

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND  
CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

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

Absent: Town Attorney Tessie Bacon

Also Present: Town Manager Walker

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Simmons with a moment of silence in honor of all veterans. He then led with the Lord's Prayer and Council Member Fisher led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mayor Simmons opened the floor for delegations from the public to Jason Wilson, Acting Director of Virginia Center of Behavioral Rehabilitation. Mr. Wilson addressed Council with the basic history of the facility and the process of releasing someone from the program. Mr. Wilson ensured Council anyone released from the program is monitored by a GPS system and their probation officer has special training.

Dr. Anita Schlank, Clinical Program Director of Virginia Center of Behavioral Rehabilitation clarified the term "sexually violent predator" stating it is a legal term that means an individual has met commitment criteria by being at high risk to reoffend. Dr. Schlank stated VCBR has a 3 phase program that residents are required to complete and officers of the facility are required to monitor residents behavior in different settings at all times prior to release. Dr. Schlank agreed to hold an informational meeting for the public with VCBR. Discussion followed.

Gary Simmons, Nottoway County Board of Supervisors Representative for District II addressed Council with some issues the County is facing. Mr. Simmons thanked Mayor Simmons and Council for the invite to attend and update them on what the County is doing that may affect the town. He informed Council the Board of Supervisors held a public input meeting for citizens to speak on any subject and it was a good success. He also informed Council the renovations of the library are underway and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the total project cost has been raised. He discussed the housing project in the Lipscomb/Stratton Street area and the grant that has been received to assist with that project. He touched on the Storm water Management Program stating it is mandated by the state to prevent water runoff from disturbing the soil of local water ways. He addressed the concern of roadways specifically the intersection of Route 49 and Highway 460. The Board has instructed VDOT to perform a study to make it safer. Mr. Simmons also discussed Trout River's expansion. Council Member Miskovic thanked Mr. Simmons for coming to the meeting and stated it is good to have a relationship with the County. Mr. Simmons stated the Board of Supervisors meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month.

Mr. Keith Tignor, The Virginia State Apiarist, by invitation addressed Council with the concern of honey bees in town. He provided Council with general knowledge, history, uses and benefits of honey bees. Mr. Tignor also addressed Council on the actual threat of bees to individuals with allergies citing several statistics. Discussion followed.

Holly Morris, Crittenden's Drug Store, addressed Council with the success of the 1<sup>st</sup> Downtown Crewe Customer Appreciation Day stating she had received a lot of positive comments and she hopes to work with the Chamber next year for this event. Discussion followed.

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**DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS CONT'D.**

Odette Cook, 1110 W. Carolina Ave., stated it is disheartening and sad when neighbors are pitted against one another over such an issue as bees. She cited a story from a magazine stating the decision of the author to move his bees to a farm after talking with his neighbors and discovering an allergy was a common sense approach as well as a neighborly approach. She feels bees belong in the country on a farm. She hopes the town will consider both parties and both situations can come to a common sense consensus.

Carrie Moulton, 102 Oliver Ave., spoke to Council stating she and her family are lovers of bees and honey as well as being huge environmentalists. She said they had no issues with bees until she put up her hummingbird feeders and wasn't able to enjoy them as they fed the bees and not the birds all summer. She stated she and her family were not able to enjoy the outside because of the presence of so many bees. She hoped to come to a middle ground with the bee issue. Mrs. Moulton also expressed her concern with the individual released from VCBR and living so close to Carrington's Dance studio. Discussion followed.

Susan Christian, 417 Georgia Ave., addressed Dr. Anita Schlank and Jason Wilson of VCBR with several questions about the term "sexually violent predator" and the percentage of recidivism. Mayor Simmons stated the special meeting that VCBR has offered to hold would be better suited to address those questions.

Bob Faas, 211 Walnut St., questioned who monitors individuals released from the program and how soon is their information updated online. Trooper J. B. Inge informed Mr. Faas there was a process that had to be taken. Discussion followed.

Sean Davis, 603 E. Tennessee Ave., addressed Council with his concerns about the residents of VCBR stating they did not get into the program by being model citizens or inmates. He stated they had to meet a set of criteria by code that qualifies them for the program. He understands and hopes everyone else will also that town council cannot pass a code prohibiting a resident from living in town, they can only ask VCBR to discourage it. He also addressed the bee issue stating bees are going to go where they want to go and do what they want to do. He stated Council passed a code to address nuisance situations reminding Council that is all the Simpsons are asking for is for Council to address the nuisance of the bees.

Brandi Hayer, 100 Indian Oak Ave., addressed Council in hopes they would make a decision on the bee issue now.

Tag Gray, 508 Powell St., stated his concern with the bee issue is because 2 of his 6 children have antibiotic allergies and they can't risk the possibility of one of them being stung.

Ronald Hall, 103 Oliver Ave., has safety concerns at the intersections of Tyler/Carter and Oliver Ave. He stated when cars turn onto Carter from Tyler and then onto Oliver Ave. there isn't much passing room. Council Member Miskovic stated he would move his car to help with the problem. Mayor Simmons also stated the town will take a look at the intersection.

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**DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS CONT'D.**

Mr. John Vaught, 100 W. Pennsylvania Ave., informed Council he would be moving his bees off his property so “this thing ends tonight.” He also said the one box he has left will be gone he will move it out to where the others are and he hopes he won’t have a problem out there. Mr. Vaught closed saying he doesn’t need to go through this anymore to prove his point.

Eddie Higgins, 612 E. Maryland Ave., expressed concern about allowing a sexual predator to move within 150 feet of a dance studio for little children. Mr. Higgins said the powers higher up than Crewe need to do something. Mr. Higgins reminded Council when the ground was broken for the new facility there would be a barrier put up and no one would ever see it, yet you go by the facility and it is lit up like the diamond that was lie number 1. Lie number 2, they said no predators would relocate into Crewe. Discussion followed.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with additions totaling \$150,324.09.

**MANAGER’S REPORT**

Town Manager Walker informed Council that the final reports from the Nottoway County Building Inspector on three derelict properties in the town have been received. Of the three, two were deemed “unsuitable for human occupation” and place cards have been placed on the properties stating “do not enter”. The two properties deemed unsuitable were 608 W. Virginia Avenue and 305 E. Carolina Avenue. The next step will be to notify the owners in writing and publish the notice in the local paper giving them 45 days to demolish the structures. If they do not, then the town will be able to proceed with demolition.

Manager Walker stated a meeting took place with our engineers, Hurt & Proffitt, to further discuss ways to cut costs on the upcoming sewer project. The project bid came in approximately \$1.0 million over projected costs. The alternatives are to try to cut some of the scope of work or go to the loan agencies to secure additional financing or possible grant funds. DEQ has stated they would provide an additional \$500,000.00 in loan funds and \$500,000.00 in grant to cover the additional costs. This would of course increase the required payment on the loan. We plan to meet soon with DEQ and USDA to discuss cutting some of the work as this would be our best option.

Mr. Walker advised Council that their meeting packets contained information about the re-codification of our town code and presented two alternatives. One being a complete re-codification that would include updating all of our current codes, legal reviews, and assignment of proper code numbers as well as up to 15 new bound copies. The total cost of this would be \$8,500.00. The other alternative would be updating the current codes only. This cost was estimated at \$2,500.00. Manager Walker suggested alternative one, which would be a full re-codification so that everyone has updated and valid code books.

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**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT, cont.**

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to move forward with the recodification of the town codes and divide the payments into 4 separate payments.

Town Manager Walker then advised Council of the upcoming holiday schedule for the town as follows:

Thanksgiving: Thursday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and Friday November 29<sup>th</sup>

Christmas: ½ day Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, December 26<sup>th</sup>

**TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Absent – No Report

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Community Development:** Council Member Daulton stated she was on Council when the housing project originally started and she commends Mayor Simmons and Manager Walker for their diligence with it.

**Economic Development:** Council Member Miskovic reported the HEAL committee would meet Wednesday November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at the Airport. Miskovic also thanked everyone that came out to vote and he wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

**Facilities/Parks & Recreation:** Council Member Sisk reported everything with the facilities is fine. He reported the CBYRA was awarded volunteer of the year by the Chamber of Commerce. He also reminded everyone the Chamber would be decorating Hagberg Park every Saturday in November to prepare for the lighting festival. Sisk also reported the CBYRA held its second annual Fall Family Fun Day and it was a huge success. Sisk closed his report stating the youth soccer season had just ended and that too was a huge success and he thanked Commissioner Tara Martin and Burkeville Mayor Joe Morrissette for the use of the Burkeville field.

**Finance:** Council Member Knight had no report.

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

**Personnel:** Council Member Stinson had no report.

**Public Safety:** Council Member Fisher no report.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Booth reported to Council he had included a new report in their packets that would provide more detailed statistics about the department. Chief Booth also ensured Council with the Christmas Parade coming up the department was prepared and will again enforce the no

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tolerance rule. Chief Booth also reported the department had been awarded the DMV grant for the officers to do selective and in that grant was funding for a new handheld radar gun. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the purchase of the handheld radar gun for \$2350 through grant funds.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Simmons commented on how much things have changed over the last 3 or 4 years for the Christmas Parade adding if it because of the efforts of the Crewe Police, Nottoway Sheriff's Department and the Virginia State Police that the parade is back to a fun holiday event for families. Mayor Simmons also commented on the many events the CBYRA hosts outside of its traditional activities stating he appreciates what they do the kids. Mayor Simmons stated the Chamber has evolved so much over the years and he thanked the Board of Directors for the Chamber for their hard work. Mayor Simmons reminded Council it is the small businesses in town that shoulder the load of Crewe stating they are the ones that give back to the community. Mayor Simmons also mentioned the Dunn's that received the coveted Lifetime Achievement Award at the Chamber's Annual Dinner adding the Dunn's have been a staple in this community for many years. He also recognized the CBYRA for receiving the Volunteer of the Year award and Across the Trax in Burkeville for Business of the Year. Mayor Simmons reminded everyone of the Lighting of the Park at 5 pm on November 30<sup>th</sup> and the Crewe Christmas Parade at 7 p.m. on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No New Business

**CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Mayor Simmons reported to Council that he had donated 2 of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Flags to the Chamber for their auction. Mayor Simmons asked Council how they wanted to distribute the remaining flags. Discussion followed.

Mayor Simmons asked for Councils input of a suggested 5 minute limit on all citizens comments. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to set a 5 minute time limit for citizens comments.

Mayor Simmons reminded Council they had taken in a lot of information and urges them to move forward with the decision on bees. Discussion followed.

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Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Spencer, to have Town Attorney Bacon draft an ordinance prohibiting the raising of bees in town. Hearing no further discussion Mayor Simmons ordered a roll call:

Council Member Daulton – For  
Council Member Sisk – Against  
Council Member Fisher – For  
Council Member Stinson – For  
Council Member Knight – For  
Council Member Spencer – For  
Council Member Miskovic – Against  
5 – 2 vote motion passes.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to enter into Closed Session pursuant to Code of Virginia 2.2-3711.A.2.

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Lee Simmons                      Mayor

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W. Wade Walker    Town Manager