

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

Present: Mayor Greg Eanes, Council Members, Bill Faas, Anne Stinson, Robbie Knight, Billy Abel, and Phil Miskovic

Absent: Council Members Aaron Reed and Steve Sisk

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Eanes with a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion made by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Abel, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with the bill sheet and additions totaling \$165,651.05. Motion passed.

MANAGERS REPORT

Manager Walker updated Council on the removal of trees at airport. There is a total of 75 trees, with 64 being on one owner's property. We negotiated the prices on the trees and currently in the process of getting approval from the Department of Aviation to pay 80% of the cost. We have also compiled a cost estimate on town forces taking down and removing the trees of which they will again pay up to 80% of the costs. This is no small project and the numbers are pretty substantial. The cost of the trees alone is approximately \$18,000.00.

Leaf pick up has been going strong for the last few weeks. We are running the town weekly and in some cases, going back to the beginning toward the end of the week. We made a special effort to see that leaves were removed on the Christmas Parade route and workers have done an excellent job of cleaning the streets. I want to remind everyone that leaves are to be placed in the front of your residence near the street with the exception of Virginia Avenue residents who must place the along the alley. We are occasionally running a chipper truck when needed and I again remind everyone that limbs and debris should go in the alley.

There have been series of recent water breaks in which the town workers have been very busy attending to. Some were related to the recent resurfacing of highway 460, some to normal causes such as changes in temperature, and some due to road accidents. We had a truck hit and knock off a fire hydrant on 460 a week ago around 5:00pm which caused major problems in the west end of town. Once again, town workers were called out and had the situation under control by just after midnight.

No word on the grant application for redoing the yard office. Not really expecting any word until approximately March of next year.

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On Friday, we handed out the annual Christmas bonuses to employees. All employees including myself, wanted me to pass on their sincere appreciation for the gift and they all wanted to be sure to thank Council and wish you a Merry Christmas

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Town Attorney Bacon stated she has reviewed the proposed charter changes which appear to be good. She has also reviewed the request for an ordinance concerning abuse of grave sites at the cemetery. She continues to work on issues with condemnation of property involved with the Lipscombe/Stratton Project. She stated she would be filing these soon.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Eanes reported that he felt we had an outstanding Christmas Parade. Town Council was well represented where under the theme of Healthy Eating / Active Living, Council walked the parade route. He stated he intended to draft resolutions for Sue Williamson for her efforts with the parade and also a resolution for those responsible for decorating the park for Christmas.

Motion was made by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Vice Mayor Stinson to approve the drafting of the resolutions. Motion passed.

Mayor Eanes reminded Council that we overlooked voting on the proposed changes to business water rates and ask for a motion.

A motion was made by Council Member Miskovic to decrease the in town minimum business rate based on what was advertised with the change becoming effective with the January 15, 2018 billing cycle. The motion was seconded by Mr. Knight. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

A second motion was made by Mr. Miskovic to increase the out of town business water rates based on what was advertised to become effective with the January 15, 2018 billing cycle. The motion was seconded by Council Member Bill Faas. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Eanes informed Council that through discussion between himself, the Finance Committee, and the Town Manager a decision was made to eliminate the policy of take home vehicles for all employees living out of town and within a 30-mile radius. With the recent increase in rates for our health insurance we are trying to find ways to offset this cost without compromising current town services, employee salaries, and to maintain the excellent health coverage we currently provide. This becomes effective January 1, 2018. Vice Mayor Stinson ask if there was a dollar figure that the town would be saving by changing this policy. Town Manager Walker replied we estimated a savings of \$15,000.00 per year. Manager Walker further stated we were looking at other ways to save the town money and offset increasing cost such as the elimination of town uniforms for workers. The cost saving for this would be \$19,000.00 each year. Currently, the town pays half and employees pay half so this would also put money back in their pockets. Walker stated we would come up with a dress code and possible purchase hats or badges to help signify to the public our town employees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Infrastructure: No report.

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Finance: No Report.

Personnel: Vice Mayor Stinson wished all of our employees a Merry Christmas.

Committee Reports cont'd.

Volunteer Services: Council Member Faas stated that at the last meeting of the Chamber of Commerce one issue was discussed concerning the decline in volunteer organizations where membership may be declining due to age and the fact that younger members are needed. What they proposed was to compile a list of all of these organizations. He listed those they had so far and asked if there may be any that were not mentioned. Mayor Eanes suggested the VFW and American Legion. Mr. Faas stated that his intention was to reach out to one person in each organization to see if events sponsored by each organization could be coordinated and work together in hopes of increasing needed manpower. Another area the Chamber will be working on is to increase involvement in Chamber activities and attendance. Mr. Faas stated that while membership has grown, there is a lack of actual participation among its members. They will be seeking participation from everyone starting with anyone from 14 years old and up. The purpose is to try to involve younger participants with hopes for involvement in the future. Further discussion continued.

Economic Development: Council Member Miskovic informed Council that a very informative meeting was held with the Department of Housing and Community Development. Many things were discussed and they provided helpful information to help the town combat our ongoing issues with blight. Mr. Miskovic stated he would be compiling a proposal to be presented to Council on many of the ideas that the town may want to implement. Many of their suggestions were a list of items that are not in our building code but are part of state statutes regarding a decrease in blight within the town.

Mr. Miskovic stated that he had noticed many positive updates of property in the down town area. He thanked those who have participated in these upgrades and commended them for their efforts. With some new businesses coming into the area, things are looking very positive for the town.

Mr. Miskovic stated the County Economic Development meeting scheduled for last Thursday was cancelled and will be moved to a later date.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Vice Mayor Stinson asked Town Manager Walker if the engineers had been able to review the complaint on Lipscombe Street relative to the Lipscombe/Stratton Project. Mr. Walker stated he had not heard and would contact the engineer for an answer.

Mr. Miskovic asked Mr. Walker if the Chief of Police had any comments on striking Town Sergeant from being appointed by Council. There had been no comments concerning this change. It was suggested by Mr. Miskovic that this perhaps should be tabled until the next legislative session in order to further discuss this with the Chief. Council agreed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Member Miskovic suggested that based on the end of the year he would like to inform everyone of the progress that the town had accomplished over the past 12 months. He suggested an annual report in the form of a newsletter be constructed and possibly mailed out to our citizens. Mayor Eanes stated he had intentions of

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doing this and would follow through in the next few months. Mrs. Stinson suggested coordinating this with our quarterly update of our Comprehensive Plan to be completed in January. Further discussion ensued.

POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE:

Council Member Miskovic wished everyone a Merry Christmas

Council Member Abel voiced concern about two particular areas of down town that he feels are in need of attention. The business along Virginia Avenue is “junky” looking as well as another junk yard looking area in the alley near the Post Office.

Both areas have cars parked around them and he feels we should consider making the owners put fences around them and clean up the areas. Mayor Eanes suggested reviewing the ordinances to see if there is anything that can be done.

Council Member Knight thanked the town forces for the recent work done during snow removal. He felt they did an excellent job and were very quick to take care of our streets. He also thanked them for the work being done with leaf pickup.

Vice Mayor Stinson wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Kathie Kingery ask if Council had made any decision on a sign ordinance. Mayor Eanes informed her Council was going to see if a sign maintenance ordinance could be enforced under current property and maintenance codes.

Hearing no further business, Mayor Eanes asked to enter into Executive Session.

Motion made by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Mr. Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to enter into Executive Session consistent with Virginia State Code 2.2-377, paragraphs 1,2, 3, & 5.

Motion made by Council Member Knight, seconded by Mr. Abel to close the Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

Open Session

Motion to Certify the Executive Session was made by Mr. Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Abel. Session certified by voice / poll vote, all members voting yea.

Motion to adjourn made by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Mr. Knight.

Meeting adjourned.

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Greg Eanes

Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager