

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, MAY 13, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND  
CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

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

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 Crittenden leading in the Lord's Prayer and Council Member E.B. Fisher leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Simmons opened the meeting by thanking all citizens for taking an active role in the local government of our Town.

**DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Jerri Morton, representative of the 100 Mile Yard Sale asked Council to waive any fees associated with having the yard sale on July 6th. Ms. Morton also asked Council for its full support of the yard sale. Mayor Simmons stated the Town of Crewe would do everything we could to help with the yard sale.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to waive any fees for the 100 Mile Yard Sale.

Haley McCann, Nottoway Extension Office gave a presentation on back-yard poultry specifically chickens. Discussion followed.

Jennifer Madon, E. Tennessee Ave., offered her personal support of allowing residents to have chickens in town provided they follow rules set in place.

Ike Bingham, W. Virginia Ave., voiced his concern of the dilapidated property next to his home on W. Virginia Ave. asking if the Town would be moving forward with having the said property come under compliance of the current property maintenance code the Town has adopted. Discussion followed.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with additions totaling \$110,988.09.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manager Walker opened by advising Council that he and the office staff spent countless hours working on the upcoming budget and they were pleased with the outcome. Great attention was paid to cutting expenses wherever possible without compromising services. Walker spoke about the great strides made in our Water Department since John Hricko assumed responsibility. So much so that in May, the Virginia Department of Health had received an award for outstanding operations and water quality. Mr. Walker read the following:

The Town of Crewe Utilities Department has earned the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) 2012 Excellence in Waterworks Performance Award at the Stuart B. Covington Water Filtration

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

Plant. The VDH Office of Drinking Water Recognition Program rewards water systems that have demonstrated excellence in performance and operations and for the treatment and distribution of drinking water to the public. The award stated, "Excellence in performance and operations is measured by achieving goals well beyond the established regulations and making a commitment to customer satisfaction." Walker stated that we have the same level of operation in all our departments and employees are to be commended for their hard work and dedication.

Manager Walker stated that there were no proposed increases to citizens at this time that includes a 3% across the board raise for all employees. He stated there would be a public hearing on June 24<sup>th</sup> to hear comments on the budget.

He then asked Council for approval of a resolution concerning the Town's contribution to the Virginia Retirement System that consists of an increase of 4%. This became necessary due to the state of Virginia opting out of contributing to VRS and their requirement that employees must pay the difference. The Town of Crewe opted to increase employee's salaries to compensate.

Manager Walker then stated that the upcoming sewer project is progressing. We are waiting on completion of easement work necessary on lines crossing roads and individual properties. Once the easements are in place, the project can go to bid.

**TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Attorney Bacon stated she is working diligently with Hurt & Proffitt on the upcoming sewer project in regard to the property easements. She also updated Council on the grass maintenance stating the Town can change the height of the grass and the number of days to comply as we see fit. She also stated there were several options to further enforce the code. Discussion followed. Attorney Bacon informed Council she is still looking into how to attach the maintenance bills on record at the county for when taxes are verified. Attorney Bacon closed her report by providing Council with a report of ordinances of other localities on chickens.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Community Development:** Council Member Crittenden reported Nottoway County would be taking the lead with the Lipscomb/Stratton Street Project.

Mayor Simmons stated the County Planning Office would be doing most of the work. In addition he informed Council there would be a Community Meeting in August for the project and he recommended they attend. He also mentioned the project would not be starting over from scratch as originally thought.

Council Member Miskovic publically thanked Council Member Crittenden for his leadership on the 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration stating it was a great event with a huge turn out with a lot of people and had a lot of fun.

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**Economic Development:** Council Member Miskovic reported the HEAL group had met last Monday and they are in the process of finalizing their goals and inviting more participants. He stated once the group has a good foundation in Crewe they hope to branch out regionally because they have some ideas and initiatives that are more county wide. He encouraged everyone to come out to the next meeting on July 1<sup>st</sup> at the Airport. He also thanked the County Extension Office for being a huge part of the HEAL group. Miskovic reminded everyone the next Economic meeting would be July 15<sup>th</sup>. Miskovic also reported the Town has a YouTube page at [youtube.com/user/townofcrewe](http://youtube.com/user/townofcrewe).

**Facilities/Parks & Recreation:** Council Member Sisk reported the CBYRA Minor League All-Star Tournament would be held here this year. He reported the association is trying to get a cup designed to sell with the 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration information on one side. Sisk reported he and Phil met with the Chamber of Commerce and they have a gentleman that is going to start drawing plans for the sign in Hagberg Park. He stated they would be going with a railroad theme. Sisk also reported the Chamber would be decorating the park for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

**Finance:** Council Member Knight had no report just reminding Council of the Public Hearing on June 24 at 7 p.m.

**Public Works/Infrastructure:** Council Member Spencer reported all looks good. He reported the lagoons at the water plant would be getting cleaned.

**Personnel:** Council Member Stinson congratulated the Town's award winning water team.

**Public Safety:** Council Member Fisher thanked the office staff, Town Manager, Mayor and budget committee for their hard work on the budget stating they did a good job.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Booth reported Investigator Turner is working hard on B&E cases with a few leads. He also stated the Department is having their first Pet Show on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m. at the Library.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Simmons stated the homecoming celebration and the 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration were excellent celebrations despite the weather. He personally thanked WSVS for their coverage, the Courier Record for their section in the paper, Fran Crittenden and the Journal for the historical section, Bobby Daniel for his Indian and tractor display over in Hagberg Park, Council Member Crittenden for the birthday party, Mrs. Redford of Crewe Primary School for her 1<sup>st</sup> grade class and their musical performance, the Gospel Grace for their music, Beverly Redman and Betty Booth for their delicious cakes for the birthday celebration and finally the Homecoming Committee for all they do. Mayor Simmons also stated the economic impact of the upcoming tournament for the CBYRA will provide positive exposure for the businesses. He stated he appreciates the recreation association and its volunteers for all they do stating they don't have to do it, they chose and it benefits the Town as well as the children. Mayor Simmons also mentioned the Cub Scouts are coming back to Crewe. He has been working with Matt Malone their Regional Director, to bring scouting back to Crewe. Mr. Malone is also attempting to get a Boy Scout Troop here in Town. Mayor Simmons also mentioned the Police Departments

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**MAYOR'S REPORT CONT'D:**

night on the lawn will be held on June 21<sup>st</sup> in the library lawn starting at 7 p.m. He closed his report informing everyone the Annual Water Report is available on the Town's website at [www.townofcrewe.com](http://www.townofcrewe.com)

Council Member Miskovic reminded everyone the Democratic Primary would be held tomorrow and he encouraged everyone to go vote and make their voice heard.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Crittenden thanked Rick Gunter for his bit on the "Old Folks of Crewe" stating he has received letters to get the "old timers" together to have an open meeting perhaps at the Community Center for everyone to come in and share their stories.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Council Member Sisk asked Council their opinion on the chicken issue. Discussion followed.

Council Member Sisk asked Mr. Gunter if he would be breaking the "chicken story". Mr. Gunter stated he would break the story. He also asked how the issue was brought up. Council Member Sisk stated several citizens and obvious situations have prompted it. Council Member Miskovic also stated the HEAL group had discussed it as well. Council Member Miskovic stated he and Council Member Sisk would work together to draft something up once they receive feedback from the citizens.

Mayor Simmons addressed Mr. Bingham's comments in reference to the obvious violations of the property maintenance code. He recommended Council make a motion to contact Mr. Ellington to have him inspect the list of properties provided by the Community Development Committee that may have potential violations. Discussion followed. It was decided Manager Walker would contact Mr. Ellington to inspect the said properties.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to go into closed session under Code 2.12-3711.A.1

Motion made by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Miskovic to come out of Closed Session. Motion passed.

Motion to certify the Closed Session made by Council Member Knight; seconded by Miskovic. Motion passed unanimously via voice vote.

Motion to adjourn made by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Mr. Spencer. Meeting adjourned.