

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

Present: Mayor Sally T. Wilkerson, Council Members Shirley Daulton, Steve Sisk, E.B. Fisher, Anne Stinson, Robbie Knight, Al Simpson & Phil Miskovic

Also Present: Town Manager W. Wade Walker & Attorney Tessie Bacon

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkerson with guest Minister Rod Spencer of Pryor Memorial Presbyterian Church leading the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Council Member Fisher.

Mayor Wilkerson introduced guest speakers 15<sup>th</sup> District State Senator Frank M. Ruff and 61<sup>st</sup> District House of Delegates representative Tommy Wright. Senator Ruff and Delegate Wright gave a presentation on their recent efforts for their respective districts.

Mayor Wilkerson asked Senator Ruff and Delegate Wright if there was a current time table on the expansion of VCBR. Senator Ruff stated there was currently no time table available as there was still discussion to be held on the necessities of the expansion. Delegate Wright suggested the Town send letters to VCBR making them aware of any concerns the Town has. He also suggested a representative from the Town attend the meetings and broach the specific topics the Town has in regard to the expansion.

Council Member Knight asked for a status update on Nottoway Correctional Center. Senator Ruff stated there are no plans to take the center out of service.

Council Member Knight also asked for an update on VDOT. Delegate Wright stated he recently voted against the proposed tax increase for fear of the funding going to the northern Virginia localities. Council Member Knight also questioned the maintenance of the sidewalks in town, stating they are in VDOT right-of-way, but they refuse to maintain them. Senator Ruff stated there is funding that comes back to the state that could be applied for to fix the sidewalks.

Council Member Miskovic expressed his thanks to both Senator Ruff and Delegate Wright for attending the meeting. He also stated the Town had a tremendous asset having them both working for us.

**OPENING COMMENTS**

Mayor Wilkerson opened the regular scheduled meeting by thanking Senator Ruff and Delegate Wright for attending the Town meeting and giving their presentation of efforts.

**DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Scott Word, Crewe, stated he was part of a new church that had opened on 360 & 49 and he was simply there reaching out to the Town to offer any services the Town may need. He offered street clean-up and other such things the church could do to help the Town.

Rita Allen, Crewe, stated she has lived in Crewe for 56 years and she loves Crewe. She inquired about the old building around town asking if there were any plans to get them fixed up. She also questioned the possibility of a grocery store in Crewe. Mayor Wilkerson stated the grocery store issue has been a long discussion in Town and while she could not guarantee Ms. Allen a one stop shop grocery store she did state there were several stores currently in Town that could provide those same necessities.

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**Delegations/Citizens Comments Cont'd**

Ms. Allen also asked if the Town tags would ever go away like some surrounding counties. Mayor Wilkerson informed Ms. Allen that while other localities may not have an actual window decal they still charge the fee but it is included in the personal property tax as a separate fee.

Jerri Morton, 100+ Mile Yard Sale coordinator, asked for Council's assistance in finding a liaison for the Crewe area. She stated it has been wonderful working with Crewe. Mayor Wilkerson suggested Ms. Morton get the handouts for the yard sale out to the Crewe Library, the Crewe Railroad Museum and even have some available at the upcoming Crewe Homecoming Festival. Ms. Morton thanked Council for their time and stated she would get the new handouts to Mayor Wilkerson as soon as they were available.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

*Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with bill sheet and additions totaling \$106,759.13. Motion passed.*

**MANAGER'S REPORT**

Town Manager reported that all the suggested corrections to the proposed 2016 – 2017 budget have been made and updates had been handed out to all Council Members for review. Mr. Walker recommended the remaining positive balance be absorbed in a needed fund or placed in one of the current reserve accounts. He stated unless any one had further concerns, the recommendation was to move forward with advertising for the public hearing and approval of the budget.

Mr. Walker informed Council that grass in yards was already becoming an issue. He reminded Council that the ordinance was changed recently stating grass could not exceed 6 inches in length. Walker stated many of the usual properties are already in need of cutting and as in the past, many of the previous cutting bills have not been paid. He stated we may have to get with the Town Attorney to help with collection.

Manager Walker stated that he had reviewed all of the results of the recent smoke testing of sewer lines and is prepared to begin sending out letters to those property owners with violations. Many of the easier repairs, such as replacement of broken clean out caps have already been done by the town. Approximately 14 of these have been done.

**TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Attorney Bacon reported she is working on a list of presentation items for derelict buildings and how to collect the fees. She also reported she is continuing to work on the easements for the Lipscomb/Stratton Project.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Economic Development:**

Council Member Miskovic reported the Economic Development Committee met and discussed marketing the town, especially in light of three major events this year: FASTC groundbreaking, the Vice Presidential Debate Longwood in October, and the return of the Southside Electric Co-op Chicken Festival. The EDC will meet again on Wednesday, May 4 at noon at Dine-N-Crewe.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

**Economic Development, cont:**

Council Member Miskovic also reported it appears that Canadian Pacific was ending its attempts to acquire Norfolk Southern, which is good news for the Crewe community.

Council Member Miskovic closed his report stating May is Business Appreciation Month in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He stated a Facebook campaign highlighting local businesses, similar to the one last year, is in the works.

**Finance:**

Council Member Simpson reported all the bills are getting paid and this month's bill sheet looks good.

**Public Works/Infrastructure:**

Council Member Knight had no official report.

**Personnel:**

Council Member Stinson commended Manager Walker and Town Clerk Tiffany Dumond for their hard work on the budget and their efforts for getting the information on the requested items from the March Budget Work session.

**Public Safety:**

Council Member Fisher stated rescue had been very busy and he no report for the fire department.

**Facilities/Parks & Recreation:**

Council Member Sisk reported all facilities are fine. He stated the Cemetery and park look great.

Council Member Sisk announced tickets for the 2016 Southside Electric Co-op Chicken Festival, presented by the Crewe Burkeville Chamber of Commerce, would be available for purchase online. Council Member Sisk also stated this year's event will include all-you-can-eat chicken and beer at the cost of \$25.00/person in advance or \$30.00/person at the gate. Children 5/under free! VIP Gold Circle access \$50.00. Chicken will be provided by the Crewe Fire Department. The local band Southbound will kick off the event, with the Richmond based band En'Novation immediately following!

**Community Development:**

Council Member Daulton stated she would like to have County Planner Maegen Hailey attend a Council meeting before this term is up to brief Council on the status of the Lipscomb/Stratton Project. Mayor Wilkerson reported there was a community meeting held recently in an effort to provide residents with additional information, clarification, and to obtain additional signatures to allow the project to move forward.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Council Member Stinson reported she and the police department have been working with 3north and they have reviewed the preliminary plans and have made some changes. She stated they have received some rough figures from that and they will have another meeting to discuss the plans.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Booth reported there had been a recent rash of theft involving powered equipment, tools, and ladders. He also reported a suspect had been apprehended in the thefts.

Chief Booth stated his department is gearing up for the warm weather with the Crewe Homecoming Soap Box Derby event in May and the National Night Out in August. Mayor Wilkerson asked Chief if the department was making their presence at the ball fields on game nights. Chief Booth stated the officers are making their presence known by exiting their cruisers and walking the grounds.

Council Member Miskovic stated about a year ago the police department had started using an app known as “next-door” that keeps the community connected and informed. He asked if a presentation on that app could be done at the May Council Meeting. Chief Booth stated he would Detective Turner available to do the presentation.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Wilkerson started her report stating she appreciated the public works employees for putting in the new sidewalk at the library. Mayor Wilkerson announced Charles “Chuck” Koutnik would be retiring from the Library the end of April. She stated he has done a wonderful job in the community.

Mayor Wilkerson also asked that at any time one sees a dog running at large, or an attack to please call the police immediately. She stated the Town and County both have ordinances and laws in place to prevent dogs at large, but it can only be enforced if reported.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Miskovic reported the Sheriff's Office is seeking a system similar to Crewe's CodeRED. He suggested a county-wide collaborative effort may be beneficial for everyone. Council Member Miskovic stated he would do more research and, if there is a potential cost saving to the town he will approach the Board of Supervisors.

Council Member Knight discussed the extra monies brought in from snow removal stating he wished to have them put into a reserve fund for the purchase of equipment and repairs to equipment that are outside of budget funds. Discussion followed.

***Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted by voice vote to place the excess funds from snow removal into the general reserve account for use by any department for the purchase of equipment or repairs to equipment that are not within budget funds. Mayor Wilkerson ordered a roll call:***

***Council Member Daulton – For***

***Council Member Sisk – For***

***Council Member Fisher – Against***

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

*Council Member Stinson – For  
Council Member Knight – For  
Council Member Simpson – For  
Council Member Miskovic – Against  
With a vote of 5 – 2 motion passed*

**CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Mayor Wilkerson informed Council she would like to have another budget work session before approving the budget. Discussion followed. Council agreed to hold another work session on April 25, 2016 at 7 p.m. at the Crewe Library Conference Center.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Mrs. Barbara Rickman, Burkeville, inquired about a recent incident that occurred at her home in Burkeville involving a Crewe Police Officer and a deer that had become stuck in her fencing. Discussion followed. Mayor Wilkerson asked Chief Booth to investigate the situation and report back to her his findings so she could inform Mrs. Rickman.

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to enter into closed session for discussion of real properties sub section 2.2-3711(A)(3) and specific legal matters requiring the advice of counsel sub section 2.2-3711(A)(7). Motion passed.*

*Motion made by Council Member Miskovic and seconded by Anne Stinson to re-enter open session. Motion passed.*

**Open Session**

A motion to certify the closed session was made by Mr. Miskovic and a second was made by Council Member Knight. Motion passed.

Mayor Wilkerson asked Council if they wished to form a “plan of action” regarding dilapidated or condemned properties. After brief discussion, Town Attorney Bacon asked if Council would prefer she state what we would like to take place on each individual property. Council agreed.

Regarding the Beeler property she recommended Council authorize the Town Manager to write a letter to attorney Jim Elliott impressing upon him the importance placing this property up for tax sale. A motion was made by Council Member Miskovic to proceed with this directive and seconded by Robbie Knight. Motion carried. Mayor Wilkerson then asked if Council wanted to make any stipulations on the Beeler property should it become necessary for the town to attempt to purchase the property at the tax sale. Ms. Bacon recommended Council authorize the Town Manager to purchase the property at a pre-determined amount during bidding. Discussion followed. It was decided the Manager would be authorized up to an amount of \$5,000.00. Motion made by Mr. Miskovic and seconded by Anne Stinson. Motion passed.

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA**

Regarding the Wilborn property, Attorney Bacon will research the state of the Wilborn's assets to determine if we would be able to levy against them or if their income may be garnish able. If so, Town Manager Walker would be authorized to negotiate a settlement with the Wilborn's whereby they deed the property to the town in lieu of levies or garnishment. Manager Walker stated the attorney should also check to see what if any liens are currently on the property. It was moved to accept this strategy by Mr. Miskovic and seconded by Anne Stinson. Motion passed.

Discussion began on what is needed for the "Hussey" house on E. Maryland. It was agreed that the Nottoway County Building Inspector should inspect the house again and give an updated report on its condition.

Regarding the Payne & Payne property, Ms. Bacon recommended Council authorize Nottoway County Building Inspector Al Ellington to inspect the property and follow any recommendation he may have, emphasizing to him our concern for the property as a dangerous building and have him offer recommendations regarding emergency removal of the structure. It was moved by Mr. Miskovic to proceed with this plan of action and seconded by Council Member E. B. Fisher. Motion passed.

***Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Fisher to adjourn. Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 p.m.***

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Sally T. Wilkerson Mayor

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W. Wade Walker Town Manager