

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M.**

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN HALL, 100 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA, ON SEPTEMBER 15, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Richard G. Ballengee; Vice-Mayor Ann H. Carter; D. Michael Barber; D. Henry Showalter; Bradford J. Stipes; James H. Vanhoozier; H. Earnest Wade. ABSENT: None.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager R. Lance Terpenney; Town Clerk Michele M. Stipes; Assistant Town Manager Helms; Planning Director Wingfield; Town Attorney Susan Waddell. ABSENT: None.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann H. Carter; Craig Moore. ABSENT: Chairman Steve Simmons; Wayne Booth; Mike Byrd; Steve Huppert, Vacant.

MAYOR BALLENGEE stated there was a quorum present of Council Members.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

REGULAR MEETING

MAYOR BALLENGEE called the Regular Meeting of Council to order and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of September 1, 2009. Councilman Wade made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

CITIZEN HEARINGS:

1. Recognition of Ozone Baseball participants. Mayor Ballengee presented the Coaches and players of the Christiansburg All-Stars Dixie Youth Baseball "O-Zone" Team with a Resolution of Recognition for winning the State Championship held in Radford, Virginia, and participating in the World Series held in Texarkana, Arkansas. A copy of the Resolution is attached herewith and made a part of these minutes.
2. Glen Reynolds and Sam Lionberger, III to address Council. Mr. Sam Lionberger of Lionberger Construction, and Architect Glen Reynolds provided Council with an update on the progress of the Aquatic Center construction. Mr. Lionberger explained delays they have experienced that make an October completion date unrealistic. The delays involve steel production, including bleacher production delays, issues with the coordination of lighting/conduit installation/pool surfacing/concrete slabs, and scoreboard and video system installation. Mr. Reynolds briefly explained the impressive scoreboard and video system, which were purchased with private donations and will allow for live video feed for ESPN. Mr. Reynolds clarified a public misunderstanding about the expected completion time-frame, noting the agreement is for a design-build project and it seems many are forgetting the "design" period. Construction did not begin with signing of the contract, and published completion dates have been incorrect and never corrected. A realistic completion date is approximately 14-weeks after the complete installation of lights and conduit, which, at this point, would put the completion date in January 2010. Councilman Vanhoozier said he is disappointed that Council is just now hearing about more delays; he requested that Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Lionberger come back before Council with an update once per month until construction is complete. Council, while concerned about further delays, thanked the gentlemen for their efforts to provide a high quality, state-of-the art facility.
3. Planning Commission Recommendation on:
 - a. An ordinance amending Chapter 3, Advertising, of the *Christiansburg Town Code*, in regards to Electronic/Digital Signs. The Public Hearing was held on September 1, 2009. Planning Commission Secretary Terpenney reported that the Planning Commission recommends Town Council adopt the ordinance amendment as originally submitted as there were no changes to the document by Town Council.

- b. An ordinance amending Chapter 30 "Zoning" of the Christiansburg Town Code in regards to provisions for Floodplain Districts. This request was tabled on September 1, 2009. Councilman Stipes addressed the concern he voiced at the September 1 Town Council meeting regarding this amendment. Upon further review, and discussions with Town Planning Director, Randy Wingfield, his concerns with elevation provisions have been mitigated and he is prepared to support the ordinance amendment as presented. Councilman Stipes commended the Planning Commission on preparation of the amendment noting the new ordinance goes beyond minimum requirements.

4. Citizen's Comments:

- a. Mr. Bob Poff of Montgomery Museum presented the Town of Christiansburg with a newly published book titled *Virginia's Montgomery County*. The gift is a token of appreciation from the Museum for the Town's past and continued support of Montgomery Museum and its sponsored events and activities. Copies of the book will be available for purchase at the Wilderness Trail Festival and at the Montgomery Museum. Mayor Ballengee accepted the book on behalf of the Town.
- b. Mr. Jim Koehr, VSIS Swimming/VISIA Subcommittee member, said he has a draft agreement with Christiansburg to bring his swim teams to the aquatic center for a State Championship Meet on February 19 – 20, 2010. The meet will be attended by six hundred participating swimmers from fifty schools. Mr. Koehr suggested if the timing is right this event could be part of the Aquatic Center's "Grand-Opening". Many hotel rooms have been reserved for this event. Mr. Koehr thanked Christiansburg for building this facility, remarking that it is an asset to the entire East Coast.

DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. Council Action on:

- a. An ordinance amending Chapter 3, Advertising, of the *Christiansburg Town Code*, in regards to Electronic/Digital Signs. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve the ordinance amendment as presented, seconded by Councilman Wade. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council on the motion as follows: Barber – AYE; Carter – AYE; Showalter – AYE; Stipes – AYE; Vanhoozier – AYE; Wade – AYE.
- b. An ordinance amending Chapter 30 "Zoning" of the Christiansburg Town Code in regards to provisions for Floodplain Districts. Councilman Wade made a motion to approve the ordinance amendment as presented, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council on the motion as follows: Barber – AYE; Carter – AYE; Showalter – AYE; Stipes – AYE; Vanhoozier – AYE; Wade – AYE.

- 2. Barber and Stipes – Cemetery Committee report and recommendation. Councilman Barber reported that the Cemetery Committee met on August 5, 2009. Those in attendance were Councilmen Barber and Stipes, Mayor Ballengee, Town Manager Terpenney, and Adam Carpenetti. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the operations of Sunset Cemetery, including fee schedules, plot structures, and outstanding debt collection; the goal being to create a self-sustaining operation. Mayor Ballengee requested that proposed changes be presented to Council in written form for review and discussion.
- 3. Appointments to the Planning Commission. Councilman Wade made a motion to appoint Kevin Conner to serve a four-year term on the Planning Commission effective immediately, seconded by Councilwoman Carter. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.
- 4. Set rates for the Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA). Town Manager Terpenney explained that the requirement to update rates annually for Personal Property Tax Relief Act is a result of legislative action in 2004. In 2004, legislature capped the dollar amount each locality is entitled to receive, and as a result, the Town can not bring in more personal property tax dollars than what was established by the General Assembly. This year the rate is to be set at 60%. This action is part of the phase out of the car tax relief imposed several years ago and applies to personal vehicles only. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to set the Personal Property Tax Relief rate at 60% for the tax year 2010, seconded by Councilman Barber. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.
- 5. Mr. Stipes and Mr. Vanhoozier – Street Committee Reports/Recommendations on:
 - a. Reimbursement request by Lina Devore. Councilman Stipes reported that the Street Committee met twice to discuss the request Lina Devore brought to Council at the September 1, 2009 Town Council meeting. Ms. Devore requested financial reimbursement for expenses incurred during repair of her personal property damaged by flooding earlier in the year. Councilman Stipes noted that the Town doesn't own a drainage/stormwater easement through Ms. Devore's property, and the property damage did not occur near the road. Councilman Stipes reported that the Street Committee recommends the request be denied and he put the recommendation in the form of a motion. Councilman Vanhoozier

seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade.
NAYS: None.

TOWN MANAGER REPORTS:

PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST(S) – Town Manager Terpenney presented the following request(s) and recommended setting the Public Hearing(s) as indicated:

October 6, 2009

1. Rezoning request, A Agricultural Zoning District to R-3 Multi-Family Residential Zoning District, former Harkrader property.

On motion by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier, Council voted to set the Public Hearing(s) as indicated: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

FALL CLEAN-UP DATES – Fall Clean-up dates have been set for October 3 – 17, 2009. Details will be posted in the *News Messenger*, the *Roanoke Times*, and at www.christiansburg.org.

MAYOR BALLENGEE informed Council that WSLS Channel 10 has requested to feature Christiansburg in its new community service program. The WSLS news team is scheduled to hold a Town Hall meeting in Christiansburg Council Chambers on September 22, at 7:00 P.M. Residents are encouraged to attend and share their thoughts on what they think showcases Christiansburg.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to bring before Council the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

Richard G. Ballengee, Mayor