

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016 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, E.B. Fisher, Anne Stinson, Al Simpson & Phil Miskovic

Absent: Council Member Robbie Knight

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkerson with guest Pastor James Bradley of Calvary Freewill Baptist Church leading the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wilkerson then opened the floor to a Public Hearing for the purpose of enacting an ordinance that adopts and enacts a new code for the Town of Crewe, Virginia, provides for the repeal of certain ordinances not included therein, provides a penalty for the violation thereof, provides for the manner of amending such code and provides when such code and this ordinance shall become effective.

Attorney Bacon stated the Sewer Use Ordinance was not included in the original recodification but was being sent to Muni-Code to be included.

Hearing no further comments Mayor Wilkerson closed the Public Hearing.

OPENING COMMENTS

Mayor Wilkerson opened the regular scheduled meeting by commenting on the opening season over at the CBYRA fields being filled with children and their parents.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

No comments

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with bill sheet and additions totaling \$155,925.95.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Walker reported the Town would be holding its annual Spring Clean-up the week of March 28, 2016. He then turned the floor over to Mike Wilson and Earl Dickerson of Hurt & Proffitt, the engineering firm the Town has worked with for the duration of the current sewer project.

Hurt & Proffitt gave a timeline presentation starting in 2010 and going through to 2016. The notice to proceed was issued September 30, 2014. From that point project funding was covered by Rural Development and the Department of Environmental Quality. Inflow & Infiltration monitoring, flow monitoring and smoke testing were performed. Through the various tests performed the Town was able to locate sewer lines in need of repair and/or replacement. All lines in the East End needing such work were completed by the contracted companies. To date, the project is nearing the end and the crews are working and their final punch list items.

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TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon reported she continues to work on the derelict buildings in town. She is awaiting an update on the Beeler property. The derelict property located on E. Carolina has an IRS lien which Attorney Bacon has sent a letter of request to the IRS to release that lien, she has not received a response at this time.

Council Member Miskovic asked Attorney Bacon if she would provide an update on the 5 original derelict properties at the April 11, 2016 Council Meeting, she agreed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development:

Council Member Miskovic reported the Economic Development Committee met with Sandra Tanner, a representative of the Virginia Tourism and they have agreed to form a sub-committee to execute the Tourism Plan that was adopted at the last meeting. Miskovic also reported the Antique Trail is moving forward and he hoped to have all the businesses identified and a print-out available by the April meeting.

Council Member Miskovic informed everyone the Kiwanis would be having their Pancake Supper on March 17, starting at 4:30 at the Crewe Community Center. He encouraged everyone to attend.

Finance:

Council Member Simpson reported the revenues are over the expenditures for the first 8 months of the Fiscal Year. He also reported all bills are getting paid.

Mayor Wilkerson suggested Council hold a Budget Workshop meeting to work on the Fiscal Year 17 Budget. Council decided to meet on Monday March 28, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Library Conference Room for the budget meeting.

Public Works/Infrastructure:

Council Member Knight reported on the recent snow removal season stating the Town is contracted by the state to clear the roads. Knight inquired if the Town could take the extra funding beyond what was budgeted and put it into a reserve fund for purposes of purchasing new equipment for the Public Works Department. Discussion followed.

Council Member Fisher inquired on the Town's new leaf machine. Manager Walker stated the new machine was used this leaf season in addition to the old machine.

Personnel:

Council Member Stinson stated she truly appreciates what the employees and Hurt & Proffitt have done and continue to do for the Town. Stinson also reported the Police Department had lost an Officer and the Department has been taking applications and they have received some very viable applicants.

Chief Booth stated part-time Officer J. Tanner had left the department as well. Chief Booth reported Officer Tanner only needed 5 more years of a supplemental retirement known as LEOS to be able to fully retire. Amelia County offered that retirement and Officer Tanner made the move.

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Public Safety:

Council Member Fisher inquired about the fire hydrant on the corner of 4th Street and E. Virginia Ave. asking if that was going to be replaced? Manager Walker stated the hydrant was going to be replaced and he would get him a date on that.

Council Member Fisher also inquired if the hydrant at the end of the 100 block of W. Tennessee was leaking? Manager Walker stated the hydrant is not damaged or leaking, the water the residents see is ground water.

Mayor Wilkerson stated the siren at the old fire house by the Town Office is no longer working and the Fire Department has decided that they will not repair that siren as it is so old.

Facilities/Parks & Recreation:

Council Member Sisk asked those in attendance to keep Mrs. Norma Spencer's family in their thoughts and prayers as her father-in-law is very ill.

Council Member Sisk reported the CBYRA held a baseball camp for the Major and Minor League players that had a great turn out. He also reported the softball division has started a new age group known as the "Sweeties", it is designed with the standard t-ball group in mind specifically for girls.

Council Member Sisk also reported CBYRA had bid on some of the softball tournaments this year and won the State Tournament for one age divisions. He also reported Farmville had contacted CBYRA to host the District Tournaments as they would be unable to host. He reported he did not have any dates yet, but would report those as soon as they become available.

Council Member Sisk also reported the Town would be doing some approved tree removal in the park as well as tearing down the old vending machine casing beside the volleyball court.

Council Member Sisk asked Mayor Wilkerson if the Garden Club would be interested in planting flowers around the gazebo. Mayor Wilkerson stated she would ask. Vice Mayor Stinson offered to ask the Nottoway High School Horticulture class to assist with the planting.

Council Member Sisk stated Southside Electric is assisting with the electrical concerns at the park and the volley ball court is back up.

Council Member Sisk reminded everyone that the Railroad Museum is in need of volunteers. He also reported the Chicken Festival will be held on Friday, June 24th from 4 to 10 p.m. He stated the Southbound Band and the En'Novations would be performing. He stated the Crewe Volunteer Fire Department will be serving the chicken. The tickets should be available in a few weeks. Sisk reported sponsors are needed and anyone interested in getting tickets can contact Johnny Weston, Bill Faas, Steve Sisk, or CJ Jones at WSVS.

Council Member Dalton stated the bridge at the park is beautiful. Sisk stated Parker Wingfield would be installing platforms for handicap access. He also stated the Chamber would be planting some ornamental grass to help beautify the area. Sisk thanked all the Town employees for all of their help.

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Community Development:

Council Member Daulton reported there was a well-organized group working on the Lipscomb/Stratton Project. Mayor Wilkerson stated she would like to have County Planner Maegen Hailey to come to Council and give an update of the project.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Council Member Stinson reported she attended the meeting with 3 North and the Police Department and the department had a lot of suggestions. She was impressed the 3 North representatives stating they are very knowledgeable on the needs of the law enforcement and the citizens to have a viable police department that they would feel comfortable coming into. She stated they are currently waiting on the plan to come back from 3 North.

Council Member Stinson suggested Council review the comprehensive plan before the budget meeting.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Booth had no report.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wilkerson reported she had sent a handwritten letter to the Homecoming Committee as suggested. She also reported she was still waiting for additional information before sending a letter to Norfolk & Southern. Mayor Wilkerson stated she reached out to HDLA and they are still waiting to hear back from VDOT. She reminded Council the current Crewe Town Code prohibits the planting of trees and shrubs between the sidewalk and curbing, so Council may wish to review the code in regard to the plans from HDLA.

Mayor Wilkerson stated she thought last year when Delegate Wright and Senator Ruff came to Council and spoke on the General Assembly it was a wonderful event and she would like to see if they are available to come again this year. Council agreed.

Mayor Wilkerson also reported the volunteers of the Railroad Museum work very hard to get the monies they have available and they plan to use those funds to paint the engines over at the museum. She also reported the museum has finally gained 501-3 (c) status. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Council Member Knight, seconded by Council Member Sisk; Council voted unanimously by voice vote to purchase the Dixie Chopper for no more than \$11,440.00 and the funds come from the snow removal proceeds.

Council Member Miskovic suggested the Town look into more energy efficient options throughout the town, to include LED lights for street lights, or even solar powered options. Discussion followed.

Council Member Sisk inquired if the Town had an ordinance prohibiting the sounding of church bells in town. Manager Walker stated there was no specific noise ordinance against church bells other than the current noise ordinance. Council Member Miskovic asked if the current ordinance could be amended to allow for the church bells. Manager Walker stated it could be.

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CONTINUING BUSINESS

Mayor Wilkerson reminded Council they needed to discuss the Town Facebook page and the Town website.

Council Member Miskovic presented Council with an assessment of the Town's outreach efforts and a plan moving forward. The assessment included detailed information pertaining to the cost and effectiveness of utilizing social media to include the Town's website. He suggested Council review the information provided and discuss at the April meeting. Council Member Stinson stated she had sought quotes from several entities and one was received S and S Electronics, the Town's current IT Company for maintaining the website at \$60 per hour, billed monthly. Discussion followed. Council agreed to table the matter until the April meeting.

Mayor Wilkerson also asked for Council's desire on the Celebration of Democracy.

Council Member Miskovic presented Council with a proposal for the event. Discussion followed. Council decided to table this until the budget meeting.

Mayor Wilkerson asked for an update from the committee on proposing a change to the Town election.

Council Member Dalton stated the general consensus of the committee was to hand the issue back over to the Town and let the new Council decide.

Mayor Wilkerson reminded Council they needed to finalize the Public Hearing held earlier in the meeting.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to enact the ordinance with the amendment for the Sewer Use Ordinance, which adopts and enacts the new code for the Town of Crewe, Virginia as stated in the public hearing.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Pastor James Bradley of Calvary Freewill announced the church would be having an Easter Dinner on Sunday, March 27 at 5 p.m. at the church.

Mayor Wilkerson also thanked Pastor Bradley for doing the invocation for the meeting.

Greg Eanes asked on the sewer issues with the smoke testing and penalties approved can the Town fix the problems to its standard and attached the costs to the customer's bill. Attorney Bacon stated the current ordinance does not allow for that. Council Member Miskovic asked if the costs were attached to a customer's bill could their service be disconnected if they did not pay the associated costs. Attorney Bacon stated yes that could happen if the Town ordinance allowed for it. Discussion followed.

Mr. Eanes also asked if there were any services available to the citizens to request to have their lateral checked. Manager Walker advised that the Town does not access private property, the owner would have to contact a plumber.

Bob Horn asked if the property referred to as the "Hussey House" was among those to be torn down. Manager Walker informed Mr. Horn that the County Building Inspector would not condemn the property stating it was fixable.

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CITIZENS COMMENTS CONT'D.

Mr. Horn also expressed concern for the large number of dogs running large. He explained that he and his dog were recently “attacked” and asked if we could do anything to address the dogs running at large.

Mr. Horn also expressed concerns about the number of houses with absentee owners, single family dwellings occupied by multiple families and the large number of vehicles with no town tags, requesting that those issues be addressed as well.

Motion by Council Member Sisk; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Sally T. Wilkerson Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager