

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
October 8, 2014

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, October 8, 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, David Dunn of Frederick County government, Kelsey Loos of the Frederick News-Post, freelance reporter Sherry Greenfield, 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 Russ Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to approve the Town meeting minutes of September 24, 2014. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

2. REZONING APPLICATION W-R-14-01 PRATT PUBLIC HEARING CANCELLED

Burgess Whitmore noted that the public hearing scheduled for the Pratt rezoning application was cancelled because the application was withdrawn.

3. HOMEcomings PARADE

Commissioner Russ Winch made a motion, seconded by Commission Donald Schildt to approve the use of Town streets for the homecoming parade to be held on October 24 at 5:30 p.m.

4. DISCUSSION OF REPORTING POLICE ACTIVITIES

Commissioner Donald Schildt said that residents complain that they don't know where arrests are made.

Burgess Whitmore noted that the owner of the Woodsboro Times would be willing to publish a monthly police report in his paper. He asked the Commissioners if they were willing to pay for that. Commissioner Schildt said it would be a better way to communicate information to citizens. It was noted that the police don't want to give out street addresses of calls and arrests.

Resident Trooper Matt Crouse noted that a monthly report could be compiled for release to the public.

Commissioner Russ Winch asked if the Sheriff's office responds to a call, whether their information could be included in the report. Trooper Crouse said that the report would only include information from the resident troopers and troopers responding from the barracks. It was noted that the Sheriff's office is generally not involved in Town.

Burgess Ralph Whitmore said that Channel 99 is not up and running and that Comcast won't fix it. He called Emmitsburg and Frederick City to see how to get help with it. Frederick City staff might be able to offer assistance. Commissioner Winch asked if Channel 99 is an item in the franchise contract. County liaison Dave Dunn said that Comcast will only fix its own equipment, but nothing located in the building. He said he would check with Josh Bokee for assistance.

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Commissioner Russ Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker to pay the bills. The motion passed on a vote of 3-1 (Weddle opposed).

6. CANDIDATE DANNY O'CONNOR

Burgess Ralph Whitmore recognized Judge candidate Danny O'Connor and gave him a few minutes to speak.

7. ORDINANCE 2014-5 REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 62 SINKHOLE ORDINANCE

Commissioner Chad Weddle presented the latest revisions to the ordinance incorporating comments from the Town Attorney.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russ Winch to introduce Ordinance 2014-05 as printed. The motion passed on a vote of 4-0.

8. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Donald Schildt said that the Veteran's Day program was wrapped up. He also suggested the Town bid on the caboos at the former Cozy Restaurant and bring it to Heritage Farm Park. Burgess Ralph Whitmore said that the railroad gives away cabooses to whoever wants them.

Commissioner Gary Baker said that the Economic Development Commission interviewed candidates and recommend that Tarolyn Thrasher of PURE Love and Patrick Heidenberg of Scene Clean be appointed to the Commission. Burgess Whitmore said that Ms. Thrasher would have to resign in writing from the Ethics Commission before he would appoint her to another committee.

Commissioner Gary Baker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chad Weddle, to appoint Patrick Heidenberg to the Economic Development Commission. The motion passed on a vote of 4-0.

Commissioner Baker announced that the Walkersville United Methodist Church turkey, oysters and ham dinner would be held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, October 10 and 11.

Burgess Ralph Whitmore said that he attended the Parks Committee meeting and that they will be working on plans for a new building to be built at Heritage Farm Park.

Burgess Whitmore asked for a motion to hold a closed legal meeting to discuss land acquisition. *Commissioner Russ Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker to hold a closed legal meeting. The motion passed on a vote of 3-1 (Weddle opposed).*

Burgess Whitmore recognized Ms. MaryAnn Brodie-Ennis, baker of the Grand Champion Cake at the Walkersville Community Show.

Planning and Zoning Administrator noted that the Planning Commission would be holding a workshop on Tuesday, October 14.

9. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Alan Ashley and his son Andrew, spoke on behalf of Boy Scout troop 19. The troop was started in Walkersville at Fredericktowne Baptist Church, but now meets outside of Town. They own a 12' trailer and are requesting permission to park it in the Town Hall parking lot. It was noted that the troop would need to sign a waiver of liability form.

Commissioner Donald Schildt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russ Winch to allow the trailer to be parked in the Town Hall parking lot for one year and to bring it back before the board in one year. The motion passed on a vote of 4-0.

Commissioner Donald Schildt noted from the Planning Commission interest in reducing the pavement width for new local residential streets. He noted that the Burgess and Commissioners had already discussed this and voted against it. Planner Hauver said that the Planning Commission would like the Town to consider reducing the pavement width for streets in developments zoned R-1 and R-2. Commissioner Russ Winch said that a poll of the Commissioners' feelings on the issue might be useful to take back to the Planning Commission. Commissioners

Baker and Schildt stated that they were against reducing the pavement width from the current standard of 32 feet. Burgess Whitmore and Commissioner Chad Weddle said that they were in favor of the reduced widths to keep the speed of traffic down. .

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hauver
Planning & Zoning Administrator