

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, MAY 14, 2012 AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND
CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

Present: Mayor Simmons, Council Members Shirley Daulton, John Spencer,
Robbie Knight, Sally Wilkerson, E.B. Fisher, Rhea Houchins, & Pat Rose

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 Pat Rose leading in the Lord's Prayer and Council Member E.B. Fisher leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Simmons opened the meeting with a Public Hearing to enact an addition to Virginia Maintenance Code Section 101.4 Local Enforcing Agency whereby the Nottoway County Building Inspector will serve as code official and the Town Manager's Office shall be the responsible party for the enforcement of the Property Maintenance Code.

Motion made by Council Member Wilkerson; seconded by Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to close the Public Hearing.

Mayor Simmons opened the regularly scheduled meeting by congratulating the folks elected or reelected on May 1, 2012. He stated he looked forward to the new ideas and visions from the new members and the continued leadership from those reelected. Mayor Simmons also thanked the citizens for coming out and voting, it meant something.

DELEGATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Hank Crittenden, Council Elect wanted to publicly commend the Crewe Police Department for it's handling of the concert. He also stated Chief Art Booth should be congratulated.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Houchins, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with additions totaling \$112,283.71.

Motion by Council Member Wilkerson; seconded by Rose, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the consent calendar as presented.

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MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Walker reported many of the properties that received grass letters had cut the grass and of course some did not. The properties that have not been cut the Town will cut and bill the property owner. Manager Walker stated he and Attorney Bacon are working on garnishments or lien attachments for those that do not pay.

Manager Walker stated a resolution is needed to close the streets for homecoming, stating it would be a portion of Carolina Avenue beginning at the corner of Cabell Street and W. Carolina down to the corner of Tyler and E. Carolina Avenue.

He stated the Sewer plant improvements involving the holding tank are complete. He also stated the State Election board will begin charging an additional fee of an unconfirmed amount to be about \$100 to \$200 if our locality does not move its local elections to November.

Finally, there will be a swearing in ceremony on Monday, July 2, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the Nottoway Court House. Jane Brown, Clerk of the Court will conduct the swearing in. The public is invited. Also the Town had applied for a grant for the Lipscomb-Stratton Street project and has been approved for the \$3000. There is a larger grant available when the Town reaches that portion of the project. With the passing of Steve Ferguson who was in charge of the project, there currently is no one filling his position so all action is temporarily on hold as the County has begun advertising for that position.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon reported liens for grass and maintenance fees are super-priority liens, which means they are on the same level as local real estate tax liens and can be collected in the same manner. Attorney Bacon stated she would be sending one more round of letters for the delinquent taxes then after would be the enforcement. Attorney Bacon suggested the Town hire James Elliott to do the tax sales even though she is able to do them it would save the Town money. She stated by hiring James Elliott the Town would gather a lot of synergy with the County because he does their tax sales as well. Attorney Bacon reported she and Manager Walker have been working on putting together Notices of Lien. Reason being, technically when taxes are delinquent at that point the lien attaches to the property there is nothing else the Town has to do. The issue the Town of Crewe has though is that in a lot of larger jurisdictions you just have to go to the courthouse to check. But here if you were going to sell a property you would have to go to the courthouse and then call the Town Office, which is the way, it should be done. But a lot of people just go to the courthouse to check don't see and go forward. Discussion followed.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development: Council Member Wilkerson reported she attended the Nottoway Planning Council meeting, the first since Steve's death. The NPC Administrative Assistant Brandy went over the project they had been working on and have completed. Burkeville is finishing up phase 1 that included about 27 houses. One item they were finishing up was the radios in the police cars. They have had some issues but are continuing to work out the little bugs in that system. Wilkerson stated she was so proud of and impressed with the Administrative Assistant Brandy, whom had only been with Mr. Ferguson for about a year, for conducting the meeting.

Council Member Wilkerson attended the Railroad Museum meeting and they have received a \$5000 grant from the Norfolk Southern Railroad Foundation. The museum is currently redoing the by-laws and is continuing with the tax exemption process.

Wilkerson stated the museum is in need of volunteers especially when the new Coach is finished. The Museum is planning to have some type of coverings for the outside artifacts to protect them from the weathering.

Wilkerson closed her report by recommending everyone go out and visit the radio museum on Melody Lane here in Crewe.

Economic Development: Council Member Rose reported the Town should do something with the old Norfolk & Southern building. Lee stated in the last Economic Development meeting they discussed the building and there was a prospect that the county was looking in to, but at this time the information was limited as it was a closed session meeting.

Facilities: Council Member Houchins reported the Airport runway resurfacing is currently at a standstill as the funds are unavailable. Houchins also reported the Town is having a hard time finding someone to repair the Cemetery gate that was damaged in an accident. Council Member Knight stated he has a gentleman he would contact in reference to repairing the gate.

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Finance: Council Member Knight suggested we proceed with advertising the budget if there are no further changes. Council Member Wilkerson suggested the pay that Council currently receives be rescinded in light of the tight budget.

Motion made by Council Member Wilkerson; seconded by Knight, that Town Council not receive a monetary amount for their term as Council. Discussion followed.

Council Member Daulton commented she disagreed with that even though it was a very small amount it might be important to somebody coming on to Council. Mayor Simmons also commented that he somewhat agreed with Daulton but also agreed with Wilkerson and recommended that the current Council let the next Council act on that rescinding. Mayor Simmons stated that it was just a recommendation and there is a motion and a second on the floor, a roll call was ordered:

Council Member Rose – For
Council Member Houchins – For
Council Member Fisher – For
Council Member Wilkerson – For
Council Member Knight – For
Council Member Spencer – For
Council Member Daulton – Against
6 – 1 vote motion passes.

Council Member Wilkerson also stated there are no monies available for removing the derelict buildings and suggested that maybe the Town could increase the amounts for the town tags. Discussion followed.

Motion made by Wilkerson; seconded by Rose, that motorcycle rates in 2013 be changed from \$8.00 to \$10.00, trailers from \$7.50 to \$10.00 and cars and trucks from \$25.00 to \$30.00 and the differences in the new additions be added to the derelict housing fund in the general budget. Discussion followed.

Council Member Wilkerson amended her motion to state; car tags for the Town of Crewe in the year of 2013 will increase from \$25.00 to \$30.00 in the amount of \$5.00 increase, trailers from \$7.50 to \$10.00 and motorcycles from \$8.00 to \$10.00.

Mayor Simmons ordered a roll call vote:

Council Member Rose – For
Council Member Houchins – For
Council Member Fisher – For
Council Member Wilkerson – For
Council Member Knight – Against
Council Member Spencer – For
Council Member Daulton – For
6 – 1 vote motion passes.

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Public Works/Infrastructure: Council Member Spencer reported everything was going good. The railroad got the valve fixed and Toney and his guys were keeping the grass cut.

Parks and Recreation: Council Member Daulton asked Manager Walker if he had received an update on the status of the bench. Manager Walker stated the bench had been ordered but no word on when it will arrive. Daulton stated she was proud of the concert and it was a delightful evening.

Public Safety: Council Member Fisher reported he wanted to thank our police department for the job they did in coordinating the public safety for the concert. The state and county police and the event security did a great job. Fisher stated everything went over excellent. The businesses did well also. Mayor Simmons reported the event security ordered dinner from Bravo, so he is certain they did well. Fisher also reported he spoke with Chris Goin of WSVS and he was speechless. Fisher closed his report stating the rescue squad and the fire department are staying busy.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Booth reported on the police report briefly discussing some of the criminal cases. Chief Booth reported they had a pretty good crowd at the concert. There were only a total of 3 arrests, 2 by state police and one local. He commended all involved in the security and safety of the event. Chief Booth turned the floor over to Investigator Turner for her report on the new programs the department will be having for the citizen's and the businesses in town. Investigator Turner stated there would be a Citizen's Police Academy to cover the basics of police duties, a Business Crime course to educate businesses on how to protect and prevent themselves from crime, and finally the Neighborhood Watch will be having an Identity Theft course. Council Member Daulton stated she had participated with a Citizen's Police Academy in Newport News and she felt it was an excellent program.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Simmons reported the concert was a spectacular event and yes they are currently working on the next one. He stated it is amazing that if you put your mind to something what you can achieve. He is impressed that they saw the potential in this town and saw it can happen and is going to happen. Mayor Simmons stated he is very proud of Chris Gowin, VMRE, WSVS and everyone involved in this event. Mayor Simmons stated homecoming starts Friday at Hooper Park at 5:30 p.m. with family fun night, coffee Saturday morning at the community center and music and festivities into the day. Mayor Simmons closed his report stating the homecoming committee has reported a record number of vendors. He says things like the concert and homecoming really boost the town.

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NEW BUSINESS

No Report

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Motion made by Council Member Wilkerson; seconded by Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adopt and enact an addition to the Virginia Maintenance Code section 104.4, Local Enforcing Agency where by: The Nottoway County Building Inspector shall serve as the code official. The Town Manager's Office shall be the responsible agency for the enforcement of the Property Maintenance Code of the Town of Crewe.

Council Member Houchins asked about the Memorial. Mayor Simmons stated he had received a letter stating the rent would go up each year. Mayor Simmons informed the gentleman that the lease should not be set up as an auto renew where Council will have to approve the rent yearly. He reminded Council they have made a motion to pay \$100 yearly and at this time he would not obligate the Town to pay any more. Mayor Simmons closed by stating he hoped to have the lease signed and the deal closed in the next couple of weeks so the Veteran's and the stew group could start their projects.

Mayor Simmons then asked for a motion from Council to convene an executive session under Section 22-3711.A.1, Personnel. Motion made by Robbie Knight and seconded by Sally Wilkerson. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Pat Rose and seconded by Sally Wilkerson to come out of executive session. Motion passed.

Open Session

Motion made by E.B. Fisher and seconded by Sally Wilkerson to certify the closed session. Motion passed.

Motion made by Sally Wilkerson and seconded by E.B. Fisher to adjourn. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Lee Simmons Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager