

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 10, 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 SEPTEMBER 10, 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; Town Attorney Reid Broughton; Clerk of Council Tracy Heinline; Public Relations Director Christina Bolt; Finance Director Valerie Tweedie; Deputy Finance Director Katie Miano; Director of Public Works Jim Lancianese; Assistant Director of Public Works, Streets Travis Moles; Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley; Director of Engineering Mike Kelley; Fire and Rescue Chief Billy Hanks; Deputy Rescue Chief Josh Settlage; Police Chief Chris Ramsey

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Moment of Reflection

Mayor Barber asked everyone to remember the events of September 11th and keep the families of those that passed and the first responders in their thoughts and prayers.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilwoman Hockett.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to update a resolution in the agenda packet with Councilwoman Bowman as a voting member of Council in place of previous Council member Henry Showalter. Councilman Wilson seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Resolution for the Disposition of a Town-owned Property Located on the western Side of Silverlake Road, N.W. (0.05-acre Tax Parcel 525 – ((2)) – 63: Parcel ID 080323)

Town Manager Wingfield noted this was a former sewer pump station property on Silver Lake Road which the Town recently took offline. Mr. Wingfield added that staff has advertised for sealed bids for the property with a deadline of September 30, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., and those bids would then be brought before Council.

There being no further public comments the public hearing closed.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of August 27, 2024
- B. Award Task Order #2 to McGill Associates, PA for Engineering Services for a Redundant Water Line project in the amount of \$133,800.00.
- C. Set Public Hearing for October 8, 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 16.33 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.
- D. Set Public Hearing for October 8, 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 16.33 acres). 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; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

V. INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

A. Deputy Rescue Chief Josh Settlage to present on Rescue programs and operations

Mr. Settlage introduced himself and gave a brief history of Rescue and emergency medical services. He spoke about the departments various positions and explained what each position is responsible for within Rescue. Mr. Settlage noted there are 24 EMTs on

staff, 3 Advanced EMTs, and 28 Paramedics that provide various life-saving interventions.

Mr. Settlage spoke about the Whole Blood Delivery program, noting it was the first such program in the region and has provided increased survivability of trauma patients. He acknowledged the various equipment being used by the department such as ultrasound equipment, cardiac monitoring, and ventilators and thanked Council for their support in purchasing what was needed.

Mr. Settlage noted a typical day at the Rescue building involved not only emergency calls but equipment checks, vehicle maintenance, and station cleaning. He added that employees are involved in continuing education for their positions as well as public outreach and noted Town and community events they are involved in. Mr. Settlage touched on the various vehicles that were used at the Rescue Department and noted the differences between ambulances and other rescue vehicles. He stated that item I. under Discussion and Action by Council addresses the purchase of a demo ambulance that would be delivered to Rescue in approximately two months.

Mr. Settlage spoke about the Pharmacy Program within the department and how medications will soon be secured in an inner vault for storage at the Rescue building and stocked in a “vending machine” for dispensing. Mr. Settlage added that Rescue’s Recovery Program has collected almost \$8.5 million and has projected to recover an additional \$200,000 as a result of the recent rate increase approved by Town Council.

Mr. Settlage concluded that the Rescue Department would be hosting a Blood Drive on September 16th at 12:00 p.m. at the Rescue Squad building and encouraged everyone to sign up to give blood.

Councilman Bishop asked where the whole blood was stored at Rescue. Mr. Settlage explained that it was stored in a cooler in the quick response vehicle, and they typically store at least 1 unit. He added that if more than one unit is needed it can be overnighted.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Gabrielle Spennacchio-Parker, 2428 Ridge Road, Blacksburg Virginia, spoke to Council concerning the results of the NTP fluoride study on fluoride in the water system. Ms. Spennacchio-Parker noted this was not the first study performed and that in the 1970’s, doctors from the National Cancer Institute performed studies that revealed increased incidents of rare liver cancers and bone tumors as well as causing cancer death faster than any other chemical. Ms. Spennacchio-Parker referenced the most recent study provided this year showing that fluoride does have neurotoxic effects on children. She added she would like to share a presentation with Council showing what is being spent on these chemicals and possibly the salaries of the individuals adding these chemicals to our lives.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned if the Water Authority could explain why we need fluoride in our water system. Mr. Wingfield noted there was a Council tour planned for the Water

Authority on October 2nd at 2:00 p.m. and added that he could invite the Executive Director from the Water Authority to present to Council.

Arthur Hamrick, 2150 Palmer Street, N.E., spoke regarding the electrical substation at 2100 Cambria Street, N.E. Mr. Hamrick expressed concern that the station was built on a business lot and the lot has a gas line on one side and a railroad on the other. Mr. Hamrick expressed that he believes the substation does not comply with safety codes and by putting this substation in this location the Town has created a bomb situation.

Corey Hamilton, 403 Park Street, N.E., expressed appreciation for the multiple free events in Christiansburg her family can enjoy. Ms. Hamilton referenced the downtown event Rockin' Main, various museum events, and the Parks and Recreation Center star gazing event held at the new Christiansburg Huckleberry Park.

Ryan Asalone, 1285 King Street, N.E., addressed Council explaining he was new to the area and was excited about the upcoming passenger rail station. Mr. Asalone explained he had reviewed previous Town Council minutes and the discussion concerning tourism and what it means for Christiansburg. He expressed that the passenger rail station and historic Cambria was an area that should be looked at due to the empty storefronts, noting potential businesses in those storefronts.

Susie Schumann, 1290 Sherwood Drive, N.E., expressed opposition for the proposed townhouse development in the Hans Meadow subdivision. (*This was a public comment emailed to Council and will be recorded in the final meeting minutes.*)

Mayor Barber noted this item was currently at the Planning Commission stage and would come before Council soon.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Hicks reported there would be a Central Business Committee meeting on Friday, September 13th.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A. Ordinance Amending Chapter 18 "Finance and Taxation" of the *Christiansburg Town Code* in Regard to Tax Exemptions and Deferrals for the Elderly and Totally Disabled

Mayor Barber explained that the Town has set the standard of increasing \$70,000 family income and a property value at no more than \$205,000. Councilwoman Hicks questioned the estimated cost to the Town. Finance Director Tweedie explained that it's estimated to come off the Town's tax base and it would be reported as tax revenue. Mrs. Tweedie added this is something that has been done for several years but now they have changed the minimum amount. She stated she could email Mrs. Hicks the numbers from last year

and can calculate this year's numbers as well. She noted this would affect the 2024 tax bills.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the ordinance regarding tax exemptions and deferrals for the elderly and totally disabled, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

- B. Approval of the Percentage Rate for the Personal Property Tax Rate Relief Act (PPTRA) for Calendar Year 2024

Mrs. Tweedie explained the amount the Town receives from the state is a fixed amount per year and the rate each citizen receives decreases every year because of the increase in the number of vehicles and their value.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the percentage rate for the Personal Property Tax Rate Relief Act (PPTRA), seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

- C. Request for street closures for Wednesday, September 25, 2023 2024 with a temporary shutdown between 3:00 – 3:30 p.m. to place barricades along W. Main Street from the intersection of Franklin Street and Main Street to Phlegar Street and street closures from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. to include Main Street from Park Street, N.E. to Radford Street, N.W., Roanoke Street from E. Main Street to First Street, Pepper Street, S.E. from E. Main Street to First Street, Pepper Street, N.E. from E. Main Street to Hill Street, Franklin Street from Frist Street to Commerce Street N.W., Hickok Street from Commerce Street, N.W. to First Street, S.W., Dunkley Street, N.W. from W. Main Street to College Street, N.W., Phlegar Street, S.W. from W. Main Street to First Street, Radford Street, N.W. from W. Main Street to Depot Street, N.W., Depot Street, N.W. from Radford Street, N.W. to Middle School Road, N.W., Middle School Road, N.W. from Radford Street, N.W. to Sheltman Street, N.W. for the Christiansburg High School Homecoming Parade to be held from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

It was noted that the date for the street closure was incorrect. The correct date is September 25, 2024.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to approve the request for street closures Wednesday, September 25, 2024 for the Christiansburg High School Homecoming Parade, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

- D. Appointment of Gracie Conner to serve as Student Representative to the Recreation Advisory Commission with a term ending August 31, 2026

Parks and Recreation Director Brad Epperley introduced to Council Christiansburg High School student Gracie Conner.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the appointment of Gracie Conner to serve as Student Representative to the Recreation Advisory Commission, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

- E. Resolution to approve VRA loan agreement and financing agreement for the wastewater treatment plant improvements

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve the resolution for a VRA loan agreement and financing agreement for the wastewater treatment plant improvements, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

- F. Award Contract to Ulliman Schutte Company in the amount of \$16,226,000.00 for the construction of the Biosolids Management Facilities and Headworks Improvements project

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to approve the award contract to Ulliman Schutte Company for the construction of the Biosolids Management Facilities and Headworks Improvements project, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

- G. Approval to Adopt Resolution to Approve Budget Amendment #1 for FY 2025

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to adopt a resolution to approve budget amendment #1, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

- H. Approval to Adopt Resolution for the Appropriation of funds per Budget Amendment #1

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to adopt a resolution for the appropriation of funds per budget amendment #1, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

- I. Authorize the purchase order to acquire the ambulance at a cost of \$286,652 from Red Storm

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to authorize the purchase order to acquire the ambulance from Red Storm, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

J. Funding of New River Valley Regional Commission office building project

Mr. Wingfield explained that the Regional Commission has asked for a commitment from the surrounding localities for funding of the new Regional Commission office building project in Christiansburg. He explained the Town has the option of a lump sum payment or financing. Mr. Wingfield asked if Council would like to commit to participate.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned the process of the Regional Commission office coming to Christiansburg, how many were employed at the office, and would this cause a tax increase for citizens. Mrs. Hicks expressed concern for the large investment and wanted to hear more from the Regional Commission office and what projects they were currently working on. She also questioned if the other members chose to not participate would that change anything for the Town of Christiansburg. Mr. Wingfield stated he would not anticipate a tax increase and that the funding for the project would be based on a population formula for each member. Councilwoman Hockett noted she sits on the Regional Commission and expressed that the Regional Commission was one of the most valuable commissions and benefits our community greatly.

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to move the funding of New River Valley Regional Commission office building project to a work session meeting, for lack of a second the motion died.

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to participate in the funding of the New River Valley Regional Commission project, seconded by Councilman Bishop. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – no vote; Hicks – Nay; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager

Mr. Wingfield reported several upcoming events including the Rockin Main' event scheduled for September 14th and the Wilderness Trail Festival on September 21st. Mr. Wingfield requested to set a public hearing for October 8th for a street vacation on the southern side of Radford Street between 910 and 940 Radford Street. He reported the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet would be held September 28th and asked Council if they would like to reserve a table. Council agreed to a table if there was enough interest and agreed to let Mr. Wingfield know their decisions individually. Mr. Wingfield reported a

work session would take place on September 18th at 6:30 p.m. with tourism on the agenda. He added that pending items for a future work session were the Main Street Program, outdoor advertising, and a capital planning session. He noted that Council also desired the emergency services funding request be a closed session for Council, and Mr. Wingfield stated that he would discuss this with the Town Attorney.

Councilman Wilson encouraged Councilmembers attending the 2024 VML Conference to attend the VML Main Street Program presentation.

- B. Town Attorney – no report.
- C. Other Staff – no report.

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Hicks questioned when the Hickok Street project would begin. Engineering Director Mike Kelley noted that work was due to begin the week of September 16th but delays in concrete structures/materials has pushed the project back.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

No further business

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

Tracy Heinline
Tracy Heinline, Clerk of Council

D. Michael Barber
D. Michael Barber, Mayor