

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 13, 2024 – 2:00 P.M.

A WORK SESSION OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN HALL, 100 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA, ON JUNE 13, 2024, AT 2:00 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; Engineering Director Mike Kelley

WORK SESSION

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barber called the meeting to order.

II. ICE BREAKER

New River Valley Regional Commission Executive Director Kevin Byrd served as facilitator and began the work session with an exercise in which he asked the elected officials to write the name of their favorite place in Christiansburg and their favorite place outside of Christiansburg. Responses were written on note cards and placed on the wall for discussion as to what makes the places special.

III. DECISION MAKING STYLES

Mr. Byrd placed four decision making styles – Acting (Likes to jump right in); Speculators (Likes to look at big picture and possibilities before acting); Attention to Detail (wants to know the who, what, when and why before acting) and Caring (wants to know all feeling have been taken into account and voices heard before acting) – on the wall and asked the elected officials and staff to go to the one that they closest identify with. Discussion followed as to which groups work together best and the strength, benefits, opportunities, and challenges of dealing with the diverse decision-making styles.

IV. TOP 3-5 ITEMS THE TOWN NEEDS TO DO TO ADVANCE CHRISTIANSBURG OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Mr. Byrd asked elected officials to write things that are needed to advance the Town in the near future and Mr. Byrd placed the items on the wall. Mr. Byrd then grouped the items by similarity in goal.

V. ALIGNMENT CHECK EXERCISE

Mr. Byrd worked with elected officials to group the items by eight Town goals:

- * An Active Destination for Culture, Recreation & Entertainment
- * The Destination for Retail, Commerce & Service
- * Clean and Green, Healthy and Safe
- * A Town of Well Informed and Actively Engaged Citizens
- * Partnering with Businesses and Residents
- * A Sound Financial Entity
- * Everyone's Hometown
- * Infrastructure that Makes the Town Move

VI. GOAL AREA RELAVANCY REVIEW

Mr. Byrd inquired as to whether the goal areas were still good and relevant and Council concurred that they were.

VII. CAPITAL PROJECTS DISCUSSION

A. Enterprise Fund Projects

1. Water and Sewer Projects

Engineering Director Mike Kelley provided a brief presentation on planned water and sewer projects. Mr. Wingfield stated that the enterprise funds are handled independently of the Town general fund and enterprise funds cannot be spent on other items.

2. Stormwater Projects

Engineering Director Mike Kelley provided a brief presentation on planned stormwater projects.

B. Transportation Projects

Engineering Director Mike Kelley gave a brief presentation on planned transportation projects. Mr. Wingfield stated that the Town receives a lot of grant funding for transportation projects, but matches are typically required. Mr. Wingfield stated that Engineering is probably about at their limits in the number of projects they are currently handling.

C. Facility Projects

1. Fire/Rescue Station

Mr. Wingfield stated that there has been a desire for additional emergency response in the high growth areas of Town along the Peppers Ferry Road corridor and a desire to lower insurance rates in the area at the top of Christiansburg Mountain. He said costs could vary greatly depending on whether land purchase was needed and what was included in the construction.

Staffing was mentioned and Mr. Wingfield stated that he thought discussion of County funding for Town fire and rescue salaries could be beneficial. The project had obvious support from Council but location(s) and coordination with the County should be part of the planning and development. Town Council directed Mr. Wingfield to engage County Administrator Angie Hill regarding staffing and coordination.

2. Public Works Complex

Mr. Wingfield stated that the current Public Works location has growth limitations, is partially in the 100-Year Floodplain, and it is difficult to exit onto N. Franklin Street with equipment. Mr. Wingfield played a brief video of flooding at the complex when Crab Creek was surging. Mr. Wingfield stated that 15-20 acres is desired, and that Council had previously discussed some potential locations. Town Council instructed Mr. Wingfield to place a Closed Meeting on a future Council agenda for discussion of potential properties.

3. Recreation Services

- i) Trends and Opportunities
- ii) Christiansburg Aquatic Center Overflow Parking
- iii) Christiansburg Huckleberry Park Overflow Parking

Mr. Wingfield discussed need for the overflow parking at the Aquatic Center and detailed the vast difference in parking costs at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park depending on which area is built. Mr. Wingfield also talked about desire for extra parking at the Recreation Center and the desire for some extra building space for pickleball courts and family restrooms.

Councilman Wilson stated that he thought that this parking areas were essential to maximizing our investments in recreation and should be top priority and Council concurred. Mr. Wingfield asked for direction on which parking area to pursue at Christiansburg Huckleberry Park and Councilwoman Hockett stated the rear area that had been planned for parking and Council concurred.

Town Council seemed in agreement that the Recreation Center facility and parking was a lower priority than the other recreational parking areas.

D. Land on Mill Lane (approximately 7 acres)

Mr. Wingfield stated that the property on Mill Lane had originally been purchased for the potential passenger rail station site and that there is a trail planned to go through the property from the Aquatic Center to Mill Lane and downtown Cambria. Mr. Wingfield stated there is a small amount of Floodplain and that the property has steep slopes. Mr. Wingfield stated there are no other planned uses and asked Council for input. A mountain bike course had been mentioned in the past by staff and Council seemed to like this alternative as a longer-term project.

E. Council Chambers

Mr. Wingfield stated that staff had concerns with direct public access to Town Council. Council had previously considered a raised dais and a courtroom divider wall could also be installed. Town Council discussed options included a color change in the carpet and adding signage as lower costs measures but did not want to pursue more expensive options.

F. Other Potential Projects

Downtown Parking Area

Mr. Wingfield stated that there is money budgeted to take down the drive-thru and for major patching of this area. Mr. Wingfield stated that Police Chief Ramsey has a desire for a fenced area for the Police Department and to slightly reconfigure the aisles and islands, and this would likely be a future capital project.

Councilwoman Hicks suggested the Farmers Market for this location. Discussion followed as to whether downtown of the Recreation Center location would be the best location for the Farmers Market. Council direction was to only take the building down for now.

The elected officials were asked if there were any other potential projects for discussion and there were none, though there was a desire to discuss emergency responder staffing going forward.

VIII. PROJECT CONSENSUS

Mr. Byrd stated that he thought the direction seemed clear enough from the discussion that Town staff could come up with enough direction. Mayor Barber and Town Council concurred.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 5:44 p.m.


Tracy Heinlme, Clerk of Council


D. Michael Barber, Mayor