

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,  
NOVEMBER 13, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER,  
CREWE, VIRGINIA**

Present: Mayor Greg Eanes, Council Members Aaron Reed, Bill Faas, Anne Stinson, Robbie Knight, Billy Abel, & Phil Miskovic

Absent: Steve Sisk

Also Present: Town Manager W. Wade Walker & Town Attorney Tessie Bacon

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Eanes with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Eanes then opened the meeting with a public hearing for the purpose of hearing comment on proposed changes to in town and out of town business water rates.

***Hearing no comments, Mayor Eanes asked for a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Mr. Abel. Public hearing closed by unanimous vote.***

**DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Anna Williams residing on Maryland Avenue ask what the decision was on the town allowing chickens. Mayor Eanes responded that no decision has been made and that the issue had been tabled for now.

Judith Long residing on California Avenue stated that the people on her street think that allowing chickens is not a good idea. She felt that maybe in some parts of town it could be acceptable but not in her neighborhood.

Ms. Williams further commented on the issue of allowing chickens.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

***Motion made by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Reed, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with the bill sheet and additions totaling \$145,436.86. Motion passed.***

**MANAGERS REPORT**

Town Manager Walker stated in dealing with the obstructions at the airport, the town had a survey completed by Timberlake that has now identified 45 trees that need to be either topped or removed in order to comply with federal regulations allowing night landings and take offs from our runway 15. We discussed changing Runway 15 to daytime use only which would still require 20 some trees to be removed. We are currently negotiating with the owners of these trees to have them removed and pay them a reasonable price per tree.

We are offering a range from \$350 to \$250 per tree depending on the size. One land owner has indicated they are willing to allow us to remove the trees and we are negotiating with two other owners at this point. We may have to operate on an extended license until we can resolve this matter.

Manager Walker Informed Council a joint Finance/Personnel committee meeting was held last Thursday attended by Vice Mayor Stinson, Robbie Knight, Billy Abel, Aaron Reed, and Mayor Eanes to hear comments from our Health Insurance agent Sam Irby of Innovative Insurance Group. Continued increases in the town's health care costs for our employees was the subject. Several different options were presented and we are currently reviewing these options for next year.

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**Manager's Report Cont'd.**

We are attempting to help our employees maintain the excellent coverage we have enjoyed in the past while finding ways to control the rising costs. It may become necessary to drastically alter our current benefits in order to continue to provide the coverage we have. Health care costs have skyrocketed since the inception of the Affordable Health Care Act and right now, there is no end in sight.

Walker updated Town Council on some of our problem buildings. We are waiting on two estimates on the old theatre building which would be turnkey removal based on the asbestos report we received from Hurt & Proffitt. According to the contractor, work will begin on the Heaven Bound Church building within the next two weeks. West Virginia Ave buildings are currently being repaired and a new roof will be installed.

Council Member Miskovic ask the Town Manager questions concerning the removal of the trees at the airport. Walker explained that our intent was to take down all trees identified as obstructions and have the state pay the full cost of the trees with them allowing our in-kind contribution to be town forces removing the trees.

**TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

No report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Eanes reported we had a complaint from a citizen whose family tombstone was used as a prop for some picture taking that was ultimately posted on Facebook. Mayor Eanes proposed an ordinance that would make it illegal for anyone to use, deface, or desecrate these in any way. He suggested having the Town Attorney look into this and try to come up with some type of ordinance that could be enforced.

Mayor Eanes announced his annual Christmas Nativity Scene contest in which a cash award will be presented for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place. This is the Mayor's personal way of promoting the real purpose of Christmas.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Infrastructure:** No report.

**Finance:** No report.

**Personnel:** Vice Mayor Stinson congratulated Crewe Police Officer Caleb Lafferty on his recent marriage.

**Volunteer Services:** No report. Mayor Eanes ask about the Annual Chamber Dinner. It was reported it was a success.

**Economic Development:** Council Member Miskovic reported that the TAP Grant we applied for has been submitted. He stated that hopefully we will be allowed to use the value of the Railroad Building as our 20% match.

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Mr. Miskovic reiterated the Chamber Dinner was a successful event with JBP Printing winning the award for Business of the Year. There were three new awards this year. Emerging Business of the Year, El Mariachi Mexican Restaurant, and Non-Profit Business of the Year, Kingdom Community Church, and Young Leader of the Year, Andrea Bland. The Lifetime Achievement Award went to Jim and Anne Stinson. Also, the Volunteer of the Year went to William & Amy Eddy.

Mayor Eanes recognized Mr. Miskovic for his work with the Virginia Municipal League in getting the Virginia Association for Parks their legislative agenda on the VML agenda.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Council Member Miskovic reminded Council that he had mentioned having the Department of Housing and Community Development meet with Council. They proposed a meeting on December 1, 2017. Council agreed to meet on this date at 11:00am at the Crewe Library.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Miskovic suggested we make four changes to our charter. He stated there were four items that needed to be changed, three of which MuniCode feels are not currently legal. Section 3.7 Special Meetings, the code needs to now read “special meetings shall be held by the Mayor or requested by two or more members of council. Number two would be Section 3.9 should now state “the absence of the Chairman or Vice Chairman, Mayor or Vice Mayor from a meeting, attending members of Council shall chose one of their members to preside over the meeting.” The third item would be to strike all of Chapter 6 which deals with Municipal Courts. The final item would be Section 5.1 under Appointments, striking “Town Sargent” where the town Sargent now falls under the appointment of the Chief of Police with Council approval. Discussion followed. Mayor Eanes feels that item number four should be run by the Chief and get his input regarding this. It was agreed that the proposed changes to the Charter should be advertised in a public hearing in December, depending on the feeling of the Chief.

Council Member Miskovic suggested that with the upcoming “Black Friday” sales promotions, the town look into the purchase of a large flat screen television to be installed in the Library Conference Center as well as a laptop computer for use in the Library Conference Center as well. Discussion followed. It was suggested that monies to purchase these items could come from the Economic Development budget.

***Motion was made by Mr. Miskovic and seconded by Mrs. Stinson to make these purchases along with any necessary accessories. Motion was approved.***

**POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILIDGE**

Council Member Abel mentioned that the business operating the car paint shop on Virginia Avenue are blocking the alley and casing problems with through traffic. He suggested that our police begin writing summons as they have been warned numerous times with no result. He feels a summons will be the only way to solve this issue. Mayor Eanes asked the Town Manager to engage the Chief of Police and ask them to deal with the issue.

Council Member Miskovic in reference to the proposed ordinance on the cemetery that we be aware that we should be cautious using the word “trespass” as the Code of Virginia does allow anyone doing historical research to enter any cemetery. Mayor Eanes stated he understood but our intent is to eliminate abuse of grave sites. Mr. Miskovic stated he looked forward to seeing everyone at the park Christmas lighting. Council

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Member Bill Faas, also the Crewe Burkeville Chamber of Commerce President gave a possible date of December 2<sup>nd</sup> as the event lighting. Discussion followed. It was suggested that the Chamber be ask if the lighting could take place before the Crewe Christmas Parade, scheduled for Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Council felt this was a good idea and Mr. Faas said he would suggest this and let us know.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Susan Christian Yeatts addressed Council about the condition of some of the grave sites at the cemetery. Her concern was dead or unsightly flowers and debris. Mayor Eanes reminded her that Town Manager Walker had addressed this issue the previous two weeks with notices in the newspaper. Mrs. Yeatts stated she was not aware of that. She then advised Council that her husband had recently submitted a letter donating the statue of Jesus in the cemetery. Council thanked her and her husband for the contribution.

***Mayor Eanes then asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Council Member Knight, seconded by Mr. Abel. Motion passed.***

Meeting adjourned.

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Greg Eanes

Mayor

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Wade Walker

Town Manager