

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 9, 2024 – 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 9, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren; Town Attorney Reid Broughton; Clerk of Council/Executive Assistant Tracy Heinline; Special Projects Coordinator Wayne Nelson; Finance Director Valerie Tweedie; Engineering Director Mike Kelley; Police Chief Chris Ramsey

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Hicks.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to separate items B. and C. under Discussion and Action by Town Council pertaining to the FY 23 – 2024 budget. Councilwoman Bowman seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

No public hearings.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of March 26, 2024

- B. Resolution Recognizing April 14-20, 2024 as National Public Safety Telecommunications Week
- C. Contract renewal #3 with Wetland Studies and Solutions, Inc. d/b/a WSSI for Stormwater Engineering On-Call Services in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 per task order, and with completed per contract year not to exceed \$500,000
- D. Contract renewal #3 with Rummel, Klepper, & Kahl, LLP d/b/a RK&K for Signal Structure Evaluations and Traffic Engineering On-Call Services in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 per task order, and with work completed per contract year not to exceed \$500,000
- E. Set Public Hearing for Aquatics Lease with H2Okies for April 23, 2024

Councilwoman Hicks referenced item C. under the consent agenda and questioned if there was a schedule in place. Mr. Wingfield explained since it was considered on-call services the work would be completed as needed on a project basis. Mrs. Hicks also questioned the Aquatics lease with H2Okies and what the process would be for current Aquatic contracts. She asked if the new lease would affect the amount of funds the Town receives each year. Mayor Barber clarified this was not a lease for operation of services but a lease to build on the property. Mr. Wingfield explained that Town Attorney Broughton had drafted a new agreement showing H2Okies would provide a rental amount to the Town and the Town would forgive or refund the income based on the organization staying a nonprofit.

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

Motion Approved

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. New River Valley Agency on Aging Executive Director Tina King to present on agency programs and operations

Executive Director Tina King thanked Town Council for supporting the New River Valley Agency on Aging throughout the years and gave a brief history on the agency. Ms. King explained that the agency provides services to adults, and adults with disabilities, to achieve independence and enhance their quality of life. She added that the agency's core services included home-delivered meals, transportation, care coordination, legal services, elder abuse prevention, as well as many other services. Ms. King explained that federal and local dollars help maintain the services provided by the agency, as well as contributions from the community. She added there were additional self-care services provided for adults with low income and explained that volunteers assisted with donations of supplies and funds for those individuals, which in turn helps them feel more connected to the community. Councilwoman Bowman stated she has volunteered

for the Homemaker Services program in the past and expressed gratitude for the program and the other volunteers involved. Councilwoman Hicks noted the great services provided by the Agency on Aging and noted there would be a fundraising event on May 23, 2024 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Nesselrod on the New and all proceeds would go to the Meals on Wheels program.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Barber recognized several public comments received by Council before the meeting; an individual that supports the Main Street program and a comment that strongly supported several upcoming Planning Commission items.

Public emailed comments will be included in the final record of the Town Council Minute Book.

Patrick Melander, 495 Silver Leaf Drive, noted the online links for the Solar Purchase Agreement were not accessible and asked that they be fixed. Mr. Melander thanked Councilwoman Hicks for dividing the two budget amendment items under Discussion and Action by Council. He also expressed concern for the Police Department grant that would provide funds for new cameras in Town. He noted concern for the monitoring of citizens in the community and questioned where those cameras would be installed. Mr. Melander suggested the grant be revised to include additional information for the public.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Bishop reported the Street Committee had met and discussed on-going speeding issues throughout Alleghany Street. Mr. Bishop noted complaints and added that a speed study would take place to see if there was a need for further action in that area.

Councilwoman Hicks reported there would be a Central Business Committee meeting on April 10th at 6:30 p.m.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A. Solar Franchise Power Purchase Agreement

Special Projects Coordinator Wayne Nelson referenced a draft ordinance that had been placed at Council's seats that contained the annual utility rate escalation factor of the proposed Solar Franchise agreement. Mr. Nelson noted the proposed solar projects for both the Parks and Recreation Center and Aquatic Center totaling \$1.7 million in savings for the Town. Mr. Nelson added that currently the Town was paying Appalachian Power (AEP) \$0.0916 cent per kilowatt hour (kWh) at each facility and noted a greater long-term savings for the Town by choosing the 0.0% utility escalation factor.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the Solar Franchise Power Purchase Agreement with a 0.0% utility escalation factor, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks.

Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

B. Resolution to Approve Budget Amendment #8 (B1) for FY 2023-24 to accept grant funds

Police Chief Chris Ramsey clarified that the Police Department cameras proposed for the Town were stationary license plate readers and the actual company would hold all information and video gathered from the cameras. Chief Ramsey explained that the Police Department would not monitor those cameras and would be used only to detect vehicles that had been reported stolen or in instances like child abduction or tracking shoplifters. He added that the HEAT Program grant would partially fund this project with \$12,500 and the cameras could be placed throughout Christiansburg according to the company's suggested areas. Chief Ramsey noted that this would be a valuable and powerful tool for the Police Department.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the resolution to approve budget amendment #8 (B1) for FY 2023-24 to accept grant funds in the amount of \$12,500 for a camera system for the Police Department, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Nay; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the resolution to approve budget amendment #8 (B2) for FY 2023-24 to accept grant funds in the amount of \$7,500 for the Fire Department, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

C. Resolution to Approve Budget Appropriation #8 for FY 2023-24

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the resolution appropriating for Expenditure in FY 2023-24 budget appropriation #8 (C1) for funds in the amount of \$12,500 for the Police Department camera system, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Nay; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the resolution appropriating for Expenditure in FY 2023-24 budget appropriation #8 (C2) for funds in the amount of \$7,500 for the Fire Department, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

IX. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Town Manager Wingfield reported several Town events for the upcoming month of April:
- *Town Leaf Giveaway* - 250 Scattergood Drive, N.W. (Public Works Complex) - April 12th and 13th.
 - *Annual Spring Cleanup* - April 15th through April 26th.
 - *The Virginia Passenger Rail Authority* - Open House at the Montgomery County Government Center - April 18th (5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
 - *Christiansburg Parks and Recreation Department Spring Kickoff Festival* – located behind the Recreation Center’s facility on April 20th (6:00 p.m. to 9:00p.m.)

Mr. Wingfield reported that the Virginia Municipal League (VML) and Virginia Tech would be hosting their first Small Towns Conference on June 10th & 11th in Abingdon, Virginia. He also reported that Town Council’s first Wednesday Work Session would take place on April 17th at 6:30 p.m. with Christiansburg Huckleberry Park outside parcels and park parking issues on the agenda. Mr. Wingfield asked Council to consider June 13th and 14th for potential dates for a strategic planning session. Council noted dates would need to be discussed further. Mr. Wingfield added that Council would have a Budget Work Session on April 30th. Councilwoman Hicks asked for information on the capital outlay for the Recreation Center to be added to the budget work session on April 30th.

Mr. Wingfield also stated he had not received the Community Support form from one councilmember and asked for guidance from Council on how to proceed. Councilwoman Hicks clarified that she had mentioned she would like to vote zero for each organization. Mr. Wingfield urged Mrs. Hicks to fill out the Community Support form and was reminded that she was given a form at the last Town Council meeting. Councilwoman Hicks asked that the minutes reflect her vote for zero for each organization.

- B. Town Attorney – no report.
- C. Other Staff – no report.

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Barber reported on the success of the recent Extreme Easter Egg Hunt on April 5th and announced that 950 were in attendance. He added that 1,374 cans of nonperishable food had been donated and thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for their hard work at the event.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Closed Meeting:

1. Councilwoman Hockett 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 a 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 potential purchase of property located in downtown Christiansburg. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

Councilman Jenkins read a disclosure statement he had previously signed pertaining to his employment with the Montgomery Museum of Art and History and abstaining from discussions and votes pertaining to the museum.

2. Reconvene in Open Meeting
3. Councilwoman Hockett 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. Councilman Bishop seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Abstain; Wilson – Aye.

4. Council action on the matter

Councilwoman Hicks noted she would vote against this matter due to a parking easement being recorded for the benefit of an adjoining property and expressed that she did not agree with a previously recorded access through the property as being a clean title in her opinion.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to complete the contract of the purchase of property located in downtown Christiansburg, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Abstain; Hicks – Nay; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Abstain; Wilson – Aye.

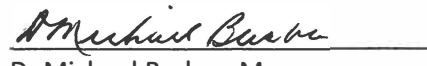
Motion Approved

Mayor Barber asked Mr. Wingfield to proceed with the contract.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:19 p.m.


Tracy Heintze, Clerk of Council


D. Michael Barber, Mayor