

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 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 NOVEMBER 17, 2009 AT 7:30 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Richard G. Ballengee; D. Michael Barber; D. Henry Showalter; James H. Vanhoozier; H. Earnest Wade. ABSENT: Vice-Mayor Ann H. Carter; Bradford J. Stipes.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager R. Lance Terpenny; Town Clerk Michele M. Stipes; Assistant Town Manager Helms; Town Planner Hair; Town Attorney Jim Guynn. ABSENT: None.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Conner; Steve Huppert; Craig Moore; Steve Simmons. ABSENT: Wayne Booth; Mike Byrd; Ann Carter.

MAYOR BALLENGEE stated there was a quorum present of Council Members and Planning Commission 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 November 2, 2009. There being no additions or corrections, Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Wade. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Showalter, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

CITIZEN HEARINGS:

1. Police Department Oath of Honor. Chief Sisson thanked the Mayor and Council for the opportunity to come before them and introduced two new police officers, Patrol Officer James Belcher and Dispatch Officer Whitney Bedwell. Officer Belcher, from Bluefield West Virginia, formerly worked in Wythe County and Bland County and is a certified EMT. Dispatcher Bedwell is from the D.C. area and formerly worked in Henry County at the Police Department and the Sheriff's Office. Both officers took the Oath of Honor and Chief Sisson stressed that they are to abide by the oath while employed by the Christiansburg Police Department. Mayor Ballengee and Council congratulated the new officers and thanked Chief Sisson introducing them to Council.
2. Parks and Recreation update on World Series 2010. Parks and Recreation Director, Art Price, gave a powerpoint presentation on the plans being made for the upcoming 2010 World Series to be held in Christiansburg. Included was an example of the commemorative logo designed for the event, and the event program that will generate revenue through advertising. Mr. Chuck Muncy of the Parks and Recreation Department then talked about the activities being planned for those attending the week-long event. Mr. Price noted that the Town paid no fees to Dixie League to host the World Series in Christiansburg, and all revenue generated by the event through advertising, concessions, gate fees, etc., will benefit Christiansburg. Twelve states will participate in the event, each team involving thirteen players. Mayor Ballengee thanked Mr. Price and Mr. Muncy for their efforts in organizing this event and assured them that they have the full support of Town Council.
3. Planning Commission Recommendation on:
 - a. A Conditional Use Permit request by Flinchum & Flinchum, LLC for property at 2175 and 2177 Hammes Street (tax parcels 500 – ((7)) – 40, 41, 42, and 43) for residential use in the B-3 General Business District. The Joint Public Hearing for this request was held on November 2, 2009. Planning Commissioner Moore read the Planning Commission's resolution recommending Town Council issue the Conditional Use Permit with two conditions. A copy of the resolution and conditions is attached herewith and made a part of these minutes.
4. Citizen's Comments:
 - a. Ms. Becky Martin of Blacksburg Transit reported that two of the four Christiansburg buses have arrived and one is currently on display in front of Town Hall. She reminded Council of the ribbon cutting for the expanded bus service on

November 23 at 8:30 A.M. Tours will be given that day of the three bus routes: The Shopper's Express; Explorer; and Go Anywhere. There is no fare to ride the buses through December 31, 2009.

- b. Ms. Shireen Parsons asked Town Council to recognize Carol Lindstrom for the award she won from the Virginia Coalition for Open Government for information she provides the public through her blog site. Christian Trejbal of the Roanoke Times nominated her for the award. Mayor Ballengee commended Ms. Lindstrom for her efforts and congratulated her on the award.
- c. Mr. Chris Lickty, on behalf of the Christiansburg girls' indoor soccer team, asked for Council's assistance in seeking continued access to the National Guard Armory which it has used for years for soccer practice. According to Mr. Lickty, he was told by guardsmen at the Armory that because of recent vandalism and the need for increased security because of an impending deployment, the Armory is no longer available for community use. Mr. Lickty said that because of scheduling conflicts the team is unable to find another facility suitable for its use. Regarding the vandalism matter, Mr. Lickty assured Council that he is fully confident that the girls on his soccer team had no part in the destruction. Dr. Ross spoke on behalf of the soccer team present, commenting that the real issue is policy and that the Armory's refusal to allow community access is in contradiction of its mission statement. Dr. Ross pointed out that there are not enough facilities in Christiansburg to accommodate its recreational programs and he stressed the need for Council support in accessing the Armory. Mayor Ballengee noted that the Armory is owned by the State and the Town only maintains the facility with limited maintenance; the Town has no control over Armory use. Aside from that, the Mayor commented that he did meet with the NCO in charge this week concerning this matter. The NCO referred the Mayor to a memo sent to the Parks and Recreation Department regarding impending deployment and the security issues at hand, stating it is a matter of liability. Mayor Ballengee offered to write the State a letter if Council chooses, but commented it is hard to argue with the security and liability issues. The consensus of Council is have the Mayor following up on the matter with the Adjutant General of Virginia.

DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. COUNCIL ACTION ON:
 - a. A Conditional Use Permit request by Flinchum & Flinchum, LLC for property at 2175 and 2177 Hammes Street (tax parcels 500 – ((7)) – 40, 41, 42, and 43) for residential use in the B-3 General Business District. Applicant Jason Price said he is proposing to build a 2,600 square foot, single-level duplex unit. Councilman Wade made a motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to issue the CUP with two conditions. Councilman Barber seconded the motion and Town Clerk Stipes polled Council as follows: Barber – AYE; Showalter – AYE; Vanhoozier – AYE; Wade – AYE.
2. Tax Relief for Elderly and Disabled. Town Manager Terpenny reviewed the proposed changes to Chapter 11 "Finance and Taxation" of the *Christiansburg Town Code* in Regards to Tax Exemptions and Deferrals for the Elderly and Totally Disabled as follows: Section 11-189 "Restrictions and conditions" (1) Total combined income from \$35,000 to \$40,000; Section 11-191 Exemption rate (a) Annual Income Per Calendar Year \$0-25,600 (100%), \$25,601 – 32,000 (60%), \$32,001-40,000 (40%). These changes follow the guidelines set forth by Montgomery County. Councilman Barber made a motion to accept the ordinance amendments as presented, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council on the motion as follows: Barber – AYE; Showalter – AYE; Vanhoozier – AYE; Wade – AYE.
3. Councilman Stipes and Councilman Barber – Cemetery Committee update. Mayor Ballengee reported that this matter has been cancelled due to the postponement of the Cemetery Committee meeting that had been scheduled for November 16, 2009.
4. Report from Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie on Credit Card Bill Pay. (A copy of the report is attached herewith.) Ms. Tweedie reported to Council regarding credit card processing fees which are estimated to range from \$10,000 to \$50,000. During her research, Ms. Tweedie realized that VISA instituted a program for governments that allows a convenience fee to be charged on payments to governments. Based on her calculations, she estimates that imposing a \$4.00 convenience fee per transaction will allow the Town to break even with fees charged by the credit card company. After Council discussion, Councilman Barber made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for January 5, 2010 allowing public input on the matter of imposing a \$4.00 transaction fee for credit card services. Councilman Showalter seconded the motion and Town Clerk Stipes polled Council as follows: Barber – AYE; Showalter – AYE; Vanhoozier – AYE; Wade – AYE.

5. Mr. Kevin Stoner reported on the monetary success of the three tailgating events held downtown during 2009. United Way benefited in the amount of \$16,000 from these events. Mr. Stoner thanked those involved with the organization of the events specifically officers with the Christiansburg Police Department, Parks and Recreation employees, and Public Works employees.
6. Stipes and Vanhoozier – Street Committee report/recommendation on:
 - a. Request regarding downtown parking during Courthouse construction. Mayor Ballengee reported that the Street Committee has been unable to meet on this matter due to the absence of one of its members, and therefore, has no recommendation prepared at this time.
 - d. Subdivisions:
 - i. Plat Showing Boundary Line Vacation & Minor Subdivision for David M. Linkous & Shirley A. Linkous; creating 5 lots; located on Pine Hollow Road. Councilman Vanhoozier reported that this property presently consists of three lots and the owner wants to divide it into five lots. There will be no change to the current zoning. All is in order with the plat and Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Wade. Council voted as follows: AYES: Barber, Showalter, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.
 - ii. Lot Line Vacation Plat for Walter G. Woolwine and Barbara H. Woolwine; containing 3 lots; located on Ellett Drive. Councilman Vanhoozier reported that this request involves three 25' lots. There is a structure on one of the lots and the owner wants to build a deck on the structure that will cross interior lot lines. This request is to vacate the interior lot lines making one large lot. All is in order with the plat and Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Barber. Council voted as follows: AYES: Barber, Showalter, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.
 - iii. Plat of Survey of Portions of Tax Parcels 496 – ((A)) – 36 and 497 – ((A)) – 279 to be dedicated for Mill Lane Improvements; located on Mill Lane. Councilman Vanhoozier explained that this request is for property located next to the new aquatic center. The property being dedicated is for right-of-way to Mill Lane. This action will allow the Town to receive street maintenance funds from VDOT for Mill Lane. All is in order with the plat and Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Barber. Council voted as follows: AYES: Barber, Showalter, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

TOWN MANAGER REPORTS:

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

December 15, 2009

1. Rezoning request, A Agricultural to I-2 General Industrial, Roanoke Street.
2. Rezoning request, 22 acres, A Agricultural to R-1 Single-Family Residential and R-3 Multi-Family Residential with proffers, Diana Drive.
3. Contingent on the above rezoning request, a Conditional Use Permit request for a Planned Housing Development, Diana Drive.

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

TOWN MANAGER TERPENNY updated Council on the continuing progress at the aquatic center site. Manager Terpenny asked to proceed with hiring of the additional full-time staff and to advertise for part-time guards when pool is opened. Staff is expected to be in the water for training purposes at the end of January 2010. It was the consensus of Council to authorize the Town Manager to proceed with the necessary hiring of aquatic center staff.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to bring before Council the meeting was adjourned at 9:14 P.M.

