

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

Present: Mayor Greg Eanes, Council Members Aaron Reed, Steve Sisk, Anne Stinson, Robbie Knight, Billy Abel & Phil Miskovic

Absent: Council Member E.B. Fisher

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Eanes.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Eanes presented a Resolution to the family of former longtime Town Clerk Anne Spencer.

Mayor Eanes then opened the meeting with a public hearing to receive comments on the Town of Crewe releasing a possibility of reverter that it currently holds on the subject property described as a parcel of property approximately 5.26 acres which is part of the property deeded to the Town of Crewe in Deed Book 226 page 800. Such property is further described as tax map number 18A42-4-3*. It is located in the Winningham Magisterial District of Nottoway County, Virginia.

Attorney Bacon stated it would be recorded as a deed. Hearing no further comments Mayor Eanes ordered the public hearing closed.

OPENING COMMENTS

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mike Wilson with Hurt & Proffitt, the engineering company for the Town of Crewe's ongoing sewer project gave a PowerPoint presentation on the project from the beginning in 2010 to current.

Mayor Eanes stated he understood that as of now the Town is not processing as much wastewater and that is saving the citizens. He questioned Mr. Wilson if the Town was compliant at this point? Mr. Wilson stated the Town is compliant at this time.

Council Member Miskovic asked if the concerns with the ongoing I&I will be addressed with the monitors. Mr. Wilson stated the flow monitors will assist in finding any additional I&I. Manager Walker also explained that the technical sides of the requirements have been met by the Town and that only leaves private as the remaining possible issue.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Abel, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with bill sheet and additions totaling \$147,179.27. Motion passed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Walker reported the house at 305 E. Carolina Avenue has been demolished and removed from the lot. He stated he is still waiting on two reports from the Nottoway County Building Inspector. These properties are "the Old Theatre Building" on W. Carolina Avenue and a house at E. Pennsylvania Avenue. Once received, we can petition the court to have these structures removed due to their condition.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

Manager's Report Cont'd:

Manager Walker stated that the town was losing two Street Department employees. Vincent Hawthorne and Jason Simpson have submitted their resignations. These were two good employees that we will miss but we wish them well in their new endeavors. Walker stated that long time water plant operator Susan Quig has been out for a while due to medical issues. She is doing well and should be back soon. He stated we are currently in search of another full or part time operator for the plant. Longer hours and increased demand have made this necessary. Hopefully we will have someone soon.

Mr. Walker reminded Council that in this month's Council packets he included a request for a Conditional Use Permit from Mr. Joe Coleman. The property is located at 217 Custis Street. Walker asked that after review of his request, he would like to possibly put the request in committee to discuss further and form a recommendation for Town Council. The request would require a public hearing prior to approval or disapproval. Walker stated he was certain Mr. Coleman would be willing to meet to discuss his plans further and answer any questions the town may have.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon expressed her pleasure with the Town contacting the County to reduce or waive the dumping fees for the derelict buildings in Town.

Attorney Bacon explained the process of why the Town had to bid on the derelict properties. She also stated any reports on the old theater building are necessary for her filings to the court.

Attorney Bacon reported DHCD had given the Town an August 12th deadline to acquire all properties for the Lipscomb/Stratton Project. She stressed the importance of acquiring the properties by the deadline explaining all funding would be lost if the properties were not acquired. She also reported offer letters had been sent and some properties had been obtained by Certificate of Take and all properties would be filed by Thursday at the Nottoway Clerk's Office.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Eanes suggested Council appoint Retired Master State Trooper Eddie Williams as interim Police Chief.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to appoint Retired Master State Trooper Eddie Williams as Interim Chief for the Crewe Police Department until Council appoints a full time Chief.

Mayor Eanes brought to Council's attention a survey the Nottoway Extension Office is conducting on the needs of the Town of Crewe. He reported the survey included only 4 basic questions and he encouraged everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to complete the survey.

Mayor Eanes also revisited the Lottery for Localities stating he had received a letter of concern from Paula Otto, Executive Director for the Virginia Lottery. He stated a copy of the letter was included in Council's packet. He went on to explain that he had received support from various Counties and he had sent letters to every Board of Supervisors and City Governor in the state. Mayor Eanes informed Council that fellow member Miskovic would be attending the VML Legislative meeting and he would be presenting the Lottery for Localities to VML to place on the legislative agenda.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

Mayor's Report Cont'd:

Mayor Eanes also stated he had received a response letter from the French Ambassador Gerard Araud in reply to our letter of condolences and support following the Bastille Day tragedy in Nice.

Mayor Eanes briefed Council on the World War I & World War II Commemoration Commission stating the local American Legion and VFW would likely be hosting an activity and he encouraged the Town's participation to commemorate both events in making it a community effort.

Mayor Eanes proposed a possibility of imposing a renter's tax in Town. He instructed the Finance Committee inquire on the feasibility of implementing such tax.

Mayor Eanes also proposed the possibility of imposing a grass cutting surcharge on properties that are in violation of the Town's ordinance. He stated the Town of Crewe is not in the grass cutting business. He instructed the Infrastructure Committee review implementing a surcharge on any property in disrepair.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Infrastructure:

Council Member Sisk had no report.

Finance:

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Reed, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to have the Town Attorney review the feasibility of imposing a "renter's tax". Motion passed.

Personnel:

Council Member Stinson reported the committee had produced an advertisement as well as a job description for the Chief of Police position and the advertisement had been sent to the papers.

Motion by Council Member Stinson; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to seek authorization for the RFP for the webmaster for the Town of Crewe. Motion passed.

Volunteer Services:

Council Member Sisk reported for Fisher, asking that when the Town has a "main water line" break that the County dispatchers be notified so they can notify fire and rescue personnel. Manager Walker stated that is the current practice of the Town and the County is on the list of those first notified.

Council Member Sisk then asked if there had been any action taken or Town code found in regard to residents and businesses having legible numbers for emergency services. Manager Walker stated there was nothing at this time.

Economic Development:

Council Member Miskovic stated the Economic Development Committee meetings are still to be determined. He did report the EDC had met August 3rd and they have several projects in the works.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

Economic Development Cont'd:

Council Member Miskovic reported the Commonwealth of Virginia Fund offers the Brownfield Restoration Grant that is designed to remove a hazardous substance or material from a specific piece of land, industry or building for the purpose of making it economically feasible to be used. Miskovic further explained the grant is a 100% match and he suggested Council consider applying for asbestos abatement for the old Division Office.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve seeking the Brownfield Restoration Grant.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Council Member Reed; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the release of the reverter on property identified as tax map number 18A42-4-3 as described in the public hearing. Motion passed.

Council Member Miskovic proposed having a public meeting specifically for the purpose of receiving citizen comments on the visions of the Crewe Police Department. Discussion followed. Council agreed a public meeting was not necessary.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Council Member Miskovic asked Mayor Eanes to produce a Welcome Letter to put on the Town's website. He also encouraged Council Members to update their bios for the website.

Council Member Miskovic reminded Council of the vote to place properties that are delinquent on Real Estate taxes by 5 years or more on tax sale. He inquired on the status. Manager Walker stated the taxes are fairly well current and any minor accounts or those that have changed hands or unfounded would be written off.

POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Council Member Miskovic announced that Susan Yeatts, of the Wash Bucket Initiative, is hosting a VT vs. ECU Tailgate Raffle to support the Washbucket's projects. He listed the raffle was an \$800 package that included 2 game tickets with a parking pass, 2 Virginia Tech Chairs, cozies, hot mugs, a cooler, 1 VT Cornhole board set and other miscellaneous items. He stated the tickets are \$5 a piece of 3 for \$10.

Council Member Miskovic reminded Council the annual VML Conference is being held October 9-11 in Virginia Beach. He encouraged others to attend.

Council Member Miskovic also mentioned the Blackstone Armory was having a yard sale Saturday August 13, 2016 and the Kingdom Community Church across from Crewe Station would be hosting their Nottoway Celebrates Family event on Saturday August 27th from 12-6 with free food, games and fun all open to the public.

Council Member Reed informed Council he is in the very beginning stages of researching Urban Archery for the Town of Crewe.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Rick Gunter, Crewe Burkeville Journal inquired on the total for the demolition of the property located at 305 E. Carolina Ave. Manager Walker stated he had an estimated cost of about \$15,000. Mr. Gunter also asked if the property located on Pennsylvania Ave and the old theater building were on the list. Manager Walker confirmed.

Mayor Eanes stated the Town would be looking into stabilizing the facade of the old theater building in order to preserve the front of it before tearing it down.

Susan Yeatts, expressed her appreciation of the Town's desire to maintain the historical value of the old theater building. Mrs. Yeatts then presented Council with a list of questions to include:

- a. Who is responsible for cutting the grass at rental properties? Attorney Bacon stated she believed Town Code provided it could be the responsibility of either owner or tenant or both.
- b. Who is responsible for the piece of land in front of Dollar General by the curb? In regard to grass and trash. Mayor Eanes stated that was VDOT right of way.
- c. The lot beside Boswell & Williamson, who is responsible for maintaining that lot? Council Member Knight stated the lot has been well maintained as of lately.
- d. Does the Town currently have a Grant Writer? Mayor Eanes stated the Town does not have a Grant Writer yet.
- e. Ray Yeatts has a list of Confederate Soldiers buried in the Crewe Cemetery and he wanted to know if the funding that is available to maintain those lots would only cover Crewe Cemetery? Mayor Eanes stated there is a process to go through to request and receive any such funding to maintain the lots of Confederate Soldiers. He also stated funding of up to \$5 per plot could be given to any agency that applied.
- f. Who is responsible for cleaning the street gutters? Mayor Eanes stated the majority of Town streets are owned by VDOT. He stated the Town would look into the issue.

Bill Faas, resident, commented on the presentation by Mike Wilson of Hurt & Proffitt, asking who would own the flow monitors after project completion and who could read the results/reports from the monitors. Manager Walker stated the Town and Hurt & Proffitt would have co-ownership of the flow monitors and that specific Town employees could read the reports from the monitors.

Sidney Smith, resident, expressed his concern that he was not properly informed of the process of condemnation with the Lipscomb/Stratton Revitalization Project. He further expressed his deepest concern with his property being encroached on by the proposed turn around in his backyard. Mayor Eanes asked Mr. Smith for a couple days to meet with Manager Walker, take a look at the property, reach out to VDOT and ask some questions.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to enter into executive session consistent with Virginia State Code 2.2-3711, paragraphs 1 personnel and paragraphs 3 and 5, property and prospective business. Motion passed.

Closed Session

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 8, 2016 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

REGULAR SESSION

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson to affirm executive session. Mayor Eanes ordered a role call:

Council Member Reed – Yes

Council Member Sisk - Yes

Council Member Stinson – Yes

Council Member Knight – Yes

Council Member Abel – Yes

Council Member Miskovic – Yes

6-0 Motion passed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to hire Jack Boswell to negotiate with the undisclosed business and report a proposal at the September Council Meeting. Motion passed.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Greg Eanes Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager