

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 9, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

Present: Mayor Sally T. Wilkerson, Council Members Shirley Daulton, Steve Sisk, Anne Stinson, Robbie Knight & Phil Miskovic

Absent: Council Member Simpson & Council Member Fisher

Also Present: Town Manager W. Wade Walker & Attorney Tessie Bacon

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkerson.

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to enter into closed session for discussion of real properties sub section 2.2-3711(A)(3). Motion passed.*

*Motion made by Council Member Miskovic and seconded by Anne Stinson to re-enter open session. Motion passed.*

**Open Session**

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to certify the closed session. Motion passed.*

Council Member Miskovic requested a three minute recess before continuing with the regular scheduled Council meeting.

Present: Mayor Sally T. Wilkerson, Council Members Shirley Daulton, Steve Sisk, E.B. Fisher, Anne Stinson, Robbie Knight & Phil Miskovic

Absent: Council Member Simpson

Also Present: Town Manager W. Wade Walker & Attorney Tessie Bacon

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkerson with guest James Wilkerson of Crewe Baptist Church leading the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Council Member Fisher.

**OPENING COMMENTS**

Mayor Wilkerson opened the regular scheduled meeting by thanking Senator Ruff and Delegate Wright for attending the Town meeting and giving their presentation of efforts.

**DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with bill sheet and additions totaling \$109,607.80. Motion passed.*

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**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manager Walker reported that the evaluation of flow monitors is still going on. The two suppliers are upgrading and adding features to each so that we can do an equal test and make a decision on what will be purchased. We should be able to decide before the next Council meeting.

Recent rains provided somewhat of a test for our sewer system but we still did not have a significant downpour that would cause overflows in the system in the past. Flows increased but remained manageable and we had no problems in the system. Walker stated corrections continue to be made and each problem we find with I&I helps solve our problems. He stated the main sewer project is virtually complete with only a few minor punch list items remaining.

Mr. Walker stated that yards and grass continue to be a large problem. Town forces have begun cutting and cleaning some of the properties. Owners based on tax records will be billed and if not paid, liens will be placed on the properties. Manager Walker still feels that we need to come up with better solutions to solve this ongoing issue. The latest list of yards in need of cutting was 109. Discussion will continue with Town Attorney Bacon concerning liens and garnishments on these types of outstanding bills and hopefully, we can come up with a way to re-coup town costs.

**TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Attorney Bacon reported she continues to work on the Lipscomb/Stratton Project easements and derelict buildings. She stated the sewer project is coming to an end so there has not been much activity on that. Attorney Bacon also reported she had been in contact with Jim Elliott's office that handles the tax sales for the County, stating his office is ready to move forward with the tax sales as they are waiting to hear back from the County. She recommended Council designate someone to contact the County and notify them the Town is ready to move forward as well.

Attorney Bacon also reported on the options for the Town to recoup costs it faces with derelict buildings. Discussion followed.

She also reported the "Hussey House Property has been re-inspected and Town Manager Walker is waiting on the official written report.

Discussion of options to move forward with tearing down the derelict property on East Carolina Avenue and options to move forward on the derelict property West Carolina Avenue.

Council Member Miskovic suggested the Town compile a list of real estate properties delinquent 5 years and older and provide that list to Jim Elliott's office.

***Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Stinson, on voice vote to proceed with the demolition of the derelict property on East Carolina Ave. Council Member Sisk abstained. Motion passed 6 For, 1 abstention, 0 Against.***

***Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to authorize Jim Elliott's office to move forward on the Beeler property in addition to providing Jim Elliott's office with all delinquent real estate properties 5 years old and older. Motion passed.***

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Economic Development:**

Council Member Miskovic reported the Economic Development Committee would meet on Wednesday June 1<sup>st</sup> at 12 noon at Dine N Crewe. Miskovic added the EDC is working on several projects, to be brought to Council in the coming months. He encouraged members of Council and the audience to attend the Kiwanis clean-up day scheduled for Saturday May 14<sup>th</sup> at 8 a.m. starting at Town Hall in preparation for Homecoming.

Miskovic stated he and Vice Mayor Stinson attended workshops focused on FASTC. Miskovic added of the three localities represented (Blackstone, Nottoway, and Crewe), he and Vice Mayor Stinson were the only two elected officials/policy makers present.

Council Member Miskovic encouraged everyone to promote the Southside Electric Co-op Chicken Festival on June 24, stating the bigger this event is the better the chance of future events.

Miskovic thanked everyone who ran for office, and those for coming out to vote on Election Day. He reported that unfortunately, voter turnout was only around 10%, stating that was unacceptable. He emphasized that local government has more of a direct impact on citizens' lives than any other level of government. Yet electing local leaders lies in the hands of about 10% of the population. Miskovic urged Council to make a proactive effort to encourage voter turnout in the future.

**Finance:**

Council Member Simpson absent.

**Public Works/Infrastructure:**

Council Member Knight stated the public works department has begun filling holes in the road from the recent water breaks.

**Personnel:**

Council Member Stinson thanked all the Town employees that continue to do such a great job.

**Public Safety:**

Council Member Fisher no report.

**Facilities/Parks & Recreation:**

Council Member Sisk reminded everyone about the Southside Electric Co-op Chicken Festival and the fast approaching Crewe Homecoming Festival set for Friday Night May 20 at Hooper Park and Saturday May 21 on Main Street.

**Community Development:**

Council Member Daulton stated the NCPC meeting had been cancelled so she hopes to have a report next month.

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**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Council Member Stinson reported the committee working with 3North had met and decided to seek bids from local contractors, they were still waiting for those bids.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Booth reported the department had been issuing tickets to those in violation for no town sticker, stating the majority of those ticketed had complied.

Chief informed those in attendance the department would be holding its 1<sup>st</sup> movie night on May 21, 2016 showing Minions with an anticipated start time of 8 or 8:30 p.m. in the field beside the Crewe Library.

Chief Booth turned the floor over to Detective Turner for her presentation on the effectiveness of the departments Facebook page and the new app "Next Door".

Council Member Miskovic stated it is all about branding and bringing the community together, great initiative.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Wilkerson reported the issue with the deer that was brought up in last month's Council meeting had addressed and was resolved. She stated the video had been viewed by those in charge and it was agreed the incident was handled very professionally.

Mayor Wilkerson also extended congratulations and a thank you to those that came out and ran and those elected. She extended her gratitude to Pastor Bradley of Calvary Freewill Baptist Church for cooking on Election Day.

Mayor Wilkerson addressed the issue of security for the upcoming Southside Electric Co-op Chicken Festival stating there was a District Softball Tournament Scheduled to start the same night. Council Member Miskovic suggested the local police departments meet and decide the logistics.

Mayor Wilkerson also reported that Maegan Hailey and Logan Morgan of the Nottoway Planning Council would be at the June Council meeting to update Council on the progress of the Lipscomb/Stratton Street Project. She also reported she had received the report from Mr. Dave Farley of Harvey Design and stated she would be handing the report over to Council Member Stinson to continue the process.

Mayor Wilkerson closed her report stating she wanted to have one final budget meeting to get it finalized.

**NEW BUSINESS**

***Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to release the clawback provision, per the IDA's request, on the property discussed in closed session in exchange for the survey of the industrial park requested by Nottoway County. Miskovic further moved to advertise for a public hearing, if deemed necessary by the Town Attorney, in two weeks' time. Motion passed.***

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**New Business Cont'd:**

*Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted by voice vote to place the excess funds from snow removal into the general reserve account for use by any department for the purchase of equipment or repairs to equipment that are not within budget funds. Mayor Wilkerson ordered a roll call:*

*Council Member Daulton – For*

*Council Member Sisk – For*

*Council Member Fisher – Against*

*Council Member Stinson – For*

*Council Member Knight – For*

*Council Member Simpson – For*

*Council Member Miskovic – Against*

*With a vote of 5 – 2 motion passed*

**CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Council Member Miskovic stated he would be doing a draft request for proposals to have advertised in regards to the Town of Crewe website.

Chief Booth informed Council a citizen had brought “In God We Trust” decals into the department and asked that they be placed on the department’s patrol vehicles. Discussion followed.

*Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to have Town Attorney Bacon investigate the legality of putting the “In God We Trust” decals on the Town of Crewe police vehicles. Motion passed.*

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Rick Gunter, The Crewe-Burkeville Journal stated his concerns of allowing any religious decals on the patrol cars stating he believed it would “open a can of worms.”

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. Motion passed.*

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Sally T. Wilkerson Mayor

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W. Wade Walker Town Manager