

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 6, 2023 – 5:30 P.M.**

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN HALL, 100 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA, ON JULY 6, 2023 AT 5:30 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren; Executive Assistant/Clerk of Council Tracy Heinline; Town Attorney Reid Broughton (via Zoom); Police Chief Mark Sisson

WORK SESSION

I. Call to Order

Mayor Barber called the work session to order and asked that there be no public comment.

II. Discussion of School Resource Officer (SROs)

Mayor Barber announced that a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) had been provided by Police Chief Sisson and edited by Town Attorney Broughton concerning School Resource Officers. Mayor Barber opened the floor for discussion.

Councilman Bishop expressed that he feels Council should refrain from addressing the writing of the MOU and put trust in Chief Sisson and let him address it. Chief Sisson noted the only written change from the Town Attorney was to move the scope of service to paragraph one and explained the Town of Christiansburg and the Montgomery County Sheriff will provide three officers each to cover the six schools in the municipality. Councilman Bishop noted that the MOU was null if the Town did not put Town officers back in the schools. Mayor Barber expressed hope that the SRO decision would be made by Council at the next Town Council meeting. Chief Sisson added that the County had budgeted for three School Resource Officers for municipal schools. Chief Sisson also added that he had spoken with Sheriff Partin, and they had both agreed that while the schools are open and functioning, meaning summer school and regular session, there needed to be SRO coverage from both parties involved. He explained that they had agreed to split summer school coverage and, in his opinion, having six schools covered by full-time officers was the best we could ask for. Chief Sisson also explained that one of the core elements of the Certified Crime Prevention Program was the DARE program and a block of that program needed to be taught to maintain that DARE certification.

Councilman Showalter questioned if at the beginning of the school year would all of the County's schools within Christiansburg Town limits have full-time SRO coverage. Chief Sisson answered that the Town of Christiansburg would supply three officers total for schools and the

County would provide three officers which would cover all schools with full-time SRO coverage. Councilman Showalter expressed that just because the Board of Supervisors approved funding for the three officers in the schools did not necessarily mean officers would be in those schools. Chief Sisson expressed that he believes there will be officers in all schools beginning August 1, 2023. Town Attorney Broughton explained that verbiage could be added to the MOU stating the County needed to have their officers in those schools by August 1, 2023

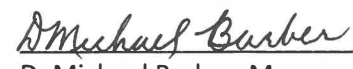
Councilman Wilson expressed that everyone knows the true intent and that the officers needed to physically be in the schools. Mr. Wilson also added that in a separate meeting with Sheriff Partin he expressed that he currently did have three officers he could place in the schools at the beginning of the school year. Mayor Barber explained that this MOU was an initial three-year agreement and suggested it follow the Town and County's fiscal year calendar, July 1 to June 30. Chief Sisson explained the agreement was a three-year contract, renewable each year, unless there was a 180-day notice given from one party to the other. Councilman Showalter clarified that if the County did not place three SROs in three of their schools, then three schools would be without coverage. Councilman Showalter stated that the MOU reads that either party involved can pull their officers out with 180 days' notice, which previously was 90 days' notice. He questioned if the contract should read the "end of the school year" instead of pulling officers out "within 180 days", which could be during the school year. Mr. Broughton explained that the contract was for three years with no termination, then renews every year (June 30, 2023) for every term unless there was a notice from either party. Mr. Broughton also added that if the County does not place their officers in their schools they would be in default of the contract and the Town could withdraw from the agreement. He added that if the Town wished to add a provision to withdraw earlier than three years, he could include a phrase.

Mayor Barber asked for nods from Council to move forward with addressing the SRO subject at the July 11th Town Council meeting for a possible vote on the assignment of SROs and that the agreement should also be on the agenda. Council agreed.

III. Adjournment

There being no further business brought before Council the meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.


Tracy Hein, Clerk of Council


D. Michael Barber, Mayor