

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 16, 2025 – 6:30 P.M.**

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN HALL, 100 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA, ON APRIL 16, 2025, AT 6:30 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Assistant Town Manager Scot Shippee; Clerk of Council Tracy Heinline; Director of Public Works Jim Lancianese; Assistant Director of Public Works, Streets Travis Moles; Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell; Director of Human Resources Alicia Dials; Fire and EMS Chief Billy Hanks; Deputy EMS Chief Josh Settlage; Chief of Police Chris Ramsey; Public Relations Director Christina Bolt

WORK SESSION

I. Call To Order

Mayor Barber called the meeting to order.

II. Adjustment of the Agenda

None.

III. Discussion and Action by Mayor and Council

A. Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget

Mayor Barber suggested Council discuss Community Grants and take polls for each business on whether they will be granted funds.

Mayor Barber read a Statement of Potential Conflict of Interest due to being on the Board of Directors of the Imagination Library of Montgomery County. He noted his intent was to

not cast a vote or break a tie for this application only. *A copy of the Statement of Potential Conflict of Interest will be recorded in the final minute book.*

Results of poll for Community Support by a show of hands from Council:

Include in budget

Childrens' Trust (NRVCAC) \$9,000 – Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Nay; Hicks – Nay; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Nay. Mayor Barber (tie breaker) – Aye.

Literacy NRV (Formerly: Literacy Volunteers of the NRV) \$2,313 - Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Nay; Hicks – Nay; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Nay. Mayor Barber (tie breaker) – Aye.

Montgomery Museum of Art & History \$10,000 - Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Nay; Hicks – Nay; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Nay. Mayor Barber (tie breaker) – Aye.

Salvation Army \$10,000 - Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Nay; Hicks – Nay; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Nay. Mayor Barber (tie breaker) – Aye.

Wonder Universe \$10,000 - Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Nay; Hicks – Nay; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Nay. Mayor Barber (tie breaker) – Aye.

Exclude from budget

Community Health Center (Formerly: Free Clinic) \$10,000 – Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Nay; Hicks – Nay; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Nay. Mayor Barber (tie breaker) – Nay.

Imagination Library of Montgomery County, VA \$7,500 – Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Nay; Hicks – Nay; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Nay. Mayor Barber (tie breaker) – Abstain.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned the process if potentially the Town of Christiansburg backed out of the six authorities the Town is currently a part of. Town Manager Wingfield explained that it would depend on the organization and the agreements that were previously signed. Councilwoman Hicks asked for copies of the Town's agreements with the six authorities.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned the cost of stipend cellphones for Town employees and requested it be separated from the final budget vote. Councilwoman Bowman asked for a list of positions in the Town that had stipend cellphones be sent to her.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned the 2.5% cost-of-living and the 2% merit increase for Town employees. Mr. Wingfield explained the cost-of-living increase would cost the Town \$328,125. and the merit increase would cost \$262,500. Mr. Wingfield noted that the budget includes historical rates for both.

Deputy EMS Chief Josh Settlage explained the cost of medical supplies for emergency services noting the Town now pays for their own medication for EMS and there is no funding from the state. He added that EMS provides tier billing to patients which means patients pay different rates based on their usage or the features they receive.

Council discussed involvement with the Christiansburg Institute and noted the federal cuts that had been made recently that affect the institute's operations and staff. Mr. Wingfield noted he would look into this and report back to Council but clarified that it would not disrupt this proposed budget.

Council discussed the \$950,000 allocated for design of the overflow parking at the Christiansburg Huckleberry Park and Aquatic Center. Mr. Wingfield explained this design was an extension of Booker T. Washington Parkway to the parking lot that adjoins the sports fields. He added this design would bring it up to acceptable street grade. Mr. Wingfield explained that the proposed budget has a large amount of match for VDOT projects, which ties up the Town's capital. He further explained that the Town has just completed a major project with the new park and now a break in spending is in order and hopefully the Town can build its reserve fund.

Councilman Wilson expressed he would like to see the emergency service positions placed back in the budget instead of focusing on the parking lot project for the park. Mr. Wilson referenced the previous Council work session where four positions were discussed for EMS and Fire. Mr. Bishop expressed that he trusted the Town Manager and Finance Director's decision on cutting the positions. Councilwoman Hockett suggested the use of shuttles and golf carts to transport individuals at the park as a temporary fix and focus on positions for emergency services.

Council discussed the \$187,000 in repairs to the Peppers Ferry Road NW rail crossing. Assistant Town Manager Scot Shippee explained the Town is receiving a 100% State of Good Repair funds to repave Route 114 from Marshall Drive to beyond Quinn W. Stewart Boulevard. He added that \$175,000 of those funds will repair the Norfolk and Southern crossing, so when the Town paves that area it won't have to be pulled back up later and paved yet again.

Council discussed the \$25,000 in the proposed budget for signage at the VDOT Park and Ride. Mr. Wingfield explained that previous councilmembers had wished to keep the same look as the wayfinding signs that are around town. He noted he would check with VDOT and look into a sign that would come from them instead and report back to Council.

Council agreed that the Town Manager and Finance Director should discuss with EMS and Fire how many positions are needed at each. EMS and Fire Chief Billy Hanks stated they would put together data for the new positions and report back.

The proposed budget has been advertised and the public hearing will be held May 13th.

IV. Adjournment

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



Tracy Heimline, Clerk of Council



D. Michael Barber, Mayor