

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
September 14, 2016

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, September 14, 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 28 citizens.

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

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to approve the Town meeting minutes of August 24, 2016. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2016-07 TO AMEND CHAPTER 30, "GARBAGE, RUBBISH, AND REFUSE"

Ms. Hauver reviewed Ordinance 2016-07 that amended Chapter 30, Garbage, Rubbish, and Refuse. Definitions for "Junk and Debris" and "Non-customary outdoor storage" were added. The chapter was also amended to restrict the accumulations of Junk and Debris and Non-Customary Outdoor Storage on streets and public and private property within the Town, declaring such accumulations a nuisance and prohibited.

There were no public comments at the hearing.

Commissioner Russell Winch made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman, to adopt Ordinance 2016-07 to amend Chapter 30 of the Town Code "Garbage, Rubbish, and Refuse", to add definitions for "Junk and Debris" and "Non-Customary Outdoor Storage" and restrict accumulations as defined. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

3. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2017-08 TO DELETE CHAPTER 53, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FROM THE TOWN CODE

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schildt, to introduce Ordinance 2017-08 to delete Chapter 53 of the Town Code. The motion passed by a vote of 3-2, with Commissioners Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis and Russell Winch in opposition.

Discussion ensued on the merits of this ordinance:

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis is in support of keeping the commission and will attend meetings on the 1st Thursday of the month.

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman questioned why the Farmers' Market turned down a free location at the fire company parking lot, choosing to pay rent to Frederick County Public Schools at the B building. Commissioner Brodie-Ennis explained the exposure at the B building was more successful for the market.

Commissioner Zimmerman noted she did not see the need for business cards, polo shirts, and other money spending by the commission. Commissioner Brodie-Ennis explained that these items and events provided exposure for the town.

Commissioner Gary Baker, former liaison for the EDC, stated he had a hard time grasping the whole purpose of the committee, that their goals seemed difficult to attain. He noted the Town could continue to sponsor a Farmers' Market. He noted Walkersville is a hard town to have a Main Street program due to the layout, there is no central focus in the town.

Commissioner Russell Winch supports keeping the committee, noting the hard working, dedicated group of people promoting Walkersville. He doesn't believe we should just give up because it may be difficult.

4. EDC PRESENTATION

Ms. Clara Winch reviewed the EDC accomplishments since its inception, stating:

- Revised the web page
- Created and maintain Facebook
- Revived the Farmers' Market
- Proposed legislation on blighted property
- Purchased business cards and shirts to identify members visiting local businesses
- Business questionnaire
- Almost completed a town brochure
- Supported 2 Spring Bazaars, town tree decorating

She stated that the EDC could be the work horse to plan the 125th Town Anniversary celebration next year. They could be the work horse to do the Sustainability program for the Town. She noted all the towns in Frederick County that have Main Street programs and Economic Development Commissions and staff to work, citing Frederick, Brunswick, Middletown, Thurmont, Emmitsburg, and Mt. Airy, with interest expressed by New Market.

Mr. Randy Gray, newest member of the commission, noted things he would like the EDC to work on as follows:

- Work with local realtors and brokers
- Go to lots of meetings to stay up on things going on in the EDC world
- Put an information rack in the new library
- Attract equity partners and venture capitalists
- Retain businesses that are already here
- Obtain money from the State for our businesses
- Work on doing something about abandoned properties

He questioned who, on the dais, was reaching out? Noting the EDC can promote tourism and jobs.

Ms. Dawn Hipsley, former member of the EDC, would like to be reassigned to the commission. As a resident of Spring Garden Estates, employed at Allstate, member of WBPA, she would like to establish a contact with the new person managing the Safeway shopping center. She noted the attendance of the Farmers' Market vendors at the meeting. She explained the location as allowing for the market to double in size, with plenty of parking availability, visibility from Rt. 194, a festive and pleasant gathering on Friday nights.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis encouraged commissioners to consider all this with an open mind. A public hearing will be held on the ordinance on Wednesday, September 28th, 7:30 p.m.

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

6. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Donald Schildt would like to contact Mr. Ken Kellar of the Woodsboro Times to hopes of having the commissioners' names and emails published in the monthly issues.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis asked the status of the Heritage Farm Park building. There was no update since the last meeting, but staff will pursue a report for 9/28. Commissioner Russell Winch noted that GVAA should be responsible for maintenance of the new building. Staff will look into a revision of the agreement between GVAA and the Town.

Ms. Hauver reported that the Planning Commission will be investigating the updating of the Design Manual. Mr. David Ennis and Commissioner Russell Winch will be involved in the work.

Burgess Weddle reviewed the announcements and dates listed on the agenda noting that there will be a Closed Legal Meeting with Town Attorney David Severn at the 9/28th meeting to discuss the construction of Richard Winn Lane. Also, the annual Town Crime meeting will be held on October 12th at the Town meeting. Our resident troopers will be present for reporting and answering questions from citizens.

Mr. DePaola reported that Gabe Services had damaged a water main in Glade Village, causing water to be shut down as an emergency in the development. When asked about the 5 gallon bucket test to be conducted in Discovery, Mr. DePaola reported that he was trying to arrange this with the resident present to witness the test.

7. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mr. John Gray, 102 Challedon Drive, submitted his request to the commissioners to have a waiver to the ordinance of RV parking on town streets. Code Enforcement officer Andy Dewese has issued him a citation because of his parking his RV on the street. Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis suggested that he be allowed to park his RV 24/7. Commissioner Russell Winch noted the Planning Commission should develop a definition of an RV (Chinook).

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch, to allow Mr. Gray to park his RV on the street. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Burgess Weddle announced the first 125th Anniversary planning meeting will be held Saturday, September 17th from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

A public hearing will be held Wednesday, September 29th, 7:30 p.m., on Ordinance 2016-08 to delete Chapter 53, Economic Development Commission from the Town Code.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins
Town Manager