

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JULY 9, 2018 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

Present: Mayor Greg Eanes, Council Members Wendy Bowen, Anne Stinson, Robbie Knight, Billy Abel, and Phil Miskovic

Absent: Council Members Aaron Reed and James Bradley, Town Clerk Tiffany Sisk

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Eanes who asked for a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Eanes asked for nominations for Vice Mayor for the upcoming 2018-2020 Council term.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Abel, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to appoint Anne Stinson as Vice Mayor.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Council member Miskovic inquired about the 15 out of town calls listed on the Police report. Manager Walker stated they were calls made to assist the County under a mutual aid agreement.

Hearing no further discussion, motion by Council member Knight; seconded by Vice Mayor Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with additions totaling \$162,139.02.

MANAGERS REPORT

Town Manager Walker informed Council that the main water line had been replaced on Moncure Avenue. Approximately 348 feet of new ductile iron water line was installed and all services will be connected this week. This has been a problem line for some time with multiple breaks over the years.

Town workers refinished the old shutters on the Town Hall and installed them last week. The Town rented a lift to install the second floor shutters for safety reasons. The lift rental was \$200 a day and the Town only used it for one day. The Town saved about \$6,000 refurbishing the shutters as opposed to purchasing new ones.

About two weeks an airplane from Ashboro, NC came into Crewe Municipal Airport for a landing when its retractable landing gear collapsed causing the pilot to belly the airplane. There were no injuries and the Town workers assisted in removing the plane from the runway. The plane was coming to Crewe to meet with the new Family Dollar group.

Manager Walker stated he has asked the Nottoway County Building Inspector to inspect the house and property at 203 Walnut Street; the results of which was a condemnation based on the front porch. The inspector did not do a full home and property inspection therefore we did not receive the report we anticipated. I contacted Mr. Lewis about not inspecting the entire property and he informed me he could not do this without a search warrant. He suggested contacting our Town Attorney to petition for a search warrant. Attorney Bacon stated she would do so.

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Manager's Report Cont'd:

Discussion began on procedures that needed to be updated in order to enforce building maintenance codes and inspection of properties. Town Attorney Bacon stated the Town needed to be consistent with the current building codes and adopt the latest code available. Attorney Bacon also stated we needed a public hearing to update the town's current fee structure whereby we would pay the building inspector \$50.00 to perform inspections under the property maintenance code. Further discussion followed. Additional discussion began on the adoption of the rental property inspection ordinance that would require inspection of rental property prior to allowing the property to be rented. Attorney Bacon advised that according to the code, we would have to establish rental districts within the Town and it could not encompass the entire Town. Manager Walker commented it would be difficult to do and the problems we face are sporadic locations throughout the Town. Attorney Bacon stated she would look into it, particularly the ordinance adopted by the Town of Blackstone. Council Member Knight questioned the designation of a single-family dwelling and how it relates to multiple families living in one rental unit. Council Member Bowen stated that in discussion with Nottoway County Building Inspector Dean Lewis, she was told it was now based on the square footage of the property. A certain number of occupants based on the square footage of the rental unit.

Mayor Eanes asked for a motion to hold a public hearing to update the property maintenance code and a public hearing to update the Town current fee structure for inspection of properties.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Vice Mayor Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to advertise for a Public Hearing to update the current property maintenance code of the Town to coincide with the code being adopted by Nottoway County. Motion passed.

Motion by Council Member Bowen; seconded by Council Member Knight, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to advertise for a Public Hearing to update the Town's current fee structure for inspection of properties by adding a fee of \$50.00 per inspection. Motion passed.

Manager Walker reminded Council the budget included payments for financing the purchase of a new garbage truck. Manager Walker stated he had received three bids and after reviewing those, the decision was made to purchase a new International Truck with a Cobra rear loading system. The deciding factors of the three bids were this truck had all the necessary equipment, our familiarity with International and the availability of nearby service in Amelia. The total cost of the truck will be \$127,094.00. Manager Walker recommended Council approve the bid. He furthered stated delivery of the truck would be approximately 4 months form date of order. Manager Walker stated he would be soliciting the local banks for bids on financing as well as Virginia Rural Development.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Vice Mayor Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to accept the proposed bid for the purchase of the garbage truck from Maryland Industrial Truck Incorporated at a cost of \$127, 094.00. Motion passed.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon reported she has been working on items previously discussed.

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MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Eanes advised Council the new Committee assignments were in their packets. He informed Council he had reduced the number of committees to three, Personnel, Finance, and Community Development.

Mayor Eanes informed Council he was asked to and spoke with Nottoway County NAACP to update them on the progress made by the Town in the last two years. He fielded questions concerning the proposed Luck Stone quarry urging any interested citizens to reach out to Luck Stone with their questions and/or concerns.

Mayor Eanes stated the Crewe-Burkeville Chamber Chicken Festival was “wet” but successful. Attendees seemed to enjoy the event.

Mayor Eanes noted concerning the land grants, he had provided copies in the Council packet concerning state supported land grants. He stated about 75% of the grants go to the Counties, not necessarily the larger cities or population areas.

Council Member Miskovic had some questions about the Committee assignments. He stated the Town Code identifies the Town Manager as chairperson of the Personnel Committee and recommending having a co-chairman on this committee. Mayor Eanes agreed and made the change.

Council Member Miskovic stated a second issue with the Community Development Committee. He questioned if it were too broad of a committee. Mayor Eanes stated he did not feel there were enough challenges to warrant too many separate committees. He feels it will also enable committees to separate into sub-committees if needed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Eanes stated with the new committee assignments, there would be no reports.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Mayor Eanes mentioned that Council had the informational item that Council Member Bowen had presented for review.

Council Member Miskovic stated that last month, he handed out information on the Spot Blight Ordinance. He asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the proposed ordinance. Attorney Bacon stated the proposed ordinance would enable the Town to acquire property as opposed to just requiring the owners to make repairs to blighted property. Miskovic stated there was a relatively new process concerning Land Banks, which would allow properties to be acquired and resold to attempt to recoup some the cost in acquiring the property. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic to execute the Spot Blight Abatement Ordinance Procedure authorized by State Code of Virginia 36-49.1-1. Hearing no second, motion failed.

It was decided Manager Walker and Mayor Eanes would continue discussion on this matter and try to devise a plan to help remedy this situation as well as a need for the Land Bank opportunity.

