

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, MAY 8, 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 & Phil Miskovic

Absent: Council Member Billy Abel and Town Attorney Tessie Bacon

Also Present: Town Manager W. Wade Walker

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

Jody Gunn, Pennsylvania Ave., read a letter she had prepared expressing her views on large and small law enforcement divisions. Mrs. Gunn was a victim of the recent vehicle robberies which prompted her to speak out and up for the safety of the Town of Crewe Police Officers. Mrs. Gunn closed by requesting Council look into and implement a plan to provide more protection on night for the Town's citizens and officers.

Natasha Abernathy, Tennessee Ave., also spoke out about the recent rash of vehicle break-ins stating her vehicle had been hit 3 times in the last 2 weeks. Mrs. Abernathy spoke on the current Crewe Curfew Ordinance of 11 p.m. stating she believes it is entirely too late. Discussion followed. Mayor Eanes acknowledged a review of the current curfew.

David Brugos, Tennessee Ave., spoke about the dilapidated homes, over grown grass and shrubbery. Mayor Eanes informed Mr. Brugos of the process to tear down a dilapidated property. He also informed Mr. Brugos Council had recently enacted an ordinance to fine homeowners of properties that the Town has to maintain the yards.

Manager Walker stated an article has been published in the local paper to serve as notice to property owners that the Town will cut their grass and bill them accordingly within allowance of the Crewe Ordinance.

Jerri Morton, 100 Mile Yard Sale representative, thanked the Town of Crewe, the Mayor and Council for their continued support of the event.

Mayor Eanes thanked the citizens for coming forward and ensured the citizens he would address their concerns with the Police Chief and Town Attorney. Discussion followed.

Jane Hohn, Georgia Ave., expressed her concern with seeing so many young people out walking late in the evening with dark clothing on.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with the bill sheet and additions totaling \$98,634.45. Motion passed.

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MANAGER'S REPORT

All recommended changes discussed in our Budget Work Session have been made and the proposed 2017-2018 Budget has been finalized. We will advertise for a Public Hearing to be held at our regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting to be held on June 12th to hear public comment, followed by a vote to adopt the budget for the coming fiscal year. Copies will be sent out in your Council packets prior to the meeting.

Met with DEQ representatives last Wednesday, including Marvin Booth, Enforcement Representative, Kyle Winter (Regional Deputy Director) and Nelson Dail, Water Compliance and Land Application Manager. As you know, we have been under a Consent Order since 2012 in which we were give five years to present and ultimately implement a plan to try to eliminate inflow and infiltration. The results were our completion of the recent sewer rehab project ahead of schedule. The Consent order also coincided with a Federal court order that basically mirrored the consent order. The time for the order ended December 2016. Part of the reason for the meeting was to inspect our pump stations and look at the improvements we have made. Our new pump was in place and they were pleased with our decision to take this extra step to ensure our efforts to stop overflows within our system. Part of the order was to have a period of demonstration to see that improvements made were successful. Having had several rain events since the December 2016 deadline, the representatives at the meeting are going to recommend to their board that we have proven success and the consent order should be lifted.

As you know, we have been dealing with obstructions (trees) at the airport. After negotiating with the owners of the trees, we reached an agreement where they would allow us to remove the trees at \$350.00 per tree. There were 5 trees in question. We began to remove the trees and the same day, the Department of Aviation showed up to re-shoot the glide slope. The problem is the equipment used by them is limited and once identified trees are removed, others that were not visible show up. Now, they have identified additional trees that need to be removed. What they are asking is that we hire a surveyor to come in and actually survey the required clearance slop so that all trees involved can be removed at one time. They have agreed to pay for 80% of the cost to survey, provided we go through with the removal of all trees involved. This is an issue and land owners are not receptive and most likely will not be willing to allow a mass cutting of trees on their property. We have other options which I feel we may want to pursue. Our licensing could be changed so that night time use is restricted to landings on runway 33 or the other end of the runway. We also have an option to eliminate night landings all together. We cannot continue to do this every year, so something must be done.

Our engineers were asked to study and compare our current costs for out of town water customers. The closest comparison they could find that also served a state facility was the town of Marion where a state hospital is located. Our current rates for out of town customers is \$15.26 for the first 3,000 gallons and \$5.09 per thousand over. Marion's out of town rates are \$20.24 for the first 2,000 gallons and \$12.82 per thousand over. If we were to go to the same rate being charged by Marion but leave our minimum at 3,000 and assume these out of town customers continued their current usage, it would generate an additional \$325,468 over 90 days of billings or \$108,489 per month on average. One question we would have to look into is how would this rate increase affect out of town residential users or we could possibly have a separate rate for out of town residential and out of town non-residential, such as the Department of Corrections and Nottoway County entities. We billed 11,903,900 gallons of water last month of which 8.5 million went to out of town customers. The majority of our cost to operate is therefore going out of town and this represents a large portion of our expense. I feel the larger users should be the ones paying the larger amount of the cost and we need to definitely make a rate increase to compensate for the additional costs to provide water for these facilities. Mayor Eanes suggested a Finance meeting 10 a.m. on Friday, May 12 in the Town Manager's Office to discuss the issue.

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TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No Report

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Eanes reported the Crewe Kiwanis were hosting the annual clean-up day for the Crewe Homecoming and have scheduled it for May 13th from 8 a.m. to 12 noon. He encouraged citizens to support the clean-up.

He commented on the Kiwanis Hot Dog Supper and how successful it was. He encouraged everyone to attend the suppers as they have become local social events.

Mayor Eanes also stated New Bethel Baptist Church celebrated the Rev. Curtis Hurte, Sr.'s 26 years of pastoral service on April 29th. The Mayor noted he sent a letter recognizing that service and its importance to the community.

Mayor Eanes closed reporting May 4th was the National Day of Prayer and he had signed a proclamation in recognition of this.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Infrastructure: No Report

Finance: No Report

Personnel: No Report

Volunteer Services: No Report

Economic Development:

Council Member Miskovic reminded everyone May is Business Appreciation Month and be sure to send in their nominations. He stated the Tourism bags are coming along and they are accepting donations for items to be included. He closed his report highlighting the Town of Crewe is featured in the VML Virginia Towns and Cities Magazine for its HEAL efforts.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

a. Proposed Sign Ordinance – Ongoing

Council Member Miskovic reminded everyone that Homecoming is coming up and he hoped to see everyone there. He asked if anything needed to be done to close the streets? Manager Walker stated that has been done. Mayor Eanes commented the Ladies Auxiliary is hosting the 5K.

Council Member Sisk commented the Chicken Festival is coming up June 16, 2017 and tickets are on sale at the Town Office, all banks in Town, online, and at A&J Produce.

Council Member Miskovic suggested talking with Chief Dixon to ensure police coverage for the events and the rest of Town.

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Continuing Business

Council Member Miskovic also reported the County had increased its dispatching rates. He suggested talking with Supervisor Simmons and Sheriff Parrish to establish an MOA so they do not increase rates on us like this again.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Miskovic stated he had recently been in contact with a member of the digitization unit at Virginia Tech in regard to digitizing the Town's old minutes. He stated there is a possibility the minutes could be digitized for free with the condition that Virginia Tech be given a permanent license to host the digital material in an online digital library to allow students and researchers to study the documents. Discussion followed.

Council Member Stinson would like to get further clarification on the "possibly free" statement and revisit.

Motion by Council Member Reed; seconded by Council Member Miskovic, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to allow Council Member Miskovic to represent the Town of Crewe with Virginia Tech to enter into negotiation to digitize the Town of Crewe minutes for free so they may be publically accessible for researchers, students and the general public at large. Motion passed.

Council Member Miskovic suggested storing the hard copies of the minutes at the Library of Virginia once they have been digitized.

POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Council Member Sisk thanked the citizens for showing up to the meeting and representing the Town.

Council Member Miskovic announced he had been reappointed to the General Laws Committee Chairman and serve on the Legislative Committee as well. He encouraged Council to provide him with anything they wish to have brought up before June 1st. Council Member wished a Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers, future mothers and mother figures and Happy Homecoming to everyone.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mrs. Gunn asked if the proposed water rate increase for out of town users would increase profit and was it earmarked. Council Member Miskovic stated money brought in from that would not be considered a profit in the economic sense. Mrs. Gunn also asked if the feasibility to have an additional officer on duty at night could be discussed in the Finance meeting. Manager Walker also stated the Chief had already presented a Plan of Action and once the plan is fine-tuned and approved it will be put into action.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Knight to enter into Executive Session. Council voted unanimously by voice vote to enter into Executive Session consistent with Virginia State Code Section 2.2-3711 Paragraphs 1 Legal, 2 Personnel, 3 Property, & 5 Perspective Business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Miskovic to come out of Executive Session. Council voted unanimously by voice vote to come out of Executive Session. Motion passed.

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Open Session

Motion by Council Member Aaron Reed; seconded by Mr. Knight, Council to certify the Executive Session. Mayor Eanes ordered a roll call vote:

Council Member Reed – Yes

Council Member Sisk – Yes

Council Member Faas – Yes

Council Member Stinson – Yes

Council Member Knight – Yes

Council Member Miskovic – Yes

6-0 vote, motion passed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously to accept the highest bid for timber at the Crewe Industrial Park.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Stinson, Council voted unanimously to advertise for a Public Hearing to sell the timber at the Crewe Industrial Park if required.

Council Member Miskovic asked that the remaining funds from derelict buildings be put into the reserve account the same as in the past. Council agreed.

Council Member Knight asked if the Town could sell the old Beeler property. Manager Walker stated yes.

Mayor Eanes reminded Council of the Finance Meeting on Friday, May 12 at 10 a.m. in the Manager's Office.

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

Greg Eanes Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager