

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 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 NOVEMBER 15, 2011 AT 7:30 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Richard G. Ballengee; Vice-Mayor D. Michael Barber; Steve Huppert, D. Henry Showalter; Bradford J. Stipes. ABSENT: R. Cord Hall, James H. Vanhoozier.

ADMINISTRATION: PRESENT: Town Manager Barry D. Helms; Town Clerk Michele M. Stipes; Town Attorney Jim Guynn; Assistant to the Town Manager Adam Carpenetti; Finance Director/Treasurer Valerie Tweedie.

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 1, 2011. Councilman Barber made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes. NAYS: None.

AGENDA AMENDMENT – Mayor Ballengee requested an amendment to the agenda to include a Resolution request to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for funding for an existing roadway improvement for recreation access. Councilman Barber made a motion to amend the agenda to include the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes. This matter will be placed as Item #3 under Discussions by Mayor and Council members.

CITIZEN HEARINGS:

1. Ms. Paula ALSTON TO ADDRESS COUNCIL ON THE MONTGOMERY/FLOYD REGIONAL LIBRARY'S STRATEGIC PLAN. Ms. Alston provided Council with copies of the Montgomery/Floyd Regional Library Strategic Plan. Ms. Alston thanked Council for the opportunity to speak and for its continued financial support of the library, and then introduced Ms. Karen Drake, Vice-Chair of the Library Board. Ms. Alston reported that the library is required to have a current five year plan on file with the Library of Virginia, and surveys were held to gain public input, and Virginia guidelines were studied, in implementing the new plan. The Library Board also recently adopted core values for guidance into the future, which are outlined in the strategic plan. Ms. Alston and Ms. Drake reviewed with Council the goals and objectives of the strategic plan, and reviewed additions to the library offerings, including electronic books. Ms. Alston commented on the state budget cuts that have impacted the library, and again expressed her appreciation for the Town's financial support. Councilman Huppert and Councilman Stipes expressed their appreciation for the library, and Mayor Ballengee said he has received many favorable comments from citizens regarding the library.
2. Captain Joe Coyle to update Council on activities at the Rescue Squad. Captain Joe Coyle provided Council with an update on changes being made within the Rescue Squad with a goal of providing outstanding service to the community. A current focus of the squad is on increasing the survivability of out-of-hospital cardiac events. Captain Coyle said the key to making this possible is ensuring that citizens know CPR, and the rescue squad will soon offer a CPR training program to the public. Another important advancement in progress is direct communication from the rescue squad to the hospital on the condition of patients being delivered to the hospital. This will allow hospital staff to know if they can treat the medical emergency before it is brought to them, thus saving critical time. This communication will be done through the internet. Lactic acid tests, which are important to survival during cardiac events, will soon be administered by rescue squad personnel. Captain Coyle explained his emphasis on long-term recruitment for daylight staffing in response to the chronic concerns with inadequate staffing during this shift. Captain Coyle reported that he has seen good results from the interim fixes put into place, and many members of the squad have volunteered to cover the daylight short-fall, and currently, very few emergency calls are turned over to Blacksburg for assistance. Captain Coyle reported that attention has been placed on securing the building and ensuring the safety of the rescue squad members and he thanked Fire Chief Hanks and Adam Carpenetti, Assistant to the Town Manager, for their assistance in this area.

Captain Coyle closed by stating that the rescue squad is focused on building many networks and relationships within the community, which will be of benefit to both.

3. CITIZENS' COMMENTS.

- a. There were no citizen comments.

III. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE AND SUPPORT THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN WAR OF 1812 IN VIRGINIA. Mayor Ballengee presented to Council a Resolution to commemorate and support the Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 in Virginia. Councilman Stipes made a motion to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Barber. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes. A copy of the Resolution is attached herewith.
2. MR. STIPES AND MR. VANHOOZIER – STREET COMMITTEE REPORT/RECOMMENDATION ON:
 - a. Division of Land of Terry and Susan C. Young; creating 2 lots; located on Glade Drive, S.E. This request was withdrawn for legal issues and may be presented to Council for consideration at a later date.
 - b. Councilman Stipes reported to Council on the VDOT Six-Year Plan that is out for advertisement and expected to go to construction in March 2012. VDOT is estimating two construction seasons for Phase II of the Route 114 road widening project, and is expected to be completed in 2013. This project includes the Huckleberry Trail bridge. Councilman Stipes stated that the Town receives funding from VDOT each year for new road projects and he recommended that the Street Committee be authorized to prioritize roadway projects in planning for the new six-year plan. VDOT is not receiving funds from the State, but will receive funds from the Federal Government that will be passed along to localities. Mayor Ballengee agreed with Councilman Stipes' recommendation and asked the Street Committee to prioritize the Town's roadway projects and bring a recommendation to Council.
 - c. Subdivision Plat for George A. Joly, Jr.; creating 2 lots; located on Freestone Drive, N.E. Councilman Stipes reported that this simple subdivision request is for property located across from Corning and is zoned B-3 General Business District. The request is to divide one lot into two lots and it conforms to the subdivision ordinance. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Barber. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes. NAYS: None.
3. RESOLUTION REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR AN EXISTING ROADWAY IMPROVEMENT FOR RECREATION ACCESS. Mayor Ballengee reported that this Resolution was previously adopted by Council in August 2011, however, VDOT required changes to the Resolution in the amount of funds the Town is seeking through the Recreational Access Program. The original Resolution stated an amount not to exceed sixty thousand dollars and was changed to an amount not to exceed ninety thousand dollars. Councilman Barber made a motion to adopt the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes. NAYS: None. A copy of the Resolution is attached herewith as reference.

TOWN MANAGER REPORTS:

PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST(S) – Town Manager Helms presented the following requests and recommended setting the Public Hearings for December 6, 2011.

1. Planning Commission request to increase Public Hearing fees.
2. Conditional Use Permit request for a rock climbing wall, 100 Central Avenue, B-3 General Business Zoning District.

On motion by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Showalter, Council voted to set the Public Hearings for December 6, 2011. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes. NAYS: None.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER BECKY WILBURN reported that she is currently creating a citizen comment/complaint e-form that will be posted on the Town's website and ready for use within the next week.

TOWN MANAGER HELMS reported that the Joinder Study is progressing and he asked if Council desired a work session in January to be brought up to date on the study. Councilman Stipes recommended scheduling a work session with Blacksburg and Virginia Tech, partners in the Joinder effort. Mayor Ballengee said he will contact the two localities and bring the responses to Council.

COUNCILMAN SHOWALTER asked if Council is still interested in adopting a five year fiscal plan, with a focus on capital improvements. Town Manager Helms said Town administration is prepared to participate in this project, and Mayor Ballengee reported that a work session will be held for this project planning before major budget talks begin.

COUNCILMAN SHOWALTER addressed the possibility of creating a weekly Town newsletter as another means of communication with citizens. Councilman Barber said he supports this suggestion and recommended a meeting to determine if the Town has the staff necessary to handle this project, suggesting the use of an intern if necessary.

MAYOR BALLENGEE congratulated Councilman Barber, Councilman Showalter, and Councilman Vanhoozier on their recent re-election to serve on Town Council.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before Council the meeting was adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

Richard G. Ballengee, Mayor