

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,  
FEBRUARY 9, 2015 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER,  
CREWE, VIRGINIA**

Present: Mayor Wilkerson, Council Members Shirley Daulton, E.B. Fisher, Clarence “Al” Simpson, & Phil Miskovic

Absent: Council Member Steve Sisk Jr., Council Member Knight, & Police Chief Booth

Also Present: Town Manager Walker & Town Attorney Tessie Bacon

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkerson with Council Member Daulton leading in the Lord’s Prayer and Council Member Fisher leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

**OPENING COMMENTS**

Mayor Wilkerson opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their support and coming out to the meeting.

**DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mayor Wilkerson introduced Mr. Greg Marston, Melody Lane Crewe, VA for a presentation on the HBK 1277 aka “The Hemp Bill”. Mr. Marston started his presentation with a brief summary on the resolution he had presented to Council for their support. Mr. Marston then opened the floor to Mr. Stephen Flippen of Blackstone, VA for his comments on the HBK 1277.

Mr. Flippen spoke of his support stating he has suffered with Epilepsy since being diagnosed with it as a sophomore in high school. He stated at times this disorder had enabled him to work, go to school amongst other daily activities. Mr. Flippen stated he started using Industrial Hemp Oil about 12 days ago and has gone seizure free, completely without any “hiccups” for those 12 days. For Mr. Flippen this is very very rare. Currently Mr. Flippen receives his Industrial Hemp Oil from Europe, he has hopes that this bill will pass so that he may be able to purchase his Industrial Hemp Oil from a local farmer right here in Southside Virginia. Discussion followed.

Council Member Miskovic presented to Council a substitute Resolution for their consideration in support of the said bill.

***Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Daulton, Council voted to approve the substitute Resolution as written by Council Member Miskovic in regard to the HBK 1277. Mayor Wilkerson ordered a roll call as follows:***

***Council Member Daulton – Aye***

***Council Member Sisk – Absent***

***Council Member Fisher – Abstain***

***Council Member Stinson – Aye***

***Council Member Knight – Absent***

***Council Member Simpson – Aye***

***Council Member Miskovic – Aye***

***With a vote of 4 Aye’s and 1 abstention the motion carries.***

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

***Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Simpson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with the bill sheet totaling \$94,419.13.***

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**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manager Walker informed Council that he had solicited and received three bids on the financing of the purchase of the new tractor. All three local banks submitted a bid and offered their willingness to assist the town. Mr. Walker thanked all three for their interest. All three bids were for a 3 year term. Benchmark Community Bank offered a rate of 1.99% with no fee. First Citizens Bank offered 1.79% with a \$250.00 loan origination fee and Citizens Bank submitted a bid of 1.85% with no fee. With and without the loan fee, the low bid went to Citizens Bank. Mr. Walker then asks Council for authorization to accept the Citizens Bank bid and sign the promissory note on behalf of the town.

***Motion by Council Member Fisher to accept the bid from Citizens Bank and authorize the Town Manager to sign the note on behalf of the town. The motion was seconded by Mr. Miskovic. Motion passed.***

Manager Walker stated it had been brought to his attention that we need to consider changing zoning allowances in our R1 Residential areas of town that would allow certain in home occupations such as professional offices and internet businesses. R1 was originally zoned for very quiet, low density neighborhoods but with the changes in technology and the internet, the town should allow for certain in home occupations that would not interfere with the integrity of the area, such as noise or parking issues. Walker asked Council to allow Town Attorney Bacon to look into this possible change and how it could be changed to allow for this type of activity.

Mr. Walker addressed the proposed changes to the current Garbage Collection ordinance stating we allow up to 35 gallon containers, limit residential to 3 cans, and charge an additional \$5.00 for each can over three. Walker reminded Council that we must hold a public hearing before enacting the changes. He proposed writing up the changes and advertising for the public hearing to take place during our regular Council Meeting on March 9, 2015.

Manager Walker informed Council the sewer project was moving forward and actual lining had begun this week on Tennessee Avenue. The project is approximately 32.6% complete with approximately 7.8% of the available funds spent to date. He mentioned cost would begin to catch up with percent completed now that lining was being done. Walker stated he has ask Mike Wilson of Hurt & Proffitt to attend our March meeting to update Council on progress from our engineers point of view and answer any questions Council may have regarding the project.

**TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Attorney Bacon reported she continues to work on derelict buildings, delinquent taxes, and revision to the grass ordinance. Attorney Bacon suggested Council consider the wording of the "intent" section and amending the elusive uses section in addition to signage and parking in regard to the zoning of R-1 and R-2 areas. Discussion followed.

Attorney Bacon reported she would be happy to rewrite the Trash Ordinance to cover Council's current concerns.

Attorney Bacon also reported on the grass ordinance referencing the state code 15.2901 that has a general requirement of notice and it does not specify any height restrictions. She also suggested the changes to the ordinance could be in the form of changing the length of time given and/or the height of the grass. Discussion followed. She closed her report stating she continues to also work on the blighted buildings.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Community Development:**

Council Member Daulton attended the "Breakfast with Businesses" at Southside Electric Cooperative. She also mentioned the Lipscomb/Stratton Project is moving along.

**Economic Development:**

Council Member Miskovic reported following Council's resolution requesting state legislators to propose legislation to restrict VCBR residents released into the local community to those with only pre-existing positive ties and include the locality in the pre-release discussion, Delegate Wright proposed HB2303, which would require VCBR to notify the Commonwealth Attorney and chief law enforcement office of a resident's release. Miskovic announced Mayor Wilkerson had testified at a General Assembly subcommittee hearing on the bill, which has passed the subcommittee, committee, and House unanimously. It will now move on to Senate.

Miskovic had several announcements to include Sandra Tanner with Virginia Tourism will be hosting a 2 day workshop in Crewe to identify the needs and strengths for tourism in the area. The Nottoway Historical Association would be hosting another music festival at the Old Brick Church at Nottoway the Saturday before Easter and the Crewe Kiwanis will have another pancake supper on March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Crewe Community Center.

**Facilities/Parks & Recreation:**

Manager Walker presented the report in Council Member Sisk's absence stating Sisk supported the resolutions to be presented this evening to include the Pipeline and Cowboy Day. Sisk also wanted to support Mr. Marston's resolution for the Industrial Hemp.

Manager Walker also reported for Sisk the CBYRA is holding signups for baseball/softball at Beamer Field Hospitality Room on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. He also mentioned the Baked Potato Dinner by the CBYRA on February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:30 at the Crewe Volunteer Fire Dept., \$6 a plate.

He closed the report announcing Crewe would be hosting the 2015 Debs and Belles 2015 State Tournaments.

**Finance:**

Council Member Simpson reported financing looked in order.

**Public Works/Infrastructure:**

Council Member Knight absent.

**Personnel:**

Council Member Stinson thanked Police Secretary Beverly Redman for her willingness to take on the task of maintaining the Town's website and the Facebook page. Stinson spoke briefly on the negative comments recently placed on social media stating the employee's willingness to work is not the problem. The issue lies in the necessity of the situation. She commended the Town employees for their hard work.

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**Public Safety:**

Council Member Fisher no report.

**Comprehensive Plan:**

Council Member Stinson reported she wanted to update the remaining parts of the Comprehensive Plan, so she intends to assign the remaining sections to each appropriate Committee Head. Stinson also suggested she would like to have a motion in support of moving forward with the current goals and objectives so that County Planner Kelly Lewis could begin putting them together. Stinson also suggested having a status are in each section of the plan to update everyone on where they are with the current goal. Discussion followed.

*Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Simpson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to move forward with the current goals and objectives.*

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:**

Chief Booth absent.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

Mayor Wilkerson commented on how wonderful it is that the Friends of the Library came together and had a new light installed over the book drop box at the Library.

Mayor Wilkerson mentioned the Kiwanis 100<sup>th</sup> Year of Founding and stated they are looking for another project in Crewe since they no longer host the Chicken Festival. Discussion followed.

Mayor Wilkerson also commented on the sub-committee meeting she attended in support of the most recent resolution by the Town of Crewe in regard to the release of inmates from VCBR. She spoke of just how nice the meeting was and how the doors to communication have been opened.

Mayor Wilkerson stated that she would reaching out to Council Member Sisk for his support in having the CBYRA ball game schedule worked around the weekend of the homecoming festivities.

She also mentioned Town Hall would be closed Monday for President's Day.

Mayor Wilkerson closed her report stating VDOT has begun replacing the stop signs and state route signs in Town.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mayor Wilkerson presented to Council a Proclamation for the Kiwanis. She asked if Council would so desire to prepare the Proclamation and present it to the Kiwanis on Tuesday March 10 to designate that day for them.

*Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to present the proclamation to the Kiwanis on Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> and to designate that day for them.*

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**NEW BUSINESS CONT'D:**

Council Member Miskovic reminded Council of the "Day of the Cowboy" Proclamation presented to them by Delegate Wright.

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Simpson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to accept the resolution and set the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of July 2015 as "Day of the Cowboy" as written by Delegate Wright.*

Council Member Miskovic suggested Council look into making the house numbers more visible possibly like the current 911 signs for county residents. Discussion followed.

Council Member Miskovic made a motion to have any large purchase to exceed \$10,000 be done in full session, hearing no second, motion failed.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Miskovic reminded Council of the proposed pipeline resolution presented at the December meeting. Discussion followed.

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the pipeline resolution as presented.*

*Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to have Town Attorney Bacon draw up a draft trash ordinance.*

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to advertise the Public Hearing for the trash ordinance.*

Miskovic proposed to Council the purchasing of a specific camera to continue recording Town meetings. Discussion followed.

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Simpson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to purchase the camera as described.*

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to have Town Attorney Bacon look into the prospective changes for R-1 & R-2 Zoning.*

Council Member Miskovic inquired on the status of the HDLA, municipal landscaping, from the meeting a few months back. Council Member Stinson stated that is a part of the Comprehensive Plan.

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**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mr. Art Booth, Rocky Ford Rd, ask if the size of the cans was 35 gallons. He also commented on Town employees stating they do a terrific job. Manager Walker confirmed the size of the cans to be 35 gallons.

Mr. Gunter, Crewe-Burkeville Journal, asked if the trash cans would need to be racked. Manger Walker stated racked or staked.

***Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.***

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Sally T. Wilkerson Mayor

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W. Wade Walker Town Manager