

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2012 AT 7:30 P.M.**

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT THE CHRISTIANSBURG AQUATIC CENTER, 595 NORTH FRANKLIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA, ON APRIL 17, 2012 AT 7:30 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Barry Helms; Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Town Clerk Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Kai Memmer; Town Planner Nichole Hair; Director of Engineering and Public Works Wayne Nelson; Assistant to the Town Manager Adam Carpenetti; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Awards Program - Christiansburg Town Council will honor the Christiansburg High School football team, basketball team, wrestling team and Academic Bowl team, along with individual state champions. Mayor Ballengee welcomed the athletes, coaches, families and friends to the meeting, and introduced the members of Council who would be presenting tonight's awards.

Councilman Stipes invited the coaches and team members of the 2011-2012 Basketball Team to come forward and presented them with a Resolution recognizing the team's success in winning the River Ridge District Championship and the Region IV Championship, and for being named VHSL Group IV AA State Champions. A copy of the Resolution is attached herewith.

Councilman Hall then invited the coaches and team members of the 2011-2012 Wrestling Team to come forward and presented them with a Resolution recognizing the team's eleventh consecutive year being named VHSL State Champions. Councilman Vanhoozier presented certificates to six individual student wrestlers recognizing them as VHSL State Champions in their weight classifications. A copy of the Resolution is attached herewith.

Councilman Showalter invited the coaches and members of the 2011 -2012 Football Team to come forward and presented them with a Resolution recognizing their accomplishments as River Ridge District champions and Region IV champions, and for being named 2011 VHSL Virginia State Football runners-up to the State Championship. A copy of the Resolution is attached herewith.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Rezoning request by Radford & Radford Properties, LLC for property at 325 Falling Branch Road (tax parcel 529 – ((A)) – 25C) from R-2 Two-Family Residential to B-3 General Business. The property contains 0.818 acres and is scheduled as Residential in the Future Land Use Map of the Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. This request was withdrawn by the applicant.
2. Contingent on Item 1, a Conditional Use Permit request by Radford & Radford Properties, LLC for multi-family residential use at 325 Falling Branch Road (tax parcel 529 – ((A)) – 25C) in the B-3 General Business District. This request was withdrawn by the applicant.
3. A Conditional Use Permit request by Cook's Auto Upgrades (acting as agent for property owner MTS Associates) for an automobile upholstery shop at 575 N. Franklin Street (tax parcels 496 – ((8)) – 51 and 52) in the B-3 General Business District. Councilman Huppert explained that this location is the former T&M Tire Shop and is located off North Franklin Road just enough to make it obscure from the road.

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 April 3, 2012. There being none, Councilman Hall 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. Citizens' Comments:

- a. Meghan Dorsett of Cambria Street brought to Council a proposal for the second annual Christiansburg Depot Days, A National Train Day Celebration, hosted this year by Blue Ridge Heating and Air/Crab Creek, Cambria Emporium, and Cambria Depot. The festival is scheduled for July 14, 2012 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, and there are currently nine vendor booths registered with many more expected. Ms. Dorsett asked that the street closing be the same as last year, which is closure of the Depot Street/Cambria Street intersection including both sides of the railroad tracks from Montgomery Street on the north side of the tracks to the intersections of Depot and Schaeffer to the west and Depot and East Main to the east, and that the closings be from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. to accommodate the festivities and ensure the safety of those attending the event. The festival will be located on both sides of the track, including the full extent of the central square in Cambria. Ms. Dorsett noted that there isn't a registration fee for vendors, but that each vendor is required to have a children's activity to encourage the festival atmosphere. Ms. Dorsett said she is asking Town Council for what was requested and approved for last year's Depot Days festival, which includes, but is not limited to, the loan of the Cambria fire truck, the assistance of fire, rescue, and police personnel, street cones, emergency tape to cordon off the train tracks, and Public Work's reflective vests for the safety of those setting up for the event. Ms. Dorsett asked that the tourism funding requirements be expanded to include events sponsored by local businesses so that the Depot Days festival will qualify for tourism funding. A tourism grant application will be submitted for the event. Mayor Ballengee clarified that to qualify for tourism funding and event must be sponsored by a non-profit group, but that this requirement can be altered if Council desires. Mayor Ballengee further stated that the Town received positive feedback from the community regarding last year's Depot Days celebration, which drew in many people from surrounding localities. Mayor Ballengee asked that the Town Attorneys work with Town Manager Helms to review the tourism grant policy and bring a recommendation to Council for consideration.
- b. Ms. Connie Turner, Alleghany Street, said she enjoyed the new flags placed in the downtown area and thanked whoever is responsible for using the Town's water truck to water Alleghany Street as a way to keep the dust level low. Ms. Turner said she hopes this will continue through the construction.

DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. Presentation of a Proclamation Proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month. Mayor Ballengee reported that this Proclamation was sent to the newspaper for publication.
2. Mr. Stipes and Mr. Hall - Cemetery Committee report/recommendation:
 - a. Sunset Cemetery update and discussion. Councilman Stipes reported that the Cemetery Committee met on April 10, 2012 to discuss the request by Eagle Scout candidate, Daniel Cooley, for a cemetery kiosk as part of his Eagle Scout service project, for which the Town has agreed to provide the necessary materials. The Cemetery Committee also discussed and is seeking Council support in creating a Cemetery Advisory Committee, which will allow the Town to draw on the expertise of death care professionals, clergy, and citizens in the community. The committee could meet on a quarterly basis and would provide the Town with a dedicated, focused group, with specialized expertise, to consider, discuss, and advise Town Council on periodic and recurring issues related to Town policy as it relates to the cemetery operations. Councilman Stipes reported that the Cemetery Committee will bring a detailed recommendation to Council if it is willing to consider a Cemetery Advisory Committee. Councilman Hall added that the Town would benefit from a Cemetery Advisory Committee because of the Cemetery Committee's, and the Town's, limited knowledge in cemetery matters. Councilman Hall specifically noted the extensive knowledge former Council member Ms. Ann Carter has on this topic and suggested that she would be valuable on a Cemetery Advisory Commission. Mayor Ballengee recommended adding this matter to a future agenda to discuss the details and expectations of such a commission. Councilman Stipes asked for an endorsement of the concept from Council before pursuing the matter. Town Council expressed its endorsement of the idea of a Cemetery Advisory Commission and asked the Cemetery Committee to bring detailed specifics to Council for consideration.

TOWN MANAGER REPORTS:

PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST(S) – Town Manager Helms presented the following requests and recommended setting the Public Hearings as indicated:

May 15, 2012

1. Request to close a 200' portion of Red Oak Drive.

On motion by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Showalter, Council voted to set the Public Hearing for May 15, 2012. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

2. Request to hold a carnival at the New River Valley Mall, set to open June 14, 2012.

On motion by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Hall, Council voted to set the Public Hearing for May 15, 2012. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

June 5, 2012

1. Conditional Use Permit request by David Botos for a Major Home Occupation for a powder coating business on Walters Drive.
2. Ordinance amendment request for Chapter 30 "Zoning" of the *Christiansburg Town Code* to consider amendments to several definitions outlined in the ordinance.

On motion by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier, Council voted to set the Public Hearings for June 5, 2012. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

MAYOR BALLENGEE reported that the Town received a request for review of the street lights along Craig Mountain Road and a request to designate Albert Lane as a private street. Mayor Ballengee turned these requests over to the Street Committee for review and recommendation.

TOWN MANAGER HELMS requested vacation leave on June 7, 2012 and June 8, 2012, which was supported by Council.

TOWN MANAGER HELMS reminded Council of the 6:00 pm budget work session on Thursday, April 19, 2012.

COUNCILMAN SHOWALTER asked for a status update on the traffic calming request for Sleepy Hollow Road. Councilman Stipes reported that the Street Committee will hold a workshop on April 30, 2012 to develop guidelines on traffic calming throughout town. The Street Committee expects to bring a recommendation to Council shortly after that date.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

Richard G. Ballengee, Mayor