

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
FEBRUARY 8, 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, E.B. Fisher, Anne Stinson, Al Simpson & Phil Miskovic

Absent: Council Member Robbie Knight

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkerson with Jim Wilkerson of Crewe Baptist Church leading the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING COMMENTS

Mayor Wilkerson welcomed everyone into the second month of a new year. She then introduced Tammy Blevins and Bill Faas representing the Crewe Burkeville Chamber of Commerce.

Tammy Blevins opened by thanking Council for allowing the Town employees to assist with the park decorations in Hagberg Park. Mrs. Blevins informed Council that there have been some problems with lighting issues due to electrical problems. She requested members of Council and the Chamber get together and see what can be done to eliminate these issues. She suggested a possible fund raiser to accumulate funds to pay for the repairs.

Mayor Wilkerson asked Council Member Sisk to look into and coordinate with the Chamber on seeing what can be done by possibly meeting with an electrician and developing a plan.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Wendy Bowen addressed Council about problems with a drainage ditch behind her house. She stated a great deal of water flows through the ditch and it has cut a path into her back yard. She asked if the Town would meet with her nephew who is a contractor to see what can be done to eliminate the problem. Town Manager Walker replied part of the problem is there is a rock base in this ditch and it is not possible to make the ditch deeper. Walker also stated he and members from town would be happy to meet with Ms. Bowen's nephew and hear what his ideas are. It was agreed that this would take place sometime in the following week.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with bill sheet and additions totaling \$126,276.03

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Wade Walker opened with an update on the sewer project. He stated the project is almost completed and we are in the final stages which include some asphalt patch work and work at the Upper East End Pump Station to be completed by the end of March.

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Manager's Report Cont'd:

Walker then asked Council to give some thought to the fact that it appears we still have sewer issues and he stated he would like to go through another more aggressive round of smoke testing of the lines in the town to identify illegal connections to the system that are causing I&I issues. He stated that work done has helped but we are still looking for a large, quick source of entry that only occurs during heavy, quick rain events. More condensed smoke testing hopefully will reveal this large entry, but it will also identify the illegal connections. Walker stated this time, stronger enforcement of the violators needs to take place up to and including notification to property owners and a specific time to solve the issues on their property. Walker suggested 30 days after which all town services, including water service, would be discontinued until the issue is resolved.

Manager Walker informed Council that a recent progress meeting on the sewer project, a VDOT representative attended and informed the Town we must apply for a permit each and every time we enter state right of way to repair broken water lines and to perform sewer repairs. The costs of each permit would be \$100.00. We stated we have never had to do this and felt we had a blanket emergency permit. A meeting was requested to resolve this issue.

Mr. Walker then discussed the recent snow storm and how it affects the town overall. Walker stated that water and sewer plant operators go above and beyond getting to work and performing their duties as required. They all realize they have to work to continue to provide these services regardless of the conditions. Many sacrifice entire nights so that we meet our water/sewer obligations. Walker also stated that the town is contracted by VDOT for snow removal and we are well paid for this service. Due to our contract, we are required to go where VDOT directs us and have no say so on where we begin in particularly within town limits. The hours these men endure are admirable. During the latest snow storm, the Town of Crewe earned \$30,461.00 after expenses in revenue. Mr. Walker stated during these events, the Town Office is "bombarded" with questions about when town streets will be pushed, or; after pushed, why was snow pushed in a way to block in their vehicles. Walker stated once again, the state dictates where we can go but we do try to service all emergency locations first. He also stated that snow plows cannot be manipulated at every vehicle location to accommodate blocking in vehicles.

Manager Walker informed Council he had received one bid on the removal and clean-up at 305 E. Carolina Avenue. One of the contractors involved in the Lipscombe/Stratton project bid \$34,000.00. The bid was broken down into two parts, one being asbestos removal and the other demolition and clean-up. Walker felt this bid was too high and asked Council about re-bidding the project now that we have an asbestos report. He stated we should expand our advertising to include the Richmond area as well. It was agreed to do this.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon reported at Council's request she looked into having a "Celebration of Democracy" and stated one such even could be held after the election. She added there was to be no giving out prizes etc. and there could be no favoritism shown. Additionally all candidates and citizens should be invited to attend.

Attorney Bacon also reported the Town had finally received the new code and she suggested advertising for a Public Hearing to approve the new code.

Motion by Council Member, seconded by ; Council voted unanimously by voice vote to have Attorney Bacon draw up a Public Hearing for advertisement to approve the new code.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development:

Council Member Miskovic reported the next Economic Development Committee would meet March 2, 2016 at 12 noon at Dine N Crewe with guest Sandra Tanner. Miskovic reported he and Ms. Tanner would be meeting at 11 a.m. to discuss a plan to move forward on the newly adopted tourism plan.

Council Member Miskovic reported that the Nottoway Antique Trail pamphlet is underway and he hopes to have it complete and distributed by April 30 which is Blackstone's Historic Garden Tour.

Council Member Miskovic also reported on the status of the Virginia Grocery Investment Fund stating because of council's unanimous support in January Crewe has become the defacto leader in this initiative. Council Member Miskovic mentioned he had met with the First Lady of Virginia, Senator Ruff, and representatives from the American Heart Association to further this initiative.

Miskovic reported according to recent news articles Canadian Pacific has been attempting to buy-out Norfolk Southern with no success. This has led Canadian Pacific to start laying out groundwork for a hostile takeover. In response, Norfolk Southern has been pursuing several cost saving measures, including consolidating division offices and planning for employee layoffs. Miskovic stated he and fellow Council Member Sisk would maintain situational awareness and will report to Council if and when any of these events will impact the Town of Crewe.

Miskovic closed his report expressing his appreciation for the hard work and leadership of Mayor Wilkerson and Town Manager Wade Walker on the recent request to Delegate Wright and Senator Ruff that \$3.5 million be added to the VCBR expansion project for improvements to the Town of Crewe water system. Miskovic added if their efforts are successful, this will be one of the most economically advantageous issues since the Town's founding.

Finance:

Council Member Simpson had no official report.

Council Member Miskovic inquired when budget preparation would begin. Manager Walker replied next month.

Public Works/Infrastructure:

Council Member Knight absent.

Personnel:

Council Member Stinson publically acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the Town's employees.

Mrs. Stinson also congratulated Investigator Turner for receiving the prestigious award of Officer of the Year.

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Public Safety:

Council Member Fisher had no official report.

Council Member Miskovic stated the Blackstone Fire Department will start billing insurance companies and questioned if that was a possibility for the Town of Crewe. Council Member Fisher stated that would be a departmental decision.

Facilities/Parks & Recreation:

Council Member Sisk reported CBYRA spring baseball, softball, and t-ball sign-ups have started. He mentioned the CBYRA was looking into the interest of a spring soccer season. Sisk also reported there was one tree in Hagberg Park that needed to come down and the Town has approval from the railroad to do so.

Community Development:

Council Member Daulton reported the Lipscomb/Stratton Project is going well.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Council Member Stinson reported as part of the plan she would like to include funding for the police department to move forward with 3North if that is feasible.

Motion by Council Member Fisher, seconded by Council Member Miskovic to find available funds in the FY 16 budget to move forward with 3north.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Booth informed Council the department had lost Officer Herlong, stating his last day was February 5, 2016.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wilkerson stated she couldn't thank all of the departments enough for their hard work. She also reported VDOT had requested the Town seek permission to close the road for snow sledding in the future. She stated the police department at her request closed one hill in town because the children needed a safe place to make memories and she took full responsibility for the recent event.

Mayor Wilkerson also mentioned the County is considering a cigarette tax, just like Blackstone and she encouraged Council to revisit that idea for budgeting purposes.

Mayor Wilkerson also stated she had received an email from Harvey Design and they are currently waiting to hear back from VDOT. Mayor Wilkerson suggested Council reconsider the current ordinance in regards to planting trees and or bushes in the area between sidewalk and road as Harvey Design is currently trying to complete a design to beautify the town that includes planting trees and or bushes.

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Mayor's Report Continued:

Mr. Greg Eanes asked Mayor Wilkerson, as the Mayor of Crewe to send a letter of support to the General Assembly to clarification of state code that protects memorials and monuments, known as House Bill 587; which she did.

Mayor Wilkerson also reminded Council that she had sent the Piedmont Resolution and had received a phone call and a letter thanking the Town for its support.

Mayor Wilkerson gave Council a synopsis of the letter to Delegates Wright and Ruff about the needs for VCBR building funds. She stated she and Manger Walker sent the preliminary engineering report with emphasis for first priority. Manager Walker stated there was a good possibility the Town would receive assistance for the project.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Miskovic recommended Council send a letter to the Homecoming Committee to offer any assistance in their plans. Council agreed. Miskovic stated he would draft the letter for the Mayor's signature and have the Vice Mayor make any necessary edits.

Council Member Miskovic requested the zoning committee meet to discuss possible comprehensive changes to the Town's sign ordinances.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Vice Mayor Stinson suggested the Town seek three option for individuals or companies to maintain the Town website. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Stinson; seconded by Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to have a separate company manage the Town's website.

Council Member Miskovic volunteered to draft a proposal for Council's review in regard to the "Celebration of Democracy" event.

Council Member Daulton stated the committee formed to discuss moving the election had met and it was a successful meeting. She suggested getting the question out to the citizens to find out what they want. Discussion followed.

Council Member Miskovic reported that, following Council's request to ask the County to request VDOT lower the speed limits coming into town on Tyler and Indian Oak to a more gradual slow down, VDOT is currently conduction studies to determine the need and feasibility of the request.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

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Mayor Wilkerson then asked Council to enter into a Closed Session under Section 2.2-3711.A.3 to discuss real estate property acquisition. Council Member Miskovic also asked for a Closed Session to discuss litigation. Mr. Miskovic made a motion to enter Closed Session for both purposes. Motion was seconded by Mr. Fisher.

Closed Session

Motion made to exit the Closed Sessions and return to regular session made by Council Member Stinson and seconded by Al Simpson. Motion passed.

Open Session

Motion to certify the Closed Session made by Council Member Miskovic and seconded by Mr. Fisher. Motion passed.

Council Member Sisk informed Council there will be a Chicken Festival this year to be held on June 28th. More information will follow.

Council Member Fisher informed Council the Harlem Globetrotters were coming to Farmville.

Mayor Wilkerson agreed she would construct a rough draft letter to be sent to Norfolk Southern requesting the Town's interest in the Hagberg Park property. Council Member Sisk stated he would also get in touch with his contact to discuss the property.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Simpson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Sally T. Wilkerson Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager