

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 13, 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 AUGUST 13, 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 (via phone)

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Town Attorney Reid Broughton; Clerk of Council Tracy Heinline; Public Relations Director Christina Bolt; Director of Public Works Jim Lancianese; Planning Director Retta Jackson; Engineering Director Mike Kelley; Police Chief Chris Ramsey; Deputy Director of Finance Katie Miano; Fire Chief Billy Hanks; Rescue Chief Joshua Settlage

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Barber called the meeting to order and announced that Councilman Wilson would like to attend the meeting via telephone due to traveling.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to allow Councilman Wilson into the meeting via telephone, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

A. Moment of Reflection

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Barber.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

No adjustments to the agenda.

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Rezoning request by JTCI Electric LLC, property owner, and Joseph Iskandar, applicant, to rezone property located on the west side of Depot Street, NW, also adjacent to the south side of 401 Depot Street, NW (Tax Parcel 526 – ((A)) – 158; Parcel ID 070666

consisting of approximately of 0.254 acres) 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.

There being no public comments the public hearing closed.

B. 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, NW, also adjacent to the south side of 401 Depot Street, NW (Tax Parcel 526 – ((A)) – 158; Parcel ID 070666 consisting of approximately 0.254 acres). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Barber read a hand delivered citizen comment from Lisa Whitehead, 33 Lee Hy Court, stating that she was against the rezoning. Mrs. Whitehead stated the property was too small for a business and the potential second floor apartment would be used by individuals training and noted concern for a lack of permanent resident.

Mayor Barber also noted the Planning Commission voted 3 -1 against recommending the CUP.

There being no further public comments the public hearing closed.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of July 23, 2024
- B. Approval of purchase order Sheehy Ford of Richmond for \$102,152 for 2 police patrol vehicles
- C. Approval of the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Agreement
- D. Approval of the Community Flood Preparedness Fund (CFPF) Grant Agreement
- E. Set public hearing for August 27, 2024 for Council's intention to adopt a resolution or resolutions regarding the proposed financing of the development, renovation, equipping and improvement of the Town's wastewater treatment facilities in part by the issuance of a general obligation bond to be issued in a principal amount not to exceed \$18,600,000.
- F. Set Town Council Public Hearing for September 24, 2024 for a rezoning request by Robert P. Fralin, registered agent for F & B Land, L.P., applicant and property owner, to rezone property located on the west side of Moose Drive, NW at the College Street, NW intersection (Tax Parcel 556 – ((A)) – 9; Parcel ID 008095 consisting of approximately of 16.330 acres) from A Agricultural and B-3 General Business to R-3 Multi-Family

Residential. The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

G. Set Town Council Public Hearing for September 24, 2024 for a Conditional Use Permit request by Robert P. Fralin, registered agent for F & B Land, L.P., applicant and property owner, to allow a planned housing development for a multi-family project of a maximum of 162 apartments in the proposed R-3 Multi-Family Residential District zoning district on property located on the west side of Moose Drive, NW at the College Street, NW intersection (Tax Parcel 556 – ((A)) – 9; Parcel ID 008095 consisting of approximately 16.330 acres). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned item C. and the Town funding \$30,000 for the safe roads and streets study when she felt the Police and Fire Departments could provide that information instead. Mr. Wingfield noted the study would help with pedestrian planning as well as identify projects the Town could seek grants for. Councilwoman Bowman questioned if the grant money received would be applied to streets and sidewalks where there were low income and minority families. Director of Engineering Mike Kelley clarified that providing funding to that area was part of the criteria to qualify for the grant. Mr. Kelley reiterated that the study would generate a list of grant projects the Town could apply for in the future.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve items A., B., and D. – G. under the consent agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Bowman. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Nay; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

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

Motion Approved

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. The Cure Agency to present on tourism marketing analysis and recommendations

Alex Brito, a partner of Cure Agency, presented to Council recommendations for tourism marketing. Mr. Brito stated the Cure Agency was brought in by the Montgomery County – Blacksburg – Christiansburg Regional Tourism Office to provide recommendations on brand messaging and marketing activities. He explained that the agency had looked closely at historical documents provided by the Tourism Office, researched like communities, and spoke with stakeholders in Town and surrounding areas. Mr. Brito expressed that his agency found a lack of marketing for Christiansburg and felt the County and Town identities were fragmented.

Mr. Brito spoke about the impact of tourism and expressed the importance of the Town of Blacksburg, Montgomery County, and the Town of Christiansburg partnering together to move forward. He added that in order to remain successful the Town needed to package existing assets as one experience throughout the County.

Councilman Wilson expressed that the Town is currently paying the Regional Tourism Office until the contract ends next year. Mr. Wilson noted that he feels within that timeframe he would need to see what was being proposed to the Town. He added the importance of Council being conscious of spending money for tourism marketing and the concern of not seeing results. Mr. Brito agreed and expressed he would like to bring in his team and speak to the Town concerning potential next steps.

Mayor Barber noted that earlier in the year, Town Council had voted to provide notice of withdrawal of the Regional Tourism Office. Mr. Wingfield stated the tourism contract had been forwarded to the Town Attorney and tourism would be discussed at the August 21st work session. Town Attorney Broughton noted the letter of intent was sent out March 13, 2024. He explained that the terms of agreement stated there was a requirement of 12 months advance notice for withdrawal. Councilwoman Hockett questioned if Mr. Brito had given his unbiased opinion. Mr. Brito answered that officially yes, his opinion was unbiased, and he wanted to see Christiansburg thrive along beside the surrounding areas.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Paul Leichner, 160 Alexa Lane, N.W., expressed that the Town handles advertising for the Aquatic Center and Parks and Recreation Center well but questioned the advertising for the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park and its tournaments. Mayor Barber noted the marketing for fall soccer at the Huckleberry Park would be starting soon. Councilwoman Hicks questioned if the Town currently pays an employee at the Aquatic Center for recruiting and advertising. Mayor Barber noted the Competition Director only handles recruiting for the Aquatic Center.

Christine Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, asked Council to revisit the Town's sign ordinance. Mrs. Waltz referenced the ordinance and noted that animated signs were prohibited everywhere in Town, not just business districts. She expressed concern that according to the ordinance these signs would prohibit residents using animated signs during the holidays at their homes.

Beth Umberger, 915 College Street, voiced the benefits of living in Town and noted that many individuals give their time providing community service to make the Town a great place to live. Ms. Umberger stated that when she visits other areas, she researches those areas online to find restaurants, parks, etc. She questioned ways to search for businesses and recreation in Christiansburg and agreed the Town should work with Blacksburg and Montgomery County for a solution.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Hicks reported that Façade Grant applications were still being accepted.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A. Resolution for Adoption of Rescue Revenue Recovery Rate Increases

Mr. Wingfield explained the rates would increase from the current 130% to 170% of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services adopted Medicare rates.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the Resolution for Adoption of Rescue Revenue Recovery Rate Increases, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

B. Resolution for Adoption of Fire Revenue Recovery Rate Increases

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the Resolution for Adoption of Fire Revenue Recovery Rate Increases, seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

C. Resolution for Appointment of Zoning Administrator

Mayor Barber recommended appointment of Town Manager Wingfield.

Councilwoman Hicks stated she would vote against this resolution and expressed that zoning should come before Town Council instead.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the Resolution for Appointment of Zoning Administrator, seconded by Councilman Jenkins. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Abstain; Hicks – Abstain; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

D. Appointment of Subdivision Agent

Town Manager Wingfield recommended Planning Director Retta Jackson.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the Appointment of a Subdivision Agent, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Abstain; Hicks – Abstain; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager

Mr. Wingfield reported that the Touch – A – Truck event would be held this Saturday, August 17th at Uptown Christiansburg Mall. He also reported that on August 24th Heritage Day would take place downtown from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the Dialogue on Race event would be held at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Wingfield added that the next Council Work Session would be held August 21st and that Tourism along with Emergency Services funding request for Montgomery County would be on the agenda. Mr. Wingfield asked Council if they would like the Town Attorney to attend the work session. Council agreed the attorney should be present.

Mr. Wingfield stated that the Town had recently taken the Silverlake Sewer Pump Station offline, and an adjoining property owner had requested to purchase it from the Town. Mr. Wingfield asked Council if they would like to dispose of the 50' x 50' area. Mr. Wingfield also suggested that if Council moved forward with selling, it should be through a sealed bid process. Council agreed to dispose of the property and to accept sealed bids.

B. Town Attorney – no report.

C. Other Staff – no report.

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

No Council reports.

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 Heinline
Tracy Heinline, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber
D. Michael Barber, Mayor