

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 10, 2014 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, & Phil Miskovic

Absent: Council Member John Spencer

Also Present: Town Manager Walker & 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. Mayor Simmons opened the floor to Mr. Toney Shelton, Town of Crewe Director of Public Works. Mr. Shelton briefed Council on the daily duties of the Public Works as well as the age of some of the critical equipment the department uses pointing out the chipper and leaf machine being about 20 years old and one of the dump trucks being a 1971. Mr. Shelton pointed out how well maintained the equipment is and the importance of each piece of equipment.

Council Member Miskovic addressed Mr. Shelton with the use of the work center inmates and what were the biggest issues for the public works department. Mr. Shelton stated the inmates usually work 3 days a week depending on the weather and area the town department is working. Mr. Shelton also stated the inmates are of great benefit during the summer months when the department is busy cutting grass. Mr. Shelton informed Council the biggest issues for the department are water lines and valves. Discussion followed. Mr. Shelton opened the floor to Assistant Director TJ Shelton.

Assistant Director Shelton provided Council a price listing for water line repair and replacing the oldest water valves to avoid extreme water loss and boil water notices. Shelton explained to Council the serious need for replacing the water lines in towns stating some lines are over 100 years old. Shelton also spoke briefly on his duties with animal control.

Mike Wilson with Hurt & Proffitt gave a presentation on the current sewer project. He updated Council that they have received and reviewed the new bids and made their recommendations. Mr. Wilson touched on various topics to include project costs, funding summaries, repayment options and the next steps in the project. Mr. Wilson stated by December 2016 the consent order will have been satisfied. Discussion followed. A public hearing was scheduled for March 31, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Crewe Library Conference Room to discuss the rate increase as suggested by Hurt & Proffitt to meet the requirements set forth by Rural Development and DEQ.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Susan Christian, 417 Georgia Ave., on behalf of Ray Yeatts asking that no trees be planted close to headstones, making it mandatory to put our metal markers, take more control of the old decorations and enforce the requirement of notifying the Town who is buried and when.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with additions totaling \$ 179,630.17.

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MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Walker thanked Director and Assistant Director of Public Works for their presentations. He stated how important these employees were to the Town and pointed out that many times there are reasons duties are not performed but it is not due to negligence. Manpower, weather, and cost dictate many times what can be done.

Manager Walker also thanked Mike Wilson for his presentation and advised Council that we have been very diligent in our efforts to keep utility rates as low as possible while accomplishing the debt service necessary for the sewer project as well as creating reserves for future sewer and water line replacement. He stated that Council needed to commit to the rate increases in order to satisfy the loan entities but not necessarily raise the rates immediately.

Mr. Walker then informed Council that we were in the final stages of resolving the dilapidated and condemned buildings issues within the Town. One additional step needs to take place on the property on Virginia Avenue before the structure can be removed and the lot cleaned off.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon reported she is working on getting and keeping everything straight for the sewer project. She discussed the statutory times on 1 of the buildings has expired and she will be filing a complaint with the court. She stated she would be following up with the other properties that were issued a notice of correction.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Community Development:

Council Member Daulton reported the Lipscomb/Stratton Street project is still on line.

Mayor Simmons presented Council with 6 documents in relation to the Lipscomb/Stratton Project stating the documents were a formality that needed to be signed and approved in order for the project to move forward. Mayor Simmons discussed each document with Council.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve and sign the documents necessary to move the Lipscomb/Stratton Project forward.

Economic Development:

Council Member Miskovic informed Council that several Hampden Sydney College students would be conducting a study for the use of the old Norfolk Southern building the Town currently owns. Miskovic reported on the Major Employer Round Table that was held last month stating it was well attended and there good discussions. He reminded Council of the Main Street Round Table to be held on April 8th at 7 p.m. and the Kiwanis' Pancake Supper on March 13th at the Community Center. Miskovic informed Council the Chamber would be hosting a meet and greet in early April for the current Council and Mayor and the upcoming candidates for those positions. Miskovic presented a suggestion/comment box that he wanted placed at the Town Office as an outlet for communication for our citizens. He also suggested having a "sign-up" sheet to get residents names and email addresses in hopes of sending an electronic newsletter as well as other communications. Miskovic closed his report reminding everyone of the HEAL meeting set for Wednesday March 12, 2014.

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Facilities/Parks & Recreation:

Council Member Sisk stated he would get with Wade on Mr. Yeatts concerns with the cemetery. Sisk also reported the CBYRA Angels and Ponytails would be hosting state tournaments this year. Sisk also reported the Chamber raised about \$800 from the stew they held which would go towards the purchase of a building for their Christmas decorations.

Finance:

Council Member Knight reported work on the upcoming budget in about 2 to 3 weeks.

Public Works/Infrastructure:

Council Member Spencer absent.

Personnel:

Council Member Stinson thanked Toney and TJ for coming to the meeting. She also thanked everyone in the public works department for all they do.

Public Safety:

Council Member Fisher had no report for fire or rescue.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Booth reported on the story CBS 6 News covered on local Office Baxter Stegall going above and beyond the call of duty for an injured little girl in a recent accident on Highway 460. Chief Booth explained the little girl was upset over missing her school Valentine's Party and Officer Stegall went out on his own and purchased candy and cards for her and delivered them to her for her own personal Valentine's Day Party.

Chief Booth also discussed the search warrant issued for 305 Custis Street Crewe, VA.

Commonwealth Attorney Terry Royal commended the Police Department and thanked them for their hard work and efforts with the search warrant.

Council Member Miskovic thanked the Police Department for all they do and have done and their professionalism.

Mayor Simmons asked the Chief to pass on his thanks and a job well done from himself and Council.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Simmons had no report.

NEW BUSINESS

None

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CONTINUING BUSINESS

Council Member Sisk read a letter from Vice President Tammy Blevins in regard to the tree removal at Hagberg Park. Discussion followed. It was decided to have the trees tagged and then follow up with the possibility of removing the tagged trees.

Mayor Simmons informed Council the building of the handicap ramp at town hall had begun. He informed Council some changes had been made per County Building Inspector Al Ellington, which would cause the cost of the project to go up. Discussion followed.

Mayor Simmons then asks Council for a motion to enter into executive session under Section 2.2-3711.a.7, Legal Matters. Motion made by Council Member Miskovic to enter executive session. The motion was seconded by Council Member Knight. Motion passed.

Motion made by Council Member Knight to exit the executive session; seconded by Mr. Fisher.

Open Session

Motion to certify the closed session made by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Fisher. Motion approved unanimously by voice vote.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk. Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Lee Simmons Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager