

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
December 12, 2018

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Michael Bailey, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, Michael McNiesh, and John Zimmerman, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, Wyatt Massey of the Frederick News-Post, and 17 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 Michael McNiesh, to approve the Town meeting minutes of November 14, 2018. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. SPRING VIEW ESTATES PHASE 3 DOCUMENTS

Woodsboro Pike LLC has submitted a public works agreement, cost estimate and a draft letter of credit for roads and utilities to be constructed in the third phase of the development of the Bell property – Spring View Estates. The wording of the documents is the same as those approved Phase 1 and 2 documents and the cost estimates have been approved. The letter of credit is with United Bank, which was approved for the previous phases.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Bailey, to approve the Woodsboro Pike LLC Phase 3 documents for Spring View Estates as submitted. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

3. SIDEWALK TASK FORCE STATUS

Commissioners Michael Bailey and Michael McNiesh are currently working on the sidewalk task force.

4. WATER BILL RECALCULATION PROCESS DISCUSSION

Discussion ensued regarding the process by which citizens can request a recalculation of a high water bill one time, to the Industrial billing rate. Ms. Rollins explained the history of the water billing, in that a bill calculated using the reading of water that went through a meter was the bill. There was no bill forgiveness or recalculation, the bill was the bill. A system was implemented whereby a citizen could come before the Burgess & Commissioners and request a one-time recalculation of their water bill to the Industrial rate. This was usually requested when a leak was discovered at the property, and resulted in a high bill. The recalculation typically resulted in a one-third lower bill. Burgess Weddle will devise a new form for requesting recalculation of bills.

5. BULK TRASH NUMBERS REVIEW

Burgess Weddle reviewed the tonnage collected at the Town's recent bulk trash collection. It was noted that the spring collection was substantially higher and typically is so. The spring collection included 152 mattresses which was questioned as excessive, and commissioners would like to keep an eye on this expansion in the future.

6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND NOVEMBER 2018 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Bailey, to pay the attached bills and accept the November 2018 financial statements. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

7. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Michael Bailey asked TFC Kyle Knowles if statistics are available on the overdose rates within the Town. There will be a crime meeting with the Resident Troopers in January and statistics of their activities will be provided.

Commissioner Michael Bailey reported on his attendance at last night's Planning Commission meeting. He called Mr. Dick Brady, chairperson of the Commission to come to the mike and present the information. Mr. Brady, of Kenneth Drive, reported that he would like to see the incoming Rock Creek School renamed when it is built in Walkersville. He would like the name to reflect the area where it's moving to rather than the area where it comes from. Several Commissioners like the idea and Mr. Brady will fine tune his proposal to be presented at a later date to the Frederick County Board of Education.

Commissioner Bailey thanked everyone who planned the Christkindlmarket. Ms. Bonnie Liens came forward to report on the Christkindlmarket, expressing her joy of the success of the market. Three of the Walkersville churches participated and are committed to do it again next year.

Ms. Bonnie Liens, of Fulton Avenue, representing Friends of the Walkersville Library, noted that the group sponsors fundraisers for the programs provided by the library. The library provides about 130 programs each month, ranging through childhood to mature age. She noted that the Friends of the Library would like to expand Walkersville Day (the 3rd Saturday in May) to Walkersville Days and make it the weekend. She proposes having heritage dancers in the street and a 5K fundraiser, entitled Run for the Books and managed by Steeplechasers. She noted she will be attending the January 2, 2019 Parks Committee meeting to garner approval. She also requests closure of Glade Road and getting added to the Town's insurance policy.

Ms. Mary Miller reported on her work for her Girl Scout Gold Award. The food donations box that she built and installed along side of the Town Hall building is in place. She thanked NZ Cramer for their donation of the plywood and Mr. Young for allowing her to use his shop and tools to build the box. She asked that the new box be acknowledged on Channel 99 and the Town's website.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh, in reference to the Complaint Reception Form, asked what is an SOS? The Code Enforcers report uses SOS to mean Snow on Sidewalk. He reported that a citizen has asked him for proactiveness on enforcement on sidewalks and streets. Commissioner McNiesh thanked Commissioner Bailey for attending an HOA meeting in his stead.

Commissioner McNiesh reported on his research into installing speed cameras in the Sun Meadow neighborhood, as requested by the HOA. Speed cameras can only be installed in school zones and must be administered by local law enforcement. The Maryland State Police do not administer speed cameras and since the Resident troopers are the Town's local law enforcement, we are at an impasse. Burgess Weddle will contact the Frederick City Administrator of their speed cameras to find out how their program is administered.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis would like to have the Town set up some events on Walkersville Day: shredding event, selling of compost bins, and another sustainable event to be announced, possibly an e-cycle event (electronics).

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis asked the status of the dusk to dawn light at the Heritage Farm Park farm house, and it's been installed. She also noted that she supports the idea of next year's Christkindlmarket, and would like the Parks Committee to sponsor a Halloween party next year at Heritage Farm Park.

Discussion ensued on changing the Parks Committee name to Parks and Recreation and the responsibilities the committee would handle. This includes the annual tree lighting event at Creamery Park, the Veterans' Day Ceremony at Memorial Park, Memorial Park in general. Commissioner Brodie-Ennis suggested contacting former Commissioner Donald Schildt to see if he would be interested in handling the planning of the Veterans' Day event as he has in the past.

Commissioner John Zimmerman thanked Mr. DePaola and maintenance staff for their excellent handling of the plowing and salting in the recent snow event.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert noted that he had requested a crosswalk sign be placed in the crosswalk in front of the library. This was a result of a speeding car not slowing at all when there were people in the crosswalk. The sign was installed the next day and Ms. Rollins let him know there had already been a complaint about the location of the sign. Surprise, surprise.

Commissioner Gilbert also noted that the name of Rock Creek School prior to its move to Frederick City was Harmony Grove, so there is precedent to changing the name of the school according to its location.

Ms. Rollins reported that the planner of the June 2019 8K Race benefitting Blessings in a Backpack has called to start the process for getting the event planned and approved.

Ms. Hauver reported that there are new floodplain maps available and that affected property owners will be invited to the January 8, 2019 Planning Commission meeting to review the maps.

Mr. DePaola reported that the speed sign on wheels is available to deploy to the problem speeding areas of Sun Meadow (in response to Commissioner McNiesh's concerns). He reported that the sewer line at Longley Green has been completed. The water line on the Bell Property (Spring View Estates) has been started, and two of the chlorine system boards have needed replacement due to randomly shutting down the water plant.

Burgess Weddle read the following announcements:

- Mon., Dec. 24 – Office closed at noon
- Tues., Dec. 25 – Merry Christmas !!! – Office Closed
- Mon., Dec. 31 – Office closed at noon
- Tues., Jan. 1, 2019 – Happy New Year!!! – Office Closed
- Wed., Jan. 2, – 7:30 p.m. Parks Committee meeting
- Tues., Jan. 8 – 7:30 p.m. – Planning Commission
- Wed., Jan. 9 – 7:30 p.m. – Town Meeting
- Tues., Jan. 22 – 7:30 p.m. – Planning Commission
- Wed., Jan. 23 – 7:30 p.m. – Town Meeting

Commissioner Michael McNiesh noted that he was happy to be able to hand out his new Town Commissioner business cards. He also asked if it would be possible for him and Commissioner Michael Bailey to learn how to plow snow.

8. CITIZENS' QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS

Ms. Bonnie Liens complimented snow plow driver Theresa Tucker for her excellent efforts in plowing Fulton Avenue.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to hold a closed personnel meeting to discuss the hiring of an Assistant Code Enforcement Officer. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned and then reopened when 2 citizens came forward to ask for recalculation of a water bill but did not understand to come up during the Citizens' Questions and Concerns portion of the meeting.

Landlord owner Wenbin Ma and tenant Jamie Barnes, of 8760 Beacon Circle, asked for a recalculation to the Industrial rate of a \$3,800 water bill. The Burgess and Commissioners directed that staff recheck the property for a leak, as Mr. Ma stated that there was no leak.

The next meeting is Wednesday, January 9th, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Long Rollins
Town Manager