

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL  
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JUNE 25, 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 25, 2024, AT 7:00 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren; Town Attorney Reid Broughton; Land Development Coordinator Devon Shields; Director of Finance Valerie Tweedie; Deputy Director of Finance Katie Miano; Police Chief Chris Ramsey; Public Works Director Jim Lancianese; Assistant Director of Public Works, Streets Travis Moles; Assistant Director of Public Works, Utilities Justin Shepherd; Director of Engineering Mike Kelley; Assistant Director of Engineering Meredith Jones; Director of Aquatics Terry Caldwell.

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Bishop.

Mayor Barber welcomed Devon Shields who was stepping in for Clerk of Council Tracy Heinline, to take minutes this meeting.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

Councilwoman Bowman made a motion to remove item B. under Discussion and Action due to Councilwoman Hicks being absent, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Nay.

*Motion Approved*

Mayor Barber clarified that item B. would be removed from the agenda and postponed to the next Council meeting. He further stated that while Councilwoman Bowman's request to remove item B. was reasonable, Town Council votes under a quorum of Council and can continue to take action when a councilmember is absent.

### III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Amendment to Sec. 40-2. Definitions. and Sec. 40-3. Administrator. of Article I. In General of Chapter 40 "Subdivisions" of the Christiansburg Town Code to provide for consistency with the Code of Virginia and additional administrative and planning commission reviews

Assistant Town Manager Andrew Warren provided background for the subdivision code changes and noted these changes were recommended by the Planning Commission under a unanimous vote. Mr. Warren explained the purpose of the subdivision ordinance noting the code looks at the subdivision of the land, which means if you are adjusting or vacating a property line it would be approved by the Town and then recorded at the Montgomery County Courthouse. Mr. Warren spoke about the role of the Subdivision Agent, a representative appointed by Town Council (currently Mr. Warren) that assesses work and review done by Town staff. He explained the agent currently approves single lot line revisions and all lot line vacations without those coming before Council; other lot line revisions are considered subdivisions and pass to the Streets Committee for recommendation to Council after staff review. Mr. Warren noted that Town Council approves public easements and right-of-way alterations or dedications and all subdivisions greater than one lot created or revisions of more than one lot line.

Mr. Warren discussed how neighboring localities handle the subdivision process then presented potential advantages of the current review process and made a distinction between discretionary and administrative decisions. Mr. Warren touched on the potential disadvantages of the process and noted subdivisions do not require a public hearing and are additional to Town Council's other workload.

Mr. Warren detailed a proposed review process, allowing the agent to approve up to 10 lots and the Planning Commission review of 11-49 lots. He clarified that Code of Virginia provides the Town cannot require preliminary subdivision plat submittal and review by the Planning Commission or Town Council for fewer than 50 lots.

Mr. Warren explained the changes were reviewed with the Street Committee and Town Council and then referred to the Planning Commission. He added the Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 3, 2024 and the Commission recommended the changes. He further added the Street Committee reviewed the recommended changes on June 11, 2024.

Councilman Bishop and Councilwoman Hockett noted this was a more efficient way of approval without the extra levels of review through the Street Committee and Town Council.

Councilwoman Bowman noted she would vote against the changes understanding the needs of the developers and builders creating much needed housing and jobs. She added that she

had spoken to several developers in the area that agreed this would be an issue due to giving power to one individual for approval.

Chris Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, expressed his concern pertaining to the subdivision approvals and referenced the plans for the parking lot the Town had purchased behind the Montgomery Museum. Mr. Waltz stated the potential change to the subdivision ordinance could allow staff to give more property to the Montgomery Museum and expressed that allowing that to be approved by one person in administration and not in a public setting would not be a suitable process.

With no further comments the public hearing was closed.

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of June 11, 2024 and June 13, 2024
- B. Monthly Bill List
- C. Approve Deputy Treasurer Katie Miano as an additional Town check signer
- D. Contract Amendment #1 with Setty & Associates, LTD, for professional engineering consulting services for design, construction, and commissioning phase services for the HVAC replacement at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center for \$893,277.00
- E. Resolution Recognizing July 2024 as Park and Recreation Month
- F. Schedule Town Council Public Hearing for August 13, 2024 for a rezoning request by JTCI Electric LLC, property owner, and Joseph Iskandar, applicant, to rezone property located on the west side of Depot Street, N.W., also adjacent to the south side of 401 Depot Street, N.W. (Tax Parcel 526 – ((A)) – 158; Parcel ID 070666), consisting of approximately of 0.254 acre, from R-2 Two-Family Residential to B-3 General Business. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.
- G. Schedule Town Council Public Hearing for August 13, 2024 for a Conditional Use Permit request by JTCI Electric LLC, property owner, and Joseph Iskandar, applicant, to allow one (1) residential dwelling unit (apartment) on the second floor of the proposed “General Office” in the B-3 General Business District on property located on the west side of Depot Street, N.W., also adjacent to the south side of 401 Depot Street, N.W. (Tax Parcel 526 – ((A)) – 158; Parcel ID 070666), consisting of approximately of 0.254 acre. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

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

*Motion Approved*

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Engineering Director Mike Kelley to introduce new Assistant Engineering Director Meredith Jones and to provide Engineering Department update

Mike Kelley introduced new Assistant Engineering Director Meredith Jones and welcomed her to the Town.

Mr. Kelley presented on the Engineering Department's functions and disciplines. He spoke about customer service requests and focused on stormwater concerns/complaints within the department. Mr. Kelley discussed the department's role in regulatory compliance, specifically programs related to the Clean Water Act. In addition, he detailed the department's role in erosion and stormwater management compliance for programs such as VSMP and MS4.

Mr. Kelley explained that Engineering takes lead on development review coordination. He detailed the Technical Review Committee process, schedule, and items that are reviewed. Mr. Kelley discussed Geographic Information System (GIS) and referenced examples of the information and mapping available in the Town. He noted the public access to GIS mapping was available on the Town's website.

Mr. Kelley explained that Engineering takes lead on development and execution of capital projects. He spoke about various funding opportunities and presented a summary of the FY 2024-25 capital projects and grant funding totals.

B. Public Works Director Jim Lancianese to present on the Lead and Copper Rule

Jim Lancianese presented the Service Line Discovery Program, which is a result of a new requirement of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Mr. Lancianese explained the Public Works Department was working to inventory and verify material in water service lines in Town as an effort to identify lead service lines. He explained the Town is required to verify materials on both sides of the meter (public and private).

Mr. Lancianese explained the department will use random sampling and statistical-type equation used for things like determining sample sizes of populations for scientific studies.

Mr. Lancianese explained this program has been launched proactively to comply with regulations, and there are no known lead service lines in the Town's water system. He added that customers should not be alarmed if they receive a notice in the mail stating their line material is unknown. Mr. Lancianese introduced a new webpage going live July 1, 2024 where the inventory will be made public.

Mr. Wilson spoke on behalf of the Water and Waste Committee to clarify the federal mandate with a 2037 deadline for replacement of lead pipes. He added there are 702 sites to be evaluated by October 2024.

Councilwoman Hockett asked if there will be grant funding available for this project. Mr. Lancianese replied there is no information of available grants at this time.

C. Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator Patrick Halpern and Co-Response Coordinator/Law Enforcement Liaison Joseph Thacker of New River Valley Community Services to present on the Marcus Alert System and planned Behavioral Health Response Team

Patrick Halpern presented on a system to address mental health crisis response. Mr. Halpern noted it is required for localities with a population greater than 40,000, but that Town Council had previously agreed to implement this system in coordination with neighboring localities.

Mr. Halpern discussed the state and local components of the program. He explained that locally, individuals can provide behavioral health information to a voluntary database at 911 call centers to assist in appropriate response. He added that specific clinicians are co-dispatched when specialized response is needed.

Joseph Thacker explained the four-level triage framework and what each level looks like as well as how each level is treated. Mr. Thacker discussed "988 call transfers", mobile crisis, and specialized co-response teams. He explained that co-response teams will be multi-jurisdictional and will work to de-escalate the issue.

Mr. Halpern detailed the Town's responsibilities in this program. He stated that for FY 2025-26 and beyond, Town Council could possibly be requested to provide funding for Christiansburg Police Department co-response officers and vehicle fuel and maintenance. He added that there is grant funding covering most of FY 2024-25.

Mr. Halpern thanked the Town for supporting their crisis center through funding of Covid relief funds. He concluded that the crisis center had been very successful, and he felt the support of Town Council and other localities played a huge role in that success.

## VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Stacy Martin, 1480 Turnberry Lane, Riner, Virginia, addressed Council supporting local businesses. Mr. Martin spoke in support of loosening the sign ordinance to allow moving electronic signs and air dancers. He stated the existing rules stem from the Interstate Act of 1950 where you could opt in or out of outdoor advertising. Mr. Martin urged Council to further discuss the sign ordinance in Town.

Jeremy Perfater, 590 Park Street, opposed the amendment to Article I. of Chapter 40 "Subdivisions" of the Christiansburg Town Code and expressed concern for giving control to one individual for approval. Mr. Perfater noted giving control to one individual would take the community away from a democracy and make it a dictatorship.

Chris Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, expressed that he is looking forward to a presentation or information on sign ordinances.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Bowman thanked the Public Works Department for what they do and referenced a letter from a citizen appreciating the department's efforts in runoff issues at her property.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

- A. Resolution Approving of the Town's Participation in the Proposed Settlement Participation of Opioid-related Claims Against Kroger and its related Corporate Entities, and Directing the Town Manager to Execute the Documents Necessary to Effectuate the Town's Participation in the Settlement

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the Resolution of Approval, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

*Motion Approved*

- B. Discussion of Animated Signs as defined in Sec. 42-701. Definitions and prohibited in Sec. 42-705. Prohibited signs (b)(1) of Article XXIV. Signs of Chapter 42 "Zoning" of the Christiansburg Town Code

*(item moved to the next agenda)*

IX. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Town Manager Wingfield reported on July 4<sup>th</sup> announcements noting downtown events from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and fireworks located at the Huckleberry Park beginning at 9:15 p.m. Mr. Wingfield referenced the earlier conversation of subdivisions and clarified that if a plat were to dispose of Town property, it would be required to come before Council.
- B. Town Attorney - no report.
- C. Other Staff – no report.

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

No Council reports.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

No further business.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Page \_\_\_\_  
June 25, 2024

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Tracy Heinrich  
Tracy Heinrich, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber  
D. Michael Barber, Mayor