

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
MINUTES OF MARCH 1, 2011 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 MARCH 1, 2011 AT 7:30 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Richard G. Ballengee; Vice-Mayor Michael D. Barber; R. Cord Hall; Steve Huppert; Henry D. Showalter; Bradford J. Stipes; James W. Vanhoozier. ABSENT: None.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Interim Town Manager Barry Helms; Town Clerk Michele M. Stipes; Town Attorney Jim Guynn; Public Relations Officer Becky Wilburn; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Craig Moore. ABSENT: Barry Akers; Mark Caldwell; Ann Carter; Kevin Conner; Meghan Dorsett; Joe Powers; Jennifer Sowers.

MAYOR BALLENGEE announced there was a quorum of Council present and opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Ballengee asked Council to amend the agenda to include for adoption a Resolution recognizing the 2010 accomplishments of the Christiansburg High School football team. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to amend the agenda to include the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

Councilman Hall made a motion to further amend the agenda to remove the Closed Meeting request. Councilman Barber seconded the motion and Town Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

REGULAR MEETING

MAYOR BALLENGEE called the Regular Meeting of Council to order and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2011. Councilman Barber made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

CITIZEN HEARINGS:

1. Ms. Fran Hard to address Council on behalf of the Christiansburg Alumni Association. Ms. Fran Hart of Grandview Dr, along with Ms. Connie Turner of Alleghany Street, presented Council with an update on plans for the 2011 Christiansburg Alumni Return planned for the weekend of August 12 – 14. The weekend events will be open to all Christiansburg High School alumni, and to anyone who has had an association with the high school through the years. Ms. Hart reported on the success of the 2010 Alumni Return weekend, which resulted in a \$2,000 contribution to a newly formed scholarship sponsored by Christiansburg Alumni Association that will eventually be offered to Christiansburg High School graduates. Ms. Hart said the Association is expecting more than one thousand attendees and she explained various family events planned for the weekend, which includes local entertainers, and memorabilia displays. Various alumni will be honored during the weekend. Ms. Hart said that the Association will contact local hotels to secure a block of rooms for visiting alumni. Ms. Hart invited Council members to attend the weekend events. Ms. Hart, on behalf of the Christiansburg Alumni Association requested Town Council provide free use of recreation center for events, and manpower for event setup and tear down. The Association also requested a designated block of time for tours of the Aquatic Center, preferably on March 14 after the planned social; Ms. Hart offered to discuss scheduling with Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell if Council permits. Ms. Hart then explained several fundraising opportunities, including an April 22 golf tournament at Auburn Hills Golf Club; all money from the tournament will go into the scholarship fund. Ms. Hart noted that Christiansburg Alumni Association is in the process of applying for 501(c) Non-profit status, which will allow tax deduction of contributions. Another fundraiser, planned for 2012, is an ocean cruise sponsored through Martin

Travel. Ms. Hart provided Council with a handout explaining the details of this opportunity, and explained that funds will be raised through the discount given by the cruise company for large group booking. These funds will also go into the scholarship fund. Ms. Hart thanked Council for its time and consideration. The next planning meeting will be held on March 21, 2011, at 6:30 P.M. at Amelia's, and all are invited to attend. Mayor Ballengee directed Ms. Hart to meet with Aquatic's Director Terry Caldwell regarding scheduling of the Aquatic Center.

2. Mr. Art Price, Director of Parks and Recreation, to present autographed baseball from Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame banquet, and status of the State baseball tournaments this summer to be hosted by Christiansburg. Mr. Art Price talked briefly about his recent induction into the Salem-Roanoke Baseball Hall of Fame, and shared a copy of the program, which represented Christiansburg through advertisements. Mayor Ballengee said he attended the ceremony and was proud to see Mr. Price's Hall of Fame plaque on the wall. Mr. Chuck Muncy, Supervisor of Outdoor Sports Facility and Parks, announced that Christiansburg had been chosen to host the 2011 Dixie Jr. Boys (age 13) and Dixie Boys (age 14) State Baseball Tournaments. The tournaments will be held July 15th through 22nd at the Harkrader Sports Complex. Mr. Muncy also announced that Christiansburg had been chosen to host the 2012 Dixie World Series, and he will provide further information on that event at a later date. Mayor Ballengee and Town Council thanked Mr. Price and Mr. Muncy for the update and their efforts in promoting recreation opportunities in Christiansburg. Councilman Hall announced that a girls' baseball travel tournament (ages 13 and 14) will be held in Christiansburg at Kiwanis Park and Harkrader Sports Complex later this month.
3. Planning Commission recommendation on:
 - a. A Conditional Use Permit request by Patricia Cline Epperly (acting as agent for property owner Epperly Elite Training Center, LLC) for a private school at 100 Central Avenue (tax parcel 467 – ((18)) – 1) in the B-3 General Business District. The Public Hearing was held on February 15, 2011. Planning Commission Chairman Craig Moore read the Planning Commission's Resolution recommending Town Council issue the Conditional Use Permit with two (2) conditions. Planning Commission vote was: Ayes: 6; Absent: 2.
 - b. A Conditional Use Permit request by Albert Land, LP for a Planned Housing Development on Albert Lane and at the end of Sage Lane (tax parcels 404 – ((A)) – 2 and 8 and 434 – ((A)) – 8) in the R-1 Single-Family Residential District and R-3 Multi-Family Residential District. The Public Hearing was held on February 15, 2011. Planning Commission Chairman Craig Moore reported that the Planning Commission recommends the matter be tabled for further review by Planning Commission.
4. Citizens' Comments:
 - a. Ms. Elizabeth McCauley of Wooden Shoe Drive, addressed Council concerning the unsightliness of a building project in her neighborhood that has been ongoing for years, and is occasionally put up for sale. Ms. McCauley suggested Town Council amend the building code to address this situation.
 - b. Mr. Rob Breinich of East Main Street said he understands the Town is considering a request to amend Town Code to allow hens and chickens in town limits. Mr. Breinich said he has discussed his support of this request with Planning Director Wingfield and asked that it be placed as a matter of high priority for this year. Mr. Breinich also voiced his support of the proposed farmer's market.

DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. 1. Town Council action on:
 - a. A Conditional Use Permit request by Patricia Cline Epperly (acting as agent for property owner Epperly Elite Training Center, LLC) for a private school at 100 Central Avenue (tax parcel 467 – ((18)) – 1) in the B-3 General Business District. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation to issue the CUP with two (2) conditions. Councilman Stipes seconded the motion. Councilman Huppert reported that he visited site and was impressed with facility. According to Councilman Huppert, the facility has adequate private parking, new classrooms and a playroom. The location is isolated from area traffic flow. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council as follows: Barber – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.
 - b. A Conditional Use Permit request by Albert Land, LP for a Planned Housing Development on Albert Lane and at the end of Sage Lane (tax parcels 404 – ((A)) – 2 and 8 and 434 – ((A)) – 8) in the R-1 Single-Family Residential District and R-3 Multi-Family Residential District. The consensus of Council was to support the Planning Commission's recommendation to table the request for further review.

2. Appointment of an at-large member to the New River Valley Emergency Communication Regional Authority. Mayor Ballengee recommended Town Council appoint Mr. Al Bowman to serve on the New River Valley Emergency Communication Regional Authority. Councilman Vanhoozier said he has known Mr. Bowman for many years and support the appointment recommendation. Councilman Barber made a motion to appoint Mr. Al Bowman to serve as the at-large member to the New River Valley Emergency Communication Regional Authority, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.
3. Mayor Ballengee presented for Council's consideration a Resolution for Christiansburg High School Football in recognition of the football team's 2010 State and National accomplishments. Councilman Hall made a motion to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

TOWN MANAGER REPORTS:

MONTHLY BILLS – On motion by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Huppert, Council voted to approve the monthly bills to be paid on March 10, 2011, in the amount of \$1,297,542.98. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

INTERIM TOWN MANAGER HELMS reported that an informational meeting is planned for Monday, March 7, 2011 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. to discuss the Alleghany Street utility replacement. The meeting will be held on the third floor of Town Hall. Councilman Stipes recognized Town staff's efforts to provide information to the public through this meeting.

TAXI CAB BUSINESS AND LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATIONS – Interim Town Manager Helms submitted to Council taxi cab license renewal applications for Christiansburg Cab Service, Inc., and its drivers. The Christiansburg Police Department has investigated Christiansburg Cab Service, Inc., and its taxi cab drivers and recommends approval. The license applications are kept on file in the Treasurer's department. On motion by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Showalter, Council voted to approve the requested taxi cab license renewals for Christiansburg Cab Service and its drivers. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

INTERIM TOWN MANAGER HELMS reported that the Wayfinding Sign test program is underway and signs have been placed in several key locations in town.

INTERIM TOWN MANAGER HELMS, on behalf of the Kiwanis Club, presented a request to close a portion of West Main Street, Hickok Street, and College Street on September 17, 2011, for the Wilderness Trail Festival. The street closings would be similar to the closings approved for last year's festival. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve the street closing request, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Interim Town Manager noted the Wilderness Trail Festival organizers have applied for the required event permits. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

COUNCILMAN HUPPERT provided a brief update on the proposed farmer's market. Several planning meetings have been held, which has received a good turnout of potential vendors. Councilman Huppert said he and Mr. Jim Politis will act as consultants for the farmer's market. The Executive Board has been named and Councilman Huppert said he will email those names to Council this week. Another planning meeting is scheduled for next week.

COUNCILMAN HALL spoke in support of the request to place the review of keeping chickens and hens in Town as a high priority review for the Planning Commission. Councilman Hall said he sees an interest by Town residents and doesn't support a continued delay on the review. Councilman Vanhoozier noted that the Planning Commission has not discussed this matter, yet, noting the Planning Commission's aggressive agenda of issues to be discussed to be the reason for the delay. Councilman Hall suggested that the Town consider recognizing the accomplishments of other Christiansburg sports teams, specifically, the state and national accomplishments of the high school wrestling team. Mayor Ballengee noted that the wrestling team has been recognized by Council in the past. Councilman Showalter mentioned 2010 accomplishments of Christiansburg High School basketball team, commenting that Christiansburg's

young athletes are excelling, and the accomplishments of the Christiansburg High School sports teams are unprecedented. Mayor Ballengee noted that it is custom for Town Council to recognize State and National championships of Christiansburg High School sports teams. Councilman Vanhoozier suggested a reception held in recognition of all the championship teams. Councilman Hall, noting his support of Mr. Al Bowman's appointment to the New River Valley Emergency Communication Regional Authority, commented that he is not in support of appointing individuals he has not met to represent the Town, and suggested Town Council adopt the policy of meeting individuals interested in appointment before the appointment is made by Council. Councilman Showalter supported this suggestion, noting this has been a concern of Council in the past.

COUNCILMAN SHOWALTER presented a brief update on an upcoming Central Business Committee meeting scheduled for March 3, 2011. Councilman Showalter thanked Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell and her staff for reaching out to hoteliers in an attempt coordinate with them on aquatics events. Mr. Chuck Muncy, Supervisor of Outdoor Sports Facility and Parks, will attend the meeting as representative of parks and recreation.

COUNCILMAN STIPES reported that the Finance Committee met this week and he is encouraged by the efforts of the aquatics and recreation staff to promote Town recreation and recreation events. Councilman Stipes said it is evident those efforts are having a positive impact on the Town.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

Richard G. Ballengee, Mayor