

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
DECEMBER 14, 2015 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, Robbie Knight, Al Simpson & Phil Miskovic

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkerson with guest Pastor Ibn Munir of Heaven Bound Baptist Church leading the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Wilkerson opened the meeting with a public hearing to receive public comments on proposed changes to the current R-1, Residential Zoning Ordinance.

Mrs. Susan Yeatts, E. Tenn. Ave. questioned how one could operate a business with no customers allowed. Discussion followed.

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

OPENING COMMENTS

Mayor Wilkerson opened the meeting thanking everyone for coming out.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Susan Yeatts announced her group the Wash bucket Initiative is up and running. She encourage everyone to go by Citizens Bank to see the Christmas tree they have decorated and put up for auction.

Mr. Bill Faas mentioned the Christmas Parade went very well and the police did a great job.

Ms. Pamela Martin, business owner on Carolina Ave., address Council to seek their consideration in lowering the utility bill for small businesses in Crewe.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with bill sheet and additions totaling \$237,066.32.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Walker introduced Steve Bowen, Head of Maintenance at Piedmont Geriatric Hospital who outlined rehabilitation work to be done on the water tank at Piedmont. Mr. Bowen introduced Aaron Tice, an engineer with Wiley/Wilson Consultants who further discussed the technical points they will be using during the process. Mr. Bowen then explained that the work would require a new water tap on the town's 12 inch main and he then asks Town Council to waive the tap fee. Discussion followed. Hearing nothing further, Mayor Wilkerson thanked Mr. Bowen and Mr. Tice for attending and informing the town of what will take place.

Manager Walker informed Council that the sewer project was continuing to progress. He stated we are in the final stages of the project with some additional lateral work to be done as well as some lining. Previous lines that were to be replaced had been re-evaluated and it was confirmed these could be lined, thus saving the town additional expense. Walker stated we had managed to convince the loan entities that, should there be additional

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Manager's Report Cont'd:

funds we greatly need to replace our old motors and pumps at the Upper East End Sewer Pump Station. They agreed to fund this and the new equipment will be installed this week.

B&M Electrical has delivered and installed the new heat/air mini-split system for the Police Department. The system is working well and appears to have resolved the heating and cooling issues in the department.

Walker stated the asbestos inspection done by Hurt & Proffitt on 305 E. Carolina Avenue had been completed and we await the results. Once received, we will once again advertise for demolition of the structure and clean-up of the property.

The Vehicle Registration Withholding Program has been set up and is ready to be used. Information on all outstanding delinquent personal property tax has been organized and prioritized according to age and amount. Walker stated he had decided, in an effort to assist the citizens, to publish a public notice for two weeks in the local paper, on Facebook, and on the town's web page of our intentions to utilize this program. There will be a \$25.00 penalty and a \$25.00 administrative fee attached to the delinquent tax owed when someone is placed on hold. Hopefully the notice will give citizens an opportunity to take care of this before the fees are added. We will begin placing holds in January 2016.

Walker reminded Council of the upcoming Employee Christmas Dinner on Saturday, December 19th at 6:00pm.

Mr. Walker reviewed the upcoming holiday schedule for the Town Office and Public Works Department whereby offices will be closed ½ day on the 23rd, all day the 24th, and Christmas Day. Closed on January 1, 2016.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon had nothing new to report. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development:

Council Member Miskovic reported he is currently working on the Nottoway Antique Trail project he mentioned previously. He's visiting the antique shops across the county to see they want to participate. The end goal is a pamphlet to be distributed around Nottoway and the surrounding areas in order to attract visitors to these shops. The anticipated cost will be \$145 plus design fees. Businesses are being asked to contribute \$25 for their participation to offset costs to Crewe taxpayers. Council Member Miskovic said the he will be requesting that fee be waived for businesses within Crewe town limits.

Council Member Miskovic reported the Economic Development Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 22, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. at Dine N Crewe.

Council Member Miskovic also reminded everyone to shop locally this holiday season.

Finance:

Council Member Simpson had no official report.

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Public Works/Infrastructure:

Council Member Knight had no official report.

Personnel:

Council Member Stinson wished everyone a Merry Christmas and stated she hoped to see everyone Saturday at the Town's Christmas dinner. Mrs. Stinson also stated how nice it is to have donations to cover the cost of the dinner for the Town employees.

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

Public Safety:

Council Member Fisher wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. He stated the Police did a great job with the parade and the Public Works did an excellent job cleaning up afterwards.

Facilities/Parks & Recreation:

Council Member Sisk reported Hagberg Park looks great and the lighting ceremony was nice. Mr. Sisk also mentioned the CBYRA youth would be riding around town singing Christmas carols on December 21st in Crewe and December 22nd in Burkeville starting at 6:00 p.m. both nights.

Community Development:

Council Member Daulton reported the Management Team meeting for the Lipscomb/Stratton Project would be Thursday December 17, 2015 at 3 p.m. at the Crewe Library Conference Center with the community meeting to follow.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Council Member Stinson stated the Police Department Committee met to discuss the needs of the current department's safety and security. She stated they have decided to focus on the old fire house beside Town Hall and consult with Three North on the options available. Discussion followed. Mrs. Stinson reported the committee will meet again and be prepared to make a recommendation at the January Council meeting.

Mrs. Stinson also reported she would like to meet with Manager Walker and go through the Comprehensive Plan and make it available to the public in January.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Booth informed Council the parade went well. He also announced the Department had received for the 3rd year in a row the National Night-Out Award.

Mayor Wilkerson encourage everyone to visit the Crewe Police Departments Facebook page and watch the video of Santa visiting Crewe residents. Chief Booth noted the video alone has already passed 4,000 hits.

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Police Chief's Report Cont'd:

Chief Booth announced the Department would be assisting Preacher Bradley from Calvary Freewill Baptist in an Xbox Tournament on January 1st starting at 7 p.m. for local teenagers. They anticipate the tournament to last until midnight and the Church will hold a lock-in for all teenagers wishing to stay.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wilkerson wished everyone a Merry Christmas. She commented on how nice the park illumination was and how beautifully the young lady sang.

Mayor Wilkerson also commented on the official document she received in reference to the closing of Piedmont Geriatric Hospital. Mayor Wilkerson stated she immediately sent all the information she had received along with a letter to Senator Ruff and Delegate Wright. Mayor Wilkerson also noted there has been a formal committee formed, Piedmont Geriatric Association, which has met and asked Sally to write a letter to Governor McAuliffe expressing her concerns as Mayor of Crewe. Discussion followed.

Mayor Wilkerson also informed Council per HDLA's request she had identified the requested trees in town and sent HDLA pictures of those trees.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Wilkerson asked for Council's desire on the tap fee charge for the Piedmont Water tank repairs. Discussion followed.

Motion by Councilmember Simpson; seconded by Councilmember Knight, to bill the Commonwealth of Virginia \$27,000 for the tap fee for the temporary Piedmont Water Tank.

Mayor Wilkerson ordered a roll call.

Daulton – For

Sisk – For

Fisher – For

Stinson – For

Knight – For

Simpson – For

Miskovic – Abstained

Roll call vote of 6 – 0 – 1, motion passed.

Mayor Wilkerson asked Council for their position on the VCBR expansion and its effects on the Town's water supply. Discussion followed.

Council Member Miskovic thanked Mayor Wilkerson and the Town Manager for their comments on the VCBR situation. He passed out a handout briefing Council on the situation:

- The Governor's bond package request includes \$115,818,000 for the expansion of VCBR.
- The VCBR expansion may be the last best opportunity to improve the Town's water system at a greatly reduced cost to the locality.
 - DBHDS has already expressed grave concerns about the reliability of our water system.

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New Business Cont'd.

- If we request funding for the expansion project to include a new water line to the facilities and any improvements to operation (equipment, dredging the lake, etc.), we have a real opportunity of improving our system for our state agency customers and our citizens.
- The \$115M requested does not include any of these improvements. This means that we would need to approach this idea from the legislative side.
- We should reach out to H&P to discuss the best options and a good project estimate for adding water system improvements to the VCBR expansion.
- Once we do this, we can reach out to Wright and Ruff to add our request to the \$115M.
- We need to do this quickly.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Knight, to pursue water improvements to the current water system to provide adequate service to all citizens for future expansion.

Mayor Wilkerson ordered a roll call:

Daulton – For

Sisk – For

Fisher – For

Stinson – For

Knight – For

Simpson – For

Miskovic – Abstained

Roll call vote of 6 – 0 – 1, motion passed.

Council Member Miskovic thanked Mayor Wilkerson for her work on the Piedmont Geriatric issue and emphasized that Council should work with the Piedmont Geriatric Association, but make our independent position known. He presented a resolution outlining the latest Piedmont Geriatric issue.

Specifically, he mentioned:

- A report to the Virginia General Assembly from the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services (DBHDS) date November 10, 2015 “has identified two potential options for consideration of the future of the geriatric services system”:
 - Option 1: Keep Catawba Hospital and Piedmont Geriatric Hospital open
 - Option 2: Close Catawba this biennium, close Piedmont Geriatric Hospital next biennium, and construct a 56-bed wing at Western State Hospital.
- Governor McAuliffe announced that the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget he will introduce on December 17th will included a \$2.43 billion bond package to support key capital projects
- Governor McAuliffe’s bond package includes \$22.3 million for a 56-bed addition at Western State Hospital
- Under this current trajectory, Piedmont Geriatric Hospital patients would begin being discharged in the fourth quarter of FY 2018 with all patients discharged by end of FY 20419, effectively closing Piedmont Geriatric Hospital
- This option assumes that the 56-bed expansion at Western State Hospital will be approved by the 2016 General Assembly and completed in the second half of FY 2018

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New Business Cont.d.

- The construction of a new 56-bed wing at Western State Hospital is integral to closing Piedmont Geriatric Hospital and Catawba

Council Member Miskovic read from a drafted resolution that expressed the Town's position with the Governor's intentions. Discussion followed.

Council agreed to table the resolution until the regular January meeting in order to allow the Piedmont Geriatric association to review the resolution and include it in their lobbying strategy.

Council Member Miskovic reported that a congressional redistricting proposal before the courts would put Nottoway County at the southern tip of a long, narrow 7th district that stretches to Culpeper. If approved, this would change our congressman to David Brat, rather Randy Forbes. Council Member Miskovic encouraged Council to keep an eye on developments.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Mayor Wilkerson asked for Council's desire on the R-1 Zoning ordinance.

Motion by Councilmember Knight; seconded by Councilmember Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to accept the changes as presented for the R-1 Zoning.

Mayor Wilkerson reminded Council they needed to make a decision on the maintenance of the Town's website and Facebook stating Mrs. Redman had been asked to handle these on a temporary basis. Discussion followed.

Council agreed to decide what they wanted from each site and then make a decision on how to move forward.

After brief discussion, the Town of Crewe Tourism Plan was tabled until the January meeting.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk, to create a committee appointed by Mayor Wilkerson to explore the possibility of moving town elections from May to November, weigh the costs of benefits of each option, and present a recommendation to Council by the February 8, 2016 meeting.

Discussion followed.

To better understand the issue, the committee shall investigate all relevant issues, including but not limited to:

- Voter turnout
 - Number of voters for each election
 - Demographics of voters in current town elections compared to overall town demographics
 - Reasoning for why voters choose to vote in May, or why they choose not to vote
- Cost of elections in May and November, including cost-per-vote
- Potential for politicization of local elections if moved to November
- Justification of other localities for moving elections to November, or keeping them in May
- Legal concerns and issues associated with moving the election

Continuing Business

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The committee's recommendation shall include:

- Recommendation to keep town elections in May or move elections to November
- If the committee recommends moving elections to November:
 - Recommendation for odd or even-year elections
 - A plan for implementing the new elections

The committee shall be comprised of:

- Not more than 2 members of Council
- At least 3 citizen members, at least one of whom represents the Nottoway County NAACP

The committee shall consult with the Town Attorney, County Registrar, and other officials as it deems appropriate.

The committee shall have an operating budget of not more than \$200 from the Town's General Fund for any related expenses, including postage, printing, and advertising for voter surveys.

Mayor Wilkerson ordered a roll call:

Daulton – For

Sisk – For

Fisher – Against

Stinson – For

Knight – Against

Simpson – For

Miskovic – For

Roll call vote of 5 - 2 - 0, motion passes.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Faas, Cabell St., stated he was very impressed with Councilmember Miskovic's antique trail idea and suggested possibly contacting local eateries to determine if they too would be interested in being on the pamphlet.

Robin Sapp, Cabell St., stated she felt the Town needed to attack the Piedmont Geriatric and Catawba closing from all angles. Mrs. Sapp also offered to provide the Town with the name of the person that manages the Library's website.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Sally T. Wilkerson Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager