

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 11, 2014 - 7:00 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 11, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor D. Michael Barber; Vice-Mayor James W. Vanhoozier; Samuel M. Bishop; R. Cord Hall; Henry D. Showalter; Bradford J. Stipes. ABSENT: Steve Huppert.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Theresa Fontana; Human Resource Director/Public Relations Officer Becky Wilburn; Police Chief Mark Sisson. ABSENT: Town Manager Barry Helms.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Council's intention to adopt a resolution in regards to parking fines. Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield explained the parking fine increases as presented in the resolution and attached herewith. No comments were received from the public in regards to this Public Hearing.

REGULAR MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER:

MAYOR BARBER called the regular meeting of Council to order. The minutes of January 21, 2014 were adopted by Council during the special meeting on February 4, 2014. The minutes of the special meeting of February 4, 2014 will be voted on by Council on February 25, 2014.

II. CITIZEN'S HEARING:

1. Law Enforcement Oath of Honor for new Police Department employees and introduction to Council. Chief Sisson presented the Oath of Office to three new members of the Christiansburg Police Office: Part-time Parking Enforcement Officer David Hanks, Patrol Officer Toni Dabney, and Timothy Lusk who is in basic training for patrol. Mayor Barber thanked Chief Sisson and welcomed the new officers on behalf of Council.
2. Sue Farrar, Director of the Montgomery Museum & Lewis Miller Regional Art Center, to address Council. Ms. Farrar thanked Council for its continued support and gift of roof replacement for the museum. The museum is actively engaged in fundraising efforts and activities for the community outreach. A family donation to the museum and the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library has been used to establish the Mary Ann Hinshelwood endowment. Ms. Farrar reported that the museum is requesting an increase in the Town's contribution to be used to increase the pay of Sherry Wyatt, who has a master's degree but works for the museum at minimum wage. Ms. Farrar, on behalf of the Montgomery Museum & Lewis Regional Art Center, presented Council with the gift of prints of the oldest and next oldest courthouse buildings for display. Mayor Barber accepted the gift on behalf of Council.
3. Citizen Comments.
 - a. There were no citizen comments; however, Councilman Hall took the opportunity to inquire of Police Chief Sisson information regarding a police situation that occurred recently at the park and ride located near Falling Branch Elementary School. Councilman Hall has received telephone calls from citizens seeking information on this matter and he has no information to offer. Police Chief Sisson reported that federal agents served a felony warrant on a passenger of the Megabus when it stopped at the park and ride. Christiansburg Police Department and the Montgomery County Sheriff's office received a five minute warning that the situation was going to occur, and if it had been the Town's operation, it would not have occurred at that location. After the warrant was served, Chief

Sisson contacted school administration to communicate the incident and to assure them there were no threats to the school. Chief Sisson reported that he is working with state and federal agencies to develop better communication to ensure this type of situation does not occur in the future.

Councilman Hall made a motion to amend the agenda to include council discussion and action on the resolution to increase parking fines as proposed during the Public Hearing. Councilman Vanhoozier seconded the motion and Council voted as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None. Mayor Barber placed this matter as Item #2 under III. Discussions by Mayor and Council Members.

III. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement with Montgomery County. Councilman Hall made a motion to adopt the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement with Montgomery County, as presented, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye. Chief Sisson will provide the Montgomery County Board of Supervisors with a copy of the approved, signed document.
2. A Resolution Adopting Fines for Certain Parking Violations and Providing for an Effective Date. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented, seconded by Councilman Hall. At Councilman Bishop's request for clarification as to why the fees were increasing, Assistant Town Manager Wingfield reported that the increases bring the fines to a level comparable to surrounding localities, and the fire hydrant violation fee in line with fire lane violations. The increases were determined through a study with assistance from the Police Department. Council was polled on the motion as follows: Bishop – Aye; Hall – Aye; Showalter – Aye; Stipes – Aye; Vanhoozier – Aye.
3. Letter to Virginia concerning proposed training requirements for emergency medical technicians. Assistant Town Manager Wingfield noted that each Council member received a copy of a draft letter outlining Christiansburg's opposition to Virginia House Bill 1010 that would reduce the training requirements for emergency medical technicians. If the bill is approved, the new law could affect the Town's ability to recover costs for ambulance transport, and it risks establishing Virginia educational standards below the accepted national level, among other concerns. Councilman Hall expressed concern with EMS reporting under the new guidelines and Attorney Fontana said she has researched this matter, but is not prepared to make a final determination at this point. Councilman Vanhoozier stated his understanding that the bill allows, but does not mandate, a downgrade in requirements, which means the Town could choose to continue with its current training requirements. Councilman Hall stated and Mr. Wingfield confirmed that this would not be the case as the proposed change would limit localities to require no more than the proposed instruction levels. Councilman Hall requested an opinion from the Town Attorney and recommended that the letter include concerns that the Town's ability to perform billing practice could be undermined by the proposed bill. Council determined that the letter to the state should be emailed immediately due to time restrictions, and that amendments be made to the letter once a determination is provided by the Town Attorney.
4. Resolutions commending and celebrating the artistic achievements and contributions of Rickie Simpkins and Ronnie Simpkins. Councilman Stipes made a motion to adopt the resolutions, seconded by Councilman Showalter. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None. Mayor Barber will present the resolutions to the brothers at a performance of the Crooked Road at the P. Buckley Moss Arts Center building at Virginia Tech in March. A copy of both resolutions is attached herewith.
5. **MR. STIPES AND MR. VANHOOZIER – STREET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS ON:**
 - a. Plat Showing 0.310Ac. Total Property of Connie L. Wallace and Sandra L. Price; creating 2 lots; located on Ellett Road, N.E. Councilman Stipes reported that this request is to subdivide an existing duplex into two properties for individual sale. The plat conforms with the subdivision ordinance and Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.
 - b. Parking along East Main Street. Councilman Stipes reported that the Street Committee, with assistance from the Police Department, has studied the three hour parking limit along Main Street from North Franklin Street to Roanoke Street in response to letters of concern from local business owners. The Street Committee determined that reducing the parking limit in this area would benefit the businesses by encouraging customer traffic and opening up parking spaces more frequently. It is the recommendation of the Street Committee that the parking time limit be reduced to one hour for eight specific parking spaces located between the Courthouse and the Town

Hall parking lot and to revisit the matter if the recommendation does not provide parking relief. Councilman Stipes made a motion to approve the Street Committee recommendation, seconded by Councilman Vanhoozier. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None. Mayor Barber recommended that the reduced time limit and increased parking fine fees be adequately posted along Main Street.

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1. PUBLIC HEARING REQUEST: Assistant Town Manager Wingfield presented the requests and recommended setting the Public Hearings as indicated:

March 11, 2014

- a. Amendment to the solid waste ordinance regarding waste collection.

March 25, 2014

- a. Rezoning request for 205 Robert Street, B-3 General Business zoning district to R-2 Two-Family Residential zoning district.

On motion by Councilman Vanhoozier, seconded by Councilman Hall, Council voted to set the Public Hearings as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

2. PROGRESS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Assistant Town Manager Randy Wingfield reported that VDOT remains focused on relocating the park and ride that is currently located near Falling Branch Elementary School and Delegate Nick Rush is pushing the matter in Richmond.
- Councilman Vanhoozier provided Council with an update from the VML Legislative Day, attended by Councilman Huppert, Town Manager Helms, Assistant Town Manager Wingfield, and himself. The group focused on matters that affect Christiansburg and they provided recommendations to the representatives. Senator Smith and Delegate Yost joined them for dinner. The tourism bills brought before Council earlier this month, died. The Senate approved an unfunded mandate that each school train staff to assist with student diabetic pumps.
- Mayor Barber reported that he had a conversation with Becky Wilburn, Director of Human Resources/Public Information Officer, who had requested that Council consider holding a work session to discuss the employee compensation study, earlier than the scheduled March 11, 2014, in order to expedite implementation of a new compensation plan. The consultant who prepared the study presented his findings to Council on February 4, 2014. At that time Council had concerns that the findings were not based on the original criteria set by Council and established in the Town's contract with the consultant. After discussing the request for a more immediate work session, Council expressed an interest in obtaining additional information from the consultant with results that are based on Council's initial request.
- Councilman Showalter provided an update from the Board of Supervisors' meeting on February 10, 2014. Several citizens expressed continued concern with the location of the park and ride near the Falling Branch Elementary School, urging board members to make resolution of this situation a priority. Sheriff Whitt provided the board members with an update of the police incident that occurred at the park and ride, stressing the importance of relocating the park and ride because it is used as a commercial bus station, which poses a threat to the nearby school. The Board of Supervisors also discussed the proposed location of Phase III of the Huckleberry Trail, which is near Christiansburg High School. Council will discuss this matter in detail at a future Council meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.