

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
October 22, 2014

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, October 22, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Ralph Whitmore, Commissioners Gary Baker, Donald Schildt, Debbie Zimmerman, Chad Weddle, and Russ Winch; Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Robert DePaola, Planning Commission members David Ennis, Dick Brady, and Mike Kuster, 10 citizens, Kelsey Loos of the Frederick News-Post, and Trooper Conklin of the Maryland State Police. Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins was 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 October 8, 2014 and the closed land acquisition meeting of October 8, 2014. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1 (Zimmerman abstained).

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2014-05 SINKHOLES

Commissioner Weddle explained that the proposed ordinance would require that sinkholes in public rights-of-way and on private land be repaired and added a 45 day deadline for repairing them.

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russ Winch, to approve and adopt Ordinance 2014-05, revisions to Sinkhole regulations. The motion passed on a vote of 5-0.

3. SWEAR IN PATRICK HEIDENBERG TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Burgess Whitmore administered the oath of office to Mr. Patrick Heidenberg who was recently appointed to the Economic Development Committee for a term ending in July 2015.

4. DESIGN MANUAL: DISCUSSION OF LOCAL STREET WIDTH AND CUL-DE-SAC LENGTH REQUIREMENTS

Mr. Dick Brady and Mr. David Ennis, members of the Planning Commission addressed the board with regard to considering changes to the design standards for local roads. Mr. Brady presented a written statement.

Mr. Brady expressed concern that if local streets are too wide, the speed of traffic increases. Narrower streets would slow down traffic. He also noted that 40 to 50 percent of stormwater in a development comes from roads. He requested permission for the Planning Commission to study the Design Manual standards and to consider alternatives.

Mr. Ennis noted the changes that have been made to the State stormwater management regulations since the Town's Design Manual was adopted in 1997. He too suggested that the Design Manual be reviewed.

In response to a question, it was noted that pervious pavement might be used on private property, but would not be appropriate for the public roads. Pervious surfaces require a lot of maintenance.

Commissioner Donald Schildt say that he was not in favor of reducing street widths. He noted the widths of several town streets. He felt if the street widths were reduced parking would have to be limited to one side of the street. In developments like Sun Meadow parking on both sides of the street is needed. Mr. Brady said that they could look at different standards for different zoning districts and types of roads.

Burgess Whitmore said that he likes traffic to be slowed by narrow traffic lanes. He noted the complaints the town receives about speeding traffic. Commissioner Schildt thought that people speed regardless of the road width.

Burgess Whitmore polled the Commissioners. Commissioners Debbie Zimmerman and Russ Winch said they were in favor of the Planning Commission reviewing the standards. Commissioners Donald Schildt and Gary Baker said that they were against it. Commissioner Weddle said that the support for changing standards would not be there when he vacates his position in December [after his being elected Register of Wills].

Burgess Whitmore instructed the Planning Commissioners to go ahead with their study of the standards.

5. 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 4-1, with Commissioner Chad Weddle in opposition.

6. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Donald Schildt said that the Town should send a letter to Wanda Heurich thanking her for the \$36,000 that was recovered from the Heritage Farm Preservation Society.

Commissioner Donald Schildt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russ Winch that \$6,000 of the recovered funds be directed to maintenance of and improvements to the Memorial Park at five points. Burgess Whitmore said that the funds should go to Heritage Farm Park and that any proposed improvements to Memorial Park need to be brought to the Parks Commission. The motion failed on a vote of 1-4 (Zimmerman, Winch, Baker, and Weddle opposed).

Commissioner Gary Baker said that the Economic Development Commission (EDC) is concerned about the state of disrepair at some houses and businesses in Town. The Code does not address the issue of property maintenance and he would like to see the Planning Commission address it. Commissioner Winch said that he brought it up to the Planning Commission already and they would address it. Burgess Whitmore said that the EDC should work on it instead of the Planning Commission.

Burgess Ralph Whitmore said that he met with the Town Attorney with regard to the sidewalk repair program he proposed. He noted that getting the program started will take some time.

Burgess Whitmore said that he is looking into getting Channel 99 fixed.

With regard to the recovered funds from the Heritage Farm Preservation Society, Burgess Whitmore said that \$34,000 is still unaccounted for.

With regard to roads being named for veterans (like a portion of MD 194 being named for SSGT Charles Cartwright), Burgess Whitmore said that a street in each new development in Town should be named for fallen soldiers from the Town.

Commissioner Russ Winch announced that the Maryland Municipal League legislative dinner will be held on December 5, 2014 at the Walkersville Fire Hall.

It was noted that Town offices will be closed on Tuesday, November 11, 2014, in remembrance of Veterans Day.

Commissioner Schildt also noted that GladeValley.net offered to post the Town police report.

7. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis of the Town Parks Committee asked about the origin of the Heritage Farm Preservation Society funds.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hauver
Planning & Zoning Administrator