

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 14, 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, John Spencer, & Phil Miskovic

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 the first of 2 public hearings. The purpose of the first public hearing was to hear public comment regarding the disposal of property owned by the Town of Crewe, pursuant to Virginia Code 15.2-1800.

County Supervisor, Gary Simmons commented it means so much for the economic growth of the Town of Crewe, Nottoway County and all surrounding counties as we will see jobs, a \$5.4 million investment and this will facilitate the growth of the project.

Mayor Simmons informed everyone that Trout River Lumber is the company that wants the land and will be expanding their business.

Council Member Daulton commented how wonderful she thinks this project is.

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

Mayor Simmons opened the second public hearing with the purpose of hearing public comment regarding passing a resolution, pursuant to Virginia Code, that declares property owned by the Town of Crewe as surplus property and property that is available for disposition.

Attorney Bacon addressed Council with clarification on what she needed for the deed that included the easement of the railroad spur, the reversion of the property and the covenant that would go with said land.

Council Member Miskovic expressed his preference for the record that if the business were to "go under" he would be more comfortable with the property reverting back to the Town's ownership as opposed to sitting vacant.

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

Mayor Simmons informed Council that County Supervisor Gary Simmons and County Administrator Ronnie Roark were present to hear the acts of Council in regard to the public hearing. Mayor Simmons asked Council if they would consider making a decision on the public hearing now as opposed to the end of the meeting during continuing business, Council agreed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to have Attorney Bacon draft the deed as she stated and the Town sell the property.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

No delegations/citizens comments.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar totaling \$157,422.72.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Wade Walker informed Council we were in the final stages of the loan approval and commencement of work on our sewer project. Walker asks that at some point during this meeting, Council needed to make a decision on the previously advertised increase in sewer rates, necessary for the loan approval and repayment of the sewer loans on the project.

Manager Walker stated that we are currently working on the upcoming FY2014 budget. We have received the completed audit reports for 2013 and copies are available for review in the Town Office. All areas were reported to be in good condition with only minor suggestions from the auditors.

Mr. Walker informed Council that the purchase of a new chipper has been delayed until the machine can be brought to Crewe for a demonstration. Spring cleanup has begun in earnest and the machine is necessary to maintain this important service. We are currently looking at two chippers with the costs being approximately \$38,000.00. Walker stated like most of our equipment, our current chipper is 18 years old and has been a good one, but it is finally beginning to wear out. Funds for the purchase of the new chipper will come from revenues earned for snow removal this year and little, if any, costs will be incurred from general fund.

Manager Walker stated that Council may recall that last year, our water plant received a Bronze Award from the Office of Drinking Water, Virginia Department of Health for outstanding production of drinking water. We recently received word that our water plant has received a Silver Award and has once again been recognized for outstanding quality and service as a drinking water provider. The award ceremony will take place April 23, 2014 at the Sheraton Roanoke Hotel. John Hricko and his staff should be congratulated all their hard work and dedication to providing our citizens with award winning drinking water. Walker stated that while there may be some problems with the delivery system, these awards prove that we are providing a good product. He stated this was the reason for his recommendation that water rates increase slightly and these extra funds be placed in a reserve account to replace designated water lines throughout the town, eventually replacing all town water mains. This reserve and line replacement can be done yearly so that we do not experience the same expense and problems we face with our sewer lines.

Walker stated that during the other evening meeting with downtown merchants, it was suggested we should provide town flags for purchase. Many business owners stated they would like flags to be flown in their business. Council agreed to purchase extra flags and offer them for sale at cost.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon reported she had been working on the public hearings, back taxes and derelict buildings and doing research. She also stated she is waiting to hear from County Building Inspector Al Ellington so she can set a hearing date for one derelict property.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development:

Council Member Daulton reported she had contacted Kelly Hatcher, County Planner in regard to the criteria for the Lipscomb/Stratton Project. She stated Kelly informed her that DHCD regulates the criteria and they do not provide that information as public knowledge. Council Member Daulton also reported A & J Produce had increased and now carries meats. She mentioned New To You consignment on Virginia Ave. had closed.

Economic Development:

Council Member Miskovic congratulated Mayor Simmons and First Lady Shelley on their recent marriage. He spoke about the huge success of the Main Street Roundtable stating it had a great turnout and discussions. He informed Council the Chamber would be hosting a clean-up day May 4th from 1 – 4 p.m. to help clean up main street before the annual Homecoming Celebration. Miskovic also talked about the “Meet the Candidates Forum” stating that also had a good turn-out. He stated in the last HEAL meeting they discussed the many activities to be hosted at VUMAC and the many great benefits of local honey and how it helps with allergies. Miskovic reported the next HEAL meeting would be May 14th at 6 p.m. at the Crewe Airport. He closed stating he hoped to hear something about the crosswalk study soon as we are nearing the 90 day mark.

Facilities/Parks & Recreation:

Council Member Sisk reported the Airport is doing fine and the Library work is complete and looks great. He said all is well with the Railroad Museum and he has found some maps on when Crewe was being built and he is also looking for Fire Insurance Maps. He said the CBYRA is doing great. He reminded Council of his committee meeting with the Chamber and the CBYRA to discuss the information packets for the 2 upcoming softball tournaments.

Finance:

Council Member Knight reported his committee would meet with the Town Manager and Department Heads over the next 2 weeks to work on the budget.

Public Works/Infrastructure:

Council Member Spencer reported Toney had everything under control. He said the ramp looked good.

Mayor Simmons informed Council the public works department had repaired many of the potholes in town.

Personnel:

Council Member Stinson thanked Tiffany and Norma for getting the letter of support done for the 21st Century Community Learning Center Program grant.

Public Safety:

Council Member Fisher had no report for fire or rescue.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Investigator Turner reported on behalf of Chief Booth. She stated the Easter Egg Hunt put on in Hagberg Park with the CBYRA was a great event and very successful. She reported the department is getting ready for the Annual Homecoming Festival May 17th.

Council Member Sisk asked Investigator Turner to make sure to get a list of the departments upcoming activities to the local businesses.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Simmons spoke about a few events he was unable to attend to include the Candidate Forum where he understands everyone did well and he appreciates the Chamber for their work with the event stating how important it is to the democracy we have in town. He thanked the Fire Department for their invitation to the annual dinner they host.

Mayor Simmons talked about the opening ceremonies for the CBYRA saying it was a great event and thank you to the catchers and their athleticism for saving his pitches. He reminded Council how nice it is to go out there on the field and just look all around you and see all the kids and supporters. He appreciates being a part of such a great event and has appreciated it over the years. Mayor Simmons commented being a part of the Opening Ceremonies for the CBYRA is one of the best things he has been a part of. He mentioned the following weekend the CBYRA came back with a community Easter Egg Hunt held in partnership with the Crewe Police Department and he said Investigator Turner was right it was truly a spectacular event, there had to have been hundreds of kids there. Mayor Simmons noted that it is events like this that set the Town apart from all the others. He gave a big Thank you to CBYRA for the sports and all their volunteer work.

Mayor Simmons also went on to talk about how tremendous the growth of Trout River Lumber will be to this area. He mentioned they opened in 1996 with 8 employees and now have over 50 employees. He also mentioned Governor McAuliffe's recent appearance to show his support of the expansion of Trout River. He also commended the Town of Crewe for their support in the growth of Trout River.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Miskovic reported on the concerns of parking availability suggesting maybe the newly expanded parking lot across from town could use some public parking signs. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to investigate the costs of public parking signs.

Mayor Simmons informed Council he had met with Chief Booth and Director of Public Works Toney Shelton about more actively enforcing Section 58-4 of the Town of Crewe Code for garbage. This is in response of the litter around town. Discussion followed.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk, to adopt the recommended sewer rate increase of \$4.00 to become effective July 1, 2014.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

Council Member Miskovic presented a proposal for Council's consideration in regard to mitigating the burden of the said rate increases. Discussion followed.

Mayor Simmons scheduled a budget workshop meeting for April 28th at 7 p.m.

Council Member Sisk informed Council he would like to table the cutting of the trees in Hagberg Park while he obtains the necessary information requested from Norfolk Southern. Sisk also informed Council the Railroad Museum is working to have the entrance from Virginia Ave up to the museum's turn in paved.

Mayor Simmons then asked Council for a motion to enter into executive session under Section 2.2-3711.a.7, Legal Matters. Motion made by Council Member Miskovic to enter executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knight. Motion passed.

Motion made by Council Member Knight to exit the executive session; seconded by Mr. Fisher.

Open Session

Motion to certify the closed session made by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Fisher. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Spencer. Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.

Lee Simmons Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager