

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
March 11, 2015

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, March 11, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Ralph Whitmore, Commissioners Chad Weddle, Russ Winch, and Debbie Zimmerman, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Robert DePaola, Frederick County liaison Roger Wilson, 8 citizens, Kelsey Loos of the Frederick News-Post, and Sherry Greenfield, reporter Commissioners Gary Baker and Donald Schildt 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 Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to approve both the Town meeting minutes and Closed legal meeting minutes of February 25, 2015. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0. Commissioner Weddle also stated the purpose of the closed legal meeting.

2. MOWING CONTRACT

Burgess Whitmore reviewed the staff memo regarding the mowing contract for the parks. Staff noted that the three highest bidders would all be capable of doing the job and had received good references. Burgess Whitmore also noted that the high bid, Greenlink, Inc., had the contract for the last several years and the Town received no complaints about their work.

Commissioner Winch noted that Greenlink knows what needs to be done and has been responsive to the Town. He said there would not be a learning curve if the Town hired them.

Commissioner Zimmerman said that Greenlink gets along well with the Town maintenance staff.

Commissioner Weddle said that he would yield to Commissioners Winch and Zimmerman since they are involved with the parks.

Commissioner Russ Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman, to award the contract to Greenlink. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

3. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE FROM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Burgess Whitmore presented the two ordinances, one pertaining to trash and property maintenance, the other about vacant buildings. The purpose of both is to address concerns with blighted properties. Commissioner Weddle said that he did not want to introduce the ordinance because they might need more time to review it than the 90 days the Code requires. It needs to be reviewed by the Town Attorney.

Commissioner Winch said it was a great start but would need to be integrated with existing chapters of the Code. Commissioner Zimmerman said that agricultural properties should be exempt. Burgess Whitmore felt that they should start by addressing commercial properties.

Commissioner Weddle suggested that the ordinances be sent to the Planning Commission for review.

Burgess Whitmore noted that the development and implementation of the Codes regarding blighted properties will take time, and a lot of review by the Town Attorney.

4. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Commissioner Russ Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Zimmermah, to pay the attached bills. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

5. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russ Winch, to hold a closed personnel meeting. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0.

Commissioner Russ Winch said that he had drafted a letter on behalf of the Frederick County chapter of the Maryland Municipal League (MML) to State Highway Administration in opposition to the new signage program that would provide only general information about sites of interest at interchanges. MML is working with County Executive Jan Gardner to prevent the change in signage in Frederick County.

Burgess Whitmore noted that the Town will pick up bulk trash on Saturday, June 13. On the same day, citizens will be able to drop off materials for shredding in the Town Hall parking lot. He also noted that May 16 is Walkersville Day.

7. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Roger Wilson noted that County Executive Gardner was meeting with mayors and burgesses at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday and encouraged Burgess Whitmore to attend.

Mr. George Rudy, in exile, stated his opposition to the SHA's sign program. He also mentioned the County's consideration of MD 194 for widening and dualization and stated his opposition to the public hearing process currently underway. He encouraged all to attend Tuesday's County Council meeting to speak up with regard to the issue.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Hauver
Planning and Zoning Administrator