

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 13, 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, Al Simpson & Phil Miskovic

Absent: Council Member Knight

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkerson.

Mayor Wilkerson opened the meeting with a public hearing for the purpose of passing a resolution, pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-1903, that authorizes the use of eminent domain to condemn property for street construction, permanent drainage easements and temporary construction easements in relation to the Town of Crewe's project to widen, construct, repair, maintain, and improve the roads of West Stratton and Lipscomb Streets and to improve the drainage facilities off of those streets.

Sidney Smith, resident, stated he is not for the project coming in and taking land for a turnaround in his back yard.

David Benson, property owner, stated he owns property in the area and has a basketball court set up for the youth on the backside of his property. He stated he understood the court "would be gone" if the turnaround were installed as proposed. Mr. Benson expressed his desire to not see that happen.

Brenda Simms, on behalf of a property owner, questioned where the drainage work will go through the property.

Mary Alice Eggleston, property owner, questioned if she would be compensated for the land that was to be taken and if the said land was taken would she be able to do anything with her lot.

Jacqueline Johnson, property owner, stated she has not received any paperwork and demanded an explanation.

Collette Jones, property owner, questioned the drainage issues she is having from a spring in a resident's yard above her.

Phyllis Smith, property owner, stated she had 15 grandchildren and she wanted to know where they are supposed to play once the turnaround is put in taking a large portion of her fenced in back yard.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Wilkerson closed the public hearing.

Mayor Wilkerson opened the second public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Town of Crewe 2016-2017 budget.

Hearing no comments, Mayor Wilkerson closed the public hearing.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Wilkerson with guest Pastor Scott Word of Encounter Church leading the Invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance lead by Council Member Fisher.

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**OPENING COMMENTS**

Mayor Wilkerson opened the regular scheduled meeting by thanking those in attendance. She then requested a moment of silence for those in Orlando, Florida. Mayor Wilkerson extended a thank you to those that have served and a congratulations to the newly elected officials.

**DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Bob Horn, resident, extended “kudos” to the Police Department for their efforts in being present at the ballfield and other public places. He expressed concern about people parking in restricted areas on Carter Street between Virginia and Carolina Ave. Mr. Horn also asked if we could notify residents in the Tennessee and Maryland Ave. area that the brush piles they put out front need to go out back. Mr. Horn also requested notify the absentee homeowners in the 300 block of E. Maryland about the trash and brush in the alley.

Logan Morgan, County Planner Assistant, updated Council on the Lipscomb/Stratton Street Rehabilitation Project. Stating the size of the project required it be split into a multi-year project. She reported MY 1 was nearing an end and should be closed out by August 2016 and MY 2 would start shortly thereafter.

Dave Farley with Harvey Design Land Architect, reported the company works with communities to create curb appeal and help them improve the esthetics of the area also. He also thanked Mayor Wilkerson, Manager Walker and others that have done so much to help move the project along. Mr. Farley introduced Tom Harlan and Kirby Woolfolk of the Virginia Department of Forestry, stating they are available to offer any assistance the Town may need. Mr. Woolfolk stated the plan that was presented for the Town looks good, the trees selected are native to this area specifically and will do well.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with bill sheet and additions totaling \$124266.05. Motion passed.*

**MANAGER’S REPORT**

Town Manager Walker informed Council of the need to re-negotiate the VML/VACO Bond that expired in 2015. This was a loan to water and sewer improvements. Walker stated that the refinance would result in a costs savings to the Town over the previous payment. Walker asked Council for a motion to approve the negotiation.

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted by voice vote to approve Manager Walker’s request to negotiate the VML/VACO Bond. Mayor Wilkerson ordered a role call:*

*Council Member Miskovic – For  
Council Member Simpson – For  
Council Member Stinson – For  
Council Member Fisher – For  
Council Member Sisk – For  
Council Member Daulton – For  
With a 6 – 0 vote motion passed.*

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**Manager's Report Cont'd.**

Manager Walker reported that town forces had recently completed the cleaning of one of our two lagoons at the water plant. He reminded Council that our purchase of a tank and tractor to haul the sludge was a savings of approximately \$25,000.00, previously paid to a company for the cleaning. This is the third lagoon we have cleaned so the cost savings is quickly approaching payment of the tank and tractor.

Walker reported that recent efforts on collection of delinquent real estate taxes have been very successful. In the last 30 days, we have collected \$15,000.00. Letters were mailed to the major delinquent accounts with good results. Those who have not responded will be forwarded to Town Attorney Bacon for further collection correspondence.

Manager Walker informed Council under new Freedom of Information Act rulings, the Town is required to designate a FOIA Officer whose responsibility is to be familiar with the rules and regulations regarding FOIA and be the official person to handle all FOIA request based on the guidelines set forth by the Virginia General Assembly. This action is required by July 1, 2016.

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to appoint Manager Walker as the FOIA representative for the Town and have other office staff trained as well. Motion passed.*

**TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Attorney Bacon reported she continues to work on derelict buildings adding she had recently been in contact with Jim Elliott's office and discovered the Town can send a letter of open bid for the Beeler property to move the process along. Discussion followed.

Attorney Bacon additionally reported she continues to work on the easement issues with the Lipscomb/Stratton Street project.

Attorney Bacon closed her report stating the slogan "In God We Trust" is not considered a religious motto in the United States, it is actually considered a National Slogan and can therefore be placed on the Police Department Patrol cars.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Economic Development:**

Council Member Miskovic reported the Economic Development Committee will meet July 6, 2016 at 12 noon at Dine N Crewe. He also reported he had attended a coalition named "Closer to my grocer" which is a coalition run by the American Heart Association. This coalition brings those together to see what can be done to expand existing grocery stores to turn them into what is considered a full service grocer.

Miskovic also encouraged everyone to attend the Southside Electric Co-op Chicken Festival June 24, 2016 at 4 p.m. at Hooper Park. Miskovic also stated prior to the festival from 2 to 4 p.m. the Republican Party would be meeting at the American Legion and the Democratic Party at the building on the corner of Carolina and Carter.

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**Economic Development Cont'd.**

Miskovic encouraged attendance and participation at the 100+ mile Yard Sale, Saturday July 2<sup>nd</sup>, emphasizing the importance of the Southside Electric Co-Op Chicken Festival and the Yard Sale on the tourism in our area. Council Member Miskovic explained a tourism initiative for the county. He explained there would be visitor packets given out at county lodging establishments with informational brochures, to include the Nottoway Antique Trail brochure, and rack cards from participating businesses. He also stated the Crewe-Burkeville Chamber of Commerce has agreed to participate as a partner in this initiative. Siting the partnership will be applying for a Virginia Tourism grant at a 1:1 match.

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to transfer the remaining balance of the Economic Development budget in the amount of \$2,475 to the Crewe-Burkeville Chamber of Commerce, earmarked for the tourism initiative.*

Council Member Miskovic made to personal announcements. He disclosed he had been asked to serve as Chairman of VML's General Laws Committee and had accepted. He encouraged Council to let him know of any policy proposals they have for VML. Miskovic also announced that he will be beginning a PhD program in Public Administration and Public Affairs at Virginia Tech this fall. He emphasized that while he will be staying in Blacksburg during the week, he will work on town business remotely and return for meetings and most weekends.

**Finance:**

Council Member Simpson stated all bills are being paid on time and all departments are currently under budget. He closed stating he has enjoyed working with everyone during his term.

**Public Works/Infrastructure:**

Council Member Knight absent.

**Personnel:**

Council Member Stinson thanked all departments for all their dedicated work. As citizens we often take services for granted, but those employees are invaluable to the success of Crewe.

**Public Safety:**

Council Member Fisher mentioned the new fire truck the Crewe Volunteer Fire Department had recently purchased noting it is a very nice piece of equipment.

Fisher also reported the Rescue Squad is still averaging about 200 per month. The squad recently purchased a new ambulance with a new cot lifting system that will save on back injuries.

**Facilities/Parks & Recreation:**

Council Member Sisk reported the CBYRA will be hosting the 2016 Angels & Belles District Softball Tournament on June 24, 2016 at 4 p.m. as well as the 2016 Darlings State Tournament on July 8, 2016. Sisk stated it is looking good for the girls this year and wishes them luck.

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**Facilities/Parks & Recreation Cont'd.**

Sisk encouraged everyone to spread the word and pre-order their tickets to the Southside Electric Co-op Chicken Festival also on June 24, 2016. He reminded everyone that this is going to be a huge event and he looks forward to seeing everyone there.

**Community Development:**

Council Member Daulton reported is surely going to miss serving the community and Council. She said there is no greater thing to do than serve your community.

Daulton also reported on the Lipscomb/Stratton Project by introducing community sparkplug Vernell Kirby and siting her hard work on the project. Daulton also commended County Planner Assistant Logan Morgan for all of her hard work and dedication to the project, stating she is the most professional young lady.

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Council Member Stinson reported they had not received any additional bids on the new Police Department. She closed stating she planned to have the Comprehensive Plan updated and presented in July.

**POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

Chief Booth reported the department has been actively enforcing the inoperative vehicle code stating each officer is assigned a specific area of town.

Mayor Wilkerson asked Chief Booth about the movie event held over the weekend. Chief Booth reported Calvary Church hosted the event and asked the Police Department to come out and do a movie for the youth. He stated it was a great event that was well attended. He also reported the Department itself would be hosting possibly 2 movies next month.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Wilkerson reported she attended the Board of Supervisors meeting and member Steve Bowen requested a workshop be held to discuss the possibility of partnering with DMV to eliminate County decals. It was agreed they would meet to discuss the issue.

Mayor Wilkerson also commented on the Homecoming event held at Hooper Park stating it was absolutely wonderful. She also stated the Open House on Saturday at the Community Center was wonderful as well. She stated Donna Stokes and her band came in after the meet and greet and performed for the afternoon as well as a few craft vendors. She reached out to Bobby Daniels for his participation and the Homecoming Committee and thanked them for their work.

Mayor Wilkerson also thanked the current Council, the "newbies" and those staying she stated it has been a wonderful 2 years. She went on to thank everyone she has worked with during her term.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Council Member Miskovic asked if the vendors for the Homecoming Festival were reimbursed. Mayor Wilkerson stated she did not know.

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**New Business Cont'd.**

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted by voice vote to pass the resolution honoring the service of the Honorable Clarence "Al" Simpson, Jr. as presented. Motion passed.*

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted by voice vote to pass the resolution honoring the service of the Honorable Shirley T. Daulton as presented. Motion passed.*

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Fisher, Council voted by voice vote to pass the resolution honoring the Honorable Mayor Sally T. Wilkerson as presented. Motion passed.*

**CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Council Member Sisk asked Community Sparkplug Vernell Kirby if she knew if the residents would be satisfied with monetary compensation for the land needed to complete the project. Mrs. Kirby indicated some residents would be and some would not.

Council Member Miskovic asked if the condemnation process could be held off until June 30<sup>th</sup> to allow for further communication. Attorney Bacon stated that she would not recommend it as the deadline in August is fast approaching. She furthered iterated that the Town could stand to lose all of the funding, time, and work put into this project thus far.

*Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Daulton, Council voted by voice vote to pass the resolution pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-1903, that authorizes the use of eminent domain to condemn property for street construction, permanent drainage easements and temporary construction easements in relation to the Town of Crewe's project to widen, construct, repair, maintain, and improve the roads of West Stratton and Lipscomb Streets and to improve the drainage facilities off of those streets. Mayor Wilkerson ordered a roll call:*

*Council Member Miskovic – For  
Council Member Simpson – For  
Council Member Stinson – For  
Council Member Fisher – For  
Council Member Sisk – For  
Council Member Daulton – For  
With a 6 – 0 vote motion passed.*

*Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Simpson, Council voted by voice vote to approve the 2016-2017 Budget as presented. Mayor Wilkerson ordered a roll call:*

*Council Member Miskovic – For  
Council Member Simpson – For  
Council Member Stinson – For  
Council Member Fisher – For  
Council Member Sisk – For  
Council Member Daulton – For  
With a 6 – 0 vote motion passed.*

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**Continuing Business:**

*Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to advertise for a public hearing to enact ordinances allowing for a .22¢ cigarette tax and a 6% lodging tax.*

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

None

*Motion by Council Member Fisher; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 9:36 p.m. Motion passed.*

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Sally T. Wilkerson Mayor

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W. Wade Walker Town Manager