

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON MONDAY,
JANUARY 11, 2016 AT 7:00PM IN THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER,
CREWE, VIRGINIA**

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

Also Present: Town Manager, Wade Walker and Chief of Police Art Booth

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkerson who asked attending Minister Jermaine Taylor of the Kingdom Community Church, Crewe, VA to lead in the invocation, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Council Member Fisher.

OPENING COMMENTS

Mayor Wilkerson welcomed everyone to 2016 and she wished everyone well in the coming year. She mentioned that two individuals in our community were recently deceased and she wanted to recognize them. Mrs. Lucille Akers Williams, a key person in the success of the Railroad Museum, spending many countless hours volunteering and working toward the advancement of the museum. The second person was Chuck Hammer, long time radio personality at WSVS. Mr. Hammer served the Town of Crewe as a police officer during the 80's. She asked that we all keep these two families in our prayers.

Ms. Wilkerson informed Council that the Blackstone Ruritan was celebrating their 50 years of service. They should be congratulated on their long tenure and service to the public.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Bill Faas thanks the town employees for taking down and storing the Christmas decorations in the park.

Art Booth, Sr. also thanked the town workers for the job that they do.

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 \$127,466.74. Motion passed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager W. Wade Walker opened by saying that as of the end of December 2015, the town was 6 months into the budget therefore departments should be approximately 50% of budget. Walker stated that there were some specific line items that needed to be watched, such as overtime and vehicle powered equipment, overall departments are within budget at this time.

Manager Walker informed Council that part of the upgrade of our sewer system, an additional 800 feet of forced main was added near the library. The purpose was to force flow further downstream where enhanced gravity flow to the sewer plant would take place. As a result of this, additional head has been added to the force main and our current emergency pump is no longer able to push the flow, should we have a failure at the pump station. We are currently seeing if our pump can be modified but if not, the town may have to purchase a new pump. He stated he would let Council know as soon as possible what may need to take place.

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Town Manager's Report, cont.:

Mr. Walker reminded Council that official leaf pick up season would end the end of the first week February. He reminded everyone that leaves would continue to be picked up provided they are bagged or boxed and placed by citizen's garbage receptacles.

Walker updated Council on the Forestry Grant through HDLA. They are currently trying to meet with VDOT to discuss improvements we want to make in right of ways owned by them. Once the meeting takes place, HDLA will be back in touch with us.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Town Attorney Bacon informed Council she has been working on the proposed moving of the election date for local offices from the current May date to coincide with National elections in November. She stated there are two ways of doing this. One would require petitioning the Virginia General Assembly requesting the change. In her opinion, this is not necessary. The second and preferred method would be to adopt an ordinance, hold a public hearing, and upon Council voting in favor of the change, notify the Nottoway County Registrar who would in turn get in touch with the State Board of Elections to fill out the necessary forms. The draft ordinance was presented to Council by Mrs. Bacon for their review.

In the December council meeting, Mrs. Bacon was asked to investigate whether the advertising for a consultant done in April 2015 for the possibilities of enhancing or expanding the police department facilities could still be used at this time. The advertisement received one bid from 3 North in April. Attorney Bacon stated she felt it could still be used and it would not be necessary to re-bid and the bid from 3 North in April could be accepted.

Attorney Bacon advised Council she had completed the easement work for the Lipscombe/Stratton project and information had been forwarded to the consultant, B&B, for the next step which would be acquiring the signed easement documents from the land owners.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development:

Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 3 at noon at Dine-In-Crewe

Council Member Miskovic reported that he's been contacted by the American Heart Association regarding their efforts to lobby the General Assembly for the Virginia Grocery Investment Fund. The focus of the fund is to give financial support through grants and/or low interest loans to existing or potential grocers in underserved areas for creating or expanding healthy food access and related job training. He reported that the Governor's budget includes \$10 million for this initiative, and the organization is seeking additional local government and coalition support for when they lobby the General Assembly for this funding. They've asked that, if the Town of Crewe agrees with this initiative, the Town reach out to VML, Delegate Wright, and Senator Ruff to let them know of our support. Discussion followed.

Motion by Anne Stinson, seconded by Robbie Knight to express the Town of Crewe's support for the Virginia Grocery Investment Fund.

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Economic Development, cont.:

Council Member Miskovic announced that the Relay for Life kickoff will be held on Saturday, January 16 from 10 - 2 at the Crewe Community Center. Events include a chili tasting and a pie contest.

Finance:

Council Member Simpson had no official report.

Public Works/Infrastructure:

Council Member Knight had no report

Personnel:

Personnel Committee Chairperson Anne Stinson thanked the town workers for their hard work during recent bad weather. She stated she enjoyed the Town Christmas Party and wished that more had attended. Mayor Wilkerson thanked Anne Stinson for the use of the Community Center for this event.

Public Safety:

No report.

Facilities/Parks & Recreation:

No Report

Community Development:

Council Member Shirley Daulton informed Council the Nottoway County Planning Council met and updated everyone on the Lipscombe/Stratton Streets project. She stated that Phase 1 was progressing and nearing completion. The infrastructure improvements under Phase 1 have been moved to February 2016. She reminded everyone that the Management Team for the project meets the third Thursday of each month at 10:00am in the Crewe Library.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Council Member Anne Stinson stated that she had met with Town Manager Walker and reviewed the goals within Comprehensive Plan and she had some feedback from Phil Miskovic as well. She will be updating the results and presenting them to Council as well as placing it on the town website. An update on goal progress will be done every 6 months.

Part of the Comprehensive Plan was the town's plans to review an upgrade of the Police Department. Mrs. Stinson stated the committee assigned to review recommended we move forward with having 3 North develop a plan for renovation of the old fire house at a cost of \$6,400.00. Mayor Wilkerson asks if the committee had any suggestions on where the \$6,400.00 could be taken from the budget. Ms. Stinson stated either find it in our current budget or delay it until the next fiscal year and include it in our budget. Discussion followed.

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Comprehensive Plan, Cont.:

Council Member E. B. Fisher made a motion to accept the recommendation of the committee to move forward with 3 North providing the plans to renovate the old fire house as a new police department. Council Member Miskovic seconded the motion. Mayor Wilkerson asked for roll call vote:

Shirley Daulton	Yea
E. B. Fisher	Yea
Anne Stinson	Yea
Robbie Knight	Yea
Al Simpson	Yea
Phil Miskovic	Yea
Steve Sisk	Absent

Motion passed.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Booth informed Council for the third year in a row, the department had received a National Award for their National Night Out. Mayor Wilkerson asked the Chief to comment on their New Year's Day event collaborated with the Calvary Free Will Baptist Church. The event consisted of an X-Box One Tournament. The tournament started at 7:00pm and continued until 3:00am. There were nine participants and the event was successful.

Council Member Miskovic asked the Chief if any of our officers were trained to give concealed weapons classes. Chief Booth advised due to liability issues, there was not.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Wilkerson opened by mentioning the upcoming elections and the importance of citizen involvement and wiliness to take part in their local government. Mayor Wilkerson then informed Council that due to family obligations she would not be seeking another term as mayor. Ms. Wilkerson stated how blessed she was and how much she loved the town and she thanked all of Council for their service.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Miskovic proposed we hold a community event, similar to the National Night Out, at the library field (or the Crewe Community Center in the event of rain), on Election Day from 4:30pm - 7:00 pm. This "Celebration of Democracy" will be free and open to the public. Discussion followed. Council requested the Town Attorney look into any potential legal issues.

Council Member Miskovic suggested Council invite Delegate Wright and Senator Ruff to the first Council meeting after the General Assembly session (likely April). Council agreed.

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CONTINUING BUSINESS

Council Member Miskovic presented highlights from the Crewe Tourism Plan. Motion by Mr. Miskovic, seconded by Anne Stinson to adopt the Crewe Tourism Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

Council Member Miskovic discussed the resolution opposing the Governor's budget item to create a 56-bed wing at Western State Hospital, explaining that the WSH expansion would eventually lead to the closure of Piedmont Geriatric Hospital. Discussion followed. Council amended the resolution, eliminating references to the Crewe water system and including a clause about the residents of PGH. Council Member Stinson expressed concern that the resolution was not presented in its final form prior to voting on it. Motion by Shirley Daulton, seconded by Robbie Knight to accept the resolution.

Mayor Wilkerson ordered a roll call:

Daulton -- For

Sisk -- Absent

Fisher -- For

Stinson -- Against

Knight -- For

Simpson -- For

Miskovic -- Abstained

Roll call vote of 4 - 1 - 2, motion passed.

Council Member Miskovic discussed the proposed Nottoway Antique Trail. Discussion followed. Motion by Council Member Miskovic, seconded by Ann Stinson, to waive the participation fees for any business within the Town of Crewe. Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Art Booth, Sr. thanked Mayor Wilkerson for her service.

Mayor Wilkerson advised Council the advertised Closed Session would be moved to the February meeting.

Motion made by Council Member Knight to adjourn, seconded by Al Simpson.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.

Sally T. Wilkerson Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager