimated cost of \$767,797.36

Councilman Showalter explained that the Town had explored private waste collection recently and the results were costly to the Town. Mr. Showalter added that the service the Town provided was unique and mentioned the Public Works Department providing special pick up for disabled individuals in the community. Mayor Barber explained that the funds for the replacement solid waste trucks had been set aside previously for purchase by Council.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the future capital commitment for purchase order for replacement of two solid waste trucks, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

- E. Buffalo Drive water tank design/branding

Town Manager Wingfield provided a presentation to Council and talked about how the Town had discussed replacing the Buffalo Drive water tank in years prior and wanted to reach out to Council concerning a design on the tank. Mr. Wingfield explained that unfortunately the Buffalo Drive tank was not very visible from Interstate 81 due to the large retaining wall and growth of trees. He did mention that the tank was more visible from other areas of Town and is very prominent over the Middle School and Harkrader Sports Complex. Mr. Wingfield added that it would be more cost effective to have something designed and installed now since the current tank is in the process of being demolished and rebuilt.

Councilwoman Hicks suggested the letter “C” or some type of landscape picture around the new tank. Mayor Barber inquired if there was any concern about metal tanks verses concrete tanks. Mr. Wingfield answered that both metal and concrete tanks age well and have similar lifespans. Councilwoman Hockett expressed that there are other places in town that could use branding instead of the water tanks. Councilman Showalter agreed and expressed that he would like to see a mural on a downtown business instead.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Town Manager

Mr. Wingfield asked Council for a day and time for the upcoming budget work session. Council agreed to Monday, March 20th at 5:00p.m. Mr. Wingfield added that VML (Virginia Municipal League) had questioned if anyone on Council was interested in serving on the VML Policy Committees and explained the meetings are now held via Zoom. He included that he would send a list to Council of what is available. Mr. Wingfield concluded that the new Small Business Solutions Manager, Amanda Hebert would begin employment at the Town on March 27th.

B. Town Attorney – no report

C. Other Staff – no report

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Closed Meeting:

1. Councilman Bishop 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 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 disposition of approximately 5 acres located at Peppers Ferry Road, NW and Booker T. Washington Parkway, NW (under construction). The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.
2. Reconvene in Open Meeting
3. Certification

Councilman Bishop made a motion 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 Councilwoman Hockett and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

4. Council action on the matters


No Council action on matters at this time.

Mayor Barber suggested to Council in order to save time at Council meetings when making a motion they could address item letters instead of reading the entire item description. Councilman Showalter also added that he would suggest making a motion and a 2nd before item discussion.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:23 p.m.


Tracy Heinline, Clerk of Council


D. Michael Barber, Mayor