

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 14, 2014 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

Present: Mayor Wilkerson, Council Members Steve Sisk Jr., E.B. Fisher, Anne Stinson, Robbie Knight, & Phil Miskovic

Absent: Council Member Shirley Daulton

Also Present: Town Manager Walker & Town Attorney Tessie Bacon

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

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Sally Mayton, Friends of the Library President conveyed to Council the construction updates to the Library since the fall of 2012 and the upcoming landscape project. She expressed her thanks to Mayor Wilkerson, Council, and the citizens that have contributed to the success of the library. She also encouraged everyone to use the library and attend the meetings held by the Friends of the Library.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with additions totaling \$184,380.88.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Walker stated he was pleased to report to Council that all obstructions and issues at the Airport had been taken care of. Trees have been removed and the Runway 15 threshold had been moved 189 feet and we are in complete compliance with the Department of Aviation. An inspection was done by their representative to confirm this and our license has been renewed. Now that we are in compliance, we can begin the process of obtaining estimates on crack fill of the runway which is in dire need in order to maintain its integrity. Mr. Walker thanked Bill Wilkerson, Sr. for his involvement and help in this issue. His communication with members of the Department helped immensely in our resolution and we appreciate his assistance.

The aeration system for Crystal Lake has been received and we are in the process of obtaining a cost to provide electricity and installation of the unit. The device will be located near our water intake with air lines extending 300 feet into the lake. The air lines will lie on the bottom and cause no obstructions for potential boaters entering the area. According to Operator in Charge John Hricko, the aeration will greatly enhance our ability to treat the raw water and over a period of time, will pay for itself in the need for fewer chemicals to treat the water.

Walker informed Council that a meeting took place last week with representatives from DEQ to discuss progress being made on our sewer project. The meeting was attended by Mayor Wilkerson and Director of Public Works Toney Shelton. The meeting went very well and DEQ seemed satisfied with our progress and our plans for the future. It was discussed that the loan closing is now scheduled for the end of July, with actual work to begin around the middle of August. After the meeting, DEQ toured areas of our system and it was reported that they were very pleased with everything they saw and they commended the town on the condition of our pump stations and how well kept our line easements were. Overall it was a very positive meeting.

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TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D:

Manager Walker stated that the dilapidated house at 608 W. Virginia Avenue has been completely removed and the vacant lot has been cleared and seeded. We ran into some issues with the removal of the debris but managed to work these out with the help of Waste Management. We have not been billed for all services and we do not know the final costs. Town Attorney Bacon is currently reviewing the necessary steps on our next two properties which are located at 305 E. Carolina Avenue and the old theatre building on main street.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon reported she needed Council to approve the resolution for insurance coverage for any construction done in the VDOT right-of-way for the sewage project. She also stated Council needed to advertise for a Public Hearing in regard to the lease agreement requested by Trout River Dry Kiln, LLC to move forward if they so desired. She also reported she and Manager Walker are still working on delinquent taxes, derelict buildings and the ongoing sewage project.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development:

Council Member Stinson reported the state has awarded \$8.5 million in the community block grant with a total of \$700,000 in a multi-year grant being awarded to the Town of Crewe.

Economic Development:

Council Member Miskovic reported the HEAL committee did not meet this month. He stated the EDC would meet Tuesday July 29 at the Crewe Airport at 7p.m. this change was made to allow for representatives from the County, Region, and VTC to join us.

Council Member Miskovic reported he would be attending the Piedmont Health Coalition on July 16. He mentioned he and Mayor Wilkerson attended a Tourism Summit in South Boston last week and they will be attending the Main Street Revitalization Conference this week in Farmville, VA.

Council Member Miskovic also stated he had attended the Fire Departments monthly business meeting.

Finally Council Member Miskovic did a presentation on the Town's new website navigation through the site and pointing out the 3 main goals: ease of use, easy to find information, and promotion of government transparency.

Facilities/Parks & Recreation:

Council Member Sisk reported he has spoken with Mr. Rohr a representative for the Veterans Memorial and the project is still ongoing, it is slow and steady and being done by volunteers.

Sisk reported on the Babe Ruth baseball league with their age 13-15 division going to Sandston July 17 for the State Tournament. He also spoke about the 2014 Angels and Ponytails Traditional State Tournament being hosted by the CBYRA in the Town of Crewe July 18.

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Finance:

Council Member Simpson reported he had reviewed the monthly bills and they appear in order.

Public Works/Infrastructure:

Council Member Knight reported the efforts for the Children at Play signs project is going along smoothly. Knight also reported the Town has a few new hires that are working out nicely.

Mayor Wilkerson stated the Public Works department is working on removing the grass from the sidewalks.

Personnel:

Council Member Stinson thanked the Town for their work with the Library, Airport, and ball fields. She also thanked Attorney Bacon and Manager Walker for their perseverance in all the many projects the Town has faced. She also thanked the Fire Department for the open house stating she had family visiting from out of town and they were very impressed with the department.

Public Safety:

Council Member Fisher provided Council with a detailed report for the Rescue Squad stating they had been very busy. He also mentioned how nice the open house the Fire Department hosted was. He stated it was a great event.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Booth reported under new state code it is now mandatory that all officers have a current physical done each year. Booth informed Council the Police Department would be sending 2 officers each month until complete.

Chief Booth also informed Council Officer Stegall would be leaving July 31 and Sergeant Shreck would be retiring in October.

Chief Booth proudly announced this year's National Night Out would be held August 5th and there was something new being added!

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wilkerson extended a thank you to Jerri Morton and all the volunteers for the 100 mile yard sale. She mentioned a citizen was trying to get from one end of town to the other and stated the town was very active that day.

Mayor Wilkerson congratulated the Crewe Burkeville Ponytails on their win in the District Tournament. She also talked about how nice Blackstone had fixed up the town for the Tournament they were hosting.

She also extended a special thank you to the Crewe-Burkeville Chamber of Commerce for a job well done on the packets they distributed for the Coaches, players and officials of the 2014 Tournament to be hosted here in Crewe.

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MAYOR'S REPORT CONT'D:

She discussed the VA Main Street Program being in Farmville and that she and Council Member Miskovic along with a local business owner would be attending that meeting.

Mayor Wilkerson scheduled a work session for Council on July 28 at 7 p.m. at the Library Conference Room to start goal planning and moving forward with the Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Wilkerson provided a list of the additional meetings Council Members attend that include County, CBYRA, and the Crewe Railroad Museum.

Mayor Wilkerson closed with a request that we lend a helping hand to the older and disabled citizens that have been walking to local businesses for their daily necessities in the extreme heat we have been having. She suggested offering a ride or even just a seat in the shade.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Wilkerson informed Council they needed to elect a Vice Mayor.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to elect Council Member Stinson as Vice Mayor for the 2014-2016 term.

Council Member Miskovic presented the idea of putting the Council Meetings on YouTube. Discussion followed. Council Member Knight suggested looking into the cost.

Council Member Miskovic suggested the public comments section be available at both the beginning and end of each meeting. Discussion followed.

Council Member Miskovic questioned the usefulness and curb appeal of empty billboards along 460. Discussion followed.

Council Member Miskovic at the request of Assistant County Administrator John Procise, he asked about having the Industrial Park surveyed. Discussion followed. Manager Walker stated he would find out the cost and report back.

NEW BUSINESS CONT'D.

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to pass the resolution to provide liability insurance coverage for sewer easements under VDOT right-of-way.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member/Vice Mayor Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to advertise for a public hearing for the lease agreement with Trout River Dry Kiln, LLC.

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CONTINUING BUSINESS

Council Member Miskovic reported he had not yet heard back from VDOT regarding the funding of the proposed crosswalk due to a death in the leadership. He stated he would report back next month.

Mayor Wilkerson asked about the \$500 that was designated for with the volleyball project. Council Member Miskovic stated the money was for round-up weed killer and other incidentals.

Mayor Wilkerson suggested Council Members go back through their past committee reports and get any open committee projects cleaned up and cleared away.

Council Member Miskovic asked Manager Walker about the town flags available for purchase by community members.

Manager Walker reported the flags are available for sale at the Town Office and they are \$65 a-piece.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Bill Faas, President of the Crewe-Burkeville Chamber questioned about the businesses listed on the website. Council Member Miskovic explained the list of businesses was pulled from the Chambers list of paid memberships. Miskovic stated there will be more updates and businesses added to the website in the future.

Clarence Simpson addressed Council stating if the Town needed anything please call.

Motion by Council Member Sisk; seconded by Council Simpson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Sally T. Wilkerson Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager