

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 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, Robbie Knight, John Spencer, & Phil Miskovic

Also Present: Town Manager Walker, Town Attorney Tessie Bacon & Chief of Police Art Booth

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Simmons with a moment of silence in remembrance of fellow Council Member and former Mayor Hank Crittenden. Mayor Simmons led in the Lord's Prayer and Council Member E.B. Fisher lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Simmons opened the meeting telling Council it was no easy way to talk about the loss of Mr. Crittenden and what he meant to this town. He provided a great service to this town and he cared genuinely about the citizens. He will be greatly missed.

Mayor Simmons recognized 2 State Championship softball teams from the area. He asked Council to consider two resolutions for approval for the Crewe-Burkeville Ponytails and the Nottoway Belles for their hard work and dedication through District and State competition and earning a place in the 2013 Dixie Softball World Series in Alexandria, Louisiana.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the resolutions for the Crewe Burkeville Ponytails and the Nottoway Belles for their participation in the 2013 Dixie World Series.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Susan Yeatts, Georgia Ave., owner of Yeatt's Insurance presented Council with a few pictures she had taken of several members of Council and the Mayor at the National Night Out. She thanked them for their support and coming together with the community.

Mrs. Judy Derflinger, East Pennsylvania Ave., stated she is aware the police have done all they could with the congregation of people near her home all summer and she suggested getting a town code and enforcing the State Code until then. Attorney Bacon stated she had already drafted an ordinance that would be discussed during her report.

Pam Spain, East Pennsylvania Ave., presented Council with a petition that stated the dogs barking in their neighborhood are not a problem. She asked Council if they could help to resolve the problem of the neighbor constantly calling the police department every time her dogs are out.

Alicia Coggin, Custis Street, voiced her support of chickens in town stating her neighbors have had chickens for years and since the day they moved to Town they have had no problems with the chickens.

Dick Ellett, Custis Street, voiced his support of chickens stating the President in 1912 expected every member in a house hold have 2 chickens stating they would provide enough eggs for a family for a year. Mr. Ellett felt allowing chickens in town would be beneficial to families.

Sam Coggin, Custis Street, voiced his support of chickens stating the Cliborne's have taken his children in and helped them by teaching them the responsibility of taking care of the chickens and collecting the eggs every evening.

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DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS CONT'D.

Jennifer Coggin, Custis Street, voice her support of allowing Mr. Cliborne to keep his chickens in town stating he lives for his chickens and his garden and taking those from him is just not right.

Virgie Cliborne, Custis Street, stated she owns chickens and they do not bother anyone and they have had no complaints from anyone.

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 \$174,113.41.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Stinson to approve the corrections to last month's bill sheet to total \$203,067.87.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Walker informed Council that the town is moving forward on the sewer rehab project. The project was advertised in the Richmond Times Dispatch on Sunday. Important dates are a pre-bid conference on September 18th, receive bids by October 9th, bid opening on October 9th, review of bids and recommend contractor by October 14th, and issue notice to proceed and sign contracts by October 31st. Construction is scheduled to begin November 4th with completion by March 2014.

Manager Walker stated the Automated Weather Operating System is up and running at the airport. This will provide automated weather conditions for pilots landing or taking off at the airport. He stated this was supported and paid for by the Virginia Department of Aviation.

Progress on the Lipscomb/Stratton streets project is progressing. A public hearing was held and was well attended by the public. There remains much interest in the project. The next steps are surveys to be conducted by both Nottoway County Planning and B&B Consultants to determine the needs of the community and to provide information necessary for the submittal of the application. Applications are due by March 2014. Based on the discussed schedule, it should be completed and submitted by February 2014.

Manager Walker informed Council that the town needs to consider charging residents in situations where sewer issues are reported and town crews are sent out, finding that the problem does not involve town lines. Only then do residents call plumbers to solve their issues. This is time consuming and costly to the town and he ask Council to consider charging a fee if it is determined the problem is not town related.

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TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon reported the magistrate requires a 4 prong test in order for him to find probable cause for him to issue a search warrant to authorize the building inspector to go into a home to do a search.

Attorney Bacon requested Council consider an interim appointment which must be done within 45 days of the office becoming vacant. Bacon suggested they hold a special meeting the fourth Monday of September to name an interim appointment to comply with the law. She stated the remaining Council Members could name a qualified voter in town to succeed or they could hold a special election. Discussion followed.

Attorney Bacon reported she had found a code that authorizes the Town to record liens at the Courthouse which will allow us to recover costs when properties are sold. Bacon also stated the proposed graffiti ordinance will mirror the state code. Discussion followed.

Attorney Bacon reported she had drafted an ordinance for Council to review prohibiting loitering in public places noting the ordinance was very specific per Council's request. Discussion followed.

Attorney Bacon also reported pursuant to Council's request she had drafted an ordinance on keeping bees by combining several different ordinances to capture Council's desire. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to advertise for a public hearing to approve the loitering ordinance with the library property to be included.

Mayor Simmons suggested Council take their time to review the ordinance on bee keeping and get their questions back to him or Manager Walker and they would get them to Attorney Bacon and hopefully they will have something they can all agree on and discuss it at the special meeting.

Mayor Simmons scheduled a special meeting on September 23, 2013 at 7 p.m. at the Library Conference room. Council agreed to move the October meeting to the 16th in respect of the holiday and VML Conference.

Mayor Simmons suggested Council take their time to review the ordinance and get their questions back to him or Manager Walker and they would get them to Attorney Bacon and hopefully they will have something they can all agree on.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development: Mayor Simmons stated Wade did a good job doing the community development report talking about the Lipscomb/Stratton Project. Mayor Simmons reported he was impressed with the turn out for the project meeting and he is looking forward to the survey updates and the infrastructure assessments.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS CONT'D.

Economic Development: Council Member Miskovic reported pursuant to Councils January resolution he has the report for the HEAL Taskforce. He stated the next steps are forming a permanent group and moving forward. He reported HEAL met last month and they have not set another date as they are working on a permanent group with permanent members. He encouraged everyone to come out to the Brewfest on the 14th as it promises to be a great event. He also reported Chamber met September 4th and would be meeting again on October 2nd.

Facilities/Parks & Recreation: Council Member Sisk reported there is a family day set in Hagberg Park on September 14th open to the public. He also reported the Nottoway Youth Soccer Program has started and encouraged everyone to support the program. Sisk also reported the Veterans Memorial is coming along and they are welcoming any support and would like to have some members there for the dedication. Sisk also reminded everyone of the Southside Youth Festival the 21st at Hooper Park.

Finance: Council Member Knight had no report.

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

Personnel: Council Member Stinson offered her condolences to Hank's family.

Public Safety: Council Member Fisher had no report.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Booth reported Investigator Turner was able to apprehend an individual passing counterfeit bills at Hardee's restaurant in town. She was able to discover the individual had also been passing counterfeit bills in Farmville so she is now working with Farmville Police Department on this case. Chief Booth also reported thanks to a concerned citizen they were able to apprehend an individual that was involved in identity theft and was subsequently charged with providing false identification to a police officer. Chief Booth thanked the citizens for their help stating as he has said all along the department needs the help of the citizens.

Chief Booth reported the department is ready for the Brewfest and Janice Ragan with the Southside Youth Festival came in asking for help in getting children to sign up for the music contest the festival has stating there is a \$1000 reward and you don't have to have a full band. If you sing or play music sign up.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Simmons reported he attended the State of the Installation Address at Fort Picket in Blackstone, VA. Mayor Simmons stated he had been given the invitation a couple of years adding it goes to show they are trying to reach out and share their plans and how we fit in.

Mayor Simmons also added he was invited to participate in the opening ceremonies for the soccer program and it is off to a good start. He also stated he can't promote the Brewfest and the Youth Festival enough stating they are very important to our community.

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NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Simmons asked Council if they had reached a decision on having the special election. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Spencer, to appoint Shirley Daulton to the vacant seat on Crewe Town Council. Hearing no discussion Mayor Simmons ordered a roll call:

Council Member Sisk: Yes
Council Member Fisher: Yes
Council Member Stinson: Yes
Council Member Knight: Yes
Council Member Spencer: Yes
Council Member Miskovic: Yes
7 – 0 vote; motion passes

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to not hold a special election, wait until general election and allow attorney to draft a petition to the court to appoint Shirley Daulton to the vacant seat on Crewe Town Council.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Council Member Miskovic asked if it were possible to look into getting a new building inspector. Discussion followed.

Council Member Miskovic asked if anyone was working with Council Member Crittenden in his efforts to get a group together to share stories and things. Mayor Simmons stated no details had been shared with him but hopefully if any details had been discussed with citizens they would come forward.

Council Member Sisk suggested the issue of chickens be discussed again with the October meeting.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Lee Simmons Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager