

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2013 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND
CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

Present: Mayor Simmons, Council Members Hank Crittenden, Steve Sisk, Jr., E.B. Fisher, Anne Stinson, Robbie Knight, & 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 Council Member Hank Crittenden leading in the Lord's Prayer and Council Member E.B. Fisher leading in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Simmons opened the meeting by thanking all citizens for taking the time to come to the Town meetings.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mrs. Betty Booth, Rocky Ford Rd. Crewe, thanked the public works guys for the great clean up job they have done and continue to do.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Crittenden, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with additions totaling \$70,565.81.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Walker reported that budget work has begun for the upcoming year. There are many challenges this year including the rising costs of operation and diminishing sources of revenue. Much attention is being given to lowering costs of operations of the various departments with a goal of cutting expensed by at least 3%. This will be necessary due to the costs involved with the upcoming sewer project and trying to anticipate at what point these revenues will become necessary. Walker stated he met with the engineers last week to discuss the final plans for the project and presented an updated schedule stating the project should be ready for bidding in July 2013, with awarding of the contract in August and ground breaking in early fall. The anticipated schedule to complete is 9 months to 1 year.

Manager Walker informed Council of progress on the dilapidated property located at 200 E. Carolina Avenue. Currently, we are attempting to trap and remove the ferial cats that inhabit the property. Tiffany has contacted agencies to see what options are available based on the law and what can be done to humanely remove the cats before we begin to demolish the structure on the property. The yard and area have already been cleared and we are ready to begin on the structure. We contacted our engineers who came and conducted a asbestos study to determine what our obligations are regarding disposal of the material. Once we receive their report, we will begin to remove the structure. Plans are to grade and gravel the vacant lot to be used for town public parking.

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MANAGER'S REPORT CONT'D

Manager Walker then advised Council of a recent concern involving the operation of ATV vehicles within the town limits of Crewe. Several reports have been received regarding this matter relative to noise nuisance and reports of vehicles riding on town owned or maintained property relative to liability issues. Currently there are no ordinances and Walker asked Council to give this some thought and perhaps have the Town Attorney look into an ordinance for the Town. After some discussion, Council decided to ask Town Attorney Bacon to look into the matter.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon stated she had no report other than she will look into the ATV issue in Town.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development: Council Member Crittenden reported the County has hired someone to fill the County Planner seat so they are moving forward. He stated his committee is working on the 125th Celebration as an agenda has been made. Crittenden passed a copy of the proposed agenda and asked for Council approval to move forward. Council approved the agenda for the celebration. Mayor Simmons asked Council Member Crittenden if Mrs. Frances Redford, Maryland Ave, a first grade teacher at Crewe Primary School could have her class sing a few songs at the Celebration, Crittenden agreed. Council Member Miskovic asked if there was an alternate location in the event of rain, Crittenden stated the Community Center would be available. Vice Mayor Stinson stated the ROTC would be available to help with the coffee and celebration and she may be able to have ROTC available to help Betty with serving the cake for the 125th Celebration.

Economic Development: Council Member Miskovic reported his committee had met and the slogan contest which is open until April 30 was the main focus. Miskovic reported the HEAL Committee had met and it was a very successful meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for the 29th at the library. Miskovic also reported the Chamber of Commerce is doing very well this year.

Facilities/Parks & Recreation: Council Member Sisk reported all facilities are doing great and parks are doing well and staying busy. He stated opening ceremonies for the CBYRA was April 6 and it was a great turn out. Vice Mayor Stinson stated the 21st Century painted the back of the dugouts and the backside wall of the stands.

Finance: Council Member Knight reported his committee would be trying to meet with the Department Heads in the next week or 2 and taking into consideration the Engineers had come down and provided some figures on the upcoming sewer project.

Public Works/Infrastructure: Council Member Spencer reported grass cutting season had arrived and all is well.

Personnel: Council Member Stinson thanked Mrs. Booth for thanking our employees because people don't often thank them for what they do.

Public Safety: Council Member Fisher had no report for fire and rescue.

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POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Booth stated 2nd Annual Citizens Police Academy and 1st Youth Citizens Police Academy are kicking off the first event of the summer sponsored by the Crewe Police Department. Chief Booth stated the Citizens Academy would meet every Tuesday and Thursday April 16 – May 16 from 6 to 8 pm at the Library Conference Room. The Youth Academy would meet every Monday and Thursday April 15 – May 16 from 4 – 6 pm at the Library Conference Room.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Simmons reported town stickers are due April 15th and are on sale now. He stated they are extra special this year as they commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the founding of our Town. Mayor Simmons reported there was budget meeting held and the minutes from that meeting were missing from the Council packets but would be brought before Council at the May meeting for approval. Mayor Simmons stated the CBYRA had re-seeded the soccer field and he asked that we try to have no activity on the field for the next month or so to give the grass a chance to grow. Mayor Simmons also gave a big Thank You to the CBYRA for the 1st Annual Easter Egg Hunt they hosted stating it was a tremendous event that he never expected to be as awesome as it was. He also thanked the CBYRA for the invite for the first pitch for opening ceremonies. Mayor Simmons stated Blackstone Mayor Billy Coleburn was at the opening ceremonies for coverage in his Blackstone paper the Courier Record. Mayor Simmons also extended a Thank You to Bill Mason of WSVS for the radio time he granted the Town. Mayor Simmons stated the time given to the Town was a Public Service Announcement done to inform citizens of the time and date of the Council meetings and to encourage them to participate in the meetings. Mayor Simmons then went on to mention a lot of celebrating coming up starting with the ZZTop concert in Crewe on May 10th, followed by the Crewe Homecoming Festival May 18th, and the 125th Celebration May 19th. Mayor Simmons encouraged everyone to the coffee held every year stating this year it would be at the Community Center from 10 – 11 a.m. and Delegate Wright would be attending to present the Town with a resolution passed by the General Assembly congratulating the Town. Mayor Simmons stated he would like to have as many people from the Town attend to Welcome Delegate Wright and to show him our appreciation for passing the resolution and thinking of us. He also mentioned if anyone knew of someone interested in being a vendor for homecoming the application was on our website as well as Facebook. Mayor Simmons also reminded everyone the Town is moving forward in addressing derelict properties in the Town. Mayor Simmons also stated he was looking forward to the construction project on our sewer starting soon. He is also looking forward to the Lipscomb/Stratton Project starting back up stating we have a new Planner, Kelly Hatcher who worked under the late County Planner Steve Ferguson.

Council Member Crittenden stated several people had approached him stating how pleased they were with the Pie McCann resolution the Council recently passed. Mayor Simmons stated Mr. McCann was a true pillar of the community and it was a fitting tribute the CBYRA put on in his memory.

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NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Miskovic stated he would like to use the budgeted money for the Codification of ordinances to advertise for a position for someone to come in during the summer to complete the task. Mayor Simmons stated he would like for the Town to be prepared with a job description before moving forward. Discussion followed.

Council Member Sisk stated he would like to explore the option of having an information board placed over at Hagberg Park with a Town Map, hours and locations of the Railroad and Radio Museums, Town Hall hours and location and various other items with attractions and other information about Town. Vice Mayor Stinson added she would like to develop a walking tour to interact with our Healthy Eating Active Living Project. Council Member Spencer asked about filling in the ditch that runs through the park. Discussion followed.

Mayor Simmons stated he felt there was a need to provide the citizens with a way to traverse town on foot via a sidewalk. Mayor Simmons stated the Town does not own or maintain any sidewalks aside from those on Virginia Avenue. He stated each year there is a budgeted amount for sidewalk repair and it rarely gets used. He mentioned this year's budget was \$2000 and to date just a bit over \$100 has been used. Mayor Simmons proposed we work on these sidewalks a little bit at a time, a block at a time. He wanted to start with the sidewalk on Virginia Avenue between Lipscomb and Berkelle. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to spend up to \$1800 to repair the sidewalk between Lipscomb and Berkelle when available.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Council Member Miskovic reminded Council of his request to mail out the newsletter had been tabled until this month. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic to spend \$425 to fund the second quarterly newsletter. Without a second, the motion failed.

Mayor Simmons stated he and Council Member Knight discussed the line item for Town Hall Repairs and Maintenance and it occurred to him that the Town still needs to install the handicap ramp on the building and there are also roof issues. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Lee Simmons Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager