

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
MINUTES OF AUGUST 4, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M.**

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN HALL, 100 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA, ON AUGUST 4, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Richard G. Ballengee; Vice-Mayor Bradford J. Stipes; D. Michael Barber; D. Henry Showalter; James H. Vanhoozier; H. Earnest Wade. ABSENT: Ann H. Carter.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager R. Lance Terpenny; Town Clerk Michele M. Stipes; Planning Director Wingfield; Town Attorney Kai Memmer. ABSENT: Assistant Town Manager Helms.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Wayne Booth; Mike Byrd; Craig Moore. ABSENT: Chairman Steve Simmons; Ann H. Carter; Steve Huppert, Vacant.

MAYOR BALLENGEE stated there was a quorum present of Council Members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

1. A rezoning request by Branch Banking and Trust Company for property at 985 Cambria Street, N.E. (tax parcels 497 – ((A)) – 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, and 72) from I-2 General Industrial to B-3 General Business. The property contains approximately 0.5 acres and is scheduled as Commercial in the Future Land Use Map of the Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Karen Strickler, a Long and Foster realtor and representative of the applicant, explained that this request is simply a continuation of the surrounding B-3 General Business zoning. The intent is to operate a church in the existing vacant bank building, which is a permitted use in the B-3 General Business district. Ms. Carol Lindstrom commented that this area is within a floodplain, so FEMA restrictions eliminate many of the permitted I-2 General Industrial uses. She suggested Town Council rezone this entire floodplain area from I-2 General Industrial to B-3 General Business.
2. Council's intention to adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 30 "Zoning" of the Christiansburg Town Code in regards to provisions for Floodplain Districts. Ms. Carol Lindstrom addressed Council with her concerns about the floodplain districts in Town. Ms. Lindstrom said that the floodplain districts were created based on evaluations only, and impervious surfaces have not been examined or considered. Noting that impervious surfaces have increased over time, she asked that it be something that Town Council considers with each rezoning request. Ms. Lindstrom said that because of stormwater run-off, Crab Creek is filling up with sediment, which is increasing the main water level of the creek.

REGULAR MEETING

MAYOR BALLENGEE called the Regular Meeting of Council to order and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of July 21, 2009. Councilman Barber made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

CITIZEN HEARINGS:

1. Citizen Comments:
 - a. Mr. Leo Alley of Highview Street strongly expressed his support for electronic online bill pay for Town utility and tax bills. Mr. Alley said he is frustrated with the Town because of the delay in providing this service to its customers. He believes there are many Town residents who support electronic bill pay. Mr. Alley said he has spoken with Councilmen Wade and Showalter about this matter over the years, and understands that the computer program providing this service has already been purchased, but not utilized. He asked that the Town follow through with implementing the software, if it has already been purchased. Councilman Barber said that, while understanding the frustration, electronic bill pay is also a service available through banking systems, and that Mr. Alley may want to consider this alternative until the Town implements the system. Councilman Wade noted that this is an issue that he is

hoping the newly hired Finance Director, Val Tweedie, will look into. Councilman Stipes commented that he had asked for an update on this matter for tonight's meeting. Town Manager Terpenny said that electronic, online bill pay should be implemented by the end of the year. Town Manager Terpenny, noting his concern for possible misinformation within the community, clarified that the software purchased, which provides this service, is a Town-wide software, interconnecting all Town Departments, with many modules, and many functions in addition to electronic, online bill pay. Town Departments have been learning, utilizing, and troubleshooting, the software for some time, but it is a process that takes time. Manager Terpenny and Adam Carpenetti, Assistant to the Town Manager, agreed that they are not anticipating the need for an additional software purchase to implement the online bill pay program.

- b. Councilman Barber introduced the Town's newly hired Finance Director/Treasurer, Mrs. Valerie "Val" Tweedie. Mrs. Tweedie is a Certified Public Accountant, and is well qualified for government and municipal accounting. Mrs. Tweedie, who comes to the Town from Michigan, began working on Monday with the current Treasurer and staff. Mrs. Tweedie spoke briefly about her move to Virginia, and her eagerness to move forward in this new endeavor. Mayor Ballengee welcomed her to Christiansburg.

DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. Resolution of Support for CDBG Program Action Plan. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to adopt the Resolution of Support for CDBG Program Action Plan, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None. A copy of the Resolution is attached herewith and made a part of these minutes.
2. Ordinance Amending Bicycle Helmet Ordinance. Town Manager Terpenny explained that this amendment will remove electric personal assistive mobility devices (electric wheelchairs, etc) from the ordinance requiring bicycle helmets. The State ordinance does include these devices, and the decision to exclude these devices is based on the advice of Police Chief Sisson and the approval of the Town's attorneys. Councilman Barber made a motion to approve the amendment, seconded by Councilman Wade. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None. Mayor Ballengee directed the Town attorneys to rewrite the ordinance accordingly.
3. Authorize Legislation to Establish a Joint E-911 Authority. Councilman Barber made a motion to authorize a request to the General Assembly asking for the creation of a Joint E-911 Authority between Christiansburg, Blacksburg, Virginia Tech, and Montgomery County. Councilman Stipes seconded the motion and Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None. Manager Terpenny noted that the four localities will meet later this month to discuss future plans that include a feasibility study.
4. New Christiansburg Mass Transit System. Mayor Ballengee said that Christiansburg entered into an agreement with Blacksburg Transit to join the mass transit system. Since that time, he has formed a work group to work with Blacksburg Transit to discuss fees, routes, etc. Members of the work group are Councilman Vanhoozier, Mayor Ballengee, representative from the Planning Department, Assistant Town Manager Helms, Town Manager Terpenny, and a representative from Blacksburg Transit.
5. Appointments to Agency on Aging. Mayor Ballengee reported that the Agency on Aging requests that either representatives, or alternates, be elected officials. Scott Weaver has served a representative for many years, and Steve Huppert has been serving as the Town's alternate, but neither is an elected official. Mr. Weaver has agreed to continue serving as representative and Mayor Ballengee appointed the Mayor to serve as his alternate, for lack of a volunteer from Council. Councilman Barber made a motion to appoint the Mayor to serve as alternate and Scott Weaver to serve as representative, seconded by Councilman Wade. Council voted as follows: AYES: Barber, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.
6. Appointments to Virginia Tech/Montgomery Executive Airport. Councilman Wade made a motion to reappoint Ann H. Carter, and to recommend reappointment of Al Bowman as member-at-large. Councilman Barber seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: AYES: Barber, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.
7. Mr. Stipes and Mr. Vanhoozier – Street Committee Reports/Recommendations on:
 - a. Plat Showing Relocation/Vacation of Lot Line between Lots 46 through 50, Map of "Snidow Heights" for Jason C. Underwood & Brian C. Litton; creating 3 lots; located on Liberty Street, N.E. Councilman Stipes explained that this property is currently a five lot tract which will be subdivided into three lots. The subdivision is consistent with the B-3

General Business zoning regulations, and the subdivision ordinance. There is no change in land use with this request. Councilman Stipes said the Street Committee has reviewed the plat and recommends approval. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: Barber.

b. CDBG Update. Councilman Stipes reported that the thirty-day public comment period for the CDBG Action Plan has closed. The application will be submitted in August, with funds available in October. The Street Committee will work with Town staff to determine the best use of funds, which are only usable in areas identified as moderate to low income. Councilman Stipes said he will provide periodic updates to Council. Councilman Showalter asked about other recreation grants that may be available. Councilman Stipes said the most utilized recreational grant is a 50/50 match through VDOT. This grant can be used for sidewalks.

TOWN MANAGER REPORTS:

MONTHLY BILLS – On motion by Councilman Vanhoozier, seconded by Councilman Wade, Council voted to approve the monthly bills to be paid 10 August, 2009, in the amount of \$1,519,233.84. AYES: Barber, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST(S) – Town Manager Terpenny presented the following request(s) and recommended setting the Public Hearing(s) as indicated:

September 1, 2009

1. Modifications to Sign Ordinance, Chapter 3, *Christiansburg Town Code*, regarding electronic signs.

On motion by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Wade, Council voted to set the Public Hearing(s) as indicated. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

MANAGER TERPENNY noted that each Councilmember has received a copy of changes to Chapter 29, Water and Sewer, *Christiansburg Town Code*, for review. Manager Terpenny said the changes will bring the ordinance in line with pretreatment regulations, and he asked Council to be prepared to take action on the changes at the August 18, 2009 Regular Town Council meeting.

TOWN CODE RECODIFICATION – Town Manager Terpenny reported that this action was budgeted for FY 2009-2010 and work continues to put together an RFP for submittal.

AQUATIC CENTER UPDATE – Manager Terpenny reported that the last batch of second floor steel was delivered on Friday, and painting continues. The window subcontractor has been delayed, but hopes to finish window installation soon. Proposed fee structure is almost complete and ready for Council review. The October completion date has not changed. Manager Terpenny offered to provide interested Council members with a site visit at their convenience.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to bring before Council the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

Richard G. Ballengee, Mayor