

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
September 24, 2014

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, September 24, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Ralph Whitmore, Commissioners Gary Baker, Donald Schildt, Chad Weddle, and Russ Winch; Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Robert DePaola, 8 citizens, Kelsey Loos of the Frederick News-Post, and Trooper Burke of the Maryland State Police. Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman and Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins were absent.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a prayer.

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Gary Baker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chad Weddle, to approve both the Town meeting minutes and the Closed Legal meeting of September 10, 2014. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0-1, with Commissioner Russ Winch abstaining.

2. ORDINANCE 2014-05 REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 62 SINKHOLE ORDINANCE

Commissioner Chad Weddle reviewed the revisions proposed for Chapter 62, the Sinkhole Ordinance. He noted that the Town Attorney recommended additional revisions to §62-2, and 62-7, the remedy section of the chapter. He will make the changes to the ordinance and have it ready for the next meeting, which will still be within the 90 days the Town has to pass the ordinance.

3. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2014-06 AND ORDINANCE 2014-07

Ms. Hauver reviewed two ordinances regarding fences proposed by the Planning Commission. Ordinance 2014-06 proposes changes to Section 69-10 of the Code pertaining to Obstructions to View at Intersections. Under the proposed revision, the 20 foot triangular area that must remain clear at intersections would be measured from the intersection of the two curbs instead of the lot lines. Ordinance 2014-07 proposes the removal of sections in the Zoning Ordinance that conflict with Section 69-10, and the addition of a new section that sets forth requirements for fences in all zoning districts.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russ Winch, to introduce Ordinance 2014-06 and Ordinance 2014-07. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

4. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Commissioner Russ Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to pay the attached bills. The motion passed by a vote of 3-1, with Commissioner Chad Weddle in opposition.

5. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Donald Schildt noted that there is trash behind the hedge at the Fuel Worx, and asked that Code Enforcement Officer be sent out to investigate.

Commissioner Gary Baker asked about the status of the sidewalk program and Burgess Whitmore said that he had not heard anything back from the attorney yet.

Commissioner Chad Weddle encouraged all to attend the Community Show at Walkersville High School. Friday night features a dinner and cake auction.

Burgess Whitmore reported that he went to a Glade Valley Athletic Association (GVAA) meeting to discuss a new building at Heritage Farm Park for GVAA to use instead of the manor house. They like the idea and will work with the Parks Committee on it. The Town will work on obtaining Program Open Space money for it.

Ms. Hauver noted that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on the Pratt rezoning request. The Commission members persuaded the Pratts to withdraw their request since the legal requirements to rezone property (change in the neighborhood or mistake in the zoning) could not be met. Commissioner Russ Winch said that perhaps the Town could consider a comprehensive rezoning of the Old Town area after the revision to the Old Town Mixed Use regulations are adopted.

6. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Robert Clubb, owner of 1 West Frederick Street asked that the Town work to get 1 East Frederick Street cleaned up. Burgess Whitmore said that the Town sends the Code Enforcement officer to the property periodically, but he does not have much authority to require that the property be maintained.

Mr. George Rudy, in exile, noted that he plans to develop the property on Crum Road when he prevails in court. He also noted his concerns about State Code violations on the Valero property with regard to gas tanks. He also said that the water tower property on Crum Road is contaminated with lead. The antennas on the property are also in violation.

7. POLICE REPORT

Resident Trooper Burke noted two arrests of individuals breaking into unlocked vehicles. He attributed the success of the arrest to citizen who saw the activity and called the police immediately to report the suspicious activity. He encouraged citizens to call immediately if they notice suspicious activity in their neighborhood.

Commissioner Donald Schildt said he would like to see the police report advertised with information as to the location of arrests. Commissioners discussed the possibility of publicizing more crime and arrest information than is put into the monthly police report. Commissioner Russ Winch wanted the information about the good work the police are doing to get out there.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hauver
Planning & Zoning Administrator