

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2012 AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND  
CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

Present: Mayor Simmons, Council Members Shirley Daulton, John Spencer,  
Robbie Knight, Sally Wilkerson, E.B. Fisher, Rhea Houchins, & Pat Rose

Also Present: Town Manager Walker, Town Attorney Tessie Bacon &  
Chief of Police Art Booth

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

Mayor Simmons opened the meeting with a Public Hearing to receive comments on a proposal to change the cost of town decals and cemetery plots as follows:

**TOWN DECALS**

<b><u>Type of Vehicle</u></b>	<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
Cars & Trucks	\$25.00	\$30.00
Motorcycles	\$8.00	\$10.00
Trailer & Camper	\$7.50	\$10.00

**CEMETERY PLOTS**

<b><u>Sections Purchased</u></b>	<b><u>Current</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed</u></b>
1 Grave Section	\$300.00	\$400.00
2 Grave Section	\$600.00	\$800.00
4 Grave Section	\$1,200.00	\$1,600.00
8 Grave Section	\$2,400.00	\$3,200.00

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Minnie Statom, Rock Castle Ave., commented that there are a lot of widows in this town that simply cannot afford the extra expense. Mrs. Statom also stated she doesn't believe the people of the Council understand the problems some of the citizens have. She concluded by saying before you pass something please, I ask all of you to think first before you go asking someone to take on an extra expense because they simply don't have it.

Sam Hill, Gatewood Ave., stated he was surprised to hear Council vote on a proposed increase on the Town Tags for the purpose of using the funds to tear down dilapidated houses. Mr. Hill stated it was his understanding the legal process has not been completed and the citizens have not been made aware of a study that has been done to tell how much the demolition process would cost or what will be sold for salvage, and what will happen to the land. Mr. Hill stated it seemed like not operating the Community Center for two years and the sale of the Center, the mild winter and the savings on the heat and electric, and the savings this coming year with not having the legal fee's spent on suits against the Town, there should be monies saved. Mr. Hill concluding by stating he felt the Council has jumped the gun on this tax increase and further felt this should be put on hold until more of a study is made and presented to the Public.

Mayor Simmons opened the second Public Hearing to receive comments on the proposed budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2013.

**Revenue**

General Fund	\$1,467,600.00
Water	635,600.00
Sewer	729,100.00
Airport	11,000.00
Cemetery	<u>2,800.00</u>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,846,100.00</b>

**Expenses**

General Fund	\$1,467,600.00
Water	635,600.00
Sewer	729,100.00
Airport	11,000.00
Cemetery	2,800.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$2,846,100.00</b>

Motion by Council Member Wilkerson; seconded by Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to close the Public Hearing.

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Mayor Simmons opened the regularly scheduled meeting by reflecting on the various accomplishments of the Town Council over the last two years. Mayor Simmons reported that Council has faced a lot of decisions; they have educated themselves and made the right decisions. He reported on the loss of three key employees and said Council stepped up and made great choices for all three positions. Mayor Simmons reported on the daunting task to move forward with the multi-million dollar sewer project. He stated the bravery of this Council has saved the Town decades of worry over the sewer system issues. He commended Council and thanked each of them for their service over the last two years.

**DELEGATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Jerri Morton, representative of the 100 mile yard sale, asked Council if they would consider waiving the fee the Town charges for yard sales on that day. She extended her thanks to the Police Department for their help and stated she will continue to need their help.

Chuck Koutnik, Georgia Ave., informed everyone the first annual Heritage Day would be held July 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. As a member of the committee and representative for the Crewe area for the Heritage Day he wanted to let everyone know the tour for the Crewe area would start over by the cemetery, then over to the Railroad Museum for a hopeful appearance of the infamous Peter Francisco, then to end at the Radio Museum.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Council Member Wilkerson; seconded by Rose, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with additions totaling \$63,536.57

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Manager Walker reported we had submitted proposals to all the local banks to assist us with interim financing on the design phase of our sewer project. He stated this would allow us to move forward and have the design phase done where we will be “shovel ready” when the final financing is approved. He also reported we are a little behind schedule on the project but should have no problems completing the project within the allotted time frame. By the consent order, the project needs to be completed by December 31, 2016.

Manager Walker also reported the raw water quality has been a serious issue and the lake has turned over and the iron and manganese are through the roof. He did state he is pleased to report that John and his operators have been able to stay on top of the situation and the water quality remains high. Manager Walker reminded everyone that there would be another notice sent out in regards to the busted average on the Trihalomethane from

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MANAGER'S REPORT CONTINUED**

the fourth quarter of 2011. He stated all samples collected since then have been well below the average and the latest samples will enable us to discontinue the notices.

Manager Walker concluded his report stating he has contacted the company about the bench for the playground and they have reported it was on its way, he will call again. Manager Walker also reminded the returning Council Members as well as the new elects of the swearing in ceremony July 2, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the County Clerk's Office.

**TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Attorney Bacon thanked Council for hiring her and stated she has really enjoyed working with them. Attorney Bacon stated she wanted to introduce two people that were running for Commonwealth Attorney for Nottoway County. She also reminded everyone that Nottoway County's current Commonwealth Attorney Mayo Gravatt has been appointed as General District Court Judge. She introduced Mr. Tom Bledsoe, current assistant Commonwealth Attorney of 5 and one half years, who will be taking on the role effective July 1, 2012. She then introduced Ms. Terry Royall, a native of Crewe, VA with experience as a Commonwealth Attorney for Chesterfield and Chesapeake County, who now has her own private practice in Chesterfield, VA. Attorney Bacon reported taxes are well under way. She suggested Council go ahead and make a motion to approve James Elliott as tax collector just for purposes of tax sales. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Wilkerson; seconded by Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote that the Town of Crewe use James Elliott for the purpose of collecting delinquent tax sales.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Community Development:** Council Member Wilkerson thanked the Homecoming Committee and all the participants and everybody who worked so hard to put on this Homecoming. She also thanked Mr. Bobby Daniel of Bevells Hardware for always going above and beyond for the Crewe Homecoming. Wilkerson reported the Garden Club has finished for the year. She reported the Paces' of Carolina Ave. were awarded yard of the month. She also reported the Garden Club has donated the whiskey barrels, dirt and flowers in appreciation for the use of the library and a way to give back to the community. She reported the Town is moving forward with the Lipscomb/Stratton project. Wilkerson presented the new Chamber of Commerce Brochure which was printed locally and includes a list of members and businesses. Wilkerson concluded her report by thanking Manager Walker, Mayor Simmons, and her Council brothers and sisters for the past two years. She thanked the citizens for allowing her to represent them and she reminded everyone what a fine group of employees the town has.

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**Economic Development:** Council Member Rose thanked Council and the people for the last four years for voting for her and supporting her. Rose commended Mayor Simmons for the great job he has done. Rose stated she would like for the old Norfolk Southern building to be put up for sale.

Motion by Council Member Rose; seconded by Houchins, to place the old Norfolk Southern building for sale at \$225K, listed with a commercial real estate agent. Approval will come at next month's meeting where a public hearing will be held.

Motion by Council Member Rose; seconded by Houchins, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to advertise for a public hearing to place the old Norfolk Southern Building for sale.

**Facilities:** Council Member Houchins reported how valuable the airport is to the Town of Crewe. He stated we have a great airport, 100 acres of beautiful land, ½ mile of paved runway, and a very nice facility. Mr. Houchins also reported that there are two reports about the airport available at Town Office and he suggests that everyone take the time to read them. Mr. Houchins also stated the gate that has recently been repaired at the Cemetery looks great. He also stated we should remind people as they purchase graves they become their responsibility noting the Town will maintain the grass, but the rest is the responsibility of the owner. Mr. Houchins concluded his report by stating the he is well pleased with the sale of the Community Center and he encourages everyone to take a look, it looks great.

**Finance:** No Report.

**Public Works/Infrastructure:** Council Member Spencer stated we just need to pray for rain.

**Parks and Recreation:** Council Member Daulton stated our parks and recreation is where everyone goes to try and relax in a very stressful life and she is very pleased with what we have. Our Railroad Museum and our library are all thanks to volunteers. Ms. Daulton stated we have a history of the people making things happen. Ms. Daulton also thanked Council Members for their support and all the voters that came out. Ms. Daulton stated she would just be changing her seat.

**Public Safety:** Council Member Fisher reported the Fire and Rescue remain busy. Mr. Fisher stated he is very proud of what they are doing.

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**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Booth reported the Citizens Academy will begin on June 19, 2012 at the Crewe Library from 6 – 8 pm. Investigator Turner will be heading up the class and it will be a very active class. It will offer those involved a taste of what the Police Department does. Chief Booth encouraged Council to register and attend the class. Chief Booth also reported there was one incident at the recent David Cooler Concert held here in Crewe. There was an intoxicated individual who run over a patron in a golf cart, both the driver and passenger have been arrested. Chief Booth concluded his report by stating Officer George is no longer with us as he has accepted a full time position with the South Boston Police Department.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Simmons thanked the Homecoming Committee for the brilliant job they did last month. Mayor Simmons reminded everyone next year would be Crewe's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Mayor Simmons also reminded everyone of the upcoming Chicken Festival Friday June 15, 2012 as it supports the Ruritans and Kiwanis who do a lot for our community. Mayor Simmons also recognized the CBYRA as they are just completing their schedules and they are hosting a State Tournament in July that will bring in a lot of folks from out of town which helps our town in a lot of ways. Mayor Simmons also reported how busy the town will be with the National Night Out coming up in August and another Virginia Crossroads Live Concert with Darius Rucker in September. Mayor Simmons also reported the "ball is in our court" with the lease from Norfolk Southern. He stated he and Manager Walker would sign the lease as soon as Attorney Bacon reviewed and approved the lease. He also stated as soon as they have approval and get the lease back they will let the folks with various projects in Hagberg Park know so they can move forward. Mayor Simmons concluded his report with his recent invitation to Crewe England for their celebration. He stated they have offered him a place to stay, but he would have to pay his travel expenses. Mayor Simmons suggested the Town sign a resolution congratulating them on their event.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Motion by Council Member Spencer; seconded by Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to wave the fee on July 7, 2012 for the 100 mile yard sale.

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**CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Motion by Council Member Wilkerson; seconded by Rose, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to set up a savings account to hold the remaining balance from the 2011-2012 budget for the Fire Department to be used for the future purchase of a new fire vehicle.

Motion made by Council Member Wilkerson; seconded by Knight, to accept the rates on the cemetery plots to be moved from the current position to the proposed position as published in the paper. Hearing no discussion Mayor Simmons ordered a roll call:

Council Member Rose – For  
Council Member Houchins – For  
Council Member Fisher – For  
Council Member Wilkerson – For  
Council Member Knight – For  
Council Member Spencer – For  
Council Member Daulton – For  
7 – 0 vote motion passes.

Council Member Wilkerson asked for input from her colleagues on the proposed increase of Town Tags. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Wilkerson; seconded by Rose, to accept the town decals as advertised on the new proposed rates for the year 2012-2013 increase. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Simmons ordered a roll call:

Council Member Rose – For  
Council Member Houchins – For  
Council Member Fisher – For  
Council Member Wilkerson – For  
Council Member Knight – Against  
Council Member Spencer – For  
Council Member Daulton – For  
6 – 1 vote motion passes.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Wilkerson, to approve the 2012-2013 budget. Hearing no discussion Mayor Simmons ordered a roll call:

Council Member Rose – For  
Council Member Houchins – For  
Council Member Fisher – For  
Council Member Wilkerson – For  
Council Member Knight – For  
Council Member Spencer – For  
Council Member Daulton – For  
7 – 0 vote motion passes.

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Mayor Simmons informed Council there was a presentation for Council Members Rhea Houchins, Sally Wilkerson, Pat Rose and Shirley Daulton. He commended those members again and thanked them for their various years of service. Mayor Simmons then turned the floor over to Manger Walker, presented each of the exiting members with their own personal plaque in grateful appreciation for their service on behalf of the Citizens of Crewe, the Crewe Town Council, Mayor Simmons and Manager Walker himself. Manager Walker presented Council Member Rhea Houchins with his plaque stating his was a bit different as it was for 14 continuous years of service. Manager Walker concluded with thanking each of the exiting members for their service and help during their years of service as a group and one on one.

Council Member Daulton stated as opposed to performing her song and dance as desired she would depart stating "I love Crewe, just love it."

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Wilkerson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting.

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Lee Simmons                      Mayor

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W. Wade Walker    Town Manager