

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES
JULY 17, 2024 – 6:30 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 JULY 17, 2024, AT 6:30 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; Director of Public Relations Christina Bolt; Land Development Coordinator Devon Shields

WORK SESSION

I. Call To Order

Mayor Barber called the work session to order.

II. Discussion of 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

Mayor Barber presented background information on the proposed Amendment, noting that Street Committee had initiated the request and Planning Commission had recommended 5-0 to change the current review process.

Councilwoman Hockett stated that if people are meeting the requirements of subdividing land, the Town is required to approve those requests. She shared that Street Committee wanted to streamline that task for landowners. She stated that public comment is not solicited on subdivisions and that items subject to Council’s opinion and discretion would still go in front of Council. Town Manager Wingfield concurred that, if the subdivision plat meets requirements of the Code, it is an obligation to approve the plat (unless there is a moratorium on all subdivisions).

Councilwoman Hicks stated that she would want the public to have the opportunity to come and speak on these items. She expressed concern regarding giving control to staff members without Council oversight. Councilwoman Hockett suggested allowing administrative review but requiring reports to Street Committee. Councilwoman Bowman said that she had spoken to several developers who felt negatively about the proposed changes.

Councilwoman Hicks asked for information on the number of subdivision plats that have gone to Town Council this year. She asked for clarification on what subdivision plats would go to Planning Commission. Mayor Barber pointed out that the proposed amendment is consistent with Code of

Virginia. He read through sections of a previous related presentation to Council, including the current subdivision process and what is proposed.

Town Manager Wingfield clarified that Council would still see rezonings and Conditional Use Permit requests, and staff would handle subdivisions and plan review. Councilwoman Bowman shared that her concern is not with the simple subdivisions, but with larger and more complicated ones.

Councilman Bishop stated that it is not that the Street Committee does not want to approve subdivision plats, but that the intent is to streamline the process for applicants. He reiterated that if the plat meets the guidelines, they are required to approve.

III. Discussion of Façade Grant Program

Council discussed the purpose of the agenda item and determined it was to discuss the status of the Façade Grant Program for the current fiscal year.

Mayor Barber stated that Council has asked him to investigate concerns that were brought up in the previous Council Meeting. He asked members of the Central Business District Committee about proposed changes to this year's program. Councilwoman Hicks stated that no changes are proposed for this year's program.

Various changes to the program were discussed for future fiscal years. Councilwoman Hicks expressed a desire to discuss changes in the next couple of months at Council. Mayor Barber stated that he understood that changes were proposed to limit applicants, properties, or business to once every 10 years so that this would prevent someone from buying a business or relocating from applying as well as prohibiting any part of a building in front of a residential space to be eligible for reimbursement.

Mayor Barber stated that there would be concerns with statements regarding redirecting the program to other uses and thought it should be a Council decision as to whether the Façade Grant Program should continue. Councilwoman Hicks stated that Council may want to do gateways instead.

Mayor Barber recommended to continue the program as it was last year. Councilmembers Wilson and Hockett agreed, as business owners are familiar with the current program.

Mayor Barber asked about the status of advertisement for this year's program. Councilwoman Bowman stated that it was put on hold after last Council Meeting. Mayor Barber stated he would follow up with staff, and that the advertisement would be sent to the Committee prior to posting.

Discussion followed regarding the time frame for completing work once the grant is awarded.

Mayor Barber conveyed that there would be a vote at the next Council Meeting to run the program as it appeared in 2023.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Tracy Heinline
Tracy Heinline, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber
D. Michael Barber, Mayor