

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
July 8, 2015

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, July 8, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Ralph Whitmore, Commissioners Gary Baker, Donald Schildt, Chad Weddle, Russell Winch, and Debbie Zimmerman, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, 7 citizens, Mr. Roger Wilson from Frederick County government, and Kelsi Loos of the Frederick News Post.

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

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schildt, to approve both the Town meeting minutes and the Closed Personnel and Legal meeting of June 24, 2015. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to hold a closed personnel meeting to discuss staff evaluations and compensation. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Donald Schildt in opposition.

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2015-03 – INCREASE TO WATER RATES

Discussion ensued on the upcoming water plant project and the need for an increase in the Town water rates in order to maintain operating costs. Ms. Rollins presented information sheets on anticipated revenue if various rate schedules were adopted. The following rate schedule was advertised for public hearing, and includes \$10 increase on the base rate in-town, \$15 increase on the base rate out-of-town, and 10% increase on all tiers:

Rates effective on usage beginning 10/1/2015

<u>Consumption</u>	<u>In Town</u>	<u>Out of Town</u>	<u>Industrial</u>
0 - 10,000 gal.	\$60	\$90	\$60
10,000 - 25,000 gal.	\$3.05/1,000 gal.	\$4.56/1,000 gal.	\$2.31/1,000 gal.
25,001 - 50,000 gal.	\$5.01/1,000 gal.	\$7.52/1,000 gal.	\$3.76/1,000 gal.
50,001 gal. & over	\$6.49/1,000 gal.	\$9.73/1,000 gal.	\$5.01/1,000 gal.

The above schedule shall apply to all water usage used beginning October 1, 2015.

There were no public comments at the hearing.

Commissioner Donald Schildt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to adopt the rate schedule as presented and advertised, with a \$10 increase on the base rate in-town, \$15 increase on the base rate out-of-town, and a 10 % increase on all tiers, to be effective on water usage beginning October 1, 2015. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

3. ETHICS BOARD ACTIVITIES

Commissioner Chad Weddle reported on an agreement arrived at during his recent Ethics Commission initiated mediation. He agreed to propose a public discussion meeting to discuss crime in rental properties in Walkersville. After further discussion between the Burgess and Commissioners:

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to advertise a public hearing in August to discuss issues of crime in general in Walkersville. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Donald Schildt in opposition.

Burgess Whitmore recommended Mr. Ronald Layman be appointed to the Ethics Commission to replace Ms. Tarolyn Thrasher who moved out of Town and has completed the case the board was working on prior to her move.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to appoint Mr. Ronald Layman to replace Ms. Tarolyn Thrasher on the Ethics Commission. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman, to locate a training program for the Ethics Commission to help them undertake their duties. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

The Ethics Commission is charged with reviewing the Financial Disclosure statements completed by all elected officials, staff, and committee and commission members. All forms were turned in but one. Mr. Benjamin Douds had not turned in his form by the March 30th due date, and upon many reminders, turned it in just prior to tonight's town meeting.

Commissioner Donald Schildt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chad Weddle, to remove Mr. Douds from his position on the Economic Development Committee based on the Ethics Commission adopted policy. The motion failed by a vote of 2-3, with Commissioners Gary Baker, Russell Winch, and Debbie Zimmerman in opposition.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schildt, to refer the issue to the Ethics Commission to decide on the implementation of §26-9 Enforcement, where the Ethics Commission may assess a late fee of \$2 per day for failure to timely file the required financial disclosure statement. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

4. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Chad Weddle, to pay the attached bills. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

5. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Donald Schildt noted there will be a WWII vet speaking at our Veterans' Day service to be held on November 8th.

Commissioner Chad Weddle would like to review adding a statute of limitations for ethics complaints.

Commissioner Weddle thanked all citizens for their help, support, and participation in the success of the carnival, noting that the gross proceeds exceeded last year by \$26,000. He proceeded to thank those present, personally, for their help and contribution to the cause.

Burgess Whitmore suggested that the Economic Development Commission work on compiling a business guide to print and hand out to interested users.

Burgess Whitmore suggested we hire a professional/experienced grant writer to work on applying for grant funding for the new water plant.

Commissioner Russell Winch reported on his recent attendance at the MML Convention. He noted that the Cumberland, MD code contains a primo chapter on vacant and blighted properties. He will get the Planning Commission investigating this. Mr. Winch reported that the bid packages will be going out soon for the Welcome Sign project. Commissioner Winch reported that the setting up and taking down of Farmers' Market signs on Fridays has proven to be too much of a chore for the Economic Development Commission members, and recommends assigning this work to town staff.

Commissioner Chad Weddle made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to authorize town staff to put up signs Friday afternoons and other volunteers will take them down on Saturday mornings. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2, with Commissioners Donald Schildt and Debbie Zimmerman in opposition.

6. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

None expressed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins
Town Manager