

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
May 10, 2017

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, May 10, 2017, 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, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, Roger Wilson of the Frederick County Executive's office, Kate Masters of the Frederick News-Post, Ken Kellar of the Woodsboro Times and 17 citizens. Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins was absent.

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 Russ Winch, to approve the Town meeting minutes of April 26, 2017 as corrected. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. LIONS CLUB LEOS FUNDRAISER PRESENTATION

A group of seven middle school students and three leaders, along with leader-dog-in-training Sasha, presented their plans for a "Dinner in the Dark" fundraiser to be held Friday, June 9 at the Walkersville Fire Hall. Proceed from the dinner will be donated to Leader Dogs for the Blind. Participants will be blindfolded during the meal to simulate the experience of a blind person in that situation. Tickets are \$50 per person (\$60 for those who wish to remain sighted) and there will be a silent auction as well. They invited everyone to attend.

3. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2017-01 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Burgess Weddle, noting Town Manager Rollins absence, asked if the Commissioners had questions about the proposed General Fund Budget.

Commissioner Winch said he had checked the pricing of portable electronic information signs and found that three-line character and graphics signs would cost \$21,000 per unit. He recommended buying two for use in road control and announcing events and emergencies. He got two estimates and is seeking a third. The signs are solar-powered. Some signs include an option for a radar device to announce the speed of cars driving by. The signs are towed on trailers and are about 6'x8' in size. It was suggested that \$50,000 of the \$114,755 available in the general fund budget be set aside for the signs.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis asked about the proposal for permanent signs to be placed at the variance road entrances to the Town. Burgess Weddle said the idea was dropped due to the lack of places to put them outside the State Highway rights-of-way. They could still be considered in the future.

Commissioner Donald Schildt made a motion seconded by Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman to reduce the amount budgeted for staff salary increases from 5% to 3%. The motion passed on a vote of 4-1 (Winch opposed).

Commissioner Schildt also suggested that the Town consider hiring a part time person to start learning the jobs in the office due to the expected retirement of several staff members in the next few years.

Commissioner Gary Baker made a motion seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch to introduce Ordinance 2017-01 General Fund Budget, as amended. The motion passed on a vote of 5-0.

4. INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE 2017-01 WATER FUND BUDGET

Commissioner Donald Schildt made a motion seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis to reduce the amount budgeted for staff salary increases from 5% to 3%. The motion passed on a vote of 4-1 (Winch opposed).

Commissioner Zimmerman asked about the nearly \$200,000 designated from the surplus and the nearly \$400,000 listed as available for water plant construction. Burgess Weddle explained the calculation on page 4 showing the cost of the water plant and the sources of its funding.

Commissioner Debbie Zimmerman made a motion seconded by Commissioner Russell Winch to introduce Ordinance 2017-02 Water Fund Budget, as amended. The motion passed on a vote of 5-0.

Burgess Chad Weddle announced that public hearings on the budgets would be held at the next meeting, May 24, 2017.

5. 201 COBBLE WAY WATER BILL

Following up on an item discussed last month, Burgess Weddle asked Public Works Director Bob DePaola about whether there was any leak in the house at 201 Cobble Way. Mr. DePaola said that the residents did not answer their door so he did not have additional information.

Burgess Weddle suggested that the Commissioners hold off on a decision about the water bill until the staff makes contact with the residents. He said that he would ask staff member Diane Fauble to call them.

6. UPDATE ON CAMERA INSTALLATION AT FIVE POINTS

Commissioner Donald Schildt said that the residents that are supposed to have a camera installed on their property at Five Points were stood up by the camera company. They had an appointment scheduled for Tuesday of last week and they did not show or call.

Commissioner Zimmerman noted that someone was locked in at Heritage Farm Park so they broke two fence rails to get out. She wondered if the cameras would show who did it.

7. UPDATE ON 125TH ANNIVERSARY PLANS

Burgess Weddle reviewed the upcoming May activities to celebrate the town's 125th anniversary, particularly May 13th, Town Cleanup Day (forecast of rain), and May 20th, Walkersville Day and self-guided walking tours. The planning committee will meet again on the first Saturday in June.

8. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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.

9. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Donald Schildt said that the group organized in remembrance of the plane crash that occurred near Town wants to come to the next meeting to discuss the memorial planned for Heritage Farm Park. They have scaled back the design.

Commissioner Schildt said that the opioid abuse program, "Introduction to the Enemy", a presentation by Ed and Karen Schildt, was confirmed to be held at Walkersville High School on August 24, which is Back to School Night.

Commissioner Schildt also reported that a recurring sinkhole in a stormwater management pond in Sun Meadow has opened up again. He asked Public Works Director DePaola to check it out. He suggested that the Town assist the homeowners' association with the cost of the repair, as they have already paid out thousands to fix it.

Commissioner Schildt noted that the bus trip to the Viet Nam Memorial in Washington, D.C. is all lined up. A group of 96 will be leaving at 8 am tomorrow morning. He distributed a map with a list of sponsors on the back.

Commissioner Baker asked Mr. DePaola about the location of the speed trailer. Mr. DePaola said it is currently parked on Challedon Drive.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis announced that the Town received the grant for sustainability for an amount up to \$25,000. The Green Team's next meeting is on Monday, June 5 at 6:30 pm.

Commissioner Russell Winch said that the Maryland Municipal League chapter would be held on Thursday, June 8 at 7pm in the upstairs meeting room of the Walkersville Town Hall to allocate Program Open Space funds. Ms. Zimmerman noted the Town's request for additional funds for the Heritage Farm Park building.

Public Works Director DePaola said that the pressure date loggers installed at 113 Bedrock Drive revealed a loose gasket between the first and third floors of the house which was causing the pressure problems the homeowners were having.

Mr. DePaola said that Ryan Knott did a nice job relining the firehouse parking lot. He also reported that the cracking sealing on Glade Road was completed today.

Mr. Roger Wilson said he drove by the new library site and reported that the construction was looking good.

10. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Mr. David Ennis, chair of the geocaching event to be held in conjunction with the 125th Anniversary celebration asked the Burgess and Commissioners to pose for a photograph to be used as part of the event.

Burgess Weddle reviewed announcements and meeting dates in the upcoming months, including the County's hazardous waste drop-off scheduled for May 20 from 8 a.m. to noon at the Public Safety Training Facility on Reichs Ford Road.

Commissioner Donald Schildt said there needs to be a system to inform Town residents of police activity around town. He noted a recent drug bust and a bomb threat at a local church. Residents are concerned and would appreciate alerts. Some do not have or use computers or smart phones.

Mr. George Rudy noted that Frederick City has a system to put out announcements to neighborhood councils.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Hauver
Planning & Zoning Administrator