

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 26, 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 SEPTEMBER 26, 2023, AT 7:00 P.M.

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

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 Public Works Jim Lancianese; Assistant Director of Public Works, Streets Travis Moles; Police Chief Chris Ramsey; Fire and Rescue Chief Billy Hanks; Director of Engineering Mike Kelley

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

- A. Moment of Reflection
- B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Hockett.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Street vacation of existing 40-foot right-of-way known as Alma Street in its entirety from Simmons Road S.E. to the VDOT park and ride property

Max Wiegard, Gentry Locke Attorneys, Roanoke, Virginia addressed Council and explained his firm represents Carter Machinery Company. Mr. Wiegard further explained that Carter Machinery had purchased the parcels to include a rental facility where the business could lease smaller scale equipment and tools. He included that Carter Machinery was under contract to purchase those several parcels between Simmons Road S.E. and the VDOT park and ride property and would install fencing and use portions of the lot to park equipment for rental. Mr. Wiegard explained that the 40-foot right-of-way known as Alma Street would run directly through the intended

property and would not be suitable for Carter's business. He noted that he had been in communication with VDOT and the Town of Christiansburg concerning the potential of Alma Street and it was confirmed that VDOT had elected not to pursue building the connector street in their park and ride project prior to its construction. Mr. Wiegard concluded that based on this information from VDOT and the Town of Christiansburg, they had pursued the street vacation application.

- B. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 26 "Public Safety" to Add Section 26-136, Cost Reimbursement for Fire Services, to the Christiansburg Town Code and Provide an Effective Date

Town Manager Randy Wingfield explained that this amendment to the ordinance was recommended by the Emergency Services Committee for revenue recovery for the Fire Department. Mr. Wingfield added that reimbursement for the Fire Department would include billing insurance and further explained that reimbursement for the Fire Department would not generate the same amount of money that Rescue revenue recovery does due to less emergency calls. Fire Chief Billy Hanks explained to Council there are fees built into an individual's homeowners' insurance that would allow the Town to bill for payment when the Fire Department is responding to their residence. Chief Hanks noted that reimbursement the Town has received has gone back into the fire truck reserve fund. He explained that this billing would allow the Town to collect on motor vehicle accidents as well.

Councilman Wilson asked if a motion should be made to approve Public Hearing items A. and B. now since the October 10th Council meeting had been canceled. Councilwoman Hockett expressed concern there may be push back from the public when voting the same night as a Public Hearing. Mrs. Hockett suggested a Council work session instead. Councilman Bishop agreed with Councilwoman Hockett and expressed there could be comments or concerns from the public that Council would want to hear before voting. Councilwoman Hicks expressed that the waiting period for this decision would be longer than two weeks and there had been ads in the newspaper notifying the public for both items.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to move items A. and B. to Discussion and Action by Mayor and Council, seconded by Councilman Jenkins. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Nay; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Nay; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of September 12, 2023
- B. Monthly Bill List
- C. Contract approval of Gordian \$169,576.45 for Rescue building floor resurfacing
- D. Schedule a public hearing for acquisition for public property for College Street Stormwater project for October 24, 2023

- E. Schedule a public hearing for FY 2023-24 Budget Amendment #1 for October 24, 2023
- F. Schedule public hearing for 2022 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER) for October 24, 2023

Town Manager Wingfield clarified that the contract approval for Gordian services (item C.) for the Rescue building were for two contractors – Extreme Concrete and Construction for \$161,501.38 and Gordian for \$8,075.07. Fire Chief Billy Hanks described the work being done and noted there had been no renovations since 1996.

Councilwoman Hicks inquired if the Rescue volunteers would possibly handle some of the renovations at the Rescue building, since they have worked on some projects in the past. Chief Hanks explained the work would be done by contractors only.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Mayor Barber recognized Derek Kitts, Board of Supervisors Candidate for District B.

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Presentation of Budget Amendment #1 for FY 2023-2024

Finance Director Valerie Tweedie referenced a packet given to Council that reflected the budget amendment #1 for FY 2023-2024. Mrs. Tweedie explained that the Town was close to closing out the year and a budget amendment was needed to rollover capital projects that were not completed this last fiscal year. Mrs. Tweedie noted adjustments to the general fund programs and explained that most of the total amount was to cover the transition of retiring employees and software implementation for the Finance Department. Mrs. Tweedie explained several reallocations of capital included in the amendment and that all were fully funded by grants or special revenues and have no impact on use of general fund dollars. She spoke about the Stormwater and Water and Sewer Enterprise fund rollovers for capital projects that had not been completed and capital items received after the end of the fiscal year that would be rolled over into fiscal year 2024.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jeff Akers, 345 Howery Street, expressed concern for signage in the Town and noted that as a citizen and a candidate he felt hindered in reaching out to fellow citizens. Mr. Akers expressed that as a candidate for Christiansburg Town Council he was asking for the public's help make Christiansburg business friendly.

Donald Wright, 75 Kays Drive, addressed Council concerning the new Christiansburg Huckleberry Park. Mr. Wright noted that his family lives less than 100 yards from the park's pedestrian entrance. He noted concern for parking issues at the new park and added that there had been unlawful parking at the entrance. Mr. Wright stated there was a lack of trees/privacy on the west side of the park entrance and that the map had originally showed a screening of trees in that area. Mayor Barber explained to Mr. Wright that trees have been purchased for that area of the park. Councilwoman Hicks thanked Mr. Wright for coming out and encouraged the public to reach out with their concerns.

Dan Maderic, 595 Arrowhead Trail, spoke concerning campaign signs and expressed that campaign signs were placed inadequately, and he did not see any type of aggressive regulation.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Hicks reported that the Agency on Aging Board met recently and noted the hard work of the agency serving meals and working with the senior citizens in Town. Mrs. Hicks encouraged seniors to reach out to the agency for assistance. Councilwoman Hicks also inquired if the Town website could include a link to the Agency on Aging.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A. Approval of Personal Property Tax Relief Act rate for 2023 personal property

Finance Director Valerie Tweedie presented to Council information concerning the Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA) percentage for 2023. Mrs. Tweedie explained that each year the Town received funds from the state to provide relief on personal property tax bills for the citizens with qualifying vehicles. She spoke about the history of the PPTRA and how all vehicles that are for personal use in the community and under \$1,000 in value receive 100% relief. Personal use vehicles valued between \$1,001 and \$20,000 receive the calculated percentage relief and no relief is provided for vehicles valued in excess of \$20,001. Mrs. Tweedie asked Council for approval of the new calculated rate of 25.16% to be applied to qualifying vehicles for the 2023 tax bills.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the Personal Property Tax Relief Act rate for 2023 personal property as proposed, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

B. Appointment of Police Chief Chris Ramsey to the Committee on Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program (VASAP) to replace Mark Sisson (no term)

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the appointment of Police Chief Chris Ramsey to the Committee on Virginia Alcohol Safety Action Program, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

C. Board of Zoning Appeals application review

Mr. Wingfield explained there was one vacancy for the Board of Zoning Appeals and Council had been provided Mr. Nicholas Poe's application to consider. Mr. Poe introduced himself to Council and talked about his education and work history in the area.

Mayor Barber explained that his name would be recommended to the Circuit Court and if appointed the Montgomery County Clerk of Court would then finalize the actual appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to appoint Mr. Poe to the Board of Zoning Appeals, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

D. Street vacation of existing 40-foot right-of-way known as Alma Street in its entirety from Simmons Road S.E. to the VDOT park and ride property

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the street vacation of existing 40-foot right-of-way known as Alma Street in its entirety from Simmons Road S.E. to the VDOT park and ride property, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Nay; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

E. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 26 "Public Safety" to Add Section 26-136, Cost Reimbursement for Fire Services, to the Christiansburg Town Code and Provide an Effective Date

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the ordinance Amending Chapter 26 "Public Safety" to Add Section 26-136, Cost Reimbursement for Fire Services, to the Christiansburg Town Code and Provide an Effective Date, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Nay; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager

Town Manager Wingfield reported the Gearheads for A Cause event would be held on Saturday, September 30th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. He noted several events taking place in October including the Police Department's Fall Festival event which would be held on October 7th, the Fire Prevention parade on October 10th, and the Christiansburg High School Homecoming parade on Wednesday, October 4th. Mr. Wingfield also informed the public that the last Rockin' Main event would be held October 14th.

B. Town Attorney – no report

C. Other Staff – no report

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilman Wilson reminded the community that a forum for Town Council candidates would be held at Town Hall on October 12, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Wilson noted that Councilwoman Hicks and Councilman Bishop were seeking re-election.

Mayor Barber announced that he would be out of Town for the October 24th Town Council meeting and Vice Mayor Bishop would take his place.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Tracy Heintz
Tracy Heintz, Clerk of Council

Michael Barber
D. Michael Barber, Mayor