

CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL
CHRISTIANSBURG, MONTGOMERY CO., VA.
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 4, 2014 – 6:00 P.M.

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN COUNCIL, MONTGOMERY COUNTY, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA. WAS HELD AT CHRISTIANSBURG TOWN HALL, 100 EAST MAIN STREET, CHRISTIANSBURG, VA, ON FEBRUARY 4, 2014 AT 6:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor D. Michael Barber; Vice-Mayor James W. Vanhoozier; Samuel M. Bishop; R. Cord Hall; Steve Huppert; Henry D. Showalter; Bradford J. Stipes. ABSENT: None.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Town Manager Barry Helms; Clerk of Council Michele Stipes; Town Attorney Theresa Fontana; Police Chief Mark Sisson; Director of Engineering and Special Projects Wayne Nelson; Director of Parks and Recreation Brad Epperley; Environmental Program Manager John Burke.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

SPECIAL MEETING

I. CALL TO ORDER:

MAYOR BARBER called the special meeting of Council to order and asked if there were any additions or corrections to the regular meeting minutes of January 21, 2014. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by Councilman Huppert. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

II. CITIZEN'S HEARING:

1. CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

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

Wayne Nelson, Director of Engineering and Special Projects, introduced to Council John Burke, who was recently hired to serve as the Town's Environmental Program Manager. Mr. Burke will manage the Town's storm water maintenance program, including the Diamond Hill Park Stream Restoration, and future DEQ projects. Mr. Burke came to the Town from Gay and Neel, Inc.

III. DISCUSSIONS BY MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS:

1. COUNCIL ACTION ON:

- a. Discussion and action on response to State Senate Bill Number 243 and House Bill Number 366. Councilman Showalter reported that the New River Planning District Commission was responsible for bringing these bills to his attention, and Lisa Bleakley, Executive Director of Tourism, provided a question and answer sheet explaining the content and purpose of the bills. If approved, the two identical bills would designate the Blue Ridge Highlands region to consist of the cities of Bristol, Galax, Radford, Roanoke, and Salem, and the counties of Bland, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Roanoke, Smyth, Washington, and Wythe, which would increase the tourism impact to each locality, but would have the greatest impact on Roanoke, which is currently included in the Shenandoah region of the state. This action, while potentially beneficial to the Town, should hold no immediate impact for Montgomery County or the towns of Christiansburg or Blacksburg. No Council action is required. Council expressed general support for the bills and Councilman Vanhoozier recommended that those who are attending the VML Legislative Day on Thursday discuss the matter with the Town's delegates before further discussing as a Council.

2. COUNCILMAN HUPPERT requested that Council reconsider its vote against support for the Industrial Hemp Farming Act, offering to re-word the resolution in a manner that could be supported by Council. Council briefly discussed the request and concluded that there was not enough interest to warrant revising the resolution for reconsideration.

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORTS:

1. **MONTHLY BILLS:** In response to Councilman Huppert's concern expressed on January 7, 2014, Councilman Vanhoozier reported that the aquatic center is currently researching the feasibility of laundering towels on-site to reduce monthly operational costs; Councilman Vanhoozier will continue to provide updates on this matter as needed. Councilman Vanhoozier made a motion to approve the monthly bills to be paid on February 10, 2014 in the amount of \$2,293,855.03, seconded by Councilman Stipes. Council voted on the motion as follows: AYES: Bishop, Hall, Huppert, Showalter, Stipes, Vanhoozier. NAYS: None.

2. PROGRESS REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Town Manager Helms explained duct work maintenance and repair that are underway at the aquatic center. A portion of the leisure pool has been closed as a precaution during the repair, but there is no immediate danger to the public.
- Town Manager Helms reported that the Montgomery County Economic Development Office continues to maintain contact with the owner of Market Place in its commitment to revitalize the largely vacant shopping center. Poor access into the shopping center has deterred interest in the site. Council discussed ideas for improving the intersection of North Franklin and Shopper's Way, which would create ample access into the shopping center.
- At Councilman Hall's request, Council rescheduled the discussion regarding property for a Farmer's Market for the March 11, 2014 Council meeting.
- Mayor Barber presented the Committees of Council as follows, reporting that the Cemetery Committee has been designated an ad hoc committee:
 - Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste Committee – Showalter and Hall
 - Street Committee – Stipes and Vanhoozier
 - Finance Committee – Vanhoozier and Stipes
 - Fire and Rescue Committee – Bishop and Huppert
 - Public Health and Welfare Committee – Ad hoc
 - Central Business District Committee – Showalter and Bishop
 - Cemetery Committee – Ad hoc
 - Council on Human Relations Committee – Ad hoc
- Council has expressed the need for protocol to guide Council conduct and meetings, and Mayor Barber asked that Council members provide him with their thoughts as to specific areas of need and any suggestions. Council plans to discuss this matter, along with the Vision 2020, at a future Council retreat.
- Council discussed membership on the Planning Commission, expressing interest in opening membership up to the public with expiring terms. Council requested that the Planning Director provide to Council information concerning attendance and representation for each member who seeks reappointment. Councilman Showalter recommended Council take this approach for all Christiansburg represented committees and commissions.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to bring before Council, the special meeting was adjourned at 6:52 P.M. and Council entered into a work session to discuss the employee compensation study presented by consultant Chip King of the Archer Company.