

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
MINUTES OF MARCH 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 MARCH 5, 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 Jim Guynn; Planning Director Nichole Hair; Assistant to the Town Manager Adam Carpenetti; Director of Engineering Wayne Nelson; Finance Director/Treasurer Val Tweedie; Aquatics Director Terry Caldwell; Police Chief Mark Sisson.

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 February 5, 2013. 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.

I. CITIZEN'S HEARING:

1. Citizen Comments:

- a. Mr. Samuel Bower, Alleghany Street, commended Council on its recent decision to acquire acreage (Truman Wilson property) for the future development of a Town park, thanking them for looking ahead to the future. In noting Council's intent to form a Cemetery Advisory Committee, Mr. Bower recommended that the Town consider including in the 2013-2014 Budget maintenance and upkeep of the Kyle Cemetery. Kyle Cemetery is located within Town limits and is co-owned by the Town and Montgomery County.
- b. Mr. Patrick Saunders, Majestic Drive, thanked Council for its efforts in traffic speed control by placing stop signs in problematic areas. According to Mr. Saunders, the stop signs have not been as effective as he had anticipated because many motorists are running the stop signs or speeding between the signs. He requested that the Town reconsider placement of the signs. Mr. Saunders also reported that the weight limit signs along Majestic Drive have not deterred concrete trucks from using the prohibited street.

II. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

1. TOWN COUNCIL ACTION ON:

- a. Conditional Use Permit request by Cary W. Hopper for residential use at 970 Radford Street (tax parcel 525 – ((A)) – 20) in the B-3 General Business District. The Public Hearing was held March 5, 2013. Councilman Stipes made a motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to issue the CUP as requested. Councilman Vanhoozier 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. Proposed revisions to Chapter 17, "Offenses—Miscellaneous", of the *Christiansburg Town Code* in regards to urban archery (Councilman Stipes). Councilman Hall made a motion to adopt the proposed revisions to Chapter 17 "Offenses-Miscellaneous", of the *Christiansburg Town Code*, as presented with one typographical change as noted by Attorney Guynn, which was to change the wording in one place in the document from "firearm" to "bow". Councilman Vanhoozier seconded the motion and Council was polled on the motion as follows: Barber – Aye; Hall – Aye;

Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.

2. APPOINTMENT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION. Mayor Ballengee reported that this matter would be postponed pending the return of the interviewee's background check.

3. DISCUSSION REGARDING ESTIMATED COSTS TO REMOVE AN EXISTING BUILDING AND GRADE AT THE CHRISTIANSBURG INSTITUTE PROPERTY. Town Manager Helms provided Council with a time and material cost estimate to remove an existing building and provide grading at Christiansburg Institute (CI), as requested by representatives of CI at the March 5, 2013 Council meeting. The overall cost of \$7,565.18 would be in addition to the \$10,000 budget request for 2013-2014. Councilman Vanhoozier referred to past discussions concerning land usage at CI and asked if consideration would be given to providing space for a farmer's market or Town use multi-purpose fields. Councilman Huppert requested that any intent to provide space for Town use be submitted in writing before action is taken by Council concerning the in-kind contributions. Councilman Vanhoozier voiced his support for CI but said he would like to consider all requests by CI during the future budget work sessions, without an immediate commitment. Councilman Stipes commented that any delay in action by Council could delay site preparation and impact CI's ability to use the land for planned summer events. Town Manager Helms said that Public Works crews would be able to provide the requested work in a timely manner without incurring overtime hours. For safety purposes, Mayor Ballengee encouraged Council to consider authorizing the site grading and removal of the existing building without delay. Councilman Barber made a motion to authorize the in-kind contribution of site grading and removal of an existing building on the CI property, as requested, at an estimated cost of \$7,565.18, which is in addition to the 2013-2014 budget request of \$10,000, with CI agreeing to provide space for a farmer's market and possibly other Town uses. CI would only provide the space for a farmer's market and would not be responsible for organizing or operating the market. Town Manager Helms noted that a Conditional Use Permit would be required for a farmer's market to be held on the CI property. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Barber – Aye; Hall – Aye; Huppert – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.

4. Taxi cab license renewal applications. Town Manager Helms presented to Council for approval annual taxi cab license renewal applications for Robert J. Vaughn, Irene Vaughn, Bonnie E. East, Rita D. Bradbury, and Crystal Slusser-Davidson. The Police Department has investigated the applicants and recommends approval. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve the license renewals, seconded by Councilman Barber. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

5. MR. HALL AND MR. HUPPERT - CEMETERY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION/REPORT ON:
 - a. Appointees to the Cemetery Advisory Committee. Councilman Hall presented the recommendations of the Cemetery Committee regarding the parameters for establishing a Cemetery Advisory Committee. The Cemetery Advisory Committee would include no more than six voting, at-large members. The committee would also include two, non-voting members: The cemetery manager, who would act as secretary and keep brief minutes, and representation from the death care industry. Members must be residents of Christiansburg or own plots in, or have family buried in, Sunset Cemetery. The committee would include one liaison from Christiansburg Town Council. Terms would be for three years; the first appointees would be for one, two, or three year terms in order to stagger the terms. The committee would be advisory only and would meet quarterly, or as needed. The cemetery advisory committee would work in conjunction with any cemetery in Town, that the Town has ownership in, not just Sunset Cemetery. Councilman Hall reported that the application process has been done twice with a good response both times. Council discussed the impact the advisory committee could have on other Town owned cemeteries, including the co-owned Kyle Cemetery that is currently in disrepair. Town Manager Helms agreed to provide Council with a list of all cemeteries located within Town limits, noting those owned by the Town. Councilman Hall made a motion to accept the recommendations of the Cemetery Committee to establish a Cemetery Advisory Committee using the parameters offered, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

III. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS

1. PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST(S) – Town Manager Helms presented the following request and recommended setting the Public Hearing for April 16, 2013:

1. Rezoning request by the Loyal Order of Moose, Farmview Drive, I-2 General Industrial District to B-3 General Business District.

On motion by Councilman Barber, seconded by Councilman Hall, Council voted to set the Public Hearing for April 16, 2013. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Barber, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

2. PROGRESS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Town Manager Helms provided Council with a Huckleberry Trail progress report that included a copy of the Route 114 trail bridge design and rendering. The Route 114 widening project is on schedule with utility work nearing completion. Town Manager Helms anticipates advertising for the Huckleberry Trail phases IIA and IIB within three to four weeks.
- b. The engineering department has been working with the Metropolitan Planning Organization on a traffic study of the North Franklin Street corridor from Independence Boulevard to Cambria Street. This matter will be placed on the agenda for the next MPO meeting.
- c. A work session of Council to discuss the proposed joinder study has been scheduled for March 26, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.
- d. A work session of Council to discuss the 2013-2014 annual budget has been scheduled for April 9, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.
- e. Councilman Hall nominated Councilman Vanhoozier to serve as representative on the New River Valley Planning District Commission. Councilman Vanhoozier agreed to serve in this capacity with Mayor Ballengee serving as alternate.
- f. Councilman Huppert mentioned the recent diving championship held at the Christiansburg Aquatic Center and the swim meet scheduled for the coming weekend in which thirteen hundred participants are expected.
- g. Councilman Showalter reported on the recent tourism strategic planning meeting, which was well attended by Christiansburg representation. A tourism update will be presented by Lisa Bleakley, Executive Director of Tourism, at the April 16, 2013 Town Council meeting.
- h. Mayor Ballengee thanked Councilman Showalter for recent updates to the Christiansburg map. The map was initially created by Councilman Showalter and his wife for use during the 2010 Dixie Youth World Series, and has been utilized throughout Town since then.
- i. Councilman Barber reported on the recent community service day held by Ignite Academy located on the formerly Life East campus. Fifty-six students provided four hours of work at the Kiwanis Park; their efforts were highly commended by Brad Epperely, Director of Parks and Recreation. Councilman Barber recommended offering cemetery maintenance to the students as community service opportunities. Councilman Barber mentioned a proposal for digital signage from Ballpark Signs offered to the Christiansburg Aquatic Center for consideration of use.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

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

Michele M. Stipes, Clerk of Council

Richard G. Ballengee, Mayor