

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

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

Absent: Council Member Robbie Knight

Also Present: Town Manager Walker & Town Attorney Tessie Bacon

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

OPENING COMMENTS

Crewe Police Department's Investigator Ella Turner gave a presentation on a program known as "My Free Little Library". Turner stated this program is set up in communities worldwide to offer a place for free books to be exchanged throughout the community. It is a continual rotation of books and donations are appreciated. The Police Department and the Library would like to pair together and bring this to Crewe. Investigator Turner stated the Police Department would put a crime prevention message and a sticker on each book.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Nancy Green, E. Tennessee Ave. expressed her wish to leave the old fire siren beside the Town Office where it is. She also provided Council with a petition that was for leaving the siren where it is with about 100 signatures.

Susan Yeatts, Georgia Ave. addressed Council with concerns of why every time she left her home on Sunday she saw someone pulled over on the side of the road by a Crewe Officer instead of having an Officer patrolling the neighborhoods where children were fighting and other motorists were speeding down through the neighborhood.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Simpson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with additions totaling \$166,370.26.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Walker reported the aeration system had been installed at the water plant and the results have already been favorable. Reading from an update from Operator in Charge, John Hricko, he reported major benefits in helping us to achieve consistent levels of treatable constituents in our raw water. In the past, it was virtually a daily (even hourly) problem with constant changes in our raw water quality. With the aerations, the levels are consistent which enable operators to better control the treatment process. There will also be significant savings in chemical costs as it has eliminated spikes which have caused extreme fluctuations in chemical usage. Additionally, it has been effective in controlling floating algae away from the intake. Overall, this was a good purchase and should continue to be beneficial to our water treatment process.

Mr. Walker reported there still was no closing date on the sewer project loans. We are now waiting on one contractor to secure proper bonding. Hopefully, we can close in the next two weeks.

Manager Walker reported that the Town of Crewe had been successful and had received a non-matching grant from US Rural Development in the amount of \$30,000.00 to be used to conduct further studies on our sanitary

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MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D:

sewer system in the west end of town. Based on our previous agreement with Hurt & Proffitt, Walker suggested we award the work for the PER to them as they are already familiar with our system and the problems we have experienced. Walker stated we can use the findings to begin to formulate a plan of action on our west end system, furthering our effort to eliminate inflow and infiltration from our entire system.

Mr. Walker spoke on a previous request to investigate the costs of having a survey done on remaining property in our industrial park. This was a request from Nottoway County. Recently, Walker received an unwritten estimate from Timberlake of \$2-3,000.00. Manager Walker contacted our engineers to receive an estimate and we were informed there was no way they could match or beat the estimate from Timberlake. The issue will be discussed further in continuing business.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon reported she continues to assist in the Town's efforts to collect taxes. She was pleased to report the paperwork for the sewage project is coming together and we close to closing. She suggested to Council they update the Comprehensive Plan every 5 years and present it for approval.

Mayor Wilkerson informed Council she needed a motion from Council to allow her to write a letter to Ronnie Roark stating the Nottoway Planning Council approval for the Comprehensive Plan.

Attorney Bacon also reported she is still working on the derelict buildings as she has 2 more to pursue. Council Member Miskovic asked if there were written process and procedures for the derelict buildings. Attorney Bacon stated there is and she will forward that information along.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development:

Council Member Daulton reminded Council the Lipscomb/Stratton Project had been signed off on and we are currently waiting to move forward. She also reported the Emergency Operation Plan is being coordinated with the Piedmont Health District of which Nottoway is included. The POD – Point of Dispense will be located in Nottoway and they are asking we decide the location. The purpose would be in the event of a pandemic there will be a central location to provide citizens with supplies. Mayor Wilkerson suggested she work with the public safety committee work with the POD Project.

Ms. Daulton stated she would be meeting with the residents in her assigned area and leave her business card with her number.

Economic Development:

Council Member Miskovic reported he and Mayor Wilkerson had attended several events since the last Council meeting to include a Tourism Summit in South Boston, the Main Street Development in Farmville. From that event he met with the SBDC – Small Business Development Center at Longwood. They also met Sandra Tanner, with the Virginia Department of Tourism and she has agreed to meet with the Town and help them with an assessment in January 2015.

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Economic Development Cont'd:

Mr. Miskovic also reported the Piedmont Health Coalition would be doing a community health assessment beginning at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, August 12 at the Library Conference room.

He mentioned the Blackstone Chamber of Commerce would be hosting a discussion with federal representatives on FASTC, also on Tuesday, August 12.

He also informed Council he, Mayor Wilkerson and business owner Sherri Coates would be meeting with the Downtown Blackstone Initiative as they have offered their mentoring services for our downtown revitalization.

Mr. Miskovic additionally reported he and the Mayor took a tour of the Rich Inn and the Engineer Bar & Grill. He stated they are almost complete with Phase 1 and they are doing a great job, putting in a lot of hard work and effort.

Mr. Miskovic told Council he had attended the Fire Department's Business meeting and he suggested that someone from the Town attend their meetings as it is appreciated. He closed his report mentioning the Economic Development would meet August 18 at 7 pm at the Crewe Airport and the National Night Out was a huge success. He thanked the Police Department and all others involved for their initiative and leadership for the event.

Mayor Wilkerson stated the time spent with John Procise at the last Economic Development meeting was very informative. She added Mr. Bill Mason attended and it was overall a very positive force.

Facilities/Parks & Recreation:

Council Member Sisk reported the Fluvanna Ponytails and the Dinwiddie Angels won the state tournament held here in Crewe last month. He also reported the Babe Ruth 15U team had lost of the tournament in Sandston. Mr. Sisk offered a public thank you to Rodney McComas with D.W. Lyle for the use of the electronic road signs for the state tournament and Mr. Bill Faas of the Crewe Burkeville Chamber for the brochures for the tournament. Mr. Sisk also thanked Bill Faas & Tammy Blevins for all their help with the tournament. He recognized Softball Commissioner Ron Martin and his wife Lindsey for the excellent job they did, their hard work, dedication and countless hours of time preparing and hosting the tournament.

Mr. Sisk also reported he had been working with Manager Walker, Public Works Supervisors and Wendy Bowen Volleyball representative on upgrading the volleyball court stating it should be done in the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Sisk informed Council he had been in contact with a couple of people in reference to the "ditch" in Hagberg Park. He is awaiting their price quotes to build a bridge across the ditch, fill it with fill dirt and riprap to aid in preventing erosion.

Mr. Sisk closed his report informing everyone to keep an eye out for info on the CBYRA's annual Fall Family Fun Day, get your kids signed up for soccer and the National Night Out was a great event and huge success.

Finance:

Council Member Simpson reported he had reviewed the monthly bills and they appear in order.

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Public Works/Infrastructure:

Council Member Knight was absent.

Personnel:

Council Member Stinson stated the National Night Out was a great event and well attended. She also welcomed new police officer Jake Herlong to the force.

Public Safety:

Council Member Fisher had no report for Fire & Rescue. He congratulated the Police Department on their success with the National Night Out and welcomed new officer Jake Herlong.

Comprehensive Plan:

Council Member Stinson reported she, the Mayor and fellow Council members would have homework for the August 25 meeting for moving forward with the plan. She thanked Council Member Miskovic for the sample survey he provided.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Booth reported the National Night Out was certainly a huge success as it is getting bigger and better every year. He thanked the citizens and businesses for their support stating if it wasn't for them, the NNO wouldn't happen.

Chief introduced Officer Herlong as the Town's newest part time officer. He briefed Council on his military background, his Criminal Justice studies, his prison work and his recent graduation from Crater Criminal Justice Academy. Officer Herlong stated he looked forward to growing with the police department and continuing to learn.

Chief closed his report by giving a special thank you to Investigator Turner for the NNO, stating she did it all organizing the event, laying it out and getting help to make it happen.

Council Member Simpson reported he visited Crewe Village Apartments and talked to property manager John Mason. He stated Mr. Mason extended his gratitude to the Chief and the department for their support at the apartments adding they have improved the overall atmosphere.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wilkerson extended a big thank you to the Crewe Police Department and the Crewe Volunteer Fire Department for NNO. She added so many people came out to help it was just so perfect. She said she envisioned the Town looking like it did at NNO and how the ball field looked during the tournament, packed with family and friends. She recognized town employees for their extra work and the citizens and businesses alike for their donations and loans of various items to bring the event together and making it so special.

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Mayor Wilkerson encouraged everyone to be careful as school was starting August 18, 2014. She closed congratulating Steve Winn on his return to WSVS and encouraged everyone to support the local radio museum as it is a piece of history.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to place the “My Free Little Library” at the town hall.

Motion by Council Member Sisk; seconded by Council Member Simpson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to authorize Hurt & Proffitt initiate the West End sewer study.

Mayor Wilkerson informed Council she had met with Crewe Baptist Property Chairman and he addressed the churches concerns with motorists speeding down the alley amongst other concerns. She suggested the Water, Sewer & Infrastructure Committee meet with the Church to determine their needs.

Council Member Miskovic stated Council needed to increase their communication with VDOT. Mayor Wilkerson suggested having a meeting with a VDOT representative to discuss the issue.

Mayor Wilkerson reminded everyone she had split the Town into 7 sections and she had assigned each Council Member with a section. She did this in an effort to increase communication with the citizens and to make observations to help benefit the Council in determining the needs of the citizens.

Council Member Miskovic recommended the Water, Sewer & Infrastructure Committee meet with VDOT perhaps quarterly. He also encouraged fellow Council Members to attend the Annual VML meeting in October.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. Industrial Park Survey

Mayor Wilkerson asked for Council’s comments and suggestions on having the survey done at the Industrial Park. Council Member Sisk suggested having the County pay for it. Discussion followed. Council decided to table the idea until the next meeting.

B. Trash cans/lids/holders

Mayor Wilkerson asked if the code was being enforced and if there needed to be a deadline set for customers to comply with the code. Discussion followed. Council agreed to address the specifics at the workshop on the 25th and make a decision at that point.

Mayor Wilkerson informed Council she needed a motion from them to proceed with placing the children playing signs on the existing poles on Indian Oak and Tyler to Indian Oak.

Motion by Council Member Sisk; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to place the “Children Playing” signs on the existing poles at the designated locations.

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CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Council Member Miskovic addressed Council with the idea of videotaping the Council Meetings. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Daulton to do a trial run on the videotaping of the Council meetings and post on YouTube through the end of 2014 at which time Council will re-evaluate the idea. Mayor Wilkerson ordered a role call:

Council Member Daulton – Aye

Council Member Sisk – Aye

Council Member Fisher – Nay

Council Member Stinson – Aye

Council Member Simpson – Nay

Council Member Miskovic – Aye

With a 4 – 2 vote in favor the motion passed.

Council Member Miskovic reminded Council he needed their bios if they wished to have them put on the website.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mrs. Terry Royal, Commonwealth Attorney, praised Officer Herlong for his first appearance in traffic court stating he did an excellent job.

Mayor Wilkerson took the opportunity to mention when meeting with VDOT perhaps we could suggest to them that they reconsider the placement of speed limit signs in town.

Mr. James Wilkerson, E. VA Ave., suggested Council consider the use of microphones for the recording of the Council meetings.

Mr. Mason, WSVS, asked if the Town assisted Victoria recently. Manager Walker confirmed the water plant did in fact assist Victoria with a recent water issue they were having.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Simpson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Sally T. Wilkerson Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager