

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

Also Present: Town Manager Walker

Absent: Council Member Robbie Knight & Town Attorney Tessie Bacon

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

Mayor Simmons thanked the citizens for coming out and showing their support of their local government. He reminded Council the public hearings scheduled for the meeting was postponed until the January 2014 regular meeting. Mayor Simmons then opened the floor to citizen's comments/delegations from the public.

**DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Christine Moore, Graves St. inquired what needed to be done about the chickens still in town. Mayor Simmons informed Mrs. Moore she should contact animal control.

Chuck Koutnik, with the Crewe Library, reported the Library had signed a contract with Star out of Kenbridge, VA and construction has begun with an expected completion date in 90 days. Mr. Koutnik also thanked the Friends of the Library for their efforts with their recent campaign to help fund the renovations of the library. Mr. Koutnik also reminded everyone the library is still open and running with lots of new material and books for the public. He encouraged everyone to check out their website at [www.nottlib.org](http://www.nottlib.org).

Council Member Sisk asked how it went when the Nottoway Indians came in. Mr. Koutnik and Shirley Daulton both stated it was a great event and it went well. Mr. Koutnik also mentioned the Nottoway Indians had left some books that have been included in the library's collection.

Council Member Miskovic questioned if there have been any loitering issues with the new ordinance and signage in effect. Mr. Koutnik stated he had only had to mention it to one group this far.

Earl Dickerson and Mike Wilson with Hurt & Proffitt presented a PowerPoint presentation to Council in regard to what has happened and what is expected to happen within the next 2 months with the current Sewer I & I Project underway for the Town. Mr. Dickerson reminded Council the project was split into two Divisions with bids to be submitted on each. He stated Division 1 was sewer line construction and lining and Division 2 was Pump Station. He reported the bids had been received by the Town and Division 1 bids came in higher than expected and Division 2 bids came in lower. Mr. Dickerson recommended Council approve the Division 2 bid and reject Division 1. What should be done is to separate line items within Division 1 into sections that would enable contractors to bid on specific line items, such as lining; thus in his opinion, it would generate more competitive bids. Discussion followed.

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

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to reject Division 1 bids.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the bid for Division 2.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

Motion by Council Member Spencer; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with additions totaling \$202,619.51.

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manager Walker opened by asking Council for a resolution on the Town's opting out of its current long term disability plan with VRS and moving it to VML. Information was provided for review in Council packets for this meeting. The purpose of moving is strictly a cost savings to the town and we will not lose any of the services previously rendered. Council Member Stinson made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Miskovic seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Mr. Walker then updated Council on the progress made regarding the building code violations. He stated previous discussions had not designated who would be responsible for notifying violators of the code. After discussion with the Nottoway County Building Code Official, it was agreed that the ultimate notification should be done by the Town based on the findings of the County Code Official, and in cases of condemnation, a 45 day notice should be sent to the property owners and it should be posted in the local paper at least two consecutive weeks prior to any action taking place. After this period of time, should no action have been taken, the Town will begin to take whatever steps are necessary to remove the structure and attach a lien against the property to recover cost.

Manager Walker discussed the current renovations taking place at the Crewe Library funded by donations from the "Friends of the Crewe Library". Part of the renovations is replacement of carpet in the library. Walker asks Council for approval on getting estimates on carpet for the conference room as well, perhaps picking up a better deal buying through the current contractors. The town would pay the cost of replacement in the conference room. Council approved the action. Manager reported to Council that normal leaf pick season would cease on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> and yard debris pick up would resume the following week.

**TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Absent – No Report

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Community Development:** Council Member Daulton stated the County meeting had been postponed to January 2014. Daulton spoke with Logan at the County Planning Office and she has brought her up to date on the Lipscomb/Stratton Project. Daulton is working with people to form a citizens group to work on this project.

Mayor Simmons suggested Mrs. Daulton contact Vernell Kirby, the community “Sparkplug” for the project.

**Economic Development:** Council Member Miskovic reported the HEAL committee now has a Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/healcrewe](http://www.facebook.com/healcrewe), that provides daily health tips. He reported the next HEAL meeting would be Wednesday December 11 at 6 p.m. at the Crewe Airport. He also reported he hoped the Economic Development Committee would be able to meet January 6, 2014 at 7 p.m. at the Crewe Airport. He closed his report wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

**Facilities/Parks & Recreation:** Council Member Sisk reported everything with the facilities is fine. He invited Council to the Railroad Museum’s Christmas Party on Thursday December 12 at 7 p.m. at the Museum. Sisk stated the CBYRA has memorial trees at Hagberg Park and anyone interested in purchasing a memorial tree for a loved one is encouraged to see Mayor Simmons. Sisk also thanked the Chamber and all the other volunteers for all their hard work and effort with the lighting ceremony.

**Finance:** Council Member Knight absent.

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

**Personnel:** Council Member Stinson reported on behalf of members Celia and Sally thanking Manager Walker for his help with work on the library. Stinson also thanked Toney Shelton, the Town’s Director of Public Works and Public Works employee Steve Williams for their help with the wiring at Hagberg Park stating they came out on Thanksgiving morning to make repairs to vandalism to the wiring system. She also thanked the Police Department for their help with the parade and all the Town employees for everything they do.

**Public Safety:** Council Member Fisher stated he wanted to reiterate Council Member Stinson’s sentences, thanking everyone for everything they do. He also congratulated Chief of Police Art Booth on the addition to his family.

Mayor Simmons informed Council 2 of the Police Departments cars were in need of repair to the front suspension with an estimated cost of about \$1900 per car.

Investigator Stegall stated the front suspension issue is also a problem for other localities with the same cars and while the issue has not met the required numbers to be covered under recall, it is possible that it could be fall into a recall category once that number is met.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve having both cars fixed.

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**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Booth absent, No Report.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Simmons thanked the Chamber of Commerce for their great job on the lighting ceremony. He also thanked town employee Steve Williams for taking the time to go and fix the wiring at the park. He thanked the Homecoming committee and the Crewe Police Department for all their hard work with the Christmas Parade. Mayor Simmons also asked that everyone challenge themselves to shop local stating that is all the shop owners ask for when they support all the projects in town. Mayor Simmons congratulated Council on taking 3<sup>rd</sup> Place in the Christmas Parade.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No New Business

**CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Council Member Miskovic recapped the issue of the honeybees in town stating it was a dispute between feuding neighbors that came to Council to resolve the issue. Miskovic stated there needed to be a clear threat to the public for the local government to intervene through the new legislation and ordinances. Miskovic reminded Council they had heard anecdotes through public comments on how honeybees are an annoyance and he stated there has been "unsubstantiated assumptions based on irrational fears that have clouded Council's judgment." He also reminded Council there were several state experts that have shown any risk of bees to the public's safety is virtually non-existent and very few urban communities in Virginia prohibit owning honeybees. Miskovic also reminded Council they have essentially been asked to spend time and money to respond to 2 feuding neighbors on a non-issue through ordinance. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk to rescind last month's motion and not authorize the ordinance banning the raising of bees in town. Discussion followed.

Mayor Simmons ordered a roll call:  
Council Member Daulton – Against  
Council Member Sisk – For  
Council Member Fisher – Against  
Council Member Stinson – Against  
Council Member Spencer – Against  
Council Member Miskovic – For  
2 – 4 Motion Fails

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**CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Council Member Miskovic addressed Council about the remaining 125<sup>th</sup> banners that were to be distributed as originally planned. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to distribute the banners as follows: one at each of the following Crewe Library, Crewe Railroad Museum, Crewe Town Hall, Rescue Squad, Crewe Volunteer Fire Department, Crewe Municipal Airport, one for storage at Town Hall and one to be presented to Fran Crittenden with a resolution honoring former Mayor and Council Member Henry "Hank" Crittenden.

Motion by Council Member Spencer; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

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Lee Simmons                      Mayor

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W. Wade Walker    Town Manager