

**CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL  
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.  
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 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 OCTOBER 16, 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 Special Projects Wayne Nelson; Finance Director/Treasurer Valerie Tweedie; Police Chief Mark Sisson.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

1. A rezoning request by Quorum Holding Corporation for property located on Somerset Street, N.W. (tax parcel 435 – ((4)) – 4) from R-1 Single-Family Residential to B-3 General Business. The property contains 0.402 acres and is scheduled as Residential in the Future Land Use Map of the Christiansburg Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Trula Tuck, representative of Quorum Holding Corporation, indicated on the zoning map the area to be rezoned, noting that it is the property adjoining the former Curtis Mathis site, which has been zoned commercial for many years. Ms. Tuck reported that the rezoning request is not for specific purposes at this time, but to make the lot compatible with surrounding properties. While there are no specific development plans at this time, Quorum Holding Corporation offered proffers for future construction possibilities. A copy of the proffers is attached to these minutes. The property is currently a residential lawn and garden. Councilman Barber, noting that parking expansion was mentioned as a possibility, stated that a parking lot could be developed without rezoning the property. Ms. Tuck responded that she wants to be able to offer business potential if the property is rented out in the future. Town Manager Helms reported that the Town has received one telephone call from a resident with concerns over increased traffic and encroachment of business into R-1 Single Family Residential zoning if the request is approved.

**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 October 2, 2012. There being none, Councilman Hall 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. CHRISTIANSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT PRESENTATION:
  - a. Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission

Presenting: Gary Dillon and Sheriff Rick Adkins

Mr. Gary Dillon of the Department of Criminal Justice Services addressed Council regarding the process of (re)accreditation, and on behalf of the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission, Sheriff Rick Adkins congratulated the Christiansburg Police Department on receiving its reaccreditation status. Accreditation status is sought on a volunteer basis every four years and is a measure and confirmation of agency compliance. In order to receive reaccreditation, the Christiansburg Police Department was required to meet one hundred and eighty professional standards focusing on policy, procedures, operations, management, and support services. Mr. Dillon reported that the Christiansburg Police Department received a one hundred percent reaccreditation rating in all categories, and the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission met and voted unanimously to reaccredit the Christiansburg Police Department. Mr. Dillon congratulated the entire Police Department and acknowledged Lieutenant Tim Brown, accreditation manager, and Ms. Donna Akers for their efforts in managing the reaccreditation process for the police department. On behalf of the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission, Sheriff Adkins presented a Certificate of Accreditation to Police Chief Mark Sisson. Police Chief Sisson said he is proud of the men and

women of the Christiansburg Police Department and of the department's reaccreditation status, which will give it the ability to better serve the community. Police Chief Sisson thanked the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission for the Certificate of Accreditation, and Town Council for its support of the Police Department.

b. Governor's Transportation Safety Award for Occupant Protection

Click it or Ticket Safety Belt Usage Award

Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge

Presenting: Monty Mills- Virginia Highway Safety Office

Mr. Monty Mills of the Virginia Highway Safety Office announced that the Christiansburg Police Department has won several awards through the Chief's Challenge Program which focuses on promoting safety in vehicles through seat belts and child safety seats. Christiansburg received the highest seat belt rating award with a rating of ninety-three percent, and the occupant protection award, which was merit based through the Seat Belt Challenge Program. Christiansburg also won the Virginia Law Enforcement Challenge Award, placing first for agencies of its size. Major Dalton Reid of the Christiansburg Police Department said the agency does not seek awards but is thankful for receiving them, especially in traffic safety. The Police Department actively pursues and addresses vehicle occupant protection, and seeks ways to educate the public on this issue. Major Reid congratulated the men and women of the Christiansburg Police Department for continued diligence in protecting the citizens of Christiansburg.

c. Law Enforcement Oath of Honor for new employees

Presenting: Mark Sisson

Christiansburg Police Chief Mark Sisson presented the Oath of Office to four new members of the Christiansburg Police Department: Officer Lucas Board, Officer Rob Studabaker, Officer Thomas Burgess, and Officer Lucas Graham. Mayor Ballengee thanked Chief Sisson and the new officers for their dedicated service to the community.

2. RECREATION ADVISORY COMMISSION – INTRODUCTION OF RECENTLY APPOINTED MEMBERS.

Mr. Brad Epperley, Director of Parks and Recreation, introduced Mr. Brad Foster who was recently appointed to serve on the Recreation Advisory Commission. Mr. Foster has an extensive background in the field of sports and recreation, and is currently working to obtain his master's degree in Sports Communication at Virginia Tech. Mr. Epperley also introduced Christiansburg High School junior, Logan Atkins, who was recently appointed to serve as Student Representative on the Recreation Advisory Commission. Mayor Ballengee welcomed the two new appointees to the Recreation Advisory Commission and thanked them for their willingness to serve the Town.

3. PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS TO MS. CARMEN GRAVES, AND TO THE TEAM MEMBERS AND COACHES OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG 2012 BOYS ALL STARS BASEBALL DIVISION.

The resolutions were adopted by Council on October 2, 2012. Councilman Barber introduced Mr. Brad Epperley, Director of Parks and Recreation, who introduced the team members of the 2012 Boys All Stars in the 9 – 10 year old age division, and congratulated them on their 2012 Virginia Dixie Youth State Championship. This team also represented Virginia in the Dixie Youth Boys World Series in Florida, placing eighth out of twelve teams. During this tournament in August, Christiansburg won the Bill Harth Sportsmanship Award for displaying the best sportsmanship during the games. Mr. Epperley thanked the families of the players and coaches for their commitment and support of the team. Councilman Barber introduced the coaching staff, Mr. Mark Sisson, Mr. Tim Akers, Mr. Phillip Lytton, and Mr. Chris Acord, commending them on their leadership, sportsmanship conduct, and mentorship during the 2012 Little League and Dixie Youth Baseball season. Councilman Barber then read and presented to the ballplayers and coaches a resolution recognizing them for their outstanding accomplishments during the 2012 Dixie Youth Baseball season. A copy of the resolution is attached herewith. Mr. Mark Sisson recognized the Christiansburg Recreation Center staff that was involved with making the 2012 Little League and Dixie Youth Baseball season a success, and thanked Town Council for its continued support of youth athletics in Christiansburg. Mr. Sisson also thanked the Christiansburg families and businesses for donations that helped with the team's travel expenses.

4. Introduction of Mrs. Lisa Bleakley, Executive Director of Tourism. Mayor Ballengee introduced Mrs. Lisa Bleakley, Executive Director of Tourism, who came to Montgomery County after working seventeen years at the Virginia Beach Visitor's Bureau. Mrs. Bleakley thanked Council for the opportunity to come before them and spoke about her plans for emphasizing the tourism opportunities in the New River Valley, including ways to combine attractions from each locality to create a strong tourism market. Mrs. Bleakley gave Council a brief overview of her background, which included numerous trips over the years to Montgomery County and the New River Valley. Mrs. Bleakley said these trips gave her a visitor's perspective of the area, which will serve her well in addressing the tourism needs within Montgomery County and strengthening the overall tourism market. Mrs. Bleakley,

who has a military background, came to Montgomery County with a bachelor's degree in Business and Marketing, and a master's degree in Tourism Administration. Mrs. Bleakley said she is looking forward to working with the Town of Christiansburg, and Council thanked her for her time.

5. CITIZEN COMMENTS.

- a. There were no citizen comments.

DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. TOWN COUNCIL ACTION ON:

- a. Request to vacate the unused portion of Locust Street from Radford Street to Mahone Street. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council as follows: Barber – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozer – Aye.
2. Resolution for VDOT Revenue Sharing Program application for Fiscal Year 2013-2014. Town Manager Helms presented to Council for adoption a resolution and letter of intent to VDOT to participate in the Revenue Sharing Program for the Fiscal Year 2013 – 2014, with a request for funds up to five hundred thousand dollars for street paving. These funds must be matched by the Town. Councilman Stipes made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented, or as administratively amended by Town Manager Helms. Councilman Barber seconded the motion. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council as follows: Barber – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozer – Aye.
3. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PROPOSED COMMERCIAL ALARM REGISTRATION AND FALSE ALARM ORDINANCE. This is a carryover item from October 2, 2012. Councilman Hall made a motion to adopt the Commercial Alarm Registration and False Alarm Ordinance as amended by the Town Attorneys, seconded by Councilman Barber. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council as follows: Barber – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozer – Aye.
4. Discussion regarding cost recoveries from DUI and reckless driving tickets. This discussion is continued from October 2, 2012. Councilman Hall reviewed Council's discussion on October 2, 2012 regarding cost recoveries from DUI and reckless driving tickets, voicing his support of a fixed fee policy. Councilman Hall said the Town needs clear guidelines on when it can impose cost recovery fees and he asked the Town Attorney's to review State Code and provide that information to Council. Councilman Hall noted that locality authorization to recover fees from certain traffic violations was brought to his attention by Police Chief Sisson. Council asked Town Attorney Guynn to review the State Code pertaining to this matter and advise them on drafting an appropriate policy.

5. MR. STIPES AND MR. VANHOOZIER – STREET COMMITTEE REPORT/RECOMMENDATION ON:

- a. Speed limit reduction on Cambria Street, N.E. Councilman Stipes reported that the Street Committee has met twice to review the traffic concerns along Cambria Street and adjoining streets and is recommending that the speed limit on Cambria Street be reduced from forty-five miles per hour to thirty-five miles per hour, and to prohibit the use of jake brakes along Cambria Street from Central Avenue to Montgomery Street, and on Block Lane and Yellow Sulpher Road. Town engineers will add signage to be alert for commercial traffic in the area of Chandler Concrete. Temporary flagging for speed reduction notification will be placed on Cambria Street. Council voted on these recommendations as follows:
  - (1) Councilman Barber made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Street Committee to reduce the speed limit along Cambria Street from forty-five miles per hour to thirty-five miles per hour, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council as follows: Barber – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozer – Aye.
  - (2) Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Street Committee to prohibit the use of jake brakes along Cambria Street from Central Avenue to Montgomery Street, and on Block Lane and Yellow Sulpher Road, seconded by Councilman Barber. Town Clerk Stipes polled Council as follows: Barber – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozer – Aye.
  - (3) Councilman Barber made a motion to approve the recommendation of the Street Committee to add signage to be alert for commercial traffic in the area of Chandler Concrete, and to place temporary flagging for speed reduction notification on Cambria Street, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

COUNCILMAN STIPES reported that the Street Committee will provide Council with an update on the analysis of the traffic signal study at N. Franklin Street and Patricks Way within sixty days of completion of the new Waffle House.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

TOWN MANAGER HELMS reported that the Town's Engineering Department and Public Works Department have been separated into individual departments. Mr. Wayne Nelson is now Director of Engineering and Special Projects, and Mr. Ricky Bourne is Director of Public Works. Town Manager Helms stated that the action is intended to streamline the departments and that Mr. Bourne is well trained to lead the Public Works Department.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

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Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

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Richard G. Ballengee, Mayor