

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER,
CREWE, VIRGINIA**

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

Absent: Council Member E.B. Fisher

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkerson with guest Pastor Christina Perkins, of Crewe United Methodist Church leading the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wilkerson then opened a Public Hearing to receive comments from the public on the proposed 2015 Town of Crewe Comprehensive Plan. Hearing no comments, public hearing closed.

OPENING COMMENTS

Mayor Wilkerson opened the meeting thanking everyone for coming out.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Faas, Crewe-Burkeville Chamber, stated the Boxcar Bistro is projecting to open Monday, October 5, 2015. He also reported the Chamber held a very successful chicken dinner and all proceeds are going towards the decorations for Hagberg Park.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with bill sheet and additions totaling \$165,007.84.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Walker updated Council on the ongoing sewer project. He stated while we are in the original final stages of the project, it will be delayed approximately 90 days due to original lines and laterals that were to be lined will have to be replaced with new line. There are approximately 80 laterals that will need replacing. The project will most likely extend into January before actual completion. We will take advantage of this extra time to continue to try and find major causes of inflow into our system. Most likely, there will be follow-up work to eliminate this problem.

Manager Walker discussed the recent major water breaks on our main line coming into town from Nottoway. He stated while the line is extremely old, it is a rare that we have a break or leak. The last major break was in 2011. Walker stated the town takes certain precautions when this line breaks and our normal procedure is to make everyone aware of the break even though there may not be an immediate concern. In order to complete repairs, the line must be isolated and pressure removed in order to allow town crews to repair the line. We have the ability to isolate town tanks which enables town customers to experience little to no effect from the break. Our out of town main customers such as the school system, Department of Corrections, and Piedmont Hospital will most likely see immediate affects but in the initial stages of the break, will not have health issues. If the situation became critical and pressure is anticipated to be lost, we notify the Health Department and immediately issue a boil water notice. Lack of pressure on the system can cause contaminants to be sucked back into the lines and could cause problems with safety.

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MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D:

Walker stated that the safety of our water is our number one concern followed by taste and odor. He assured everyone that long before it became an issue, the public would be notified.

Walker stated he had received no bids on the removal of the structure and cleaning of property on Carolina Avenue. He stated we may need to expand our advertisement to the Richmond area or possibly contact an independent contractor such as W.E.L., Inc. who specializes in this type of work.

He stated he has been unable to reach owners on the "old theatre building" on main street. One contact stated they no longer had anything to do with the property and the other could not be reached via telephone. Walker stated we may have to go the same route we took on the house on Carolina which would be a series of letters and notices in the local paper, followed by requesting a release from the courts to demolish and remove the building.

Manager Walker informed Council of an upcoming webinar to be conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency whereby the town of Crewe and our Chief Operator, John Hricko, were to be featured. This is a national case study entitled, "Case Studies on Implementing Low-Cost Modifications to Improve Nutrient Reduction in Wastewater Treatment Plants. In 2007, the EPA issued more stringent requirement on the levels of nitrogen and phosphorous released by plants effluent, which is the release of treated water back into connecting tributaries. Because of John's efforts, the town was able to not only meet the requirement but exceed the levels to the point of receiving monetary credit yearly from the EPA. This was achieved at considerably less cost than anticipated, thus the request to include our plant in the case study. Walker congratulated Mr. Hricko on his accomplishment and thanked him for his fine service to the town.

Walker then asked Council to consider a request from Mayor Wilkerson that the sidewalk at the library be repaired. He stated the town budgets for sidewalk improvement typically with a section on Virginia Avenue. He felt there should be enough in the budget to do both.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon reported she has been reviewing the grass situation and has determined the Town could impose civil penalties in addition to making the violation a misdemeanor. Discussion followed.

Attorney Bacon also reported she is tying up the loose ends with MuniCode. She requested permission from Council to overhaul the Zoning Ordinance to bring it up to date with State Code. She reported the Comprehensive Plan is good to go with VDOT approval. She also reported she contacted Jim Elliott's office in regard to a tax sale for the property located on West Virginia Ave. She stated they currently do not have a tax sale scheduled, but they hope to have one scheduled soon.

Attorney Bacon also reported on the illegal sewer connections stating she had a very detailed ordinance from Henrico County on how to regulate the connections.

Attorney Bacon closed her report stating the title searches for the Lipscomb/Stratton project are complete and she is finishing up the easements.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development:

Council Member Miskovic reported the Economic Development Committee would meet September 29th, 12 noon at Dine N Crewe. He also reported the Nottoway County Economic Development is interested in forming a County Tourism Committee and they would appreciate suggestions for members.

Miskovic also stated the Town website is almost complete.

Miskovic reminded Council the VML Conference is in Richmond this year. The Kiwanis are hosting a pancake supper on Thursday, September 17th starting at 4:30 at the Crewe Community Center. He also announced Nottoway Historical Society would be meeting at 6 p.m. on September 29th and on September 25th at 7 p.m. the Friends of the Library will be having a guest speaker from the State Library.

Finance:

Council Member Simpson reported finance was in good shape.

Public Works/Infrastructure:

Council Member Knight reported the Town was very lucky we could get our equipment to the water break with the rough terrain through there. He mentioned he is planning a meeting with Norfolk & Southern to discuss clearing the right-of-way for the benefit of the Town being able to safely reach that main water line.

Personnel:

Council Member Stinson congratulated John Hricko, the Town's Water and Wastewater Plant Operator in Charge for his outstanding work. She also thanked all employees who worked the water break.

Public Safety:

Council Member Fisher absent.

Facilities/Parks & Recreation:

Council Member Sisk reported everything looks good and soccer season has started off great in Burkeville.

Community Development:

Council Member Daulton stated the Lipscomb/Stratton Project is moving right along with the new County Planner Maegen Hailey. She also commended Logan Morgan for the fantastic job she does.

Comprehensive Plan:

Council Member Stinson stated she hoped the Comprehensive Plan would go through.

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POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Booth absent.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Wilkerson stated she appreciated the schools concern with the recent water breaks. She also thanked all those that participated in the Veteran's Memorial Dedication. She commented Greg Eanes gave a wonderful history lesson of the Crewe Veteran Members.

Mayor Wilkerson stated the Opening Ceremonies for the soccer season brought in about 200 – 250 three to 18 year old children. She thanked all the sponsors for their support as well.

Mayor Wilkerson reminded Council the October meeting would be moved to Tuesday October 13th in observance of Columbus Day. She also reminded those in attendance that the Crewe Volunteer Fire Department would be hosting this year's Southside Virginia Volunteer Firefighters Association Competition on Saturday September 19th with a parade set for 10 a.m. and the competition starting at 12:30.

Mayor Wilkerson closed her report informing Council VML had contacted the Town on behalf of the Executive Mansion's request to participate in making an ornament to be displayed on the Christmas Tree in the Executive Mansion during the holiday season. Mayor Wilkerson stated they are reaching out to the community for their participation and once all ornaments have been received one will be selected to send to the Executive Mansion and all the remaining ornaments will be put on display on the Christmas Tree in the Town Office. Mayor Wilkerson did mention that because the participant's age limit was set to 18, she hoped to have an event for the younger children in October to make ornaments.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Miskovic inquired on the concrete pad recently installed at Hooper Park. Discussion followed. It was decided to confirm what the pad was actually installed for.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to allow Tessie to update the zoning ordinance to state code.

Council Member Miskovic inquired about the signage in Commercial District. Council agreed to have the zoning committee meet.

Council Member Miskovic asked for Council to review the Tourism Plan and return any comments to him by close of business on Friday, September 18, 2015, so that he may forward those on to Sandra Tanner with Virginia Tourism who will create a plan for Council to vote on in the coming months.

Council Member Miskovic thanked Council Member Stinson for her hard work on the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion by Council Member Knight, seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the 2015 Comprehensive Plan pending VDOT's approval.

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CONTINUING BUSINESS

Manager Walker reported the tax collection through DMV is progressing, stating we are going through the application process and assigning users.

Manager Walker reported he talked to Proctor with the HDLA follow up stating comments had been received and there were great ideas to work with.

Manager Walker stated no bids had been received for the property at 305 E. Carolina Ave. Manager Walker reported the Town intends to run the ad again reaching out to Richmond and surrounding areas. Attorney Bacon stated the Town can follow the Virginia Procurement Act to complete the process. Discussion followed.

Council Member Miskovic reported he had received a draft of the Tourism and Marketing Plan and it needed comments. He asked Council to provide their comments, via e-mail, drop off at the Town Office or his home and he would gather and assemble them and send them off to Sandra.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mayor Wilkerson announced the Annual NAACP dinner would be held September 26th at the Nottoway Community Center. She informed Council she had the number for Pastor Hurte for anyone interested in attending.

Motion by Council Member Sisk; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

Sally T. Wilkerson Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager