

MINUTES  
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING  
August 24, 2016

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, August 24, 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, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, and 10 citizens.

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 Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to approve the Town meeting minutes of August 10, 2016. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1, with Commissioner Donald Schildt abstaining.*

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2016-06 INOPERATIVE VEHICLES

Code Enforcement Officer Andrew Dewese presented his 2016 statistics on inoperative /unregistered vehicles citing 37 complaints, of which 30 have been abated. He noted that this is a controversial issue with town residents, many who are accustomed to not complying with the town code in matters of their vehicles. He requested this ordinance to provide flexibility to allow residents' one unlicensed/inoperable vehicle on their property as long as it is stored under a fitted cover for that specific vehicle. He noted that Frederick City recently enacted an ordinance allowing two vehicles. He also researched the availability of vehicle covers and they are readily available and reasonably priced.

Commissioner Donald Schildt stated he will vote against the ordinance, as he is opposed to revising the code for the few citizens it affects. He noted that resolving 30 out of 37 complaints on this issue proves that the current code is sufficient.

Don Diebler, 302 Kenwood Ct., Deerfield, returned to notify commissioners that he is totally opposed to the ordinance. He feels they are unilaterally deciding that people can keep junk cars on their property.

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman asked if the HOAs have anything to do with this issue. Mr. Dewese reported that the HOAs expect him to handle this.

Burgess Weddle reviewed the Planning Commission comments and recommendation to correct grammatical errors and add a definition for MOTOR VEHICLE, INOPERATIVE.

*Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to adopt Ordinance 2016-06 to amend §88-10C of the Town Code "Unregistered or Inoperative Vehicles", to add definitions for "MOTOR VEHICLE, INOPERATIVE" and correct previously included grammatical errors. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Donald Schildt in opposition.*

3. WATER METER AT 8612 DISCOVERY BLVD

Mr. Ron Keeler, of 8612 Discovery Blvd., read a statement to the Burgess and Commissioners regarding his concern with his water bill for the past four 6-month billing periods. His complaint revolves around the installation of the iPerl water meter and states there is no coincidence of the higher bills with the installation of the reverse osmosis water system in the home. Commissioner Baker asked the likelihood that all three of the meters installed were defective and reading incorrectly. Public works director Bob DePaola stated it was unlikely. The representative from LB Water has been to the residence twice and established that the meter is running correctly. Mr. Keeler continues to question the standards and accuracy of the meter. Commissioners decided to have staff run a 5-gallon bucket of water and read the meter to determine if 5 gallons, or more, registers on the meter. The test will be scheduled before the next town meeting.

4. NEW WALKERSVILLE LIBRARY – FEES, LETTER OF CREDIT, WATER TAP

The plans for the Walkersville Library have been approved and application for permits to begin construction is eminent. County staff has requested that the Town waive the requirement to post a letter of credit.

*Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker, to waive the requirement to post a letter of credit on the construction of the new library. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

5. AGRICULTURAL PRESERVATION EASEMENT REQUESTS (COMMENTS TO FREDERICK COUNTY)

Ms. Hauver received an inter-agency referral from Frederick County regarding six area landowners who have applied for agricultural preservation easements from Frederick County. The Planning Commission voted to recommend the Burgess and Commissioners support all six properties to be granted easements. Burgess Weddle expressed his philosophy of only commenting on properties within the Town or the Town's area of influence, rather than meddling in the affairs of other municipalities.

*Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schildt, to submit comments to Frederick County recommending Agricultural Preservation for Pikes View, Toms, and Lambert properties that are in the Town or the Town's area of influence. He also recommended commenting that the Town is always in support of Ag Preservation in general. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1, with Commissioner Gary Baker abstaining.*

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND PRE-AUDIT JUNE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to pay the attached bills and accept the pre-audited June 2016 financial statements. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

7. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Donald Schildt asked that something be done to improve the meeting recordings.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis asked if it would be possible to have a resident trooper at the town meetings. Ms. Rollins stated that they will be reminded to stop by the meeting if there is a trooper on duty. A town policing meeting will be scheduled this fall for the community.

Burgess Weddle handed out a draft ordinance for consideration for deleting Chapter 53 of the Town Code, Economic Development Commission. Discussion ensued regarding the postponement of reappointing Ms. Dawn Hipsley to the committee. Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis noted she would attend an EDC meeting. Commissioner Donald Schildt expressed concerns regarding the work of the committee and is in favor of deleting the chapter.

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman reminded everyone of the upcoming 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Community Show held at Walkersville High School.

Ms. Rollins presented the costs of the new electronic water meters, noting that they cost more than the town charges for purchase and installation. *Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schildt, to raise the charge for purchase and installation of a new meter to \$400 to cover the cost and labor to install on new developments. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

Burgess Weddle noted that the Town's 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee will meet on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to begin work on the celebration.

Mr. DePaola reported that the sinkhole on Sandstone and Diamond Drive is fixed.

Replacement of fencing between the brick columns at the Manor House: *Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to get bids on replacing the fencing between the brick columns, per LGIT recommendation, with powder coated metal for less maintenance. The motion passed.*

Ms. Rollins reported that word was received that the perc test on the HFP building passed.

#### 8. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Clara Winch, 22 W. Pennsylvania Avenue, 55 Maple Avenue, and EDC committee member, expressed her concern regarding the proposed ordinance to delete Chapter 53 of the Town Code.

Burgess Weddle reviewed the dates and announcements of upcoming meetings.

No further business, so the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins  
Town Manager