

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 13, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

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

Absent: Council Member Daulton

Also Present: Town Manager Walker & Attorney Bacon

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkerson with guest James Wilkerson of Crewe Baptist Church leading in prayer and Council Member E.B. Fisher leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING COMMENTS

Mayor Wilkerson opened the meeting thanking everyone for coming out.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Fire Chief Val Wilson addressed Council in regards to the funds the Town had set aside for the future purchase of a new fire truck. Chief Wilson stated the department would be buying a new truck soon and they wanted to get the funding in order for delivery. Manager Walker asked Chief Wilson to call the office to get things finalized.

Manager Walker thanked the Fire Department for their recent donation to the Town. He stated the department recently donated a truck they had taken out of service to the Public Works department and they were able to retro-fit all the necessary parts to prevent having to purchase a whole new truck.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Manager Walker noted the bill for Sydnor Hydro should come from water not wastewater.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Simpson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with the correction to the bill sheet and additions totaling \$138,022.41.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Walker reported that the Town has two divisions of operations that many time go unnoticed or forgotten because they are out of town and frankly, operate on a no news is good news basis. They are our Waste Water Treatment Plant and our Water Treatment Plant. Walker stated that Chief Operator John Hricko does an excellent job heading up both plants but Walker said he felt certain that Mr. Hricko would say he could not do it without his dedicated operators. We sometimes take these workers for granted and do not realize the importance to not just the town but to our community of the results of their work. Walker said that last year he had reported that our Water Treatment Plant had received a Silver Award from the Department of Health for outstanding service and quality. Walker informed Council that the plant was recently notified that they had received the Gold Award for this year, which is the highest award issued by the Department of Health. Walker then introduced plant operators Susan Quig, Matthew Coleman, and Thomas Watson offering congratulations on their award and thanking them for their dedicated service to the town. He stated how proud we were for their accomplishments and how much we appreciate their hard work.

Manager Walker then updated Council on progress of the ongoing sewer project, stating the project was moving forward and scheduled to be completed on time. Currently, the project is approximately 80% complete.

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Manager's Report, cont:

Walker informed Council that the Town had received approval for a grant submitted by HDLA, Inc. on behalf of the town through the Forestry Department. The amount of the grant is \$4,400.00 to conduct a "Master Plan" study to identify areas within the town needing improvement regarding signage, presentation, curb appeal, and overall promotion of our town and what we have to offer. Walker advised the grant calls for a 50/50 match and we are in the process of determining how much of that match can be in kind. He stated he would keep Council informed.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon reported the Town was ready to proceed with the conference call for Muni-code for the recodification. She also reported she continues to work on the zoning ordinance. She informed Council there was a court hearing scheduled for July 20th for one of the derelict buildings in town.

Attorney Bacon recommended Council get Village Title out of Powhatan to perform the title searches for the Lipscomb/Stratton Project area.

Motion by Council Member Sisk; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to authorize Village Title to perform the title searches on the 33 lots for the project area at \$95 per title in the event the cost is not covered by the grant funds.

Attorney Bacon updated Council on moving forward with the election change if they so choose. She also educated Council on the invocation needing to be done by a guest and not a member of Council so it would like appear as though Council was endorsing a specific religion.

Attorney Bacon stated she was moving forward with collections on local tax liens, to include grass, personal property and derelict buildings. She informed Council she thought the DMV program Council Member Miskovic mentioned was a great idea. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Simpson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to have title search done on the "old theater building" and upon a clean title search send a letter to the owners of the "old theater building" to request they donate the property to the town.

Council Member Miskovic asked for an update on the status of the building on 460. Manager Walker stated the owner informed him it would be taken care of.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development:

Council Member Miskovic reported the Committee would be meeting on July 22nd at 12 noon at Dine N Crewe. He also stated the 100 mile yard sale was again a huge success and he wanted to congratulate the Town of Crewe, Jerri Morton and Daphne Norton for all their hard work. He informed Council the History & Genealogical Committee is attempting to update records and he would appreciate any information on private cemeteries and other burial sites.

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Economic Development, cont:

Miskovic mentioned the Chamber would be having a chicken dinner fundraiser in early August. He also mentioned the Town had applied for a \$9000 Heal Grant and we should hear back in August. Miskovic reminded those in attendance of the National Day of the Cowboy to be held at the Amelia County Fairgrounds July 25th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. He closed his report congratulating Vice Mayor/Council Member Stinson on her recent retirement and he wished Town resident Jane Hohn, who was present in the audience a Happy Birthday.

Finance:

Council Member Simpson reported finance was in good shape.

Public Works/Infrastructure:

Council Member Knight reported everything was going good.

Personnel:

Council Member Stinson congratulated the Water Plant Operators on their recent Gold Award for Water Plant Excellence in Clarification, Filtration and Backwash. She also thanked the Town maintenance workers for their hard work.

Public Safety:

Council Member Fisher briefed Council with a 6 month update for rescue.

Facilities/Parks & Recreation:

Council Member Sisk informed Council the 2015 Belles & Debs State Tournament would begin here in Crewe on Friday July 17th with Mayor Sally Wilkerson throwing out the first pitch at 6 p.m. He reported the Crewe-Burkeville Darlings are doing great in their tournament, going undefeated so far and only 1 win away from winning the 2015 Darlings State Tournament being played in Blackstone, VA. He informed Council if the Crewe-Burkeville Darlings win Tuesday night's game against Appomattox they will go on to represent Virginia in the World Series held in Louisiana.

Community Development:

Mayor Wilkerson reported in the absence of Council Member Daulton. She updated Council on the Lipscomb/Stratton Project stating the contracts had been awarded and work was underway. She stated the Town should begin to see changes by the end of summer.

Comprehensive Plan:

Council Member Stinson provided Council with another draft of the comprehensive plan for their review. She noted grammatical errors and asked that each member review the plan and report back to her in 2 weeks with any changes they see. She stated County Planner Mrs. Kelly Lewis assured her everything was moving along well.

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POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Booth stated he hoped to address a residents concern with recent activity at the playground and Indian Oak Road. He reported criminal activity has dropped in the areas of the Library/Playground as well as on Indian Oak, he credited that to more police presence and patrol in the areas. Chief Booth again informed everyone his officers could not go onto private property to issue a ticket for a town sticker violation.

Chief Booth mentioned he and Detective Turner met with an Architectural Firm out of Richmond VA to discuss the Police Departments need for a new or updated office. He informed Council they should be receiving a report from the company detailing their needs at no cost to the Town.

Chief also reported Sergeant Hite, Mayor Wilkerson and himself went to Blackstone Police Department and took a tour of their facility to get a general idea of what the police department needs. Discussion followed.

Chief Booth reminded everyone of the National Night Out scheduled for Saturday August 8th beginning at 5 p.m. with hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks, kid's activities and a movie at dark.

Chief Booth closed his report after introducing the Town's newest Police Officer Caleb Lafferty. Chief informed Council Officer Lafferty performed very well at the academy. He also mentioned Officer Lafferty had completed his 100 hours of on the job training and was now eligible to patrol alone.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Wilkerson publically thanked all volunteer organizations and the Crewe Police Department for all they do for the community. Mayor Wilkerson reminded everyone to come out to the District Tournament on Friday night starting at 6 p.m. She also encouraged everyone to go see the newly erected memorial and bench at Veteran's site in Hagberg Park. She mentioned the National Night Out will be held on Saturday August 8th.

Mayor Wilkerson congratulated and thanked Council Members Stinson, Simpson and Knight on their recent retirements.

Council Member Miskovic asked if there was a memorial dedication planned. Mayor Wilkerson stated it was and Council Member Sisk would get with him on the details.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Miskovic asked Manager Walker if the Town could put a portion of its reserve funds into a CD to draw more interest than a standard checking/savings account. Manager Walker stated that could be done and he and the Finance Committee would review it.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Attorney Bacon elaborated on the zoning issues further.

Mayor Wilkerson informed Council a representative from HDLA would be coming in August to better explain what the town was awarded and how they can use it, in addition to how to repay it.

Mayor Wilkerson asked for Council's desire on changing the election from spring to fall. Discussion followed. With the exception of Council Members Sisk and Miskovic, Council decided to leave the election in spring.

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Continuing Business, cont.:

Council Member Stinson stated the Town owes it to its citizens to collect debts and improve the derelict properties.

Council Member Miskovic asked that the Finance Committee and the Town Manager discuss the DMV Program and move forward with it.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Rick Gunter, with the Crewe-Burkeville Journal, questioned the current 2 year Council terms being extended for 6 months in the event Council later decides to go with a fall election being allowed. Attorney Bacon stated the state code dose allow for the term to be extended in such case.

Val Wilson, Chief Crewe Volunteer Fire Department, reminded Council of the Firefighters Competition being held September 19th at Hooper Park. He stated the event is open to the public and he hoped everyone could come and support the department. He also asked Manager Walker if the fire trucks coming into Crewe for the competition could come down Carolina Avenue. Manager Walker asked Chief Wilson to contact him at the office to discuss it.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:55p.m.

Sally T. Wilkerson Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager