

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 22, 2025 – 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 APRIL 22, 2025, AT 7:00 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; Town Attorney Reid Broughton; Clerk of Council Tracy Heinline; Director of Public Relations Christina Bolt; Director of Public Works Jim Lancianese; Assistant Director of Public Works, Streets Travis Moles; Police Chief Chris Ramsey; Fire Chief Billy Hanks; Deputy EMS Chief Josh Settlage; Director of Finance Katie Miano; Special Projects Coordinator Wayne Nelson

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Wilson.

II. ADJUSTMENT OF THE AGENDA

Councilwoman Hicks made a motion to separate item D. under the Consent Agenda for a separate vote, seconded by Councilwoman Bowman. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

Councilwoman Hockett made a motion to add an item C. under Introductions and Presentations to recognize former Town employee Forest Redd with a resolution presented by Mayor Barber, seconded by Councilman Wilson. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

III. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. Conditional Use Permit request by SHAH Development LLC, applicant and property owner, to allow single-family or two-family dwelling(s) in the B-3 General Business District on property located on the western side of Plum Street, NE across from Trent Drive, NE (approximately 0.776-acre Tax Parcel 497 – ((2)) – B; Parcel ID 120350). The property is designated as Residential on the Future Land Use Map of the 2013 Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan.

Hearing no public comment, the public hearing closed.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Minutes of April 8, 2025 and April 16, 2025
- B. Bill List
- C. Award of construction contract to DCI/Shires, Inc. in the amount of \$1,209,401.45 for the construction of the N. Franklin/Wades Lane and S. Franklin/First Street Intersection Improvements projects
- D. Interdepartmental operating budget transfer of \$48,320 from Rescue capital outlay to Rescue operating expenditures. (Per policy; no net impact on the overall budget)
- E. Resolution honoring Christiansburg High School for 100 years of CHS Yearbooks on May 10, 2025
- F. Resolution recognizing Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program's (MCEAP) 50th anniversary on April 26, 2025
- G. Resolution recognizing former Town employees Forest Redd for his response to a motor vehicle accident
- H. Resolution recognizing the month of May 2025 as GBS and CIDP Awareness Month
- I. Resolution recognizing the month of May 2025 as Building Safety Month
- J. Resolution recognizing the month of May 2025 as Water Safety Month
- K. Resolution recognizing May 4 – 10, 2025 as National Travel & Tourism Week
- L. Resolution recognizing May 6 – 12, 2025 as National Nurses Week
- M. Resolution recognizing May 11 – 17, 2025 as National Police Week

N. Resolution recognizing May 12 – 16, 2025 as United for Infrastructure Week

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve items A. – C. and items E. – N. of the Consent Agenda, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

Councilwoman Hicks questioned item D. and the interdepartmental operating budget transfer of \$48,320. Town Manager Wingfield explained the transfer of \$48,320 would move over to other operating line items (those items can be found in the previously posted council agenda packet).

Councilman Wilson made a motion to approve item D. of 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. Executive Director Caleb Taylor and Board of Directors Chairman Dr. William Knocke from the New River Valley Regional Water Authority to present on Authority operations

Mr. Taylor addressed Council and explained that the NRV Regional Water Authority services the Towns of Blacksburg and Christiansburg, Virginia Tech, and areas of Montgomery County served by the Montgomery County PSA. Mr. Taylor also explained that the Authority's source for water is the New River and that water is withdrawn from the river and pumped to the water treatment plant for treatment and purification before it is sent out.

Mr. Taylor touched on improvements to the Authority's facilities as well as their organizational structure, noting that the Water Authority is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. He spoke about the wholesale rates of the Authority and how they have changed through the years, noting an average rate increase from years 2019 – 2026 which equal 2.84%.

Mr. Taylor spoke about the Boil Water Advisory in 2024 due to Category 4 Hurricane Helene, noting the storm caused destruction to Southwestern Virginia which included the New River basin. He added that the Route 114 Bridge almost flooded, and waters rose along with accumulated mud and rendered the Authority's pumps out of service. Mr. Taylor explained that due to employee safety and nonworking pumps, the plant had to shut down. He confirmed they were able to maintain system demand but were not able to fill the tanks completely with water. Mr. Taylor stated that on September 30th the staff had two choices: continue cleaning the plant and let storage run out in the

system or place the plant back into operation, continue adjusting treatment, monitor and potentially issue a Boil Water Advisory. He explained the plant was shut down and taken offline but back in compliance within 24-36 hours. Mr. Taylor stated an After-Action Report was being prepared by consultants for technical and non-technical aspects and should be ready by the end of June.

Mr. Taylor spoke about the Community Water Fluoridation and explained the NRVRWA follows CDC, EPA, and VDH-ODW guidelines on fluoridation with a fluoride concentration level of 0.7 mg/L to the system. He added that the New River has a natural fluoride level of 0.1-0.2 mg/L and the NRVRWA feeds supplemental fluoride of approximately 0.5 mg/L. Mr. Taylor noted that the Authority provided samples for the EPA and VDH-ODW's two rounds of sample testing and stated that those samples came back as non-detect for high fluoride.

Councilwoman Hicks questioned what the future for fluoridation looked like and asked if it would ever be taken out of the water system. Dr. William Knocke explained that it would depend on direction from federal laws. Dr. Knocke did feel that completely banning fluoride in the water could have a negative impact on children's teeth.

Councilman Wilson thanked Mr. Taylor and Dr. Knocke for their efforts during the water shortage and expressed he was looking forward to the After-Action Report.

Councilwoman Bowman expressed concern for health consequences pertaining to fluoride and noted she would like to see fluoride taken out of drinking water.

B. Fire and EMS Chief Billy Hanks to introduce new Firefighters Jacob B. Walters and John D. Sievers

Chief Hanks introduced the new Firefighters to Town Council and gave a brief history of their background.

VI. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Chris Waltz, 1370 Rigby Street, commented on the budget not reflecting funds for positions of firefighters. Mr. Waltz also referenced a previous Council meeting concerning a discussion of a Councilmember voting against an award for Parks and Recreation. Mr. Waltz noted that he had requested information through FOIA, and the information he received reflected the vote did not exist. Mr. Waltz also noted concern for the Town's chain of command that had been discussed at the previous Council meeting.

Joyce Radford, 510 Ellett Road, questioned a previous discussion by the Water Authority and inspecting the Town for lead pipes. Public Works Director Jim Lancianese noted the Town of Christiansburg met criteria to be recognized as a lead-free community and has reviewed its records related to service lines. He added that the Town continues to examine and track service line materials throughout the system and more information could be found on the Town's website.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Hockett reported the Central Business Committee would meet April 23rd at 4:00 p.m.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND ACTION BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL

A. Appointment of Scot Shippee to the New River Valley Regional Water Authority for the remainder of Wayne Nelson's four-year term (ending June 30, 2026)

Mayor Barber explained that Engineering Consultant Wayne Nelson had resigned from his full-time position and has turned in his resignation effective immediately for the Water Authority. He added that the Authority needed a member of Town staff to fill the position.

Councilman Wilson made a motion to appoint Scot Shippee to the New River Valley Regional Water Authority, seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Town Manager

Mr. Wingfield reported that a total of 40 beds had been built on Friday, the 18th for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build. He added that the Easter Hunt for both adults and children were favorably welcomed by the community. Mr. Wingfield noted that Spring Clean - Up would continue until Friday, the 25th and Façade Grant applications were due by June 30th. Mr. Wingfield stated that dates for a meeting with Montgomery County had been sent to County Administrator Angie Hill. Councilwoman Bowman questioned if a financial evaluation had been included in the study for emergency services funding. Mr. Wingfield explained that the proposal had been received by the Town, and the Town had asked for a financial evaluation to be included.

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

X. COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilwoman Hicks asked Council if they would like to have a second budget work session. She noted she would like to discuss the water rate increase, new positions, and staff merit and COLA increases. Council agreed to April 29th at 6:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Bowman asked if there was an update on the audio for meetings held in the building. Public Relations Director Christina Bolt explained the audio would be installed before the next Town Council meeting. Mrs. Bolt also noted that unfortunately there were issues regarding the sound for tonight's meeting.

XI. OTHER BUSINESS

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting 7:49 p.m.


Tracy Heinline, Clerk of Council


D. Michael Barber, Mayor