

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, JULY 9, 2012, AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND  
CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

Present: Mayor Simmons, Council Members Hank Crittenden, E. B. Fisher, Robbie Knight, Phil Miskovic, Stephen Sisk, and Anne Stinson

Also Present: Chief of Police Art Booth and Town Attorney Tessie Bacon

Absent: Town Manager Wade Walker

Meeting called to order by Mayor Simmons. Council Member Hank Crittenden led in the Lord's Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council Member E. B. Fisher.

Mayor Simmons opened the meeting by thanking all for attending and their input in their government. He stated that we were scheduled to have a Public Hearing on the sale of the old Norfolk Western Division Office but because we were not able to properly advertise it, it will be postponed until the August meeting.

Mayor Simmons then mentioned that Town Manager Wade Walker is absent tonight due to his mother's illness. He asked to please keep the Walker family in your thoughts and prayers.

He then discussed the fact that tonight was the beginning of a new Council and he was looking forward to working with a group he feels will be working for the Town and not waiting for something to happen.

He then asked for nominations for Vice-Mayor. Hank Crittenden nominated Anne Stinson for Vice-Mayor, the motion seconded by E. B. Fisher. Hearing no more nominations, Mayor Simmons closed the nominations. He then called for a motion to elect Anne Stinson as Vice-Mayor for the upcoming two-year term ending June 30, 2014. Motion made by Robbie Knight and seconded by E. B. Fisher. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**DELEGATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Robert Martin representing the VFW gave a brief presentation on what the VFW is involved in and how helpful and important they are to the community. He then asked Council to consider giving a credit for past utility bills to the VFW for being billed the Commercial Rate the past few months.

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**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Mayor Simmons asked the Council to consider approving the Consent Calendar and asked for comment and questions.

Motion made by E. B. Fisher to approve the consent calendar along with the additions. Council voted unanimously to approve the consent calendar.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Walker is absent. Mayor Simmons will present some items on his behalf during his report.

**TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Ms. Bacon reported that a great deal had been done with regard to collecting back taxes. She reported that during the last meeting, Council voted to allow James Elliott to represent the Town for the limited purpose of selling property with delinquent taxes. She stated that Mr. Elliott has a standard contract that he requires. She has reviewed the contract and it is a standard contract. She asked if Council wanted to review the contract further or move to accept the contract. Council Member Crittenden moved that we trust the advice of Ms. Bacon and proceed with the signing of the contract. The motion was seconded by John Spencer. Motion passed.

Now approved, we will be sending some to Mr. Elliott for pursuit of sale of property. Ms. Bacon then submitted that further work is being done by herself and Mr. Walker to pursue collection of back taxes via payment options for citizens.

Ms. Bacon then mentioned the property/maintenance code work being done. She asks Council to consider the passage of a few ordinances that would enhance the power of the Building Inspector in reference to rental properties. She then asks them to consider ordinances that would allow us to include the collection of fees associated with the inspections and work toward collection or sale.

She then stated that the current code we adopted was very comprehensive and she wanted to minimize the code and re-adopt it so that it would better suit our needs. Discussion followed and Attorney Bacon answered questions. Mayor Simmons then asked if these were all typical of other municipalities. Ms. Bacon answered yes they were typical. Hearing no more questions, Mayor Simmons ask for a motion to authorize Ms. Bacon to draft these ordinances on behalf of the Town. Motion made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Mr. Crittenden. Motion passed unanimously.

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**TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT, cont.**

Attorney Bacon informed Council she is currently studying the Norfolk Southern lease and she has been in contact with Mr. Steve Bray of Norfolk Southern to discuss a number of entries in the agreement that she feels are objectionable. They are attempting to work these out and she will try to resolve the issues as soon as possible.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Community Development

Council Member Crittenden stated that due to the limited time as chair of this committee, he had no report. He did state that he was very excited to be on the Town Council and he looked forward to working together to resolve the issues of the Town. He stated he hopes that this Council will put what is best for the Town of Crewe uppermost in our minds. He then mentioned that next year would be Crewe's 125-year anniversary. Mr. Crittenden then stated that he felt we needed to have a steering committee immediately to work with the Chamber of Commerce and other organization to make this a very special occasion.

Mr. Crittenden then stated that as chairman of the Community Development Committee, he planned to ask people in the town to be a part of this committee, feeling that their input would help and give a different perspective.

Economic Development

Council Member Miskovic stated that he was anxious to get started and serve the public. He stated that last week he was in touch with the Virginia Deputy Secretary of Commerce & Trade for rural development on a variety of issues and to establish a working relationship at the state level. One thing emphasized during their discussions was the importance of regionalism and to recognize the needs as a region and not just as a town.

He stated he had established a Face Book page for the Town of Crewe. The site can be accessed through [facebook.com/townofcrewe](https://www.facebook.com/townofcrewe). He invited everyone to visit the page and join. Plans are to present updates and activities on the page to keep the public aware of happening within the town.

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Facilities

Council Member Sisk stated he was pleased to be on Council and looked forward to working with everyone. Regarding Parks and Recreation, Tammy Blevins has been working with the Chamber of Commerce and they have begun placing bricks around the gazebo. They plan to plant some plants and flowers to try and make the area look good. They plan on a second phase of work where they will try to place a sidewalk between the gazebo and the walk area. They asked if anyone is interested in helping to please let Tammy know. Both projects will be paid for with donations.

Recreation reported that next Friday July 20th, they will be showing a movie and providing nachos proceeds to benefit the Crewe Recreation Association. This will take place at Beamer Field. The time is from 9:00pm to 11:00pm. The event is free but concessions will be served to raise money.

Council Member Sisk reminded everyone that this weekend, Crewe is hosting the Dixie Softball State Tournament. This will benefit the businesses in town and bring a lot of people in the area. He asked that we support the tournament as much as possible.

Finance

Council Member Knight reported that we had just begun a new budget year and he plans on calling a meeting of the Finance Committee within the next month to set up times when they can meet with the various department heads to discuss finance and the budget.

Public Works

Council Member Spencer mentioned that water levels are approaching a serious level. Mayor Simmons responded that he planned to ask Council to consider mandatory water restrictions. Discussion followed on the necessity to go on water restrictions. It was decided that during the state tournament, they be allowed to water down the infield in order to keep the dust down. Council Knight asked if Council wanted to set a specific level below the spillway that we would call for the restrictions. He suggested 7 inches a level. A motion was made by Knight and second by Hank Crittenden to make restrictions mandatory at the 7 inch below the spillway level. Motion passed.

Personnel

Council Member Anne Stinson reported that she looks forward to leading this committee. She stated she felt our town employees are very valuable to our town and they deserve careful consideration to the policies that govern them.

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**Public Safety**

Council Member E. B. Fisher stated he was not aware of any problems with the Fire Department or Nottoway Rescue. Mr. Fisher then deferred to Chief of Police Art Booth for a report on the Police Department.

Chief Booth referred to the Police Report submitted in the Council packets. He elaborated on some of the items listed. He then stated they have hired two new part time officers. Ronnie Hite and Danny Joyner.

National Night Out will take place August 7<sup>th</sup>. There are many new events planned and they hope it will be as successful as last year's event.

Chief Booth stated the Citizen Police Academy concludes on Thursday, July 12<sup>th</sup>. The class has been well attended and many members of Council have attended. Council Member Fisher stated the department has done an excellent job on the class and it has been very informative. Council Members Crittenden and Sisk seconded Fisher's statements stating how informative and beneficial the class was.

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Simmons commented on the annual Chicken Festival and what a great event it was. He stated he wanted to reiterate Council Member Sisk's comments on the state softball coming up and what a big, important event it is for the Town of Crewe. Volunteers are responsible for running this event and he urged everyone to support their efforts not just for the kids but for the entire town as well.

Mayor Simmons reminded everyone about the Nottoway Heritage Day on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July. It deals with the history of Nottoway County and Civil War history and is presented in the form of a mobile museum. Many of our historically related areas such as the Railroad Museum and the Lottie Moon gravesite as well as the Francisco monument will be featured. Also, the Virginia Museum of Radio Entertainment will be open that weekend for visitors.

National Night Out is another upcoming event of importance for the public to enjoy and a great opportunity for them to get to know the police force. He hoped everyone would attend and thank all of our officers for their efforts.

Mayor Simmons mentioned the upcoming Willie Nelson concert and asked for the support of the public so these events can continue.

Regarding Council, Mayor Simmons reminded them of the upcoming tour of town facilities on Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>.

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**Mayor's Report, cont.**

Mayor Simmons then discussed the interim financing which Citizens Bank & Trust Company offered. He informed Council that he would like for Council to approve the loan and move forward. A motion was made by Council Member Crittenden and second by E. B. Fisher to accept the bid from Citizens Bank and authorize Town Manager Walker to sign and negotiate on behalf of the Town of Crewe. Motion was unanimously approved.

Mayor Simmons then discussed the addition of handicap ramp at the Town Hall that would make the facility ADA compliant. He stated we have a bid to complete this work that will be located at the Police Department entrance of the building. The proposed bid was from Hailey's Contracting in the amount of \$8,265.00. Council Member Knight asked if they were going to match the brick currently on the building. Simmons informed them it would not be a brick ramp but a better quality composite decking. Mr. Knight suggested tabling the issue in order to give it more consideration. Discussion followed. It was decided that the issue be tabled until the August meeting.

Finally, Mayor Simmons presented Council with the upcoming contract from Robinson Farmer & Cox accounting services. A motion was made by Council Member Knight and seconded by Mrs. Stinson to accept the contract. Hearing no further discussion, Council voted unanimously to accept the contract.

**Continuing Business**

None

**New Business**

None

Motion made by Council Member Crittenden to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Knight.

Meeting Adjourned

