

Proceedings of the Regular Town Council Meeting Held on Monday, June 8, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Crewe Library and Conference Center, Crewe, Virginia

Council Members Present:

Vice Mayor Stinson, Council Members Aaron Reed, Wendy Bowen, Robbie Knight, Billy Abel, and Phil Miskovic.

Staff present:

Brian S. Thrower, Town Manager and Scott Dixon, Police Chief.

Vice Mayor Stinson called the meeting to order with the Lord's Prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment:

Joseph Feese stated the police department needs to interact more with the community and public.

Mr. Clark stated he would be opening a business soon and buildings in the town need to be repaired.

Consent Calendar:

Council Member Knight made the motion to approve the May 11, 2020 Town Council meeting minutes. Council Member Reed seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7 to 0.

Mayor's Report:

No Mayor's Report was given.

Town Attorney's Report:

The Town Attorney's report was distributed and read by Council Member Bowen. The Town Attorney was absent from the meeting.

Committee Reports:

No Committee Reports were given.

New Business:

Item 7(a) FY21 Budget – Request to Adopt

The Town Manager summarized the proposed budget. Council Member Knight made the motion to approve the FY21 budget and attached ordinances. Council Member Bowen seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7 to 0.

Item 7(b) Historic District Grant Application – Request to Apply and Adopt

The Town Manager stated the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has grant funding available to do survey and planning work associated with submitting historic district nominations to the state and federal registers. The Town of Crewe does not currently have an historic district. Pursuing historic district designation would be beneficial in many ways (see attached fact sheet). Moreover, this particular grant program is funded 100% by DHR and requires no local match. An additional work product of this grant application would be the preparation of an historic disaster mitigation plan. The grant application cycle is expected to commence later this month.

He further recommended Council authorize applying for this grant funding to pursue historic district nomination to the state and federal registers, as well as the preparation of an historic disaster mitigation plan. He also recommended Council adopt the attached resolution of support.

Council Member Bowen made the motion to authorize the Town Manager to apply for this grant funding to pursue historic district nomination to the state and federal registers, as well as the preparation of an historic disaster mitigation plan. The motion also included Council adopting the attached resolution of support. The motion was seconded by Council Member Miskovic. The motion was approved 7 to 0.

Item 7(c) CARES Act Funding – Request by Council Member Miskovic

Council Member Miskovic explained his idea to pursue CARES Act funding through Nottoway County for the Town to hire a temporary, part-time Outreach and Resource Coordinator to assist with COVID-19 response efforts.

The Town Manager suggested seeking pre-approval for grant funds through Nottoway County. He further suggested he send a request letter to the County if Council wanted to pursue the idea further. It was agreed upon the Town Manager would send a request letter to Nottoway County.

7(d) Confederate War Memorials – Request by Council Member Bowen

Council Member Bowen expressed her concerns over the handling of the recent Confederate War Memorials request by former Mayor Eanes in terms of who has the authority to speak on behalf of the Town and Town Council. It was agreed upon that the Town Manager would research other localities operating protocols and bring back a draft for discussion at a later time.

7(e) Vacancy in Office of the Mayor – Request to Fill

The Town Manager stated that Mayor Greg Eanes submitted his letter of resignation effective at noon on June 5, 2020. He further stated the Town Charter states the following regarding this issue:

“A vacancy in the office of mayor shall be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by a majority vote of the members of the council; such vacancy to be filled by a qualified voter of the town.”

He recommended that Council fill the vacant Mayor’s seat.

Vice Mayor declined the appointment to Mayor.

Council Member Reed made the motion to appoint the Mayor Elect, Phil Miskovic, to serve former Mayor Eanes’ remaining term. Council Member Bowen seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7 to 0.

Other Council Comments:

Council Member Bowen thanked the Town Manager for appointing Officer Phil Morgan to handle property maintenance and code enforcement duties. She noted several parcels had been cleaned up and the Town looking better. The Town Manager thanked Officer Morgan and Public Works for their work in cleaning up the Town.

Motion and Approval to Go Into Closed Session:

Council Member Bowen made the motion to go into closed session pursuant to Virginia State Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) Personnel matter regarding the temporary assignment of Town Clerk duties. Council Member Knight seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7 to 0.

Upon coming out of closed session Vice Mayor Stinson ordered a roll call to certify the proceedings of the closed session.

Council Member Reed – Aye
Council Member Bowen – Aye
Council Member Knight – Aye
Council Member Abel – Aye
Council Member Miskovic – Aye
Vice Mayor Stinson -Aye

Council Member Knight made the motion to appoint Norma Spencer as Acting Town Clerk and to give her a temporary pay increase of 10% until the Town Clerk came back from leave. Council Member Bowen seconded the motion. The motion was approved 7 to 0.