

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

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Clerk of Council Tracy Heinline; Public Relations Director Christina Bolt; Human Resources Director Alicia Dials; Assistant Chief of Police Derek Altizer; Police Sergeant Allan Klein

SPECIAL MEETING

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. Town Council vacancy

Mayor Barber explained the Town Council candidate's term will be September 23, 2025 through December 31, 2025. He added that each candidate would be asked the same six questions by Council, and they would interview in the order their application was received by the Town.

Questions for the candidates have been recorded in the Town Council minute book.

Town Council vacancy candidates:

Chris Waltz

Mr. Waltz was a former military service member now working for Norfolk & Southern. Mr. Waltz is very engaged in local government, regularly attending Town Council and various committee meetings. He's well-informed on Town issues, including the Farmers Market and Hickok Street history and motivated by a desire to serve effectively and represent residents. He believes his skills and dedication make him a strong candidate.

Mr. Waltz brings experience from safety committees in both the military and the railroad industry, particularly in close-call incident reporting aimed at improving safety. He values the distinction between personal views as a citizen and the responsibility to represent the public as an elected official.

Mr. Waltz emphasizes listening to citizens, honest communication, and acting in the Town's best interest. He understands the demands of the role—preparing for and attending meetings, researching issues thoroughly, and making informed decisions. Mr. Waltz maintains records of his involvement and research of Town issues.

Deanna Cox

Mrs. Cox is a retired CPA with a 38-year career in local government, including time at an auditing firm in Blacksburg as well as eight years as Deputy Director of Finance at the Town of Christiansburg. Mrs. Cox has experience in governmental accounting and financial operations. She has been a resident of the New River Valley for nearly four decades, she has spent the last eight years living in a historic home on E. Main Street in Christiansburg.

Mrs. Cox currently serves as secretary on the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Board, contributing her financial expertise, and is the director of a nonprofit she founded in 2020, focusing on operational leadership.

Mrs. Cox believes that personal, political, and religious views should be kept separate from public service and emphasized neutral and community-focused decision-making. Mrs. Cox is deeply engaged and passionate about Christiansburg and sees involvement on local boards as both a learning opportunity and a way to give back. Mrs. Cox has extensive experience in local government and a strong grasp of public financial systems, she feels well-equipped to offer valuable input, potentially even as a future Town Council candidate.

Astleigh Hill

Mrs. Hill is a dedicated community member with a strong sense of service. She runs a small business (The Chandlerie) in downtown Christiansburg and sees great potential to contribute meaningfully to the Town. She has served on the St. Paul's Preschool Board for two years, the Downtown Christiansburg Inc. (DCI) Economic Vitality Board, and three consecutive years on the Façade Grant Committee.

Mrs. Hill believes community needs must come before personal views. She is known for showing up, collaborating, and delivering results. Mrs. Hill is passionate about building on the Town Council's strong foundation. She has skills in project management and a fresh, adaptable perspective and is interested in a future Town Council position.

Amelia Tuckwiller

Mrs. Tuckwiller is a lifelong resident of the New River Valley and Virginia Tech graduate in Communications (Public Relations focus), and she later earned a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction to become a teacher. Mrs. Tuckwiller has served 13 years on the Aquatic Center Advisory Board for the Town. She has gained experience in public service, event planning, and infrastructure topics such as the HVAC and solar panel Town projects. Mrs. Tuckwiller has also worked with Downtown Blacksburg Inc. on events like food truck rodeos and golf tournaments, enjoying teamwork and problem-solving.

Mrs. Tuckwiller values research, seeing all sides of an issue, and making balanced decisions. She is known for being approachable, proactive, and a strong communicator. She believes in listening to others and being proactive to reduce reactivity. Mrs. Tuckwiller is committed to helping move Christiansburg forward and emphasized teamwork, community service, and collaboration with various Town departments to solve problems effectively.

IV. Other Business

A. Closed Meeting:

1. Councilman Wilson made a motion for a request for a Closed Meeting under Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals. The Closed Meeting is being held for discussion of a vacant Town Council position. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Hockett. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

2. Reconvene in Open Meeting.
3. Councilman Wilson made a motion to certify that the Town Council of the Town of Christiansburg meeting in Closed Meeting, to the best of each member's knowledge, discussed only the matters lawfully exempt from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law and only such matters as are identified in the Resolution to enter into Closed Meeting. Councilwoman Hockett seconded the

motion and Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Jenkins – Absent; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

3. Council action on the matter


Mayor Barber announced that Deanna Cox would fill the Town Council vacancy for the remainder of a term ending December 31, 2025.


Councilman Wilson made a motion to appoint Deanna Cox to Town Council for a term beginning September 23, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Seconded by Councilwoman Hicks. Council voted as follows: Bishop – Aye; Bowman – Aye; Hicks – Aye; Hockett – Aye; Wilson – Aye.

Motion Approved

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to bring before Council, Mayor Barber adjourned the meeting at 7:29 p.m.


Tracy Heinl, Clerk of Council


D. Michael Barber, Mayor