

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 23, 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 JULY 23, 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; Land Development Coordinator Devon Shields; Finance Director Valerie Tweedie; Deputy Director of Finance Katie Miano; Engineering Director Mike Kelley

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Jenkins.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

No adjustments to the agenda.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

No public hearings.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of July 9, 2024 and ~~July 18, 2024~~ July 17th (correction)
- B. Monthly Bill List
- C. Resolution in Support of the Smart Scale Application for the Peppers Ferry Road – Cambria Street Connector Route
- D. Resolution Recognizing August 4 – 10, 2024 as National Farmers Market Week

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

Motion Approved

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

- A. Gabrielle Spennacchio-Parker to present regarding fluorine/fluoride use in water treatment

Ms. Parker of Blacksburg presented with her intentions to end fluoridation of water in Montgomery County. Ms. Parker argued that fluoridation has not been shown to be necessary for human health and that her opinion was that fluoridating water is unconstitutional. She continued with some information on the chemistry and industrial uses of fluorine. She shared information on dental and skeletal fluorosis, including a history of the discovery of the causes of mottled teeth in children. Ms. Parker shared historical items regarding possible governmental and scientific influences on fluoridating of public water. She shared a number of symptoms of fluoride poisoning and ongoing research on fluoride. She spoke about the work of Dean Burke, who claimed fluoride was the cause of some cancers. Ms. Parker continued with information on fluoride's effects in the water distribution system.

Councilwoman Hicks clarified that the Town's water is provided by a centralized system in Montgomery County. She stated that one positive of fluoride is that it clears out the system of the human body of H. pylori and worms. She asked for recommended solutions, and Ms. Parker recommended ending fluoridation, or reverse osmosis. Ms. Parker clarified that fluoride is the only water additive intended to treat the population, not the water.

Mayor Barber reiterated that the water is provided by the New River Valley Regional Water Authority and confirmed that any change would require action by their Board. Ms. Parker shared that she had previously brought these concerns to the Water Authority, and that the Authority stated they follow EPA standards.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Joyce Radford, 510 Ellett Road, spoke regarding a previous Council Meeting presentation from Small Business Solutions Manager Amanda Hebert. Ms. Radford shared her concern that the presentation was made under the guise of being official business. She referenced the organizational structure stating that Council is a legislative body that establishes general policies for the Town and that staff was considered under the guidance of Town Council. Ms. Radford felt this was a personal matter that should have been handled by the Town Manager and Council in private. She stated that she felt

a public apology was warranted to both Councilwoman Hicks and Councilwoman Bowman.

Joanne Price, Blacksburg resident and Christiansburg business owner, spoke regarding Town Council meetings and the recent Supreme Court ruling on Chevron Vs. Natural Resources and cutting back on the power of federal agencies to interpret the laws they administer. Mrs. Price spoke about Roger Woody's written comments regarding the Christiansburg Park and Ride and the issue with a lefthand turn into the parking lot as an example. She stated that this decision was made without bringing the issue before Council and therefore urged Council to consider issues such as this to be public hearings in order for the public to be aware.

Charles Robins, 410 Pin Oak Drive, NW, expressed concern for vehicles speeding through Town as well as vehicles parking in non-parking areas. Mr. Robins also added he felt unsafe on his electric scooter during these times.

Councilwoman Hicks asked when these events were happening, because she understands that police are active and enforcing these types of traffic issues. Mr. Robins noted it was happening between 10:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m.

Chris Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, addressed Council concerning the presentation by Amanda Hebert at a previous Council Meeting and stated there were several inaccuracies in the document he had requested. Mr. Waltz felt this type of insubordination should not take place or be allowed at the Town. Mayor Barber noted this was a personnel issue.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

1. Easement Plat on Tax Parcel Numbers 528 – ((A)) – 72 and 528 – ((A)) – 65 prepared for Montgomery County Board of Supervisors (Approved December 12, 2023 – Applicant approval time expired)

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Street Committee to allow an easement plat on the tax parcels above, seconded Councilman Bishop. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

2. Plat of Subdivision of Tax Parcel Numbers 527 – ((15)) – 1 and 527 – ((15)) – 2 at 301 and 303 Park Street, NE (creating one additional lot) (Approved August 22, 2023 – Applicant approval time expired)

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Street Committee to allow a plat of subdivision at 301 and 303 Park Street, NE, seconded Councilman Bishop. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

3. Plat Dedicating .005 Right-of-Way of Tax Parcel 529 – ((34)) 2B to the Town of Christiansburg at the northwest corner of Corporate Drive S.E. and Technology Drive, S.E. (Approved November 15, 2022 – Applicant approval time expired)

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Street Committee to allow a plat dedicating .005 ROW at the tax parcel above, seconded Councilman Bishop. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

4. Easement Plat affecting Tax Parcel #529 – ((34)) – 2C along Corporate Drive S.E.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the recommendation from the Street Committee to allow an easement plat along Corporate Drive, SE, seconded Councilman Bishop. 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. Amendment to Sec. 40-2. Definitions. and Sec. 40-3. Administrator. of Article I. In General of Chapter 40 “Subdivision” of the Christiansburg Town Code to provide for consistency with the Code of Virginia and additional administrative and planning commission reviews

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the amendment to Chapter 40 “Subdivision” of the Christiansburg Town Code, seconded Councilman Bishop. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Nay; Hicks – Nay; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

Councilwoman Hockett reaffirmed that this would not affect public hearings and added that the landowners would have an option to take their cases to the Street Committee and Council for lot line adjustments.

Councilwoman Hicks expressed that this takes away from public hearings and felt the citizens have the right to transparency. Town Manager Wingfield clarified there were no public hearings for subdivisions currently.

B. Façade Grant Program

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to keep the Façade Grant Program the same as the previous year, but with an extension of time to complete being June 1, 2025, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

Councilwoman Hicks stated the Central Business Committee has been transparent to the public regarding the façade grant. Mrs. Hicks noted that she has been an advocate for this program in the past and is working in the best interest of the Town.

Mayor Barber noted that all Town businesses qualify for the façade grant.

IX. STAFF REPORTS

- A. Town Manager Wingfield reported that water service was not required in Town and that well service is allowed and clarified the Town receives its water from the New River Valley Regional Water Authority. Mr. Wingfield noted this policy has not changed and if a Town resident would prefer to dig a well, they are allowed to do that.

Mr. Wingfield spoke regarding the Christiansburg Park and Ride referencing Alma Street and explained the street vacation did require a public hearing and notices were published in the paper and letters were sent to adjoining property owners.

Mr. Wingfield made Council aware of adjoining property owners beside the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park installing gates in the Town fence to provide themselves access to the park. He noted the desire to control access to the park and added that he planned to create a permit form to allow adjoining property owners for access if they abide to the Park's hours.

Mr. Wingfield reported that the Emergency Services Committee desired training be provided for emergency operations for Town Council, and recommended the NIMS ICS 100, 200, 700, and 800 courses. He added that he would send the links to all councilmembers and asked that they complete within the next couple of months.

Town Attorney – no report.

Other Staff – no report.

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Hicks shared the façade grant advertisement for the Town's website and electronic reader boards. Mayor Barber noted he has instructed Public Relations to start working on printout advertisements as well.

Councilman Wilson reported that the Emergency Services Committee met and discussed revenue recovery for Fire and Rescue and explained we currently bill at 130% and would like to recommend moving that to 170%. He added that by raising that percentage it would bring the Town in line with Montgomery County and the state.

Mr. Wilson noted several items for the upcoming Town Council work session including fire and safety. He noted a future discussion with the County concerning a new fire station and would like to discuss this item at the next work session. Mr. Wingfield stated that the August 21st work session had been planned for tourism and the Main Street Program, but that it would be revised to tourism and County emergency services request.

Mr. Wilson added that the training Mr. Wingfield mentioned previously for Town Council and emergency operations was a preface for elected officials. He explained that individually each councilmember would complete four levels of training, then Council would have a discussion which would then hopefully lead to a table discussion with the Emergency Services Chiefs.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

No further business.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.



Tracy Heinlin, Clerk of Council



D. Michael Barber, Mayor