

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

Present: Mayor Wilkerson, Council Members Shirley Daulton, Steve Sisk Jr., E.B. Fisher, Anne Stinson, Robbie Knight Clarence "Al" Simpson, & Phil Miskovic

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

Mayor Wilkerson opened the meeting thanking the citizens for participating in their local government and she welcomed the new faces in the crowd.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Bill Faas, President of the Crewe-Burkeville Chamber, spoke on the 2 day Tourism & Marketing Event stating it was a great event, unfortunately there was not enough participation. Mr. Faas stated he is glad he attended the event it was very inspiring.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with the bill sheet and additions totaling \$137,239.43

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Walker reported that he and staff have been working hard on completing the upcoming 2015-2016 budget and should have most entries involving typical revenues and expenses completed this week. He stated this would give us a good idea of where we stand and place us in a position to discuss the budget at our next work session on April 27th.

Walker stated that the sewer project is progressing well with approximately 50% of the project completed. There have been some issues involving homeowners that have been quickly and professionally resolved by Tri State Utilities. Incidents have been some minor to moderate sewer back up of which Tri State sends in ServPro to clean the affected homes and pays for the service. Everything appears to be on schedule for a September 2015 completion.

Mr. Walker mentioned that David Farley with HDLA stopped by to inform us they may have a grant opportunity for the town. You will recall, this is the company that specializes in landscaping architecture and land improvements to areas to promote curb appeal. We had discussed the possibility of having them work on and present a master plan for the town. This grant opportunity would assist in paying for this plan and I recommend Council authorize them to apply for the grant on our behalf.

A meeting was held with Town Attorney Tessie Bacon to begin discussion on possible solutions to blighted areas and buildings and what the town can do to enforce current ordinances or develop new ones that would resolve what appears to be a growing number of issues within the town. Tessie met with Wade, Mayor Wilkerson, Vice Mayor Stinson, and Council Member Knight. Many items were discussed.

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Manager's Report, cont:

The gist of the meeting was while there are many ordinances addressing these issues, there never seems to be any closure or finality in the solutions. Additionally, any work done by the town appears to be impossible to be reimbursed for. Tessie agreed to look into taking these matters further, up to and including legal action and possible garnishment, fines, and judgements to enforce the ordinances. The possibility of the town hiring a person to specifically deal with building code violations, ordinance violation enforcement, and zoning issues was discussed. We are not sure whether that is feasible or even needed at this point but obviously, changes need to be made. There will be more discussion and further Council involvement in the near future.

Finally, Walker informed Council that we had received a letter dated March 24th from the Virginia Department of Health, Office of Drinking Water congratulating the Town of Crewe and our water works operators as recipients of a 2014 Excellence in Waterworks Operations/Performance Award. Walker stated this was a highly prestigious award and was not given out lightly by the Department. "John Hricko and his staff should be congratulated for their hard work and diligence in seeing that our customers have the safest, best quality water we can possibly produce." Walker further stated that they are continually receiving praise for their work year after year and the town appreciates their efforts.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon reported there are 2 classes of ordinances that cover general blight they include Dangerous Buildings and Property Maintenance. Discussion followed. Attorney Bacon will move forward with the blight issues.

Council Member Miskovic suggested the vacant building on 460 beside the old Schaubach building be addressed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development:

Council Member Daulton reported the Lipscomb/Stratton Project would be meeting once a month and come June 2015 the project should be under contract. Daulton also reported NCPD had met and they had received a local emergency planning grant and the mapping grant is up and running.

Daulton also reported the Planning Office is working on the Comprehensive Plan.

Economic Development:

Council Member Miskovic reported he had met with Sandra Tanner about a Tourism Grant and would continue to work with her on this. He also reported VML has their 324 Webinar available for viewing. Miskovic then listed upcoming meetings and events:

1. EDC Meeting May 11th, noon at Bravo's
2. Dinner with Secretary of Commerce and Trade May 5th
3. Economic Development Summit in South Hill, VA – May 6th
4. Administrative Professionals Day is April 22nd – be sure to stop by the office to thank the ladies
5. May is Business Appreciation Month
6. Kiwanis Clean-Up day is scheduled for May 9th

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Facilities/Parks & Recreation:

Council Member Sisk reported opening ceremonies had taken place for the rec league and it was a great event. He mentioned all the hard work that went into Beamer Field and it looks great. Sisk also mentioned the Annual Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success again. Sisk closed his report reminding everyone the Babe Ruth sign-ups for players 14 & up have begun as well.

Finance:

Council Member Simpson reported everything is staying within the budget.

Public Works/Infrastructure:

Council Member Knight mentioned having the NJROTC Program help with the Kiwanis Clean-up Day. Knight followed up on the request to replace town street signs stating it was not affordable at this time. Manager Walker suggested the signs be included in the Master Plan.

Personnel:

Council Member Stinson congratulated John Hricko and his crew for their hard work in receiving the 2014 Excellence in Waterworks Operations/Performance Award. Stinson also thanked Town Clerk, Tiffany Dumond and Mr. Eubanks with Tri-State for their help with some recent sewer issues.

Stinson also extended a congratulations to fellow Council Member Sisk and Town Clerk, Tiffany Dumond on their upcoming nuptials.

Public Safety:

Council Member Fisher no report.

Comprehensive Plan:

Council Member Stinson reported she had met with County Planner Kelly Lewis and they had reworded some areas of the plan and they would meet again to review the plan and have it complete by July 1st. She mentioned the Town of Crewe Comprehensive Plan is unique to other areas.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Booth presented to Council in detail the departments necessity for a new facility. Chief asked Council for their support to advertise for an Architectural Consultant. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Crewe Police Department to advertise for an Architectural Consultant.

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MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Wilkerson commended the Town employees for their outstanding work in beautifying the cemetery as well as CBYRA and Crewe Police Department for all their work with the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Mayor Wilkerson spoke with delight on how beautiful the ball park was for opening ceremonies. The ROTC Program Cadets, the flags, to all the different colored ball uniforms filling up the park.

Mayor Wilkerson made an announcement that curfew is set from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. for all minors unless accompanied by an adult. She also announced the playground and the walking path closes at dusk and Town tags are due April 15.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Wilkerson informed Council there would be a work session scheduled for April 27th to review the budget.

Council Member Miskovic reminded fellow Council members of the upcoming VML Annual Dinner. Miskovic also asked if we could address the grass growing in the cracks in the sidewalks. Discussion followed. It was decided the Town would continue to maintain the grass issue on the main street sidewalks.

Miskovic informed Council he would be hosting a FOIA event for neighboring towns and County elected officials as a refresher of the Freedom of Information Act. The event will be held at the mini auditorium of the Nottoway High School on May 13th at 7 p.m. with the Director of FOIA Council in attendance.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Mayor Wilkerson asked for Council's desire on the zoning for residential areas. Discussion followed. It was decided Council would have a final decision by the April 27th work session.

Mayor Wilkerson asked Council for a motion to allow HDLA to pursue a possible grant.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to allow HDLA to pursue the possibility of grant funding for the Town of Crewe.

Mayor Wilkerson asked for Council's desire on the house numbers in town. Discussion followed. It was decided to have Attorney Bacon look into the issue.

Mayor Wilkerson asked Council Member Miskovic on his request to include the crosswalk in VDOT's 6 year plan. Manager Walker will be emailing the Town's request to include the crosswalk in the plan.

Mayor Wilkerson spoke of a recent tragic and fatal accident at the Melody Lane/Route 49 intersection speed limit. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Sisk; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to have the speed limit studied at the Route 49 entrance into Town.

Council Member Miskovic asked that Council discuss the ordinance review at the next meeting.

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CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Art Booth, Rocky Ford Road, thanked the Town of Crewe Public Works for fixing the road in front of his house.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to enter into executive session under Sections 2.2 – 3711.A.1 Personnel and 2.2 – 3711.A.7 Legal Advice.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to come out of executive session.

Open Session

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted on roll call vote to certify the executive session as follows:

Council Member Daulton - Aye

Council Member Sisk - Aye

Council Member Fisher - Aye

Council Member Stinson - Aye

Council Member Knight - Aye

Council Member Simpson - Aye

Council Member Miskovic – Aye

7 – 0 Roll Call Motion Passes

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted by roll call vote to raise the current Detective's pay by \$1.63 as follows:

Council Member Daulton - N

Council Member Sisk - Abstain

Council Member Fisher - Aye

Council Member Stinson - Aye

Council Member Knight - No

Council Member Simpson - No

Council Member Miskovic – Aye

3 Aye – 3 Nay – 1 Abstention Motion tied.

Mayor Wilkerson voted Aye to break the tie, motion passed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Sally T. Wilkerson Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager