

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 11, 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 APRIL 11, 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; Finance Director Valerie Tweedie; Director of Human Resources Alicia Dials; Human Resources Generalist Danette Poole; Chief of Police Mark Sisson; Assistant Superintendent of Public Works, Streets Travis Moles; Public Works Director Jim Lancianese

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Moment of Reflection

Mayor Barber asked that everyone keep the victims of the shooting in Kentucky in mind.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Showalter.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

No adjustments to the agenda

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

No public hearings

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approval of Minutes of March 28, 2023

- B. Reschedule public hearing from April 11, 2023 to May 9, 2023 for a rezoning request by Jones Real Estate Investment & Recycling Company, Inc., property owner, to rezone an approximately 1.1-acre portion of a 2.002-acre parcel located between the south side of Scott Street, NE and the north side of Roanoke Street (Tax Parcel 499-((A))-10, Parcel ID 008134); and approximately 1.21 acres located at 1413 Scott Street, NE (Tax Parcel 529-((7))-A, Parcel ID 008135); and approximately 0.26 acres located adjacent to the east side of 1413 Scott Street, NE (Tax Parcel 529-((7))-76, Parcel ID 008136) from B-3 General Business District to R-3 Multiple-Family Residential. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- C. Reschedule public hearing from April 11, 2023 to May 9, 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 townhouses 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) zoned R-3 Multiple-Family Residential. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- D. Reschedule public hearing from April 11, 2023 to April 25, 2023 for the vacation of unbuilt rights-of-way on Angle Drive, SW (from W. Main Street to First Street, SW); on First Street, SW (from Angle Drive, SW to Chrisman Street, SW); and a remnant piece of right-of-way located off an unbuilt portion of First Street, SW.
- E. Set Town Council Public Hearing for May 23, 2023 for a rezoning request by RWW36, LLC, property owner, and Christiansburg, VA (US Highway 460 and Roanoke) LLC, applicant, to rezone approximately 1.976 acres located at the southeast corner of US Route 460 Bypass and Roanoke Street (Tax Parcel 529 - ((A)) - 48, Parcel ID 230045) from B-3 General Business District to I-1 Limited Industrial District. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- F. Set Town Council Public Hearing for May 23, 2023 for a Conditional Use Permit request by RWW36, LLC, property owner, and Christiansburg VA (US Highway 460 and Roanoke) LLC, applicant, to allow an automobile body shop on approximately 1.976 acres located at the southeast corner of US Route 460 Bypass and Roanoke Street (Tax Parcel 529 - ((A)) - 48; Parcel ID 230045), currently zoned B-3 General Business and proposed for rezoning to I-1 Limited Industrial. The property is partially designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- G. Set Town Council Public Hearing for May 23, 2023 for a rezoning request by Shepherd Contracting LLC, property owner, to rezone approximately 2.00 acres located at 4600 Roanoke Street (Tax Parcel 503-(A)-37, Parcel ID 010304) from B-1 Limited Business District to B-3 General Business District. The property is designated as Mixed Use with

Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

- H. Set Town Council Public Hearing for May 23, 2023 for a Conditional Use Permit request by Shepherd Contracting LLC, property owner, to allow a contractor's equipment storage yard on approximately 2.00 acres located at 4600 Roanoke Street (Tax Parcel 503 – ((A)) – 37; Parcel ID 010304) currently zoned B=1 Limited Business and proposed for rezoning to B-3 General Business. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- I. Set Town Council Public Hearing for May 23, 2023 for a Conditional Use Permit request by RWW 36 LLC, property owner, and Denstock LLC, applicant, to allow a planned housing development of 209 multi-family residential dwelling units on approximately 18.77 acres located at the terminus of Farmview Road, NE (all of approximately 14.38 acres identified as Tax Parcel 436 – ((A)) – 41, Parcel ID 017576; an approximately 3.31 acre portion identified as Tax Parcel 436 – ((A)) – 38, Parcel ID 021678; an approximately 0.14 acre portion identified as Tax Parcel 436 – ((A)) – 36, Parcel ID 021677; all of approximately 0.77 acres of Tax Parcel 436 – ((A)) – 37, Parcel ID 032861; all of Tax Parcel 436 – ((A)) – 39, Parcel ID 021679; and all of Tax Parcel 436 – ((A)) – 40, Parcel ID 021680) zoned B-3 General Business. The property is designated as Mixed Use with Buffer (Residential/Business) on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- J. Set Town Council Public Hearing for May 23, 2023 for the vacation of an unimproved 0.169-acre portion of the eastern most end of Farmview Road, NE right-of-way
- K. Contract of Recycling Curbside Pickup with GFL at a rate of \$4.09 per cart per month

Councilwoman Hicks questioned the reason for the rescheduling of public hearings for Scott Street. Assistant Town Manager Warren explained that the Planning Commission had asked for additional information and review time to make further recommendations to Council.

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. David Rotenizer Executive Director, Blacksburg – Christiansburg – Montgomery County Regional Tourism to update Council

Mr. Rotenizer reported to Council updates on the Regional Tourism Program and briefly talked about visitor spending in Montgomery County and the impact of that spending in the past years. Mr. Rotenizer spoke about the new visitor survey for the NRV that was

currently in the review process and noted that this survey focused on visitor profiling and gathering a better understanding of motivators for visiting the area. He further added that the NRV Partnership was currently going through a new rebranding process that should be finalized in May of this year. Mr. Rotenizer touched on the progress of the historic markers for the Huckleberry Trail and the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail and expressed these would go before the Department of Historic Resources to be approved soon. He briefly spoke about the importance of the Tourism Office working closely with small businesses and the business community in the area. Mr. Rotenizer talked about marketing and the tourism's partnership with the Virginia Tourism Corporation and the Virginia Association of Destination and Marketing Organizations to bring awareness to the community.

Cheyenne Kees, Tourism Program Assistant updated Council on the marketing efforts of the Tourism Office. Ms. Kees spoke about the new visitors guide and that a limited print of the guide had been released in order to receive feedback from tourism's partners in the area. She noted that the feedback would be used to make changes or updates to their online version of the guide as well as the next printing of the visitor's guide. Ms. Kees walked Council through the visitor's guide and talked about the different segments of information enclosed. She touched on information concerning parks in the community, public art, and new QR codes that had been added to avoid any outdated information. Ms. Kees noted that the QR codes helped track the number of individuals interacting with the guides and what they were specifically focused on in the area. She talked about the map that was included in the guide and how it related to outdoor assets that were available in the area.

Ms. Kees noted that the Tourism Office was past procurement and the onboarding process for the Virtual Visitor Center and hoped to have it online within the next month. She showed Council the draft version of the website and explained how to search for different features on the website, such as dining, lodging, public art, and upcoming local events. Ms. Kees talked about continued work on tourism's social media including posts, increases in followers, as well as interactions and connections with individuals and local businesses.

Councilman Wilson expressed concern that the information provided had taken a long period to be completed and questioned the new QR codes not functioning correctly in the Visitor's Guide. Ms. Kees noted that once the Visitor Center was up and running, she could automatically change the QR codes so it would link to the new technology. Mr. Wilson also mentioned the lack of Christiansburg restaurants on the website and ultimately felt that more work needed to be done before announcing a final draft. Councilwoman Hicks expressed concern that the number of followers on the Tourism's Facebook page was very low and would like to see them make an effort to raise those numbers.

B. Human Resources Director Alicia Dials to present regarding Town Wellness Program

Alicia Dials addressed Council and noted that this presentation was a proposal for an actual Wellness Program for Town employees. Mrs. Dials touched on the background of the previous Wellness Program that included classes at the Aquatic and Recreation

Centers that were held during the hours of noon and 1 p.m. She explained that a majority of Town employees did not participate due to the time of the classes being close to their lunch hour. Mrs. Dials talked about previous Wellness Committees that involved Town employees from different departments that focused on a more inclusive wellness program that would address more than just the physical aspect of wellness. She spoke about the goals of the Wellness Program and how it would benefit employees. She explained an employee survey was sent out to understand what programs the employees were specifically interested in. Mrs. Dials expressed that after the employee feedback, looking at several Wellness Programs in the area, and connecting with a representative from Anthem, a points program was created. She explained that the intent was for employees to participate in various activities and earn points for those activities to be redeemed at the end of each quarter for incentives. Mrs. Dials included there was no cost to the Town at this time and Anthem would provide \$5,000 reimbursable wellness funds for the program beginning July 1, 2023. She added that in addition to the Wellness Program, a 2-hour per week of Fitness Leave was being proposed to encourage employees to increase their physical exercise. She added there were several parameters of the 2-hour leave, such as permission from the employee's supervisor in advance, the leave could not be used at the beginning or end of a shift, and the 2-hour leave had to be used for cardiovascular exercise within Town limits. Mrs. Dials noted that employees who abused this leave would be subject to disciplinary action.

Councilwoman Hicks expressed that the health and wellness of employees was very important and ultimately showed increased productivity in the workplace. Mrs. Hicks questioned if there were health screenings for Town employees. Mrs. Dials explained that health screenings are provided for employees regularly. Councilman Jenkins inquired how this program would be equitable across the different Town departments. Mrs. Dials referenced the Public Works Department and explained that several employees in the department expressed ways they could incorporate exercise into their day. She explained that smaller exercises such as this can earn employees' points toward the Wellness Program and make their return to work more productive.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Chris Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, expressed his concern that the updated Tourism website and Visitor's Guide was not user friendly. Mr. Waltz noted that he felt the Town should pull funding from the Regional Tourism Office and create an in-house tourism position instead.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

1. Plat showing Gatewood Street Subdivision off Barkwood Street S.E. creating 7 lots and revising Tax Map Nos. 528-((A))91, 528-((45))-15, and 528-((45))-16.

Councilwoman Hockett explained that the committee had discussed the subdivision on Gatewood Street to create seven residential lots and one commercial lot.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the recommendation by the Street Committee plat showing Gatewood Street Subdivision off Barkwood Street S.E. and revising the tax map numbers above, 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. 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) in the B-3 General Business District. The property is designated as Business/Commercial on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. The Public Hearing was held on March 28, 2023.

Mayor Barber noted that Mr. Cole had reached out and explained he had business elsewhere and would not be available to attend the meeting.

The Planning Commission had recommended approval with conditions. Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the conditional use permit request by Rockstep Christiansburg LLC to allow a carnival at the location of 782 New River Road as recommended by the Planning Commission, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins- Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

- B. Reappointment of Barry Helms to the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority Board of Directors with a term of July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2027

Mayor Barber recognized Mr. Helms and thanked him for his service to the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the reappointment of Barry Helms to the Montgomery Regional Solid Waste Authority Board of Directors, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

- C. Retiree Health Insurance

Mayor Barber explained that the retiree health insurance discussion had taken place at the last Town Council work session. Councilman Wilson added that Council had agreed upon option #3 which would allow retirees with at least 5 years of service to elect to remain on the Town's group medical insurance with the option of subsidized premiums based on consecutive years of service.

Councilman Showalter added that Council had agreed that appointed employees were not eligible to receive both the sick leave divesture offered and the subsidized premiums. Councilwoman Hockett thanked Councilman Bishop for bringing this subject forward to Council.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the retiree health insurance approving option #3 as stated in the agenda packet, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

D. Fire/EMS Volunteer Accident Insurance

Town Manager Wingfield explained that the Human Resources Department had reached out for a quote for Volunteer Accident Insurance and unfortunately the volunteers are not covered due to the unawareness of the profession of the volunteers to determine risk. Mr. Wingfield suggested tabling this item until more information could be collected.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to table the discussion concerning Fire/EMS Volunteer Accident Insurance, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

E. Wellness Program

Mr. Wingfield noted that the Wellness Program included the Wellness Points Program and a 2-hour per week Fitness Leave for Town employees.

Councilman Showalter made a motion to approve the Wellness Program including both programs referenced, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

F. Budget Amendment #3 for 2023

Finance Director Valerie Tweedie explained to Council that the budget amendment #3 was to recognize the award of three grants received for which expenditures would occur within fiscal year 2023. The first was an award of a grant for Bear Wise Trash Cans. The second was an award from the Appalachian Regional Commission for the gathering spaces and the third was a grant from the Industrial Revitalization Fund Planning for Christiansburg Institute in which the Town would act as the fiscal agent. Mrs. Tweedie also included a request by engineering to pull forward \$75,000 of the funding in fiscal year 2024 to fiscal year 2023 to start the engineering work on the Arrowhead sewer project.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned if there was an expiration date for the grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission for gathering spaces. Mr. Warren answered that the Town was continuing to work within the guidelines with the State's Department of Housing and Community Development.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the budget amendment #3 for 2023, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the appropriation for the budget amendment #3 for 2023, seconded by Councilman Jenkins. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager

Town Manager Wingfield offered Town Council tours of the new Christiansburg Huckleberry Park and explained he would send out emails to confirm those days and times. Mr. Wingfield asked Town Council if they would like an additional work session before budget approval. Mayor Barber suggested that if Council would like a work session it could be scheduled at the next meeting on April 25th. Council agreed.

B. Town Attorney – no report

C. Other Staff

Finance Director Tweedie asked that budget questions be sent to her before a potential work session so she could answer those questions ahead of time.

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Hicks expressed concern for the College Street project and what she felt was misinformation being spread in the community. Mrs. Hicks explained that she had been told that the project had been dropped by the Town. Town Manager Wingfield expressed that the project had not been dropped and that the project had been broken into two phases due to costs. Mr. Wingfield explained that the first phase was working on the upper basin pond, but the channel work could be completed later pending funding availability. Councilman Wilson added that if the first phase of the project does not alleviate the issue, the Town would move to the next phase. Mr. Wilson noted that the project information was very straightforward and open to the public. Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren explained that from a communications standpoint the Town Manager was in the process of distributing letters to those College Street area residents to notify them where the Town was in the process.

Councilwoman Hicks also reported that the Aquatic Advisory Committee was looking for a member of the community to add to the committee. Mrs. Hicks urged the community to become involved and expressed appreciation for everyone that participated on commissions, committees, and boards.

Councilwoman Hockett reported that last week Town Council members were invited to volunteer with the YMCA Meals Campaign. Mrs. Hockett urged Council to research this campaign and volunteer for this program. She expressed that it was nice to meet several community members and understand how grants are being utilized in the community.

Mayor Barber reminded Council of the Fire Department banquet to be held on Saturday, April 15th and expressed that Council should reach out to him if they were interested in attending.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.



Tracy Heinle, Clerk of Council



D. Michael Barber, Mayor