

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

Present: Mayor Sally T. Wilkerson, Council Members Steve Sisk, E.B. Fisher, Anne Stinson, Robbie Knight, Al Simpson & Phil Miskovic

Also Present: Town Manager W. Wade Walker

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkerson.

Council Member Miskovic stated he thought the cigarette tax was a good thing, he noted the Town of Blackstone imposes a .22¢ per pack tax and that yields them about \$90,052. Discussion on the process followed. Council Member Fisher agreed with the .22¢ per pack tax.

Council Member Miskovic suggested setting the cigarette and lodging tax aside until the next Fiscal Year since we don't have any idea of what will be collected. Discussion followed.

Council agreed to leave the current meals tax rate as it is at 5%.

Council Member Miskovic asked Council's input on raising the cost of cemetery plots. Discussion followed. Council agreed to leave the current rates of \$400 per plot in effect. Council Member Miskovic asked how the cemetery was on available space. Town Manager Walker stated it was plenty available with the whole new section.

Council Member Miskovic asked for Council's input on purchasing a street sweeper. Discussion followed. Council Member Sisk suggested looking into cost of renting one. Council Member Miskovic mentioned Council Member Sisk's idea of using a portion of the available funds from police salary as the department has been short at least 1 officer for a few months and no part time officer as well; to assist in paying for the services from 3North. Discussion followed. Council agreed to use the available funds in this year's budget.

Council Member Miskovic spoke on the Police Chiefs request of increasing the current starting salary for new officers. Discussion followed.

Mayor Wilkerson suggested the new Council and Mayor conduct a comprehensive study on all department salaries. Council Member Stinson noted it should include fringe benefits. Council agreed to stick with a 3% across the board salary increase for all employees at this time as to not single out any one department. Additional discussion followed on performance increases.

Council Member Fisher presented the Police departments additional requests to include body cameras, a new patrol car and equipment to outfit a new patrol car. Discussion followed.

Council Member Sisk introduced the need of a new truck for the public works department. He noted the truck has over 400,000 miles and is in desperate need of replacement. Discussion followed.

Council Member Miskovic asked if any of the funds could be moved to an account to accumulate interest. Discussion followed. No decisions made.

Council agreed to have Wade and Tiffany work on finalizing the numbers in the budget to include the purchase of one new truck for the public works department as that truck is a necessity and if possible include the purchase of one new patrol car.

Council Member Miskovic discussed the idea of contacting the owners of the vacant Main Street buildings to dress them up or turn them over to the Town. Discussion followed. No decision made.

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Council Member Miskovic suggested a 48 hour notice of any major purchases exceeding \$10,000. Council agreed.

Council Member Miskovic asked if the remaining funds in the derelict buildings fund be moved forward from FY 16 to FY 17 and be included with the requested budgeted amount. Council agreed.

Council Member Miskovic asked for Council's thoughts on hiring an independent building inspector. Mayor Wilkerson and Manager Walker stated there have been positive actions in recent time. Manager Walker expressed concern, because he has never dealt with another inspector. Manager Walker stated he could reach out to Town Manager of Farmville to discuss their process.

Council Member Miskovic suggested contracting out the maintenance of the website for the Town of Crewe. Discussion followed. Miskovic suggested doing a request for bids on the website.

Council agreed to have another draft of the budget with the revisions from this meeting and review at that time.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Motion passed.

Sally T. Wilkerson Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager