

MINUTES  
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING  
May 25, 2016

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, May 25, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Gary Baker, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Donald Schildt, Russell Winch, and Debbie Zimmerman, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, Code Enforcement Officer Andy Dewese, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, 9 citizens, and Mike Persley from 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 Russell Winch, to approve the Town meeting minutes of May 11, 2016. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

2. OATH OF OFFICE FOR BOARD OF APPEALS – TOM GILBERT

Burgess Chad Weddle administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Tom Gilbert for his position on the Town Board of Appeals.

3. CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER REPORT – ANDREW DEWESE

Andrew Dewese reviewed a clarification of his duties in response to questions asked at the May 11<sup>th</sup> Town meeting. He noted that 175 complaints have been logged through May 6<sup>th</sup> since the commissioners directed an aggressive enforcement effort. He is working on illegally parked vehicles, inoperable vehicles, tall grass, and low hanging trees over sidewalks.

Commissioner Donald Schildt interjected 2 complaints for Mr. Dewese, i.e. the stop sign at Main Street and Pennsylvania Avenue and an overgrown tree at Memorial Park. Both are responsibilities of the Town and will be handled.

4. PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2016-03 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Burgess Weddle reviewed the costs for adding 2 additional resident troopers. Starts up costs provided by the State of Maryland are estimated at \$420,000. Add that to our FY 2017 budget of \$620,138 for a gross cost of \$1,040,138. Subtract Frederick County's tax equity of \$477,947 and the State Police Protection grant of \$34,062, for a net cost to the Town of \$528,129, divided by 5 troopers equals \$105,625.80 per trooper. Commissioner Russell Winch suggests obtaining a cost estimate for implementing our own Town police force. Commissioner Donald Schildt suggested considering a 1¢ raise in the tax rate, about \$60,000 in additional revenue, to address crime concerns and go towards cost of additional troopers. Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman stated that we don't need another trooper, that we cannot hire enough troopers to rid the Town of all crime.

*Commissioner Donald Schildt made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to raise the tax rate by 1¢, to 16¢ per \$100 of assessed value of real property. The motion was later withdrawn after more discussion.*

*Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schildt, to amend the General Fund budget Police line item to \$725,138, a \$105,625 increase to cover the cost of 2 troopers from January 2017 – June 2017. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman in opposition.*

*Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion to increase the Economic Development Commission budget to \$15,000, its FY 2016 amount. The motion died for lack of a second.*

Mr. Pete Ireland, 11 West Frederick Street, spoke at the public hearing, noting that it was a bad attitude to say we could not rid the town of crime. He stated we need to take a stance against crime and legislate against houses of ill repute and enforce the Town Charter.

Ms. Jane Abrecht, 27 Maple Avenue, opined that we need 3-4 troopers and get them in place prior to the growing expansion of the Town.

*Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to adopt Ordinance 2016-03, the General Fund budget, as modified adding 2 additional resident troopers. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman in opposition.*

#### 5. PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2016-04, WATER FUND BUDGET

Commissioners discussed the need for a water rate increase in order to be able to pay the debt service on the upcoming loan of \$8.4 million for the construction of the new water plant.

*Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to adopt Ordinance 2016-04, Water Fund budget, as presented. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

#### 6. PUBLIC HEARING ON ADOPTION OF TAX RATE

There were no comments from the public on the tax rate.

*Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schildt, to adopt a tax rate of 16¢ per \$100 of assessed real property value, a 1¢ increase. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

#### 7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND APRIL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to pay the attached bills and approve the April Financial Statements. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

#### 8. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Donald Schildt reported the order of 242 memorial bricks for installation of the wall at Memorial Park. He anticipates a 4-6 week delivery time frame and hopes for installation in early July.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis reported that staff Accountant Martha Bush will be meeting representatives of installers of LED street lights for the town.

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman would like to order more banners for the telephone poles on Frederick Street. The Town's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is coming up so new banners in celebration will be in order.

Commissioner Zimmerman reported that the new Born Learning Trail will be installed at Community Park this week.

Burgess Weddle reviewed the announcements presented on the bottom of the agenda.

Burgess Weddle noted there is an email in the packet regarding a high water bill due to a leak. The citizen was not present to ask for a recalculation to industrial rates, as is town policy. Mr. DePaola reported that as the Sensus meters are being installed in stages around town, we don't get alerts that there is a leak in the system. When the installation of all meters is complete, this feature should work.

9. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

John Zimmerman, 9104B Stauffer Road, asked how much the town pays to the Board of Education for the Farmers' Market to be located in the B Building parking lot. Burgess Weddle and Ms. Rollins responded, to date, no payments have been issued from the town.

No further business, so the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins  
Town Manager