

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 11, 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 JUNE 11, 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 Aquatics Terry Caldwell; Engineering Director Mike Kelley; Director of Public Works Jim Lancianese; Assistant Director of Public Works, Streets Travis Moles; Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley; Police Chief Chris Ramsey; Deputy Director of Finance Katie Miano

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Moment of Reflection

Mayor Barber asked for everyone to keep the family of Firefighter Jeremy Compton in their thoughts.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Hockett.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to separate item E. from the consent agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Bowman. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Nay; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Nay; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Nay. Due to a divided vote of Council, Mayor Barber voted against the motion to separate item E. from the consent agenda.

Motion Denied

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

No public hearings.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of May 28, 2024
- B. Contract renewal #2 with AECOM Technical Services, Inc., for Annual Bridge Inspections and Engineering Services in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 per task order, and with work completed per contract year not to exceed \$500,000
- C. Contract renewal #2 with SCS Engineers, Inc., for Professional Engineering Service, Post Closure Landfill Engineering and Monitoring in an amount not to exceed \$150,000 per task order, and with work completed per contract year not to exceed \$500,000
- D. Resolution in Support of FY27 VDOT State of Good Repair Bridge Program Funding Application
- E. Schedule Public Hearing for June 25, 2024 for consideration of an amendment to the Christiansburg Town Code, Chapter 40, Section 40-2 Definitions and Section 40-3 – Administrator, to allow for consistency with the State Code and additional administrative and planning commission reviews

Councilwoman Hicks stated she would vote nay due to item E. not being separated from the consent agenda.

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 – Nay; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell to present on Aquatics programs and operations.

Ms. Caldwell addressed Council and expressed that the Christiansburg Aquatic Center (CAC) first opened in 2010 and this July would be their 14-year anniversary. Ms. Caldwell noted the CAC employs 12 full-time staff and 92 part-time. She added that all her staff are up to date on their CPR/First Aid certifications as well as their all-staff-service training which includes customer service, sexual harassment, emergency evacuations, and more.

Ms. Caldwell added that the CAC memberships are up, and the daily visits have risen since last year as well. She spoke about the partnership with the City of Radford and noted that visits were currently at 2,254 this year. She included information concerning special events at the CAC and played a short video of the Summer Beach Bash event provided by the Public Relations department. Ms. Caldwell added that Fin's Swim Team is offered in the fall and winter at the Aquatic Center and is designed to be a fun way for children to transition into competitive swimming. She also added that Fin's Summer

Camp was a camp with available swim lessons, arts and crafts, weekly themes, and more. Ms. Caldwell spoke about the CAC's fitness classes, swim lessons and hosting birthday parties. She stated that in FY 22-23 the CAC hosted 43 meets that included 57,573 spectators at those meets.

Ms. Caldwell thanked Council for the support of the upcoming H₂Okie building and talked about upcoming events at the Aquatic Center.

Councilwoman Hicks asked if there were specific grants the Town could look into to help with swim programs. Ms. Caldwell explained that grants are reviewed but most do not apply to the Aquatic Center.

Mayor Barber announced the Town's Parks and Recreation Department had received an award recently and asked Brad Epperley, Parks and Recreation Director to speak about the award.

Mr. Epperley explained The Arc of the New River Valley was a non-profit organization that promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families. Mr. Epperley noted that he felt this was a Town-wide award though partially due to the Town's dedication to the disabled areas at the new park.

Councilwoman Hicks expressed gratitude for the inclusive playground at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park as well as staff's efforts.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Christine Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, addressed Council concerning inflatables placed at businesses. Ms. Waltz stated that inflatables were considered signs and did not understand why citizens could place inflatables on their property, but businesses could not. She expressed she would like to see businesses have the same opportunities as citizens.

Joanne Price, lives in Blacksburg, Virginia and owns a business in Christiansburg, expressed concern that Council would no longer have the ability to approve lot line adjustments and not have public hearings. Mrs. Price expressed that Council's job was to hold Town employees accountable.

Matt Hicks, 607 ½ S. Franklin Street, agreed with Mrs. Price and expressed that he is also concerned with closures of any streets in downtown where he owns 3 businesses. Mr. Hicks stated that he has met with Town administration and engineering to solve the issue of closing streets. He added that this would decrease the value of properties nearby. Mr. Hicks asked that the Town communicate with business owners concerning street closures.

Michael Bishop, 105 Forest Street, addressed Council concerning a Town ordinance that does not allow ducks in residential areas. Mr. Bishop explained that his neighbor has ducks in his backyard and does not understand why there is an ordinance against it.

Mr. Wingfield explained that the keeping of foul is not allowed in residential areas due to noise and sanitation.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Street Committee Report/Recommendation (Bishop, Hockett)

1. Plat of subdivision of Campbell Town Green on the Depot Street, N.E. and Harless Street, N.E. creating 10 townhome lots and 2 open space lots

Councilman Bishop explained that in January 2022 Town Council approved a request for townhomes at this location, but the owner did not follow through. Mr. Bishop added that the property was now under new ownership and the request is before Council again. Mayor Barber questioned if any ordinances had changed since the first Council approval. Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren explained there had been no changes that would impact this subdivision.

Councilman Bishop made a motion to approve the recommendation by the Street Committee to create 10 townhome lots and 2 open space lots at the subdivision of Campbell Town Green, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A. Set Personal Property Tax Rate for Fiscal year 2024-25

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the Personal Property Tax Rate for FY 2024-25, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

B. Set Real Property Tax Rate for Fiscal Year 2024-25

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the Real Property Tax Rate for FY 2024-25, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

C. Resolution for Adoption of Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the Resolution for Adoption of FY 2024-25 Budget, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

D. Resolution for Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2024-25 Budget

Mayor Barber thanked Mrs. Tweedie and other Town staff for their hard work relating to the budget.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the Resolution for Appropriations for FY 2024-25 Budget, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

E. Downtown Special Events Communications Procedure

Town Manager Wingfield explained that staff had prepared a communications procedure to formalize what the Town does as far as notifying businesses of downtown events. Mr. Wingfield explained he wanted to bring this to Council for their input.

Councilwoman Hicks stated she owned three businesses that may be affected by downtown events and expressed the possibility of conflict of interest. Mrs. Hicks expressed that she had found out about a previous event online and did not receive further information until she had asked the Town and added that two weeks was not enough time for her business to plan before the event. Mr. Warren noted that Town staff had adjusted the location for the event that she had mentioned. Mr. Wingfield explained that moving forward, all Town sponsored events would be communicated to downtown businesses in order to prepare. Councilman Wilson expressed that according to the procedure there would be multiple times businesses would be notified before an event. Mr. Epperley explained that the Town's Public Relations department has handled communication for downtown events through social media as well as the Town's website. Mr. Wingfield referenced the updated procedures for events and noted the Small Business Solutions Manager would have a list of events from the Special Events Coordinator and the list would be delivered to downtown businesses moving forward. Mr. Epperley added there were scheduled events the Town can advertise such as Rockin' Main, downtown parades, etc. but there were also events that come up quickly or events that are moved to different dates due to weather or other unforeseen issues. Mr. Epperley noted that Town events were also advertised on the Parks and Recreation brochure.

Councilman Wilson recognized the great effort staff provided and stated he would like to move forward with approval.

Councilman Jenkins noted that he is employed by the Montgomery Museum of Arts and History which is one of three or more organizations located in Downtown and clarified that he did not have issues with the procedure moving forward.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the Downtown Special Events Communications Procedure, seconded by Councilman Bishop. 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 clarified that the Town does not require public hearings for subdivisions and that would not change. He noted the Town would still have public hearings for rezonings and conditional use permits according to state law. Mr. Wingfield announced the Town Council retreat would be held this Thursday at 2:00 p.m. He added that Town Hall would be closed on Wednesday next week for the Juneteenth holiday.
- B. Town Attorney - no report.
- C. Other Staff

Finance Director Valerie Tweedie expressed to Council that the Town's new software had a specific section that would allow notifications to be sent to specific sections of the Town. Mrs. Tweedie added that not only residents of Christiansburg but also business owners could be notified of events, emergencies, etc. She added that this could help with contacting business owners downtown of upcoming events. Mrs. Tweedie noted she could work with Public Relations to get the word out to the community.

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

Mayor Barber reported the Christiansburg High School softball team won the Region 3 State Championship. He added that the team was recognized at the most recent Rockin' Main event. Mayor Barber also reported the passenger rail could possibly be coming to the Cambria area. He explained there was a review period until September 2024 and during that time Norfolk Southern Railway would survey the site in Cambria.

Councilwoman Hicks reported there would be a New River Valley Agency on Aging Board meeting on June 25th at 1:00 p.m. Mrs. Hicks reminded everyone that the public was welcome at the Board meetings.

Councilwoman Bowman reported that the Agency on Aging would have a fundraiser on June 15th at the Nesselrod on the New and tickets were \$50.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

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Councilwoman Hicks expressed that as a landlord she had dealt with tenants mistreating ducks they owned. Mrs. Hicks added that this can be a nuisance for landlords. Mayor Barber noted that a permit is required to raise chickens in residential areas within the Town limits.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Tracy Heinrich
Tracy Heinrich, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber
D. Michael Barber, Mayor