

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 19, 2013 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 FEBRUARY 19, 2013 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. ABSENT: None.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Barry Helms; Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield, Town Clerk Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Theresa Fontana; Planning Director Nichole Hair; Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Council's intent to adopt an ordinance to enact Section 2-6, Submission Requirements, of Article I, Chapter 2, "Administration", of the *Christiansburg Town Code*, providing requirements for submission of applications for a special exception, Conditional Use Permit, variance, rezoning Zoning Ordinance modification, conditional zoning, site plan review, subdivision plat review or a land disturbing permit, including building permits and erosion and sediment control permits. Mayor Ballengee explained that this ordinance would enact the requirement that all Town taxes and fees must be paid in full before approval would be given to applicants seeking special exception, Conditional Use Permit, variance, rezoning Zoning Ordinance modification, conditional zoning, site plan review, subdivision plat review or a land disturbing permit, including building permits and erosion and sediment control permits. There were no comments for or against this matter.
2. Council's intent to adopt an ordinance amending Chapter 24, "Solid Waste, Weeds, Tree Trimmings, Leaves", of the *Christiansburg Town Code* in regards to the definition of "grass or weeds". Town Manager Helms reported that the amendment would allow conservation areas in Town to grow naturally, as is often the requirement. Currently, there is one conservation area in Town that must be maintained to comply with Chapter 24 of the *Town Code*. There were no comments for or against this matter.
3. Council's intent to adopt the Blacksburg-Christiansburg-VPI Water Authority Joinder Agreement. Mr. Scott Blankenship, the facility director at Carilion NRV Medical Center, 2900 Lamb Circle, and resident of 215 Tula Circle, addressed Council on behalf of himself and Carilion NRV Medical Center in support of the Joinder Agreement. The Carilion NRV Medical Center water supply is currently provided through a single water line served by the Montgomery County PSA through Radford, with water storage tanks on site to provide supplemental water. Allowing Montgomery County to join the water authority would provide a redundant feed to Christiansburg and would provide a second water supply from a second source providing for consistent, reliable water flow. Approving the Joinder Agreement would be in the best interest of Carilion NRV Medical Center and would be an example of multijurisdictional cooperation, providing for a regional approach to providing water to the New River Valley.

Ms. Ferne Moschella, President and CEO of Warm Hearth Village in Blacksburg, and Christiansburg resident, addressed Council on behalf of Warm Hearth in support of approving the Joinder Agreement. Ms. Moschella thanked Mr. Chip Whorley of Anderson & Associates for assisting her in her presentation. Warm Hearth Village is located at the end of the Blacksburg water line and continually struggles with marginal water pressure. An extension of an eight inch water line that would serve the facility has been identified as a high priority in the Joinder Agreement and Ms. Moschella spoke to the beneficial impact this action would have on the facility. The extension would create a redundant water source to the facility, boosting the water pressure and the reliability of water service. Ms. Moschella asked Council to approve the Joinder Agreement, thereby allowing the facility to better serve the needs of the Warm Hearth community. Mr. Whorley noted that Anderson & Associates has provided work on the water systems at Carilion NRV Medical Center and at Warm Hearth Village, but has not been involved with the joinder study.

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 5, 2013. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

I. CITIZEN HEARINGS:

1. PRESENTATION BY RICHARD ARRINGTON FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES FOR RECERTIFICATION OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A CERTIFIED CRIME PREVENTION COMMUNITY. Mr. Richard Arrington explained what it means for the Police Department to be certified as a crime prevention community, and how the certification benefits the community and Police Department, specifically with advantages in obtaining grant funding. Mr. Arrington said the process to become certified is extensive, and the Police Department's recertification is indicative of the department's commitment to fully serving the community. Mr. Arrington stated that the certification review committee was impressed by the community focus of the Police Department. Mr. Arrington then presented Police Chief Sisson with a certificate acknowledging the Police Department's recertification as a crime prevention community. Police Chief Sisson thanked Mr. Arrington for the recognition. Chief Sisson then thanked Mayor Ballengee and Town Council for providing the means and staff necessary to obtain certifications that allow the Police Department to fully serve the community. Chief Sisson then thanked Sergeant Phillip Townley, and Officer Gary Fields, for their dedicated efforts in securing this certification. Mayor Ballengee thanked the Police Department for its efforts to secure this recertification, and reaccreditation.
2. MR. BOB LEONARD OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG INSTITUTE TO ADDRESS COUNCIL REGARDING FUTURE PLANS FOR THE INSTITUTE. Mr. Bob Leonard thanked Council for the opportunity to speak, then introduced Ms. Davina Irvin who presented Christiansburg Institute's (CI) vision for the future. CI is a historic community asset, one that is a vital link to community engagement and development. The purpose of CI is to build a stronger community and to celebrate local heritage throughout the year. Long-term focus of CI is ongoing seasonal events, local support, and quality of life. The alumni association is the primary collaborator, but the institute plans to partner with many local businesses and organizations in promoting future events at the historic site. In preparing for opening the site for festivals and celebration events, CI wants to develop four acres of its property, grading the land for outdoor recreation, and creating a space that would accommodate outdoor events. Ms. Irvin said that CI is requesting that Christiansburg partner with them in developing the land into a usable asset that would benefit the community as a whole. The first planned event is a reunion picnic the weekend of July 4th. Ms. Irvin offered to answer questions of Council.

Mr. Leonard provided Council with an update on the initiatives at CI. The institute has been working with the history department at Virginia Tech to develop a pamphlet on the history of the Edgar J. Long building, which is now part of the fifth grade curriculum at all Montgomery County schools. A men's cooking event has expanded over the years to become a highly anticipated multicultural program, drawing in many participants from the community. Long-term vision is to turn the cooking event into a broader multicultural festival, focusing on tourism growth, diversity, and historic preservation. Mr. Leonard said he appreciates the support of Christiansburg, which is integral to the success of CI, and requested that Christiansburg partner with CI through funding contributions, and in-kind services to grade the campus and remove a structure located on the property. Mayor Ballengee noted that the Town previously agreed to provide a water and sewer service connection to the Edgar J. Long Building when needed.

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS. There were no citizen comments.

II. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. COUNCIL ACTION ON:

- a. A proposed ordinance in regards to revenue recovery for rescue squad services. The Public Hearing was held January 15, 2013. Town Manager Helms reported that one change had been made to the document and that change was to the first sentence of Section 23-8, which would allow implementation of fees once the rates are adopted by Council. Councilman Hall made a motion to adopt the ordinance with the amendment as noted by Town Manager Helms. Councilman Barber seconded the motion and Council was polled as follows: Barber – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye. Councilman Hall expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Captain Joe Coyle and Assistant to the Town Manager Carpenetti in drafting the document. Council also expressed appreciation to Captain Coyle for his efforts in educating the public as to the importance of this ordinance.

2. RESOLUTION TO VDOT REQUESTING ANNUAL STREET MAINTENANCE PAYMENTS FOR NEW STREETS - Town Manager Helms presented Council with a resolution requesting VDOT add nine additional streets to the Town's Collector/Local Streets system for annual maintenance payments in accordance with Section 33.1-41.1 of the Code of Virginia, 1987 Amendment. The streets total 3.051 lane miles. A copy of the resolution is attached and made a part of these minutes. On motion by Councilman Stipes, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier, Council voted to approve the resolution to VDOT requesting annual street maintenance payments for nine new streets as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.
3. APPOINTMENT TO THE NEW RIVER VALLEY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS REGIONAL AUTHORITY. Town Manager Barry Helms' term expired December 31, 2012. The appointment would be for a term of four years, and Town Manager Helms has agreed to continue serving in this capacity. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to reappoint Town Manager Helms to serve a term of four years on the New River Valley Emergency Communications Regional Authority, effective January 1, 2013. Councilman Barber seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.
4. MR. STIPES AND MR. VANHOOZIER – STREET COMMITTEE REPORT/RECOMMENDATION ON:
 - a. A request to vacate an unbuilt 15-foot wide alley extending from Montague Street to Park Street. This matter was deferred to the Street Committee during the Public Hearing on February 5, 2013. Councilman Stipes explained the request to abandon a 15-foot alleyway parallel to Junkin Street. The Town has received one letter of opposition from Mr. Steve Robinson, owner of 305 East Main Street; however, the applicant has a valid reason for requesting the vacation and the Street Committee, after reviewing the matter, has found it appropriate to recommend approving the request. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve the request, recognizing that approval would require one property owner to vacate a lot line to provide access to his property, and the property owner has agreed to make that request. Councilman Stipes seconded the motion and Council was polled on the motion as follows: Barber – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.
 - b. Downtown parking during the operation of the Christmas Store. Councilman Showalter brought this request to council on behalf of downtown business owners concerned with parking downtown during Christmas store hours. Town Manager Helms and Assistant Town Manager Wingfield met with the Street Committee to discuss this matter. It is the recommendation of the Street Committee that individuals adhere to the current three hour parking limit in the downtown area, and to request that Police Chief Sisson increase enforcement of time limit compliance during the Christmas Store's hours of operation. Further, it is the recommendation of the Street Committee that Town Manager Helms contact the organizers of the Christmas Store to request that they provide signs and notices encouraging customers, staff, and volunteers to not park along Main Street. Councilman Hall recommended Town Manager Helms send a letter to the organizers of the Christmas Store informing them of Council's concerns, and the recommendations of the Street Committee.
 - c. Boundary Line Relocation of the Main Street Baptist Church Properties; 1 lot; 106 W. Main St. Councilman Stipes explained the boundary line relocation request that is in conformance with the subdivision ordinance, noting that the request is to tidy up the lot, which is an abandoned alleyway vacated by the Town in 1994. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.
 - d. Relocation/Vacation of Lot Lines of Tax Map #s 498-((7))-10A, 498-((7))-11 & 499-((A))-10; creating 3 lots; Roanoke Street. Councilman Stipes reported that this request is a simple relocation of property lines between three lots in the area of Hungate and Stone Streets. Town staff has reviewed the request, and the Street Committee has found it conforms to the subdivision ordinance. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.
 - e. Plat Showing Subdivision of Tax Parcel 499-((3))-1; creating 6 lots; Fisher Street N.E. This request is being reviewed by Town staff and will not be presented by the Street Committee at this time.

III. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS:

PROGRESS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- The Montgomery County Board of Supervisors has requested a joint meeting to be held on May 20, 2013 at

6:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting is to provide an opportunity for elected officials of each body to get to know one other, and there will be no business to discuss at the meeting.

- Building Official Jerry Heinline reported that three blighted properties had been razed in 2012. Councilman Showalter inquired about the building codes used by the Town.
- The New River Valley Agency on Aging will hold a caregiver conference and resource fair on March 16, 2013 at 8:00 A.M.
- Town-wide storm damage pickup will end Friday, February 22, 2013.
- The Solid Waste Authority met last week and discussed the feasibility of changing to single stream recycling, which means that all recyclables would be placed in one container to be sorted on site. A review of this matter is continuing.
- Mayor Ballengee is organizing a meeting date for this Thursday or Friday regarding the Falling Branch Elementary School concerns and will let Council know of the date and time once it is scheduled.

COMMENTS BY COUNCIL:

- Councilman Showalter expressed his appreciation for Council's support in meeting on February 15th to discuss the concerns regarding Falling Branch Elementary School. Also, he asked that Council be provided a cost estimate on providing in-kind services as requested by Christiansburg Institute (CI). Councilman Showalter expressed his support for CI, but said Council must consider the budget impact in providing Town crews to perform the in-kind services.
- Council requested that Mayor Ballengee schedule a work session to further discuss the Joinder Agreement before action is taken by Council. Mayor Ballengee will schedule the work session in March.
- A Special Meeting was set for March 4, 2013 at 6:40 P.M. for the purpose of interviewing a Planning Commission applicant in Closed Meeting under Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), for the discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body.
- Mayor Ballengee reported that he received a nomination form from The Virginia Department of Historic Resources, for the Christiansburg Historic District, requesting comments and remarks on the history of downtown Christiansburg. Mayor Ballengee said he will provide comments on the Christiansburg Institute, Christiansburg's status as "Home of Heros" due to the Town's connection with Davy Crockett and Daniel Boone, and Christiansburg's recognition as a "Gateway to the great West" through the Cumberland Gap.
- Mayor Ballengee reported that the NRPVDC requires representation by an elected official and asked that Council consider a nominee to be appointed at the March 5, 2013 Council meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

Richard G. Ballengee, Mayor