

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, JUNE 12, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER, CREWE, VIRGINIA

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

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Eanes.

Guest, Pastor James Bradley led in prayer immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

Jess Faas, Indian Oak Ave., spoke to Council about Town Ordinance Sec. 14-5, which prohibits citizens from keeping chickens, ducks and other fowl within town limits. Ms. Faas gave detailed information on the benefits of allowing “backyard hens” in town. She provided cited research with a list of sources. Ms. Faas’ asked Council to consider allowing backyard hens in the Town of Crewe again.

Mayor Eanes instructed Vice Mayor Stinson to handle Ms. Faas’ proposal of allowing backyard hens in Town and report back to Council.

Susan Christian, E. Tenn. Ave., introduced her group the “Washbucket Initiative” to Council stating the purpose of the group is to give old towns a face lift. She came before Council requesting permission to replace the existing roof on the gazebo in the park. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Stinson, seconded by Council Member Reed; Council voted unanimously by voice vote to authorize the Washbucket Initiative to move forward with repairs to the gazebo and small shelter pending Norfolk Southern Railroad approval. Motion passed.

Ms. Christian also informed Council later in the summer there would be a motorcycle ride with about 200 riders for the purpose of raising money for slain Trooper M. Walter’s family. The ride would start in Powhatan and the riders will land over at Hagberg Park. She further explained there would be a police escort for the duration of the ride.

Mayor Eanes suggested she reach out to Ingo Haas with the American Legion Riders.

Ms. Christian expressed her deep concern for the sand bags that are located by the front doors of a local business on main street. She stated they pose a safety risk to citizens walking on the sidewalk as she most recently slipped on the sand. Discussion followed.

Mayor Eanes instructed Manager Walker to look into the issue and take proper action to resolve the issue.

Ms. Christian also pointed out a vehicle that has been illegally parked for quite some time and no official police action has been taken. Discussion followed.

Manager Walker stated he would speak with Chief Dixon and have the issue taken care of.

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CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with the bill sheet and additions totaling \$153,924.00. Motion passed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Walker informed Council the Town will be replacing the water line main on Moncure Avenue in the next few weeks and later, a section of West Tennessee Avenue. As planned, we will be replacing two blocks of water main to be completed this fiscal year. The Director of Public Works has determined that these two lines cause more issues and should be replaced. As planned, in next year's two more blocks will be done.

A request has been submitted to abandon proposed East Maryland Avenue running from 4th Street to Country Club. The reason for the request is to allow individuals to purchase 8 lots which front the proposed Maryland Ave. Their intention is to build a house which would face Country Club. These lots are 50' x 75'. Under the current zoning which is R1, lots must be 100' x 150' and these lots could not be built on. By abandoning the road each adjacent homeowner would pick up 30 feet of property thereby giving the necessary footage to construct a home. If Council is in agreement, we would need to schedule a public hearing for the July Council meeting, followed by a decision on the request.

There has also been a request to rezone the 600 block of E. Virginia Ave. to allow a retail business to operate. The area is currently zoned R2 which would not allow a retail business and would need to either be rezoned to C1. These lots are beside Boswell & Williamson. The 700 block which contains the laundry mat, Freeman Auto Parts, and Crewe Station is already zoned C1. The information has been forwarded to the Planning Commission and will be followed by a public hearing to hear comments on the proposal, followed by a Planning Commission recommendation to Council. If o.k. with Council, this public hearing will be advertised for the July Council Meeting.

Mr. Walker presented Council the Gold Medal award from the Virginia Department of Health, Division of Drinking Water. He then read excerpts from the accompanying letter which stated the award was given for "outstanding service and providing good, safe water" for our citizens. Manager Walker also praised Town Employees for the work they had done for homecoming, The Railroad Museum, and the Chamber of Commerce at Hagberg Park. The placed more rip rap in the ditch in the park by hand. Eleven tons of rock dust wheelbarrowed by hand at the Rail Road Museum, and hours of work done to get the town ready for homecoming.

Walker announced the Town will be flushing fire hydrants next Wednesday, June 21st. They will start in the east end and work through town. Flushing will begin around 8:00pm.

Motion by Council Member Knight, seconded by Council Member Miskovic; Council voted unanimously by voice vote to advertise for a Public Hearing for the purpose of abandoning the strip of land that is considered "undeveloped proposed Maryland Ave.". Motion passed.

Motion by Council Member Reed, seconded by Council Member Stinson; Council voted to advertise for a Public Hearing for a request to re-zone the 600 block of East Virginia Ave in Crewe to C-1 for the purpose of a retail store. Council Member Miskovic opposed the vote. Motion passed with a 6-1 vote.

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TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon reported she continues to work on delinquent taxes and derelict buildings. She also reported there is a possible July 10, 2017 Court Hearing Date for the old theater building on main street.

Council Member Miskovic asked for an update on the buildings located at 104 & 106 W VA Ave. stating the necessary repairs do not appear to be completed. Manager Walker stated he would contact County Inspector Al Ellington to have him come back and reassess the property.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Eanes touched on several issues to include proposed Charter changes for re-alignment of Town Police Force. Discussion followed.

Council Member Miskovic expressed concern that he did not believe the changes were ready for the General Assembly. Further discussion.

Mayor Eanes stated he wanted to move forward with the Public Hearing for the Charter changes and updates after Town Attorney Bacon has reviewed them and put them in the verbiage. It was determined Council would review and decide at a later meeting.

Mayor Eanes pointed out he had provided Council with several other proposed ordinances and/or changes to existing ordinances and he requested their input on those.

Mayor Eanes went on to brief Council on his meeting with Dave Brat and the elected town and county officials with discussion on general issues. He reported Congressman Brat is open to facilitating any legislation that will assist the Towns and County.

Mayor Eanes briefed Council on the updates to the concerns expressed by citizens on the recent breaking & entering's. He also recommended Council consider rolling back the curfew to get younger people off the streets before 11 p.m.

Mayor Eanes commented the Crewe Homecoming Festival was well attended this year and it was a remarkable success due to the work of all the volunteers.

Mayor Eanes closed his report briefing Council on his meeting with the Habitat for Humanity stating they have recently inherited properties in Crewe.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Infrastructure: Council Member Sisk stated he and fellow Council & Infrastructure Committee Member Knight and they agreed no further action was necessary on the sign ordinance at this time.

Finance: No Report

Personnel: No Report

Volunteer Services: No Report

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Committee Reports Cont'd.

Economic Development: Council Member Miskovic requested the sign ordinance issue be moved to the Economic Development Committee. Mayor Eanes approved.

Council Member Miskovic stated the Tourism Packets were just about ready for distribution. He also reported he had met with Virginia Tech in regards to digitizing the minutes for the Town and he was only waiting for signatures and once those were obtained the project would move forward.

Council Member Miskovic spoke about the YMCA and the possibility of a satellite location and the multiple programs offered. He requested to pursue that option again. Council agreed.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Motion by Council Member Knight, seconded by Council Member Abel; Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the FY18 budget as presented. Motion passed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic, seconded by Council Member Reed; Council voted unanimously by voice vote to accept the highest bid for the sale of the timber in the Crewe Industrial Park. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Miskovic stated he would not be able to physically attend next month's meeting and asked that he be granted permission to either phone in or be "skyped" in remotely. Council agreed.

POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Council Member Miskovic stated he attended a VML meeting and the Lottery for Localities is moving forward. He also requested any suggestions from Council to pass along the General Laws and Policy.

Council Member Miskovic reminded everyone the Primary Election will be held June 13th and the 100+ mile yard sale would be happening on July 1st.

Council Member Abel stated the issue with the street lights being out is still there. Mayor Eanes stated he would handle the situation and get a solution.

Council Member Sisk reminded everyone the Crewe Burkeville Chamber will be hosting the Chicken Festival at Southside Electric's Hooper Park on June 16, 2017 with gates opening at 4 p.m. with the food provided by the Crewe Volunteer Fire Department. He stated tickets are available for purchase at all local banks in Crewe, Town Office, A&J Produce, Booker's, Crewe Station, Weston's Auto Sales, WSVS Radio, several locations in Amelia, Farmville and Rice or online. He encouraged everyone to come out and support the event.

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CITIZENS COMMENTS

Phyllis Smith, Lipscomb Street spoke to Council about the beauty and charm that every neighborhood has. She stated her residence is in the Lipscomb & Stratton Streets revitalization project area and in the beginning they were excited about the project, but the mess that has been created by the road construction the neighborhood has lost its beauty and charm. She is particularly concerned with the standing water in the ditch on Stratton.

Mayor Eanes informed Mrs. Smith he would look at the ditch and see what actions can be taken to get that standing water moved.

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

Greg Eanes Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager