

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 14, 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 MAY 14, 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; Director of Finance Valerie Tweedie; Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley; Fire and Rescue Chief Billy Hanks; Deputy Rescue Chief Josh Settlage; Director of Public Works Jim Lancianese; Assistant Director of Public Works, Streets Travis Moles; Director of Engineering Mike Kelley; Chief of Police Chris Ramsey; Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Bowman.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

No adjustments to the agenda

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Aquatics property ground lease agreement with NRVA, Inc. (H₂Okies)

Town Manager Wingfield clarified that the original draft lease agreement for the potential building at the Aquatic Center as presented by NRVA, Inc. had been reviewed and edited by staff and the Town Attorney. Mr. Wingfield noted a revision in the agreement that included a \$1,000 monthly rental fee that would be waived provided the tenant remained a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Amy Brehl, 4192 Little Wytheville Road, Draper, VA, addressed Council and explained she is currently both the Christiansburg Middle and Christiansburg High School swim coach. Ms. Brehl added that she is the founder and organizer of the Southwest Virginia Summer Swim League which involves 500 individuals from families in the community and is a coach for the H₂Okies. Ms. Brehl noted that the added building at the Aquatic Center would positively impact many individuals and make access easier for swimmers for strength and conditioning. She asked Council to consider moving forward with the property agreement.

Jonathan Ridge, 50 Chrisman Street, addressed Council as a new resident that grew up swimming in his own hometown and moved his family to Christiansburg promising them a great facility in order to swim. Mr. Ridge expressed how grateful his family is to have the Aquatic Center and believes the dry land facility would greatly benefit swimmers.

Laney Alderman, 120 Franklin Park Court, addressed Council and expressed how crucial the drills and repetitions are in swimming and feels that a dry land facility is greatly needed for that type of conditioning. Ms. Alderman added that a January 2024 study showed 70% of children over the age of 13 years old drop out of organized sports, but since 2013, H₂Okies have had a 92% retention rate. She added that this retention is due to hard work and accountability of the swimmers and coaches. Ms. Alderman expressed that the dry land facility could help retain even more swimmers.

Emily Sanford, 240 Emerald Boulevard, spoke to Council and noted she began swimming at an early age and eventually joined the H₂Okies. Ms. Sanford expressed that this program has provided her with the skills she needs, and a dryland facility would only help advance those skills.

Michael Ridge, 50 Chrisman Street, explained to Council he had joined the H₂Okies within days of moving to Christiansburg with his family. Mr. Ridge expressed that he could meet his swimming goals if a dryland facility was put in place at the Aquatic Center. He noted that the facility would impact training and the success of his siblings' futures as well.

Richard Sanford, 240 Emerald Boulevard, explained to Council his family was a consistent user of the Aquatic Center facility and he has served for approximately 231 sessions on the pool deck refereeing and officiating swim meets. Mr. Sanford noted the cleanliness of the Aquatic Center and expressed it was the best in the area. He thanked Nate Destree, Competitive Events Supervisor at the Aquatic Center, for his service to the H₂Okies and the pool deck and recommended him for senior positions in the future at the facility. Mr. Sanford expressed that the Aquatic Center is continually asked to host meets and with the H₂Okies program there are numerous volunteers that support the meets, and a dry land facility would only improve the program further. Mr. Sanford noted that currently the H₂Okies program rents Peak Strength and Conditioning for their dry land training and then families and swimmers must travel to the Aquatic Center for their pool practices and meets. He added that when the 30-year lease is completed the building would then be turned over to the Town or per Council vote the Town could continue to lease to the H₂Okies or the organization that is involved. Mr. Sandford also

added that if approved he would like to move forward with building and development approval as soon as possible.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of April 23, 2024 and April 30, 2024
- B. Award Contract to Jones Road & Bridge, Incorporated in the amount of \$1,166,064.00 for construction of the College Street Drainage Improvements Phase I project
- C. Award Task Order 3 to Rummel, Kepper & Kahl LLP (RK&K) in the amount of \$127,262.21 for Construction, Engineering, and Inspection (CEI) services for the College Street Drainage Improvements Phase I project
- D. Approval of ARPA Subrecipient Agreement for Grant #SCS-21 for the Arrowhead Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project
- E. Resolution recognizing May 12 – 18, 2024 as National Police Week
- F. Resolution recognizing May 13 – 17, 2024 as Infrastructure Week
- G. Resolution recognizing May 19 – 25, 2024 as Emergency Medical Services Week
- H. Resolution recognizing May 19 – 25, 2024 as National Public Works Week
- I. Resolution recognizing May 19 – 25, 2024 as National Travel and Tourism Week
- J. Resolution recognizing May 26 – 31, 2024 as Kiwanis Week and May 31, 2024 as Kiwanis Appreciation Day

Councilwoman Hicks questioned what the estimated time was to complete the Arrowhead Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project. Engineering Director Mike Kelley explained that the project was out for bid now and the estimated duration time of the project is 365 days from the time the Town awards the contract.

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

Motion Approved

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley to present on Parks and Recreation programs and operations

Brad Epperley addressed Council concerning programs and operations at the Parks and Recreation Center. Mr. Epperley touched on the divisional breakdown of each

department and noted the full and part time staff that help manage the different facilities that are an extension of the Recreation Center. He talked about the numerous parks in Christiansburg the department maintains as well as the Recreation Center facility itself. Mr. Epperley noted the programs and events they host such as adult and youth special interest programs, youth and adult athletics, and special events such as the annual 4th of July Celebration and the Christmas Parade. He explained the Recreation Center facility offers the community 4 full courts of gymnasium, a 1/8-mile walking/jogging track, weight rooms, racquetball courts, and many other amenities. Mr. Epperley shared the many events hosted at the Huckleberry Trail and Harkrader Sports Complex as well as the events held downtown that the Recreation Department supports. He talked about the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park and the amenities the public can enjoy such as the dog park, an all-inclusive playground and challenge course, a splash pad, walking trails, and many more recreation activities. Mr. Epperley spoke concerning the Farmers Market currently being held at the Parks and Recreation Center every Thursday as well as the Community Garden Program that is available for citizens in Christiansburg to plant and grow their own food. Mr. Epperley concluded that recently the Recreation Center received special plastic wheelchairs for children with intellectual disabilities to enjoy the splash pad at the Huckleberry Park and the wheelchairs will be unveiled at the Spring into Summer event on May 23rd. Mr. Epperley noted the success of the Parks and Recreation Department is due to the staff's dedication to these recreational events and opportunities in the community. Council thanked the Recreation Center for all they do and for the many events provided for the community.

B. Fire and Rescue Chief Billy Hanks to introduce new Rescue Deputy Chief Joshua Settlage

Fire and Rescue Chief Billy Hanks introduced Joshua Settlage to Council. Chief Hanks noted Mr. Settlage comes to the Town from Carilion Patient Transport of Roanoke. He added that Mr. Settlage was a United States Army Combat Medic, a paramedic for the Regional Medical Services of Pulaski County, a Lieutenant for the Radford Fire Department which included overseeing Emergency Medical Services, a Medical Team Director deployed to Iraq, and a Lead Medic in the Sniper Division and Regional Training Institute. Mr. Settlage thanked Council and expressed he was looking forward to working for Christiansburg Rescue.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Matt Hicks, 607 ½ S. Franklin Street, asked Council to think conservatively and expressed concern that Montgomery County does not contribute to the Town in the way of funding and questioned why.

Johana Hicks, 607 ½ S. Franklin Street, addressed Council and explained she currently owns Angle Florist and is concerned about events that take place downtown affecting her business. She noted she would like to work with the Town and wants the downtown events to continue. She asked that the Town and event planners for downtown events be in contact with the downtown businesses before events.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Bishop followed up on the traffic study completed on Alleghany Street. He reminded Council of the concern for speeding in the area and noted that the study showed the average speed for one month was below the 25 miles per hour speed limit. Mr. Bishop explained that since the study showed no serious infractions in that area, speed bumps were not warranted. He explained that Town Engineering had suggested white striping along the edges of the street instead to help keep vehicles in their own lanes.

Councilman Jenkins reported the Public Arts Advisory Board had met recently and was searching for artists for the Gravity Real Estate Group building at the corner of E. Main Street and Roanoke Street.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Street closure request by Montgomery Museum of Art & History for closure of E. Main Street (from Franklin Street to Pepper Street) and Pepper Street, S.E. (from E. Main Street to First Street, S.E.) for Heritage Day on August 24, 2024 from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. The event is planned for 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Councilman Jenkins noted a conflict of interest concerning this item and his position with the Montgomery Museum of Art and History and announced he would abstain from voting. Councilwoman Hicks announced she would abstain as well due to her business on E. Main Street.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the street closure request for Heritage Day on August 24, 2024, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Abstain; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Abstain; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

- B. Conditional Use Permit request by Howard M. Thornton, Jr. and Gayle W. Thornton, property owners, and PCKK Partners, LLC, applicant, to allow for a contractor equipment storage yard in the B-3 General Business District on property located at 520 and 540 Depot Street, N.E. (Tax Parcel 497 – ((A)) – 40; Parcel ID 007903) consisting of approximately of 2.409 acres. The property is designated as Downtown/Mixed Use on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. The Public Hearing was held April 23, 2024.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the conditional use permit as recommended by the Planning Commission to allow for a contractor equipment storage yard on property located at 520 and 540 Depot Street N.E., seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

C. Rezoning request by Johnny C. Martin, Jr. and Amelia F. Martin, property owners and applicants, to rezone property located at 3345 Roanoke Street (all of approximately 1.595-acre Tax Parcel 502 – ((9)) – 6; Parcel ID 007453) and property located at 3301 Roanoke Street (an approximate 5.955 acre portion of Tax Parcel 502 – ((9)) – 5C; Parcel ID 090517) from A Agricultural to B-3 General Business. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. The Public Hearing was held April 23, 2024.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the rezoning request to rezone property located at 3345 and 3301 Roanoke Street, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

D. Conditional Use Permit request by Johnny C. Martin, Jr. and Amelia F. Martin, property owners and applicants, to allow for an amendment of an existing Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for the expansion of a contractor's equipment storage yard on property located at 3345 Roanoke Street and a portion of property located at 3301 Roanoke Street (all of approximately 1.595-acre Tax Parcel 502 – ((9)) – 6; Parcel ID 007453 and an approximately 5.955-acre portion of Tax Parcel 502 – ((9)) – 5C; Parcel ID 090517). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. The Public Hearing was held April 23, 2024.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the conditional use permit as recommended by the Planning Commission to allow for an amendment of an existing Conditional Use Permit for the expansion of a contractor's equipment storage yard on property located at 3345 and 3301 Roanoke Street, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

E. 2024 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Annual Action Plan. The Public Hearing was held April 23, 2024.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the 2024 Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

F. Christiansburg Huckleberry Park lighting (Bowman and Hicks)

Councilwoman Bowman noted concern from citizens regarding lighting at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park. She explained that the field lights were bright for the nearby homes at night, and they felt the lighting was not necessary when the field was not being used. Mr. Epperley explained that the lights have been adjusted to the most economical time-of-day rate. He noted that currently the facilities stay open until 10:00

p.m. Monday – Friday and there are two fields that are rented most nights until 7:30 or 8:00 p.m. but in the fall they could be left on as late as 10:00 p.m. Mr. Epperley added that in order to maintain safety at the park they did not want to go under utilization of two sets of lights. He noted the LED lighting and cost reduction from an energy standpoint and referenced pictures of the area when it is very dark and lit.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager

Mr. Wingfield reported the Farmers Market would begin its season Thursday, May 16th with new hours (2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) at the Christiansburg Recreation Center. He added that the Spring into Summer event would be held on May 23rd at 11:00 a.m. and the Aquatic Center Beach Bash would commence on May 23rd from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Mr. Wingfield also reminded Council of the Town facility closures for Memorial Day. He noted that the Virginia Tech and VML Small Towns Conference would be held June 10th and 11th. Mr. Wingfield asked Council if June 13th and 14th were still appropriate days for the Council retreat. Councilwoman Hicks questioned if she could join via Zoom. Mayor Barber explained that could be voted on per Council before the retreat began. Council agreed to the dates. Mr. Wingfield noted the regular Council work session had been cancelled for Wednesday, the 15th and the next regular work session was scheduled for the Juneteenth holiday. Council agreed to cancel the June 19th work session as well.

B. Town Attorney – no report.

C. Other Staff – no report.

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Hicks expressed her condolences to the family of Peggy Beasley. She also questioned Mr. Wingfield about the complaints from citizens at Silver Lake Road explaining the concern of dirt from the ongoing construction. She added that the pool contains dirty water and was not safe for children in the neighborhood. Mr. Wingfield made a note to look into the issue.

Mayor Barber noted the Rockin' Main event brought a large crowd to downtown on May 11th and was a nice occasion.

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 sale of property located on the

southeastern intersection of Peppers Ferry Road, N.W. and Booker T. Washington Boulevard, N.W. (an approximately 5-acre portion of Tax Parcel 435 – ((A)) – 3A; Parcel ID 270079) and additionally, the potential purchase of property located near the Christiansburg Recreation Center at 1600 N. Franklin Street (Tax Parcels 466 – ((A)) – 8A and 13 and 466 – ((2)) – 14A; Parcel IDs 026472 and 019332). Councilman Bishop seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

2. Reconvene in Open Meeting
3. Certification

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 – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

4. Council action on the matters

No Council action at this time.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

Tracy Heintline
Tracy Heintline, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber
D. Michael Barber, Mayor