

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 12, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

Present: Mayor Simmons, Council Members Shirley Daulton, Steve Sisk Jr., E.B. Fisher, Anne Stinson, Robbie Knight, & Phil Miskovic

Absent: Council Member John Spencer

Also Present: Town Manager Walker & Town Attorney Tessie Bacon

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

Mayor Simmons opened the meeting with a public hearing for the purpose of passing a resolution, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-1903 and other Virginia Code Sections authorizing the use of eminent domain to condemn a permanent airport maintenance easement to construct, repair, improve and maintain the entry to and exit from the Town of Crewe Municipal Airport, which shall include, but not limited to the harvesting and removal of trees in said easement.

James Wilkerson, W. VA Ave., mentioned he had been contacted by the Department of Aviation in regard to the situation with the obstructions at the airport. Mr. Wilkerson stated he fully supports the use of eminent domain and suggested the Town act quickly as the work needing to be done and the airport itself is very important. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to close the public hearing.

Mayor Simmons opened the regular scheduled meeting thanking the citizens for coming out to support the local government. He reminded Council and citizens we at the start of Homecoming week and it is a very exciting time. He stated he is happy for the new Mayor Sally Wilkerson and he is looking forward to the prosperity council will work on for the upcoming years.

**DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mr. Bill Faas, President Crewe-Burkeville Chamber, thanked Council for their help with the Chamber clean-up day.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar totaling \$161,716.07.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the minutes from the April 28, 2014 Budget Workshop.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manager Walker informed Council we were in the final stages of the loan approval and loan closing of the sewer project. Loan closing is scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup> and work is scheduled to begin around July 15<sup>th</sup>.

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**MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D.**

Walker stated that we have completed the proposed FY14-15 budget and suggested changes from the work session had been made. We will once again review the budget in a May 27<sup>th</sup> work session and prepare it for advertisement. Two weeks advertising is required therefore we will need a special meeting in June to approve the budget.

The signs for public parking at town parking lots have been installed and the sign for no loitering at the library have been installed.

There has been no word from the engineers on questions concerning our current water rates. They have been concentrating on the sewer project. We should hear from them soon.

Walker stated he had received a copy of the application for funds from the Department of Housing and Community Development, filed by the Nottoway County Planner on our behalf for the Lipscombe/Stratton Streets Project. The application is quite extensive and those involved have worked very hard on our behalf and submitted an excellent application that should yield results. DHCD has been very helpful and supportive and we appreciate their help as well.

Manger Walker asked Council if Town Attorney could look into whether or not we could send out annual notices regarding the Town's grass ordinance instead of our current requirement of notifying violators and giving them 10 days to cut their properties. It is very difficult for town forces to cut these properties once they are 20+ days. Notices could be sent out with March utility bills and posted on the web site and Facebook.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to have Attorney Bacon involved in resolving the grass cutting situation.

**TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Attorney Bacon reported she had been working on the loan closing for the sewer project, the Airport issues stating she needed Council to approve the resolution to get the ball rolling on that. She is also working on collecting back taxes, code enforcement and the Trout River expansion. Attorney Bacon elaborated on the Trout River expansion stating they would like use of some of the property across the street for storage only and would like the lease at no additional cost. Trout River would also like to harvest a small portion of timber on the property that is being leased and as lease states they would give all profit to the town.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to advertise for a Public Hearing on the lease for the expansion of Trout River.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Community Development:**

Council Member Daulton reported she still hopes to have the Governor's decision on the Lipscomb/Stratton Project by July 2014.

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**Economic Development:**

Council Member Miskovic congratulated Mayor Elect Wilkerson and all the others that ran and won. He stated Chamber had met and established a Main Street Committee. He also mentioned the Chamber would not meet again until September 2014 and the main street clean-up was a huge success. HEAL Committee is set to meet May 14<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m. at the Crewe Airport. He encouraged everyone to get their children and grandchildren signed up for 4-H camp. He also reminded everyone of the Economic Committee meeting scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Crewe Airport. Miskovic spoke about the FASTC announcement stating the Administration decided to move forward with locating to Fort Pickett. He reported the e-mail list is up and running. He informed Council he attended a broadband workshop in Keysville, VA. Discussion followed. He stated he is currently working on the website with Tiffany. He also encouraged everyone to come out and support the local Relay for Life event scheduled on May 31, 2014.

**Facilities/Parks & Recreation:**

Council Member Sisk reported the Railroad Committee would meet Thursday at 7 p.m. The parks are looking good. He has scheduled a meeting with Toney Shelton and TJ Shelton with the Public Works Department to discuss filling in the ruts in Hagberg. He stated the CBYRA is doing good and the girls state tournament meeting is Thursday at 7 p.m. Crewe Airport. Sisk informed Council the Best of Virginia Magazine has featured Crewe Railroad Museum as topping the list for Railroad Museums in Virginia. He encouraged everyone to stop by the Museum during Homecoming.

Council Member Fisher informed everyone the 611 Steam Engine will be moved to North Carolina to be restored and then it will start excursions in 2015.

**Finance:**

Council Member Knight reported his committee would meet on May 27, 2014.

**Public Works/Infrastructure:**

Council Member Spencer was absent.

**Personnel:**

Council Member Stinson had no official report. She did however say she was pleased to see some of the high school students in the audience.

**Public Safety:**

Council Member Fisher reported Tiffany was getting information about replacing the street signs.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:**

Chief Booth reported the Police Department is advertising for 1 part time and 1 full time officer. He explained Officer Joyner would be leaving June 1<sup>st</sup> to take a full time position with another department and Officer Stegall would be leaving in July to attend Liberty to obtain his law degree. Chief also reported the department has been active on collecting and issuing violations for town stickers. He stated next the department will begin

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stricter enforcement on inoperative vehicles and trash violations. Chief also reported the department has been busy preparing for the upcoming soap box derby at the annual Homecoming.

Manager Walker commended the Chief and his department for the work they have done with the town stickers.

Council Member Miskovic asked about the status of the trash ordinance. Chief Booth explained he is working with Toney and TJ to start enforcing this.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Simmons encouraged everyone to attend this year's Homecoming as they are celebrating 25 Years! He reminded everyone of the Family Fun Night at Hooper Park on Friday, May 16 from 5:30 to 9:00 stating there would be lots of good food and entertainment for the family and fun stuff for the kids. He stated Saturday downtown will have vendors, all day entertainment, and coffee at the Community Center, the tractor exhibit at Hagberg Park and a parade at 3.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Sisk questioned of a way to prevent or disguise downtown buildings being used as storage facilities stating it takes away from the beauty of the town. Council Member Miskovic suggested tabling the idea until after the Main Street Committee met in addition to utilizing the towns zoning ordinances as a way to move forward. Discussion followed.

Council Member Miskovic mentioned the necessity and current location of the fire alarm at the Town Office stating he would like to meet with someone from the Fire Department to discuss it and have a better understanding of the history on it. He stated Council had not yet met with the Fire Department like they had other departments so he suggested having someone from the department come to the next meeting.

Council Member Miskovic suggested contacting the businesses in the industrial park to inquire if they would be interested in putting up a few flag poles at their expense to fly the Town of Crewe and the United States flag. Discussion followed.

Manager Walker on behalf of Jerry Morton, representative of the 100 mile yard sale asked to have all business license fees waived for the yard sale vendors and for the Town's support.

Council Member Knight asked if a spring clean-up had been scheduled. Manager Walker stated they could set one for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to have a spring clean up the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of June 2014.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted by voice vote to approve the resolution as written by Town Attorney Bacon pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-1903 and other Virginia Code Sections authorizing the use of eminent domain to condemn a permanent airport maintenance easement to construct, repair, improve and maintain the entry to and exit from the Town of Crewe Municipal Airport, which shall include, but not limited to the harvesting and removal of trees in said easement.

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Council Member Miskovic reported he had received the VDOT study for the crosswalk and he is working it out with VDOT as to what they would pay and what the Town would pay for the crosswalk.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Council Member Sisk; seconded by Council Knight.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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Lee Simmons                      Mayor

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W. Wade Walker      Town Manager