

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

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN HALL, 100 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA, ON JULY 17, 2012 AT 7:30 P.M.

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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Barry Helms; Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Town Clerk Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Jim Guynn; Planning Director 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.

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 July 3, 2012. There being none, Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Barber. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

CITIZEN HEARINGS:

1. Citizen Comments.
 - a. There were no citizen comments.

DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. Appointment to the Recreation Advisory Commission to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Walter Price. Mayor Ballengee reported that Mr. Joseph William Bealer is seeking this appointment, and the appointment of Mr. Bealer is recommended by the Recreation Advisory Commission. Councilman Barber, on behalf of the Recreation Advisory Commission, reported that Mr. Bealer, a resident of Astor Lane, is well qualified to serve on the commission through past positions with Radford University, Davidson College, and Campbell University. Mr. Bealer has extensive media knowledge and abilities that could be valuable in promoting sporting events. According to the Recreation Advisory Commission, Mr. Bealer approached Mr. Brad Epperley, Director of Parks and Recreation, seeking consideration if a seat became available on the commission. Councilman Huppert expressed his support for this appointment, commenting that he has worked with Mr. Bealer during Christiansburg High School tennis championship matches. Councilman Hall made a motion to appoint Joseph William Bealer to the Recreation Advisory Commission to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Walter Price. Councilman Stipes seconded the motion, and Council voted as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. Mr. Bealer is out of town and unable to attend tonight's meeting. He will come before Council for introduction at a future meeting.
2. Report on Planning Commission Subcommittees by Councilman Huppert. Councilman Huppert reported that reconfiguration of the Planning Commission Subcommittees has been provided to Council in the agenda packet, and he offered to answer any questions of Council. Councilman Huppert commented that Planning Commission Chairman Craig Moore does not serve on the subcommittees and, therefore, is not subject to receive the twenty-five dollar per meeting compensation. Because of this, and considering Mr. Moore's service as chairman, Councilman Huppert recommended giving Mr. Moore any funds remaining in the subcommittee fund at the end of the fiscal year. Councilman Huppert also reported that Ms. Ann Carter's term on the Planning Commission expires on August 31, 2012, and she has expressed an interest in being reappointed. Councilman Huppert recommended she be reappointed to serve another four year term. Mayor Ballengee directed that this matter be included on the August 7, 2012 Council agenda.
3. Councilmen Stipes and Vanhoozier – Street Committee report/recommendation on:
 - a. Plat Showing Boundary Line Adjustment for Heather B. Gearheart Self, R. Jeremiah Gearheart and Stephen Perkins; creating 3 lots; located at the corner of Chinquapin Trail, S.E. and Imperial Street, S.E. Town Manager

Helms reported that this request was withdrawn by the applicant for legal reasons.

- b. Councilman Stipes provided Council with a copy of the traffic calming procedures drafted and recommended by the Street Committee and Town staff members. The document provides specific recommendations for Sleepy Hollow Road, Alleghany Street and Miller Street, which will require action by Council. Councilman Stipes asked Council to review the document, provide any questions, and be prepared to take action on the matter at the August 7, 2012 Council meeting. The traffic calming procedures will be posted on the website for citizen review. Mayor Ballengee said he understands that there is a community petition for traffic calming attention on Majestic Drive, and he will make those concerned aware of this document and its impact on the traffic concerns along that street. Councilman Huppert asked for an update on the construction along Alleghany Street, and Wayne Nelson, Director of Engineering and Public Works, replied that service lines are being placed to individual properties and paving is scheduled to begin later this year.
4. CLOSED MEETING
 - a. COUNCILMAN Barber made a motion to enter into a Closed Meeting under Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(3), for the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. The purpose of which is to discuss the purchase of a right-of-way for a trail. And, under Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(4), for the protection of the privacy of individuals in personal matters not related to public business. The purpose of which is to discuss leave of absence requests by two employees. Councilman Vanhoozier seconded the motion, and Town Clerk Stipes polled Council on the motion as follows: Barber – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.
 - b. RECONVENE IN OPEN MEETING. Councilman Barber made a motion to reconvene in Open Meeting, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council voted on the motion as follows: Barber – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.
 - c. CERTIFICATION. Councilman Vanhoozier 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, seconded by Councilman Barber. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council on the motion as follows: Barber – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.
 - d. COUNCIL ACTION IN THE MATTERS – There was no action taken by Council.

TOWN MANAGER REPORTS:

PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST(S) – Town Manager Helms presented the following request and recommended setting the Public Hearing for August 7, 2012:

1. Request for an easement vacation of a portion of East Street that is on private property.

On motion by Councilman Vanhoozier, seconded by Councilman Barber, Council voted to set the Public Hearing for August 7, 2012. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

TOWN MANAGER HELMS reminded Council of the work session scheduled for July 31, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. Councilman Showalter asked that Town department heads be included in the work session.

COUNCILMAN STIPES reported that significant progress is being made with the Huckleberry Trail extension, even though there are still some delays in obtaining easement approval from landowners. Councilman Stipes asked Town Manager Helms for a brief monthly report on the progress of the trail extension to the recreation center that would include timelines, completions, delays, and any other pertinent information, suggesting this will help Council stay in tune with construction progress, and may accelerate the project. Mayor Ballengee agreed with this suggestion and recommended brief monthly reports from Town administration on the Route 114 widening project.

MAYOR BALLENGEE reported that he has received calls regarding neglected yard sale signs and recommended the ordinance officer look into this matter.

COUNCILMAN HALL reminded Council of the Cemetery Committee meeting immediately following the Council meeting.

COUNCILMAN SHOWALTER said he would like Council to consider providing some kind of support in response to Fran Hart's presentation on the annual Christiansburg Alumni Return event scheduled for the weekend of August 11, 2012. Council discussed ways to assist with this event and recommended providing an announcement banner with a changeable date. Councilman Showalter suggested Public Relations Officer Becky Wilburn contact Ms. Hart with this offer and assist in providing a suitable banner. Councilman Barber suggested offering up to five hundred dollars for a banner and assistance in placing the banner.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 PM.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

Richard G. Ballengee, Mayor