

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2010 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 AUGUST 17, 2010 AT 7:30 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Planning Director Randy Wingfield; Town Clerk Michele M. Stipes; Public Relations Officer Becky Wilburn; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Human Resource Director Clay McCoy; Town Attorney Kai Memmer.

PLANNING COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Craig Moore; Ann H. Carter; Kevin Conner; Steve Huppert. ABSENT: Wayne Booth; Mike Byrd.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Mayor Ballengee announced that an amendment to the agenda is needed to allow for Council action on tonight's scheduled Public Hearing matter. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion amend the agenda to provide for action by Council on the amendments to the Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011 budget. Councilman Wade seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

Councilman Showalter asked to amend the agenda to include legal representation regarding the severance package offered to former Town Manager, Lance Terpeny. Attorney Kai Memmer recommended this discussion be held in Closed Meeting under Section 2.2-3711(7). Councilwoman Carter made a motion to amend the agenda to include a Closed Meeting for the purpose of obtaining legal counsel, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2010 – 2011 Budget. Council reviewed a budget amendment summary prepared by the Treasurer's Department. Proposed amendments were based on previous budget discussions by Council. The proposed amendments resulted in a net change to the original budget of \$728,277, reducing the use of reserves to \$1,520,900. The Town's annual Fall Clean-up was eliminated in this amendment and Public Relations Officer Becky Wilburn will notify the public of this change on the next utility bill, and through the media and Town website. The public will be informed that while this free service is being eliminated this Fall, residents can still utilize the option to schedule a pick-up for a fee, which includes a County tipping fee.

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 August 3, 2010. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Barber. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

CITIZEN HEARINGS:

1. Planning Commission recommendations on:

- a. A rezoning request by Wally L. Young and Alvin D. Lester et al., Wallace B. Lester, and John Lester for property on the southern side of Radford Street located west of Melody Drive (tax parcels 525 – ((A)) – 27, 30, and 45) from A Agricultural to R-1 Single-Family Residential. The property contains approximately 8.25 acres and is scheduled as Residential in the Future Land Use Map of the Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan and Urban Expansion in the Future Policy Map of the Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan. The Public Hearing for this request was held August 3, 2010. Planning Commission Chairperson Moore read the Planning Commission's resolution recommending Town Council approve the rezoning as requested with two proffers. Planning Commission vote was 6 ayes; 0 nays. A copy of the resolution and proffers is attached herewith.
 - b. A Conditional Use Permit request by Jason Blackburn (acting as agent for property owner John W. Eanes, Jr.) for a commercial garage at 1020 Radford Street (tax parcel 525 – ((A)) – 11) in the B-3 General Business District. The Public Hearing for this request was held August 3, 2010. Planning Commission Chairperson Moore read the Planning Commission's resolution recommending Town Council issue the Conditional Use Permit with thirteen conditions. Planning Commission vote was 6 ayes; 0 nays. A copy of the CUP and conditions is attached herewith.
 - c. A rezoning request by Albert Land, LP for property on the northern side of Peppers Ferry Road, N.W. located on Albert Lane and at the end of Sage Lane (tax parcels 404 – ((A)) – 2 and 8) from A Agricultural to R-1 Single-Family Residential with proffers. The property contains 21.61 acres and is scheduled as Residential in the Future Land Use Map of the Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. The Public Hearing for this request was held July 20, 2010 and was tabled at the August 3, 2010 meeting for further review. Planning Commission Chairperson Moore read the Planning Commission's resolution recommending Town Council approve the rezoning as requested with seven proffers. Planning Commission vote was 5 ayes; 1 nay. A copy of the resolution and proffers is attached herewith.
2. Mr. Art Price, Director of Parks and Recreation – Final Report on the 2010 Dixie Boys World Series. Mr. Art Price, Director of Parks and Recreation, provided Council with a final report on the 2010 Dixie Boys World Series held in Christiansburg earlier this month. Mr. Price's report included the expenses and revenues of the event, and the tourism impact the event had on Christiansburg and its surrounding areas. Mr. Price thanked the donators, sponsors, vendors, and in-kind service providers who made this event possible (a list of contributors is included in the information Mr. Price presented to Council and is attached herewith). Mr. Price also thanked the media outlets providing coverage of the tournament including: Roanoke Times, News Messenger, NRV News, Valley Broadcast, WDBY 7, Natalie Vance of Our Blue Ridge, and PSK. Mr. Price expressed sincere gratitude for Minister Porter Riner, who provided a non-denominational worship service at the Recreation Center Sunday morning. Also thanked by Mr. Price were former major league players Mike Williams and Al Bumbry, who participated in the opening ceremonies; the Kiwanis Club; Town Council; numerous volunteers; his recreation staff; Director of Engineering Wayne Nelson and his Public Works staff; Kevin Hamm; Becky Wilburn, Public Relations Officer; Blacksburg Transit for providing bus transportation; Police Department; and the Rescue Squad. Mr. Price provided to Council survey results to be considered for future events, including correspondence and comments from visitors attending the event. Mr. Price reported that he is interested in hosting the 2012 Dixie Boys Junior World Series, commenting that hosting the 2010 Dixie Boys World Series was highly successful and fun; a labor of love and learning experience for future recreation events. A copy of Mr. Price's report is attached herewith. During the report, Public Relations Officer, Becky Wilburn, presented a slide show of photographs she took of the five day event.
 3. Citizen's Comments.
 - a. Mr. Glenn Cochran of Roanoke Street addressed Council on behalf of Irene and Robert Vaughn, owners of Christiansburg Taxi on Pepper Street. Mr. Cochran spoke of the Vaughns' opposition of the newly established Christiansburg Bus System providing taxi services by providing pick-up and drop-off options for residents. The Vaughns' fear that this government operated service will result in the closing of their small business. Recently, the Vaughns have reduced the number of taxi cab operators in their employ from ten to four. The Vaughns want to remind Town Council that their taxi cab service provides employment, and generates revenue for other small Christiansburg businesses by purchasing tires, gas, oil, vehicle repairs/maintenance, and food at lunchtime. Christiansburg Taxi is the only operating cab service in Christiansburg. Mr. Cochran pointed out that a taxi cab produces far less pollution and cost than the buses used by Christiansburg. Mr. Cochran stressed that the Town should provide police protection, water and sewer services, and street lighting, but the Town should not get into private business such as providing taxi services. The Vaughns requested that the bus system be reduced not expanded.
 - b. Ms. Meghan Dorsett thanked Councilwoman Ann Carter for her many years of service as a member of Town Council. In response to Mr. Cochran comments on behalf of Christiansburg Taxi, Ms. Dorsett noted that the Christiansburg bus

system serves a different socioeconomic class than those that would use a cab service. Ms. Dorsett said the bus service is regularly used by those in the Cambria area of town.

- c. Ms. Connie Turner of Alleghany Street reported favorably on the recently held annual Christiansburg Alumni Return. Ms. Turner said she had the pleasure of serving on the committee for this event and that the event was again well received. Ms. Turner announced that Ms. Ann Carter won the first ever honoree award for Distinguished Alumni of 2010. Ms. Turner congratulated Ms. Carter and thanked her for her many years of service to the Town of Christiansburg.
- d. Ms. Ann Hess of the League of Women Voters thanked Councilman Ernie Wade and Councilwoman Ann Carter for their service to the Town of Christiansburg as members of Council.
- e. Roger McCauley of Wooden Shoe Court commented on the status of the Town's website, noting the posting of Minutes of meetings aren't updated as quickly as he would like. Mr. McCauley said he was impressed by the report given by Mr. Art Price on the 2010 Dixie Boys World Series and asked that the financial information on the event be posted on the Town's website. Mr. McCauley then questioned the legality of the severance package offered to the former Town Manager and asked that the Town Attorney be directed to submit a report evaluating the legality of the matter.
- f. Mr. Cord Hall, Councilman-Elect, thanked Ann Carter for her many years of service on Christiansburg Town Council. Mr. Hall commended Art Price and his staff on the success of the 2010 Dixie Boys World Series, commenting that the event was expertly organized and run, and that it brought much pride to the Town of Christiansburg, even with the adverse weather.
- g. Mr. Harold Shelton commented that he has reviewed the financial figures provided by Blacksburg Transit during its presentation two weeks ago, and he objects to Blacksburg Transit's request to lower fares, which would mean more funding would be needed from Christiansburg taxpayers. Mr. Shelton said that bus ridership is extremely low and he does not support the Town continuing to provide this bus system.

DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. Town Council action on:

- a. A rezoning request by Wally L. Young and Alvin D. Lester et al., Wallace B. Lester, and John Lester for property on the southern side of Radford Street located west of Melody Drive (tax parcels 525 – ((A)) – 27, 30, and 45) from A Agricultural to R-1 Single-Family Residential. The property contains approximately 8.25 acres and is scheduled as Residential in the Future Land Use Map of the Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan and Urban Expansion in the Future Policy Map of the Montgomery County Comprehensive Plan. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the rezoning with two proffers. Councilman Barber seconded the motion and Town Clerk Stipes polled Council as follows: Barber – Aye; Carter – Aye; Showalter – Nay; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye; Wade – Aye. Councilman Showalter voted against the motion to approve due to connectivity concerns.
- b. A Conditional Use Permit request by Jason Blackburn (acting as agent for property owner John W. Eanes, Jr.) for a commercial garage at 1020 Radford Street (tax parcel 525 – ((A)) – 11) in the B-3 General Business District. Councilman Barber made a motion to issue the CUP with thirteen conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission. Councilwoman Carter seconded the motion. Councilman Barber stated that discussions surrounding this request made him realize the need for diligence in policing Conditional Use Permits for compliance, and that the Town needs to consider adopting the policy of performing periodic reviews of Conditional Use Permits. Councilwoman Carter strongly agreed with Councilman Barber. Councilman Showalter said it's his understanding that the Town reviews for CUP compliance only once a complaint is made to the Town. Planning Director Wingfield said reviews are typically based on complaints, but that it is common practice to contact businesses if a violation is noticeable. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council on the motion as follows: Barber – Aye; Carter – Aye; Showalter – Nay; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye; Wade – Aye.
- c. A rezoning request by Albert Land, LP for property on the northern side of Peppers Ferry Road, N.W. located on Albert Lane and at the end of Sage Lane (tax parcels 404 – ((A)) – 2 and 8) from A Agricultural to R-1 Single-Family Residential with proffers. The property contains 21.61 acres and is scheduled as Residential in the Future Land Use Map of the Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Councilman Wade made a motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the rezoning with seven proffers, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier.

Councilman Vanhoozier said he is able to support this request because the land will be properly utilized and he will be sure that there are restrictions placed on Sage Lane to allow emergency vehicles access only. Councilman Barber commented that most opposition to developing this land revolves around the use of Sage Lane as an access street. That possibility is no longer a concern and because of that he is able to support the rezoning. Councilman Stipes said the concerns he expressed at the August 3, 2010 meeting concerning this rezoning request were addressed by the developer to his satisfaction, and that he will support the rezoning since the developer, Robert Fralin, has given his word that he will submit a Conditional Use Permit before developing the property. With a Conditional Use Permit, the Town can place specific conditions on the development, including a restriction on utilizing Sage Lane as an ingress/egress. Councilman Showalter agreed that the possibility of Sage Lane being use as an entrance to this development was the main complaint by residents in this area and he appreciates the developer removing this possibility from the plans. However, Councilman Showalter said his main concern is the possibility of a subdivision of one hundred and fifty homes with only one access location. He understands that this could change in the future, but if it did it wouldn't be anytime soon. With that, Councilman Showalter said he is unable to support the rezoning request. Councilwoman Carter said she appreciates Mr. Fralin's plans to submit a CUP for the developer and stressed that she hopes he will follow through with that plan. Councilwoman Carter noted that once the land is rezoned, the Town can not guarantee, or require, a Conditional Use Permit. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council as follows: Barber – Aye; Carter – Nay; Showalter – Nay; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye; Wade – Aye.

2. Resolution of Support for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) – Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. Councilman Wade made a motion to adopt the Resolution of Support for the CDBG Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. Councilman Showalter seconded the motion and Town Clerk Stipes polled Council on the motion as follows: Barber – Aye; Carter – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye; Wade – Aye. A copy of the Resolution of Support is attached herewith.
3. Appointment/Reappointment to the Christiansburg Planning Commission. Councilman Wade made a motion to reappoint Mr. Craig Moore to serve another four year term on the Planning Commission. Councilman Barber seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None. Mr. Moore's term will expire August 31, 2014. Mayor Ballengee reminded Council that it would need to appoint a member of Council to act as liaison to the Planning Commission. Councilwoman Carter has filled this position for many years and it will become vacant when Councilwoman Carter's term on Council expires August 31, 2010. Another Planning Commission seat will become vacant when Commissioner Steve Huppert takes his seat on Council September 1, 2010. Mayor Ballengee noted that Council has not filled the seat vacated by retired Planning Commissioner Steve Simmons. Council can choose to readvertise these positions, or elect to review previously submitted applications. Councilman Showalter said he wants the Planning Commission meetings moved to a later time during the day, possibly 5:30 P.M. or 6:00 P.M., so the meetings will be more accessible to the public. Councilman Showalter also suggested adding additional members for a total of nine to twelve members. Councilwoman Carter agreed with Councilman Showalter. Mayor Ballengee asked Council to take these suggestions into consideration and discuss at the Town's reorganization meeting on September 7, 2010. Council agreed to readvertise the Planning Commission vacancies and to have the advertisement also posted on the Town's website. Planning Director Wingfield will handle this matter with the goal of posting the advertisement with a deadline of September 1, 2010.
4. Request from Blacksburg Transit regarding Christiansburg Bus Service fares (presented at the August 3, 2010 Town Council meeting). Council further discussed at length the matter of the Christiansburg Bus Service and the requests by Rebecca Martin of Blacksburg Transit and the August 3, 2010 Town Council meeting. The requests by Ms. Martin were: 1) Eliminate the Shopper's Express Route except on weekends and holidays; 2) Modify the Explorer route to include the Recreation Center as a destination; and 3) Decrease all fares on all routes to fifty cents. Councilman Wade expressed concern over comments made earlier by the Vaughns and the negative impact the bus service is having on their small business. Councilman Wade commented that the bus service is already heavily subsidized by the Town and he can not support reducing the rates the fifty cents, especially if it will put further strain on existing small businesses. Councilwoman Carter agreed, commenting that she had concerns because Ms. Martin seemed to be more focused on the finances rather than the actual ridership. Councilwoman Carter said she believes the comparison figures provided by Ms. Martin are unreliable because there were no figures from previous years from which to base a comparison, and the Two-Town Trolley is not an equal comparison. Councilman Vanhoozier said in the beginning he thought this would be a good service to the community; but presently the Town can not afford to provide the service, and it is hard to justify the cost because of low ridership. Furthermore, operating three daily buses, with low to no ridership, is not a good practice for "going green". Mayor Ballengee suggested presenting these concerns to Ms. Martin, but Councilman Vanhoozier replied that these same concerns were presented to Ms. Martin during a committee meeting, on which he served, and these questions were brushed aside and not addressed. Councilman Stipes commented that it is important to be patient during the initial start-up period and that it is not uncommon for bus systems to take several years before reaching sustainability. Councilman Stipes pointed out that

Blacksburg Transit is willing to listen to Council and modify the bus service according to Christiansburg's needs. Councilman Stipes stressed that the bus system is an important service to the community, and is consistent with the Town's Vision 2020. Councilman Showalter agreed that it will take time for the bus system to become fully sustainable and he does recognize the value of mass transit, but his concern is the impact the service is having on the locally owned taxi business. The service being provided by the Go Anywhere route does not meet his definition of mass transit, but is more similar in nature to a taxi service. Councilman Barber noted that cab services are often paid by Social Services to transport people to doctor and other appointments. Councilman Vanhoozier said he would like to see the fares broken up between the various routes and to leave the fare for the Go Anywhere route at two dollars. Mayor Ballengee will notify Ms. Martin of Council's continued concerns and request for further information specific to those concerns.

5. Personnel discussion regarding request for unpaid leave. Planning Director Wingfield presented a request for unpaid leave on behalf of an employee who suffered severe injuries in an automobile accident, but does not qualify for leave under the Family Medical Leave Act. The employee has depleted all accumulated vacation and sick leave and requests an additional six weeks leave through October 1, 2010, expecting to return to work in three weeks. It was determined that the accident did not result from reckless or risky behavior on the part of the employee. Councilman Wade made a motion to grant the requested unpaid leave through October 1, 2010, seconded by Councilman Barber. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.
6. FY 2010 – 2011 Budget Amendments. Council members continued to express concerns with the budget deficit, pledging to continue looking for ways to lower costs. Councilman Barber said he will assume the position of Chairman of the Finance Committee in September 2010, and he promised that finances will be studied sooner and more in depth, and he warned Department Heads to begin looking for cuts within their department. Councilman Showalter said he believes more can be done by Town Departments to further reduce the budget deficit. Councilman Barber made a motion to approve the presented budget amendment, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council on the motion as follows: Barber – Aye; Carter – Aye; Showalter – Nay; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye; Wade – Aye.
7. Councilman Stipes and Councilman Vanhoozier – Street Committee Report:
 - a. Subdivision Survey for David Beasley; creating 3 lots; located on Mount Pleasant Road, S.E. Councilman Stipes reported that this request is to subdivide one large lot into three smaller lots. The property is zoned R-1 Single-Family Residential and is presently undeveloped. All is in order with the plat, and Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.
 - b. Plat Showing Division of the Property of F & B Land, L.P. – Melinda's Melody; creating 1 lot; located on Diana Drive, N.W. Councilman Stipes reported that this request is a follow-up to the rezoning by Council six months ago. The property is currently rezoned R-3 Multi-Family Residential. All is in order with the plat and Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.
 - c. Plat Showing Revision of Boundary Line for Johnnie C. Martin, Jr.; creating 1 lot; located on Roanoke Street. Councilman Stipes explained that this request is a modification to one lot on Roanoke Street. The property lines will be modified to include a .7 acre lot from neighboring property which includes an existing barn. The plat is in order subject to minor administrative changes. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

MAYOR BALLENGEE asked Councilman Stipes to present a Proclamation to Councilwoman Carter expressing appreciation for her years of service to the Town as a member of Town Council. A copy of the Proclamation is attached herewith and made a part of these minutes.

MAYOR BALLENGEE asked Councilman Vanhoozier to present a Proclamation to Councilman Wade expressing appreciation for his years of service to the Town as a member of Town Council. A copy of the Proclamation is attached herewith and made a part of these minutes.

AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA to include a request for legal advice regarding the terms of the severance package offered to former Town Manager Terpenney. Town Attorney Memmer recommended Town Council enter into Closed Meeting under Section 2.2-3711 A(7), *Code of Virginia*, for the purpose of obtaining legal advice.

8. CLOSED MEETING:

- a. Councilwoman Carter requested a Closed Meeting under Section 2.2-3711 A(7), *Code of Virginia*, for consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. The legal advice will pertain to the severance package offered to the former Town Manager. Councilwoman Carter made a motion to enter into a Closed Meeting, seconded by Councilman Barber. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council on the motion as follows: Barber – Aye; Carter – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye; Wade - Aye.
- b. Out of Closed Meeting.
- c. Certification. Councilwoman Carter moved 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. Councilman Vanhoozier seconded the certification and Town Clerk Stipes polled Council as follows: Barber – Aye; Carter – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye; Wade - Aye.

TOWN MANAGER REPORTS:

PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST(S) – Planning Director Wingfield presented the following request(s) and recommended setting the Public Hearing(s) as indicated:

September 21, 2010

1. Rezoning request for property at 400 Starlight Drive from R-2 Two-Family Residential to B-3 General Business.

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

TAXI CAB LICENSE APPLICATION – Planning Director Wingfield submitted to Council a taxi cab operator's license application for Leigh Ann Tilman to drive for Christiansburg Cab. The Police Department has investigated the applicant and recommends approval. On motion by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Wade, Council voted to approve the taxi cab operator's license application for Leeann Tilman as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

RECOMMENDATION FOR REAPPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS FOR STANLEY R. WOODYARD. On motion by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Wade, it was resolved to recommend and request the reappointment by the Circuit Court of Montgomery County, Virginia, of Stanley R. Woodyard to the Board of Zoning Appeals of said Town for a five year term beginning September 1, 2010 and expiring August 31, 2015. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

COUNCILMAN SHOWALTER presented the tourism brochure he and his wife, Kelly, created for use during the Dixie Boys World Series that includes a map of Christiansburg, facilities, and restaurants. Kelly Showalter is preparing the same map but including hotels, churches, and other points of interest for Council's consideration for tourism efforts. Councilman Showalter asked for approval in printing twenty thousand brochures to be distributed through hotels, restaurants, and the aquatic and recreation centers, until tourism initiative is reestablished in Christiansburg. Christiansburg Printing will print the brochures at an approximate cost of \$1,800.00 to be paid out of the tourism budget. Mayor Ballengee thanked the Showalters for their efforts and support of Christiansburg. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to pay \$1,800.00 to Christiansburg Printing for the printing of 20,000 tourism brochures to be distributed throughout Town as a tourism initiative. Councilman Stipes seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

AT MAYOR BALLENGEE'S RECOMMENDATION, Councilman Barber made a motion to raise Interim Town Manager Barry Helms' salary to \$107,000 annually, in response to the additional responsibilities being performed by Mr. Helms during this interim until a Town Manager is appointed by Council. At the time a Town Manager is appointed, Mr. Helms' salary will return to his Assistant Town Manager salary of \$95,000 annually. Councilman Wade seconded the motion and Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Carter, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier, Wade. NAYS: None.

COUNCILMAN BARBER provided each Council member with a packet of information pertaining to the head hunting firm he brought to their attention at a previous meeting as a consideration in determining the best process for hiring a new Town

Manager. MAYOR BALLENGEE asked each Council member to review the information and be prepared to discuss and take action on the matter at the September 7, 2010 meeting.

COUNCILWOMAN CARTER, who chose to step down from her seat on Council, and whose term expires August 31, 2010, offered the following statement and advice:

"I would like to thank the citizens of Christiansburg for the privilege of serving them for the past twenty-one years as a member of Town Council. For a combined sixty-six years, my father, my husband, and I have tried to serve the community and give voice and action to our constituents' concerns. It has been an honor. It is time, however, for a new generation to step forward, and I welcome Cord Hall, as I welcomed Henry Showalter two years ago, to the Town Council. My hope for them is that they bring new perspectives and new energy to the leadership of Christiansburg. I would also like to thank the current Town Council members and Mayor, as well as those who are no longer serving.

Christiansburg has changed and will continue to change. We have created a broad range of recreational facilities that the Town, justifiably, should be proud of. I am especially proud of my work with Michael Barber to bring a professional, highly-skilled Finance Director, Val Tweedie, to the Town Government. I am also very proud of the strides Christiansburg has taken to become more transparent, open, and responsive. It is clear to me that the approaches we took to governance and to town management when I started on the Council are no longer adequate. We need to continue to embrace change in order to become the progressive small town we all hope to be.

I would like, therefore, to offer some advice to our new Town Council before I leave office. We are no longer a small town. It is time to encourage greater professionalism in our town government. We are past the time when one person could comfortably wear all of the hats.

I strongly urge the Town Council to work with an outside firm to find the best Town Manager possible, one who understands and is trained in public administration and policy, in short, has skills required to manage a town the size of Christiansburg and who is able to tackle the issues facing our community.

Some additional advice from my many years of experience:

- The preparation of the Town's budget should begin as soon as the prior year's budget has been adopted. We have had too many years where the budget process was left to the last minute and did not allow us time to consider the full range of options.
- Begin immediately to revise the Town's personnel handbook.
- Assess need and develop appropriate plan to transition from volunteer to partial paid emergency services. This was our Goal #4 in our 2020 Vision.
- Review and revise the Town's Charter, Codes, and Plans.

While there have been many accomplishments over the past two decades, there have also been some significant failures. We have not planned well, and our failure to plan and our continuing lack of planning has led to sprawl. We have treated the land in our community as an endless resource rather than a finite resource, one that we should have taken far better care of over the years. We have failed to listen to our community when they asked for parks, sidewalks, and recreational spaces and have put the interests of the few above the interests of our community.

We need to address the issues of planning in our community, and we should start with the Planning Commission and our approach to planning:

- Our Planning Commission should have at least 9 to 11 members and should reflect the full diversity of our community rather than a narrow range of interests. The Town Council liaison should not be a voting member, nor should a member of the Planning staff.
- We should require all elected and appointed officials with any planning responsibility to attend and complete the Planning Commissioner's training course.
- We should demand better of our staff and of ourselves. We should expect complete information from our staff, and we need to learn to take the time to think about the long range impact of our decisions. We should be more concerned about how our choices impact our community.

- Perhaps more importantly, we need to learn to listen to each other, to our staff, and to our citizens; we need to learn to fully consider the impacts our decisions have on others both in the short and long-term. We need to learn to ask questions, and we need to learn to say no when the occasion warrants it. Our citizens deserve nothing less.

To the newest members and to the new leaders to come, I wish you well. Learn to listen. Learn to ask tough questions and stop accepting easy answers. As the old adage goes, "trust but verify". Remember that at the end of the day, or at the end of your tenure, you are still responsible for your decisions. Learn to treat the citizens with respect and invite them into the process by tapping into the wealth of resources our citizens bring to the table.

Again, I thank the citizens for the honor and privilege of serving them for over two decades. I leave my position on Town Council knowing if we work together, Christiansburg will, in fact, become progressive small town living at its best."

MAYOR BALLENGEE thanked Councilwoman Carter for the comments and advice, stating that she is an inspiration to all and the personification of service.

COUNCILMAN WADE, whose term on Town Council expires August 31, 2010, said it has been an honor to serve the community as a member of Town Council. Councilman Wade said he has enjoyed serving the community and he hopes he has made a difference within the Town during his tenure. He thanked the citizens for their confidence in him by electing him to serve in this capacity four years ago. Councilman Wade expressed his appreciation and thanks to the Town staff and Town Council, further stating that Christiansburg is a great place to be. Councilman Wade said he is pleased with the progress Christiansburg has made over the years, and in looking to the future, he said he hopes Council will plan an annual update to its Vision 2020 and continue to use the plan as a guide for future progress.

MAYOR BALLENGEE thanked Councilman Wade for his dedicated service to Christiansburg as a member of Town Council, and he wished the best to Councilwoman Carter and Councilman Wade.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to bring before Council the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 P.M.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

Richard G. Ballengee, Mayor