

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012, AT 7:30PM IN THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

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

Also Present: Town Manager, Wade Walker and Chief of Police Art Booth

Mayor Simmons called the meeting to order.

Council Member Hank Crittenden led in the Lord's Prayer followed by the pledge allegiance let by Council Member E. B. Fisher.

Mayor Simmons thanked everyone for attending the meeting and participating in our Town government. He stated he wanted the citizens to know how hard the Council Members are working for this town. Many committee meetings are ongoing and Mayor Simmons stated he was very encouraged and excited by their progress. He then wished Steve and Tiffany congratulations on the birth of their son, David Scott and wished them well. Simmons then thanked Norma Spencer for handling the office while Tiffany is out on maternity leave. Also thanks to Beverly Redman for pitching in as well.

**DELEGATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Chief Val Wilson of the Crewe Volunteer Fire Department addressed Council reminding them that the previous Council agreed to place any remaining funds not spent from the previous year-end budget into a reserve fund for the purchase of a new fire truck. Chief Wilson stated while they were not buying immediately, it was time to start thinking about the truck, as it would be in excess of \$400,000.00. Mayor Simmons stated that the previous Council had voted to do this and the account has been established. He further asked Wilson if possible, could the Fire Department get with the Town Manager and give some idea of when they would actually be purchasing the truck so we could better plan for it. Discussion followed and it was noted by Town Manager Walker that the funds had been set aside and the total was approximately \$9,000.00.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with the additions to the bill sheet totaling \$79,305.51.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012, AT 7:30PM IN THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

**MANAGERS REPORT**

Town Manager Walker opened by stating that one of our employees, Charles Jones, was involved in an accident while delivering a load of sludge to the Amelia landfill. The front right tire of the dump truck he was driving blew which caused the truck to veer to the right and eventually over turn. He stated he was pleased to report that Charles is doing o.k. and he plans to return to work on October 19<sup>th</sup>. Charles was wearing his safety belt and it is the consensus of the trooper working the scene that if he had not, the situation could have been much worse. We are pleased Charles is o.k. and will be returning soon.

Walker stated that unfortunately, the truck was a total loss and the actual cash value being paid from our insurance company is only \$12,900.00. We have begun searching for a truck to replace this one and it would appear our only viable option is to purchase a new vehicle. We currently have a loan on our backhoe and pick up truck that is close to being paid off. We will look into re-financing this note and purchasing the new dump truck. The price so far for a new vehicle is estimated at \$92,000.00. Discussion followed.

Manager Walker then stated that this accident has brought forward the need to seriously consider our current insurance program and remind everyone that we do an excellent job taking care of equipment and have operating vehicles dating back to 1971; but, having the age on these vehicles means that the actual cash value is low and replacement costs are considerably higher. There is also concern for safety when operating these older vehicles. We need to be aware of this and be prepared, as these older vehicles need replacing.

Walker then informed Council that the annual leaf pick-up season will begin the week of October 29, 2012 beginning in the east end of town and progressing west until completed. Walker reminded everyone that leaves should to be placed in the street, with the exception of Virginia Avenue. He also ask that people be reminded to please not place grass clipping and leaves in the tracks of the alleys.

Manager Walker then presented two resolutions required by the USDA in order to further qualify for the loan/grant we will be receiving for sewer rehabilitation. Council Member Crittenden made a motion to pass both resolutions; seconded by Mr. Fisher. Both resolutions were passed by unanimous vote from Council.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012, AT 7:30PM IN THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

**TOWN ATTORNEYS REPORT**

Town Attorney Tessie Bacon began by discussing the proposed Norfolk Southern Lease. She stated she had reviewed the final draft of the lease and based on previous review and discussion felt we could move forward and sign the lease as is.

She presented a memo and a policy to review. The memo summarizes how to enforce the Virginia Property Maintenance Code. She stated that she now feels we have completed all our requirements and ready to begin enforcing the code. Attorney Bacon discussed the Dangerous Building Code as being separate from the Property Maintenance Code in that if the building code official inspects a property and finds it to be an eminent threat to the safety of the public we could use the Dangerous Building ordinance to allow an automatic remedy and priority lien on the property. She further stated there were a few small revisions that need to be made but overall, the current Dangerous Building Code is a good one and is enforceable.

The policy handed out deals with approving the members of the Appeals Board relative to the new Property Maintenance Code.

Mayor Simmons then asked Council to consider the request of the Town Attorney and asked for a motion to that effect. Motion was made by Council Member Knight; seconded by E. B. Fisher. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Attorney Bacon then asked about a motion for the Norfolk Southern Lease. Mayor Simmons informed Council that we already had a motion to approve the lease previously but just wanted her to review the current lease to be sure the language of the lease was still the same.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Community Development: Council Member Hank Crittenden reported that the committee had met and discussed three items. First and primary, the status of the community development project currently underway regarding the Lipscombe / Stratton Street Project. He was please to report that everything is moving forward and the response from the citizens has been very good. Brandi Newcombe, Nottoway County Planner, has done an outstanding job picking up for Steve Ferguson and we are on track to continue forward on this project.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012, AT 7:30PM IN THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS, cont.**

Second the committee was asked by the Mayor to come up with a list of derelict houses that need attention. They came up with three houses so far. The first property is across from Town Hall on Carolina Avenue. The second is the "Hussey" house on Maryland Avenue and the third is the "Beeler" house on Virginia Avenue.

The final project discussed during their meeting was how the Town will be celebrating our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. They are in the process of coming up with some ideas and Mr. Crittenden asked Council and the public to feel free to suggest anything that would enhance the event.

Economic Development: Council Member Phil Miskovic reported the committee had met with the Chamber of Commerce and was working toward developing a strong relationship with them. Mr. Miskovic stated that he was pleased the old signs throughout town had been taken up and removed and he thanked town forces for doing this. This is a small thing but it is an effort to try and decrease blight throughout the town. He stated that a few weeks ago, he attended the Virginia Municipal League Conference where he learned a great deal and found the conference to be very informative and recommended all Council Members attend if they can.

Council Member Miskovic stated he had been in touch with Longwood University and Hampton Sidney about a possible intern to help with our social media marketing. Someone that could come in and help us with our marketing and electronic communications. It may not be until next semester before we are able to find out about this.

Facilities/Parks & Recreation: Council Member Sisk reported that next month they would begin decorating for the Christmas Holidays in the park. The Chamber recently had a chicken dinner to raise funds for the purchase of new decorations. They are looking for volunteers to help with the decorations and if interested, you should get in touch with Tammy Blevins of the Chamber.

Finance: Council Member Knight reported the committee had met and would like Council to consider the procedure for approval of grants. They suggested that all grant requests go through the Town Manager followed by a recommendation to the Finance Committee and subsequent presentation to Council for final approval. Mayor Simmons asked Mr. Knight if this was now in the form of a motion. Knight stated it was. Council Member Sisk seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Mayor Simmons asked that the new process should be done as timely as possible due to some grants having deadlines for entry. The new procedure was passed unanimously.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012, AT 7:30PM IN THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS, cont.**

Public Works/Infrastructure: Council Member Spencer stated that everything seems to be going well and that Manager Walker had covered most of what he wanted to say. He did mention the heating system was not working at the water plant. Repairmen have been called.

Personnel: No report.

Public Safety: Council Member Fisher stated Fire Chief Wilson has already reported on the Fire Department. He stated the rescue squad remains busy. He then turned over the Police Report to Chief Booth.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Booth reported that Officer Ragland recovered a stolen vehicle as a result of a traffic stop. Nothing further.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Simmons reported the recent Darius Ricker concert was a success and the turnout was good and well supported by the community. Everyone benefits from this tourist-like attraction. Chris Going with VMRE is very excited about the outcome of these events and they look forward to having more in the spring of the year. Mayor Simmons also has asked Chris to see if we can in some way coordinate a concert with the upcoming 125-year anniversary celebration. He stated they were more than willing to see what they could do and work with the Town on this project.

Mayor Simmons stated he attended the Southside Youth Festival and it was a very nice event and it appeared to be one of the largest crowds he had seen. The kids and adults enjoyed the event and it appeared to be very successful. He stated he represented the Town well by winning a trophy in a hula-hoop contest. He then thanked the Reagans for all the work they do and he asked that everyone continue to support their efforts.

Simmons thanked the Crewe Burkeville Chamber of Commerce for hosting the Candidates Forum for the upcoming elections of the Commonwealth Attorney. It is good to see people are interested in this local election and the Chamber should be commended to hosting the event. Council Member Crittenden followed up the Mayor's comments by saying he attended the forum and it was very well done and he felt we could be pleased with all the candidates and what they will do for Nottoway County.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012, AT 7:30PM IN THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Knight asked if Council was going to make a decision on the dump truck. A great deal of discussion followed concerning the need for a new truck, justification for buying a new one, and the overall condition of Town vehicles and the future needs of the town.

It was agreed by Council to ask Town Manger Walker to put together numbers on three vehicles and the financing options to be presented at a called work session to take place on Monday, October 22, 2012 at 7:30pm at the Library Conference Center.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Council Member Miskovic mentioned that several months ago Council discussed the sale of the Norfolk Western Division Office. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Miskovic to place the building for sale at \$225,000.00. Council Member Fisher asked if that was the actual assessed value or just a number. It was a number previously mentioned by a former Council Member. Fisher had questions about the value of the building, particularly with the issues of asbestos. Mr. Crittenden asked if we were sure that all options for use of this building had been researched. Manager Walker suggested finding a realtor to handle the assessment and sale of the building. Council Member Fisher suggested following that advice that was followed by Council Member Miskovic amending his original motion to have a realtor become involved in selling the building. Council Member Stinson seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Simmons called for a vote. The motion passed 6-1, with one descending vote from Council Member Crittenden.

Mayor Simmons then asked Council to consider a motion to go into closed session under Real Estate, pursuant to State Code 2.2-3711.A.3. Council Member Knight made the motion and was seconded by Mr. Fisher. Motion passed.

Closed Session

Motion made by Council Member Knight and seconded by Mr. Crittenden to leave closed session and return to open session. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to certify the Closed Session stating that only allowable items were discussed was made by E. B. Fisher and seconded by Hank Crittenden. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member Fisher and seconded by John Spencer. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

