

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND
CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

Present: Mayor Simmons, Council Members Hank Crittenden, Steve Sisk Jr., E.B. Fisher, Anne Stinson, Robbie Knight, John Spencer, & Phil Miskovic

Also Present: Town Manager Walker, Town Attorney Tessie Bacon & Chief of Police Art Booth

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Simmons with Council Member Crittenden leading in the Lord's Prayer and Council Member E.B. Fisher leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Simmons opened the meeting to hear delegations from the public and citizens comments.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Ike Bingham, West Virginia Ave., expressed his continued concern of the property next to his on West Virginia Ave. Town Attorney Bacon confirmed to Mr. Bingham that the Town could now move forward with further options in handling the mentioned property.

Chuck Koutnik, of the Crewe Library, briefed Council on the tremendous growth in use of the library in the past year. Mr. Koutnik told Council he hoped to join forces with other nonprofits to include the Railroad Museum because it is so important to Crewe's future to develop programs for the citizens.

Donna Simpson, West Pennsylvania Ave., addressed Council about her neighbors having a honey bee farm that has become a nuisance because they can no longer enjoy their outside activities because of being stung.

Donnie Slaw, West Pennsylvania Ave., addressed Council about the neighboring honeybee farm as well stating some children at a recent cookout at his home were chased by the bees.

Janet Slaw, West Pennsylvania Ave., addressed Council about the honey bees stinging at the recent family get together held at her home the area the children typically play in had been covered by bees.

John Vaught, West Pennsylvania Ave., addressed Council stating he was the "beekeeper" and he and his wife had moved 5 hives with one big hive and 2 smaller ones to be established. Mr. Vaught stated they would be moving the hives when it was appropriate. Discussion followed.

Tara Martin, East Maryland Ave., addressed Council with her concern of keeping bees in Town because her son has an allergy and with so many bees at the Simpson residence her son cannot go over and play with his best friend. Mrs. Martin stated she would like Council to enact something to protect the people.

Shawn Rowell, California Ave., stated her daughter is a beekeeper in another county, and she does not allow her 4-year-old son onto the bee farm.

Randy & Rebeka Rusch, Dade St., addressed Council in support of beekeeping, stating their family has a hive and they have had no problems. Mr. Rusch briefed Council of the various commotions near the hive and stated there has never been a problem. Mr. Rusch suggested proper education would be beneficial. Discussion followed.

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DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS CONT'D.

Chuck Koutnik, Crewe Library, offered to volunteer a session at the library on bees. Mayor Simmons accepted the invitation.

Ada Wade, 2nd Street, addressed Council with her concern of dogs running at large stating it has become a big problem ranging from her garbage not being picked up to her flower beds being ruined. Ms. Wade informed Council violators could be prosecuted under criminal statutes.

Susan Shifflett, East Maryland Ave., addressed Council with her concern about the grass in the creek next to her home stating it is home for insect breeding and a foul smell. She also agreed with Ms. Wade stating the dogs that are running at large are chasing her cats, eating their food and bothering her dog.

Shawn Rowell, California Ave., addressed Council with her support of allowing chickens in town stating she had chickens for quite some time with no complaints before being informed by Town officials they were not allowed. Mrs. Rowell informed Council that would like to have them allowed.

Randy Rusch, Dade Street, provided Council with information he had obtained through Municode online in respect to having chickens in town. Mr. Rusch supports allowing chickens in town stating he doesn't see any problems if it is done responsibly.

Bob Fass, Walnut Street, also addressed Council with his support of chickens stating he had them as well and no one knew until he got a rooster. Mr. Faas stated he believes it would be beneficial for the citizens and it could help teach children responsibility and keep them out of trouble as he learned from personal experience.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with additions totaling \$203,067.87.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Walker discussed the replacement of gutters at the Town Hall and old Firehouse. We have an estimate from Quality Building Products in Richmond to replace the gutters with 6" aluminum gutters with brackets and 4" round downspouts is \$2,841.96.

He also stated he had a quote on the replacement of two computers in the Town Office that have become obsolete and need to be replaced. The total on the computers is \$2,278.00.

Mr. Walker then reminded Council that the Mayor had been working on installing and bringing up to date the handicap ramp at the Town Hall. The estimate received on this is \$2,625.00 from Hailey's General Contracting. Manager Walker asked Council to consider approval on all three of these items.

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MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D.

Walker then informed Council he had received the "final plans", technical specifications, and contract documents that outline the scope of work on the upcoming sewer rehabilitation project. They are currently under final review by DEQ and Rural Development and should be approved within the week. He stated we still have issues with the easements but the project should be ready to go to bid by the end of August.

Manager Walker then reminded Council that the following evening, Tuesday, August 13th, a public hearing will take place to hear comments from the public on the Lipscomb/Stratton Streets project that consist of the re-vitalization of homes, streets, and infrastructure on these two streets. The Department of Housing and Community Development will fund the project. He urged all interested parties to attend the public hearing.

Walker then advised Council the AWOS system is currently being installed at the Crewe Airport. Workers have been on sight since last week. This is an automated weather system that will enable pilots to obtain the current weather conditions at the Crewe Airport prior to coming in for landings. The Virginia Department of Aviation will be paying for the cost of the installation and equipment.

Manager Walker then discussed the escalating problem with loitering at the Library and through advice from Town Attorney Bacon, the town needs to consider adopting a loitering ordinance that will enable the police to enforce and remedy this problem. Walker stated he would put copies of the state code in Council Members mailbox for review.

Motion by Council Member Crittenden, seconded by Council Member Miskovic; Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve \$2625 for the handicap ramp at Town Hall.

Motion by Council Member Knight, seconded by Council Member Crittenden; Council voted unanimously by voice vote to replace the gutters at Town Hall.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic, seconded by Council Member Stinson; Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve computer quote for the purchase of the computers for the office.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon recommended Council pass an ordinance prohibiting loitering on the Library property before trying to enforce it. She also informed Council all property owners had been found and letters are ready to be sent out for the easements. She stated she is working with County Attorney Preston Williams in reference to the building code. Attorney Bacon also stated there are ordinances on dogs running at large as well as kennel licensing.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development: Council Member Crittenden reported there would be a committee meeting August 13, 2013. He also stated he has had several calls for and against chickens. He is also still working toward getting something together for the “Old Folks Seminar.”

Mayor Simmons also asked if notification was sent door to door to the residents of the Lipscomb/Stratton Project. Manager Walker confirmed they were delivered door to door.

Economic Development: Council Member Miskovic reported he had participated with the National Night Out and he publically thanked them for their efforts. He also stated the HEAL Committee is trying to increase its communication with the citizen’s by passing out flyers for the citizens to fill out. He informed Council on August 24, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Virginia Cooperative Extension would be hosting a workshop for emergency or disaster preparedness. He mentioned the HEAL meeting would be held August 19, 2013 at 6 p.m. at the Airport and the Economic Committee would be meeting August 20, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Airport and the Chamber would meet September 4, 2013 at 6 p.m. at Bravo’s.

Facilities/Parks & Recreation: Council Member Sisk reported facilities are looking good. He informed Council the Railroad Museum is being expanded to better accommodate its needs and to open up the boxcar for public viewing. He mentioned the CBYRA Ponytails and Belles went to the World Series in Louisiana and the Belles brought home the coveted Sportsmanship Award. He thanked the Police Department for their efforts in helping the girls raise money for the World Series expenses.

Finance: Council Member Knight had no report.

Public Works/Infrastructure: Council Member Spencer had no report.

Personnel: Council Member Stinson had no official report. She congratulated Sally Mayton and others for their efforts with the fundraising for the improvements for the Library.

Public Safety: Council Member Fisher had no report. He commended the Police Department in their efforts with the National Night Out each year, stating that it continues to grow.

POLICE CHIEF’S REPORT

Chief Booth stated everything is quiet. He reported there were several arrests made in connection with the recent break-ins. Chief Booth also reported the Department had hired current part-time Officer Ronnie Hite as full-time and hired Officer Wendell James of Petersburg as part-time officer.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mayor Simmons congratulated the softball teams and stated he felt a couple resolutions were in order congratulating them on their state championship victories. Mayor Simmons also commended the Chief and the Police Department for the wonderful job they are doing in town with the public events they are hosting. Mayor Simmons reminded everyone of upcoming events to include the Brewfest and Barn Dance September 14 and Southside Youth Projects September 21, both to be held at Southside Electric’s Hooper Park.

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NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Sisk asked what steps need to be taken in regard to the Graffiti Ordinance proposal included in the Council Packet. Mayor Simmons informed Council the purpose of the ordinance is to make homeowners responsible for removing/repairing graffiti property within a specified amount of time. Mayor Simmons recommended Council allow Attorney Bacon to write an ordinance reflecting the information provided in the packet.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to have Town Attorney Bacon draw up an ordinance on graffiti.

Council Member Sisk asked how the bee issue should be handled. Mayor Simmons suggested Council work together to include having Attorney Bacon research other localities ordinances and support the possibility of having Attorney Bacon draw up an ordinance on bees.

Council Member Miskovic recommended having a special work session to address all of Chapter 14 of the ordinances, as some are out dated.

Mayor Simmons scheduled a workshop on August 26, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Library.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Council Member Crittenden stated he had received several calls about finding a place to put a grocery store in Crewe. Discussion followed.

Council Member Miskovic suggested after looking into the Building Code and the dilapidated properties he would like to have an established set of standard procedures policy once everything is set in stone. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Crittenden; Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:54 p.m.

Lee Simmons Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager