

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY,
SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 AT 7:00 P.M. AT THE CREWE LIBRARY AND CONFERENCE CENTER,
CREWE, VIRGINIA**

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

Absent: Mayor Greg Eanes

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

The meeting was called to order by Vice Mayor Stinson followed with a prayer at the request of Mayor Eanes in honor and remembrance of 9/11/2001 followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Vice Mayor Stinson opened the meeting with 2 public hearings. The first public hearing was for the purpose of hearing comments regarding the amendments of the Charter for the Town of Crewe under Section 3.5 Powers and Duties of the Mayor. Hearing no comment the public hearing closed.

The second public hearing was for the purpose of hearing comments regarding the amendment of certain ordinances for the Town of Crewe under Sections 2-179 Powers and Duties generally & Section 2-180 Chief of Police and Police generally. Hearing no comment the public hearing closed.

DELEGATIONS/CITIZENS COMMENTS

None

CONSENT CALENDAR

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Faas, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to approve the Consent Calendar with the bill sheet and additions totaling \$119,464.63. Motion passed.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Walker reported the water tank painting project is almost completed. Painting has been done both inside and out and we now have to wait 8 days after which Southern Corrosion will come back and spray down the inside with bleach. This is done to disinfect the inside prior to filling and reuse. The day after spraying we will begin to re-fill the tank after which Water Plant Operator in Charge, John Hricko, will test the water to be sure it passes all necessary tests. After this, the tank goes back on line. There have been very few issues with this project and the contractor has done a good, quick job.

Bob Timberlake will be surveying the airport runway to identify any obstructions. Once identified we will undertake having them removed as soon as possible. Once this is done, we will be in compliance with the Virginia Department of Aviation and will be immediately pursuing runway crack fill and sealant. Hopefully, this will all be accomplished before winter sets in.

Grass continues to be an ongoing issue around town. Recently, the town was forced to cut several yards consisting of vacant or empty houses or lots. Walker reiterated previous concerns that we have very few ways to recoup the expense and can only wait for someone to attempt to move in the vacant houses or place mechanics liens on vacant lots.

Mr. Walker stated he would defer to Attorney Bacon for discussion on some of the proposed ordinances.

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TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Attorney Bacon presented Council with an updated Chicken Ordinance that mirrors Blackstone's ordinance. She provided Council with a draft ordinance on "noisy/destructive dogs". She stated the ordinance that the Town currently has is considered to be a subjective standard and needs to be updated to an enforceable and constitutional ordinance. Attorney Bacon recommended the ordinance be presented to the Commonwealth Attorney to ensure it meets her standards. She further reported she is continuing to work with Mayor Eanes on a "Keeping of dogs" ordinance with the purpose limiting the number of dogs and regulate kennels in town. She suggested possibly tying the ordinance into the zoning ordinances. Discussion followed.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Sisk, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to lay the "noisy dog" ordinance on the table. Motion passed.

Attorney Bacon inquired if Council Member Reed wished to move on the Animal Waste ordinance. Council Member Reed stated he had not had ample time to review the ordinance. Discussion followed.

Council Member Reed requested additional time to review the revised ordinance. Council agreed.

Attorney Bacon reported on the Source Water Protection issue in regard to Crystal Lake stating the Virginia Department of Health has an extensive publication of what the Town needs to do. She stated it instructs the Town to create a local advisory committee and get the County involved. Discussion followed.

Council Member Miskovic requested to allow the Mayor to consult with the Town Attorney, Town Manager, and John Hricko Water Plant Operator in Charge and appoint a committee by the October 2017 meeting. Council agreed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Vice Mayor Stinson reported on Mayor Eanes behalf in regard to the Celebrate Family event held on Saturday August 26 stating it was a great event.

She also reported to Council that Norfolk Southern indicated they cannot donate the land that includes the CBYRA fields, Crewe War Memorial and Crewe Municipal Park.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Infrastructure: No report

Finance: No Report

Personnel: No Report

Volunteer Services: No Report

Economic: Council Member Miskovic reported the Nottoway County Economic Development Committee met and announced Trout River Lumber is selling their establishment. He reminded Council the annual VML Conference is coming up and he encouraged them all to attend.

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Committee Reports Cont'd.

He also reported to Council that the VML Legislative Committee had met and they have put the Town's request for full funding for the parks on their legislative agenda and the Lottery for Localities has been moved from the agenda to the policy statement making it more solidified.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- a. Sign Ordinances – Council Member Miskovic indicated the sign ordinance needed either be classified as a zoning ordinance or a regular ordinance on its own. Discussion followed. Council Member Miskovic stated he would have a final solution available for the October 2017 meeting.
- b. Water Rates – Council Member Miskovic stated Hurt & Proffitt had provided their feedback in regard to the water rates.

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Reed, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to advertise for a public hearing for a 3 part motion to (1) Lower the in town business base rate by \$10. (2) Increase usage rate for out of town businesses by .58¢ per thousand (3) Authorize Town Manager Walker to negotiate flat rate contracts with the out of town businesses that will be affected. Motion passed.

- c. Chickens in Town – Council Member Miskovic read the draft chicken ordinance. Discussion followed

Motion by Council Member Miskovic; seconded by Council Member Reed, Council voted to advertise for a public hearing on the proposed draft ordinance to allow chickens in town. Vice Mayor Stinson ordered a roll call:

*Council Member Reed – Yes
Council Member Sisk - Yes
Council Member Faas – Yes
Council Member Knight – No
Council Member Abel – Yes
Council Member Miskovic – Yes
Vote 5 – 1, Motion passed.*

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Annexation – Vice Mayor Stinson requested a status update on this. Manager Walker stated he spoke with the County Administrator and it was determined that the Mayor and Council needed to engage the board to move forward.
- b. Recreation Rezoning - Council Member Miskovic voiced his favor for it. He explained it would create green spaces throughout the town. He commented he would recommend having a public hearing to create a “green zone” and once the zone is created Council could contact the other property owners for their input. Discussion followed. Vice Mayor Stinson recommended having Attorney Bacon review the available options and revisit at the October 2017 meeting. Council agreed.

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POINTS OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Vice Mayor Stinson reported she and Manager Walker will begin working on the Comprehensive Plan.

Council Member Abel requested a street sign for Powell Street and Guy Ave.

Council Member Miskovic requested including recreation rezoning in the Comprehensive Plan and he complimented Vice Mayor Stinson for her excellent work stepping in for the meeting.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Susan Christian, resident of E. Tennessee Ave. commented that she is in favor of having chickens in town but she felt only \$5 per chicken was not enough. She also commented that she still feels too much responsibility is being put on the Town Manager.

Mr. Fred Crowley, resident Powell St., stated he is in favor of chickens in town. He commented the issues with the dogs barking and animal waste are both issues that should be addressed directly between neighbors or individually. He suggested addressing the issue directly as opposed to addressing the whole town.

Mr. Crowley further explained that while he may not have the answers for the dilapidated housing and grass issues, he felt we needed to take a good look at the economic situation of the community. He stated some of these issues are due to the fact that people are truly stuck and they simple can't afford to do anything. He admitted he may not have the answers but he acknowledged the dire strait of the economic situation here.

Vice Mayor Stinson called for a motion on the Public Hearing.

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Reed, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to present Section 3.5 Powers and Duties of the Mayor to the General Assembly to change the Town's Charter. Motion passed.

Vice Mayor Stinson asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session.

Motion by Council Member Reed; seconded by Council Member Abel, Council voted unanimously by voice vote to enter into Executive Session consistent with VA State Code 2.2-3711, paragraph 3.

Motion made by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Miskovic to exit the Executive Session and return to Open Session. Motion passed.

Open Session

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Reed to certify the Executive Session. Vice Mayor Stinson ordered a roll call:

Council Member Reed – Yes

Council Member Sisk - Yes

Council Member Faas – Yes

Council Member Knight – Yes

Council Member Miskovic – Yes

Vote 6 -0. Motion Passed.

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Adjournment

Motion by Council Member Knight; seconded by Council Member Abel, Council voted unanimously by voice to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 p.m. Motion passed.

Greg Eanes Mayor

W. Wade Walker Town Manager