

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND
CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

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

Absent: Council Member Robbie Knight & Chief of Police Art Booth

Also Present: Town Manager Walker & Town Attorney Tessie Bacon

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

Mayor Simmons opened the meeting with 4 public hearings. The first public hearing was to enact an ordinance that regulates the keeping of bees within the town limits of the Town of Crewe, Virginia.

Mike Carney of Blackstone voiced his support of keeping bees in town. He felt the requirement to be a master beekeeper was a bit much stating he has been a beekeeper for 17 years and is not a master beekeeper. He stated the proposed ordinance would make it difficult for anyone to keep bees. He offered references for further education and ideas for keeping bees in town.

Kerry Vaught of Amelia, Virginia daughter-in-law of the Vaught's that are beekeepers in Crewe addressed council citing her formal education in environmental science and stating her relatives "want to get back to where they came from." Mrs. Vaught urged council to find a compromise.

David Dicks, E. Maryland Ave. addressed Council with questions he had in reference to the definitions of the code and the property sizes and distances. Discussion followed.

Donna Simpson, W. Pennsylvania Ave. stated she and her neighbors are against bees. She thanked Council for all of their time spent on bees and she is pleased with the proposed ordinance.

John and Kristy Vaught, W. Pennsylvania Ave. addressed council with detailed information on beekeeping. Mrs. Vaught stated she and her husband just "want to raise a few bees." Mr. Vaught stated he hoped they could come up with something agreeable.

Donnie Slaw, W. Pennsylvania Ave. stated he is against the bees and warned the Town as he has done in the past if they do not act on the issue they are opening themselves to legal trouble.

Al Simpson, W. Pennsylvania Ave. addressed council stating he did not have a problem with bees until Mr. Vaught got his hives.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to close the public hearing.

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The purpose of the second public hearing is to enact an ordinance that prohibits loitering in public places. No Discussion.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to close the public hearing.

The purpose of the third public hearing is to enact an ordinance that would authorize the Town of Crewe to remove or repair the defacement of buildings, walls, and other structures. No Discussion.

Motion by Council Member Stinson; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to close the public hearing.

The purpose of the fourth public hearing is to enact an ordinance that authorizes Christmas Bonuses for Town Employees.

David Dicks, E. Maryland Ave. stated the bonuses were a great idea.

Donnie Slaw, W. Pennsylvania Ave. stated he also thought the bonuses were a great idea.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously voice vote to close this public hearing.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Allison Crews a representative with Holistic Moms asked Council to approve the proposed proclamation as a motion of support for making October 24th Food Day. She also invited everyone to NaturalPhuel in Farmville, VA on October 24th from 5 – 10 p.m. for a celebration of Food Day.

Bill Faas, of the Crewe-Burkeville Chamber announced there would be a chicken dinner on Saturday and they are accepting pre-sales. He stated the dinners would be ready by 12 and all the proceeds would go towards Christmas in the Park. Mr. Faas also mentioned the raffle for the handmade table at Citizens Bank. Council Member Miskovic stated the table is made of black walnut and is beautiful and well worth the chance.

Alicia Coggin, Custis Street, addressed Council in her continued support of having chickens in town.

John Vaught, W. Pennsylvania Ave. informed Council Chesterfield County had reversed an ordinance on chickens and is now allowing them.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with additions totaling \$155,893.68.

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MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Walker reported that bids on the upcoming sewer project were opened on Wednesday, October 9th. The low bid came in at \$6.5 million, which was considerably more than anticipated. We are in the process of fine tuning the scope of work and trying to find ways to cut costs on the project. Manager Walker stated he is hopeful we can make significant cuts, yet still reach the goals of eliminating I&I in the sewer system. Walker also stated due to the Federal Government shut down, we had to wait anyway until USDA is back up and running for the loan approval process.

Leaf season or the collection of leaves in the town will begin the week of October 28th, prior to Halloween and trick or treat. Walker reminded Council that the activity begins in the East end of Town and proceeds west until pick up is completed. He advised that all residents should place their leaves in front of their property with the exception of Virginia Avenue residents who should place them in the alley for disposal. Manager Walker stated we would continue to periodically run the chipper for yard debris but due to the conversion for leaves, it would be much less.

Walker advised Council concerning the cleaning of one of our two lagoons at the water plant. Bio-Nomic Services will be setting up on October 19th and will begin the process on the 21st. This is necessary to remove waste debris and sludge resulting from treatment of our drinking water from the lagoon to create continued storage. The cost to clean the lagoon is estimated to be \$19,000.00. We alternate cleaning of the two lagoons every 5 years.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon reported she has been working on drafting ordinances for this evenings public hearings and working on the easements that have to be obtained for the sewer project. Discussion followed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development: Council Member Daulton stated she thought Henry was a great man that loved this town and she is honored to be here and glad to be back.

Economic Development: Council Member Miskovic reported the HEAL committee had met last week and they set a permanent meeting date of the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6 p.m. at the airport. Council Member Miskovic met with Virginia Logos about installing tourist directional information signs on Highway 360. He reported the signs could range from \$4000 to \$10,000 depending on the sign. The Chamber had a joint meeting with Councils of Crewe and Burkeville and the Board of Supervisors it was a very productive meeting. Miskovic also reported the Chamber will start decorating the park meeting every Saturday morning in November. The tree lighting will be held in early December. Miskovic encouraged everyone to come out and vote. Miskovic also reported he attended the VML Conference and he felt it was a very motivating and energizing meeting he encouraged Council to attend in the future. Discussion followed. Miskovic is trying to schedule a meeting with Jeff Reid of the Virginia Growth Alliance, the Regional Economic Development Group. Miskovic closed his report commenting that the Blackstone Wine Festival and thank to everyone that went out and supported our neighbors in Blackstone. He reminded everyone it was a good thing to support each other.

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Facilities/Parks & Recreation: Council Member Sisk reported everything is looking good. He stated if you are interested in helping decorate the park for the lighting ceremony contact Tammy or Dee Dee at Citizen's Bank. Sisk also reported the Crewe Burkeville Rec Association would be having their Fall Family Fun Day on October 26th, he encourage everyone to come out and enjoy the festivities. Sisk stated the Railroad Museum has opened a new gift shop with more pictures and artifacts. He stated the museum runs on donations, so they are greatly appreciated. Sisk reported the VFW is still working on installing the flags as they are trying to get the ground level.

Finance: Council Member Knight had no report.

Public Works/Infrastructure: Council Member Spencer had no report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS CONT'D.

Personnel: Council Member Stinson had no report.

Public Safety: Council Member Fisher had no Fire Department but reported the Squad had been busy.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Investigator Turner reported the Department had been busy for the month of September. She briefed Council on some of the calls. Discussion followed. She also informed Council the Department had received the new in-car cameras for the cruisers. She stated the cameras offer plenty of features to assist the department. Investigator Turner also reminded Council the Department would be at the Fall Family Fun Day and she encouraged everyone to come out. Discussion followed.

Council Member Stinson questioned the funding for the cameras. Manager Walker informed Council one of the cameras was paid for by grant funding. Council Member Stinson voiced concern and stated she felt procedures were not followed. Discussion followed.

Council Member Sisk asked about the counterfeit money, Investigator Turner reported it is a huge problem in Nottoway right now.

Council Member Miskovic questioned the squad's volunteer situation. Council Member Fisher reported the biggest concern is who will reach out when the older volunteers step down. Discussion followed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Simmons thanked the Citizens for their support of the Brewfest, he stated the community citizens did a great job supporting the event but he believes the majority of the citizens were from out of town. He commented he thought the Southside Youth Festival had its biggest turn out this year. He stated the youth had a lot of opportunity to exhibit their different talents and he is proud of the town for supporting the event.

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NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Miskovic asked Council to consider installing a couple motion lights at the airport for the citizen's protection as it is very dark after the meetings. Town Manger Walker stated he would have the guys look at installing the lights.

Council Member Miskovic also addressed Council with a proposal for each Department Head to create a set of goals for 2014. Discussion followed.

Mayor Simmons addressed Council about participating in the Crewe Christmas Parade. Motion made by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote for Council to have a float in the Christmas parade with active participation.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to enact the ordinance to approve Christmas bonuses for town employees

Motion by Council Member Stinson; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to enact the graffiti ordinance.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to enact an ordinance that prohibits loitering as written by the Town Attorney.

Investigator Turner stated there was an issue with the verbiage on curfew in the ordinance. However, she stated the Department would continue to enforce the ordinance. Discussion followed.

Council Member Sisk suggested Council get more information before making a final decision regarding bees.

Council Member Miskovic stated he had some reservations about the ordinance especially after tonight's discussion. He agreed with having regulations but felt what was set forth would be a complete ban.

Council Member Fisher stated he felt a fatal bee sting would make everyone look bad. Discussion followed.

Council Member Daulton stated raising bees is wonderful; the people trying to raise them are wonderful she simply has concerns about the distance. Daulton felt a program could be evolved to allow them.

Council Member Stinson stated Council and Citizens have spent a lot of time on the issue and charged the Town Attorney with researching and coming up with an ordinance that has been advertised. Stinson stated she doesn't believe there will ever be an ordinance that would meet

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each individual's preferences. She likes the period of time for those to make adjustments if the ordinance does pass. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Spencer, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to table the bee ordinance.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Lee Simmons Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager