

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
January 22, 2020

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Michael Bailey, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, and John Zimmerman, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, and 12 citizens. Commissioner Michael McNiesh was absent.

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

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to approve the Town meeting minutes of January 8, 2020. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Bailey, to approve the closed legal personnel meeting of January 8, 2020. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

Burgess Weddle reported that a closed legal personnel meeting (under §10-508(a)(1) and 10-508(a)(3) of the State Government Article) was held on January 8, 2020 to discuss a personnel issue and watershed zoning issues, and that those in attendance were Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Michael Bailey, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, Michael McNiesh, and John Zimmerman, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, and Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins. No motions were made regarding personnel or legal issues and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

2. RESOLUTION 2020-01 – HONORING THE SERVICE OF JIM BEARD

Burgess Weddle read Resolution 2020-01 honoring the 25 years of service on the Parks Committee by Chairman Jim Beard. After reading the resolution, Mr. Beard spoke to the citizens. Refreshments were served. Parks Committee vacancies will be re-advertised with a deadline of February 17th for application.

3. APPROVAL OF PART-TIME COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST JOB DESCRIPTION

There were no changes to the job description so the position will be advertised and interviewed.

4. CODE REVISIONS PROPOSED BY COMMISSIONER MICHAEL BAILEY

Commissioner Michael Bailey reviewed changes to the Town Code in Chapter 51, Planning Commission, Chapter 26, Code of Ethics, and Chapter 43, Parks Committee. Changes include adding Qualifications for Office in all chapters, name change to Parks Commission (negating Ordinance 97-10), establishing term limits, removal from office reasons, and process of approving members to each committee.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to introduce Ordinance 2020-01, changes to Chapter 26 Code of Ethics, in the Town Code. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert, to introduce Ordinance 2020-02, changes to Chapter 43, Parks Committee, in the Town Code. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to introduce Ordinance 2020-03, changes to Chapter 51, Planning Commission, in the Town Code. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

Public hearings will be held at the February 26, 2020 Town Meeting.

5. REBID OF YARD WASTE CURB SIDE PICK UP

Commissioners were notified that this service has been rebid as no bids were received.

6. SIDEWALK REPAIR SPECIFICATIONS - DISCUSSION

This item was moved to the February 12, 2020 meeting agenda. Commissioners will review code provided from the City of Annapolis and the City of Frederick. Specifications for sidewalk repair in old town Walkersville will be developed and added to the Design Manual.

7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND DECEMBER 2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to accept the General Fund and Water Fund financial statements for December 2019. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to pay the attached bills. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

8. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Michael Bailey notified everyone to expect more revisions in the Town Code.

Commissioner Bailey reported that there are still citizen concerns about the removal of rock noise occurring during the Rock Creek School construction.

Commissioner Bailey reported that he is exploring online billing for resident water bills with the City of Brunswick. He noted that our water billing staff will reach out to our current water billing software provider, CUSI, for a solution.

CITIZEN COMPLAINT – Ms. Kara Lubold, 113 Ports Circle, registered her complaint and dismay at the site construction noise at the new Rock Creek School. She noted that it is unbearable and that since the second week of December it has been occurring all day, every day. It can be heard from every room in her house. She reported that noise impacts humans and pets and she is increasingly concerned. She wants the Town to communicate with FCPS to get the problem resolved and asked if blasting has been considered. Ms. Hauver reported that blasting is not forbidden, but during the planning phase of the project, FCPS noted that they did not need to blast. They would need to bring a blasting plan before the Planning Commission for approval. Ms. Hauver is meeting with the FCPS construction team tomorrow.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis reported that bidders have been notified that the Town is soliciting bids for the bank barn stabilization project.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis informed the Burgess and Commissioners of the Docs in the Park program in the Frederick County parks. It involves obtaining a booklet and etchings from various parks. She is looking into implementation of the program in the Town's parks.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis reported that the Town will be applying for Program Open Space funding for a path to be paved to the new playground equipment to be installed in Community Park.

Commissioner John Zimmerman asked Ms. Hauver the status of resolving the large puddle on Biggs Ford Road. She reported that we are still working on moving telephone poles at the Escobar property and the widening and paving of the road.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert reported that he has been working with Mr. DePaola regarding estimates for the repaving of Biggs Ford Road so that amounts are available for the FY 2021 budget.

Commissioner Gilbert reported that the water flow to Spring Gardens has diminished and asked staff to see how that can be improved.

Commissioner Gilbert discussed the fact that Walkersville was the only municipality in Frederick County that remained open during the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. He noted that currently Town staff receives the day as a floating holiday, but he would like to honor Dr. King by closing, same as everyone else.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Bailey, to close the Town Hall on Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday as an official closed holiday. The motion passed by a vote of 3-1, with Commissioner John Zimmerman in opposition.

Commissioner Gilbert reported complaints of traffic at Walkersville High School and kids walking in the street. TFC Jeremy Wills will pass the concern along to the resident troopers and they will monitor the situation when they are on duty.

Commissioner Gilbert reminded everyone that the 2020 Census is coming up and mailed surveys will go out mid-March. He encourages everyone to participate.

Commissioner Gilbert noted that he would like to hold workshops for the Commissioners to work on the upcoming budgets for the General Fund and the Water Fund, explaining that he feels the current process is awkward.

Burgess Chad Weddle reported the perk test for the new Heritage Farm Building is scheduled for January 23rd. He reported that the fence is now up at the closed mulch pile site and trail cameras are being installed.

Ms. Hauver reported that the approved stormwater study has begun and that surveyors are out and about throughout the Town. Letters will be going out to property owners with storm drains so that they can be notified properly.

Ms. Hauver reported that the bid documents are ready for the right turn in/right turn out project at Fountainrock Road and Rt. 194. She will be working with the town's accountant/contract manager to get the project advertised.

Mr. Bob DePaola reported that solar panels on the Town's new water plant will not qualify for the 26% credit and that the Town would need to enter into a power purchase agreement. The Town staff is working on the possibility of entering into a power purchase agreement.

Burgess Weddle read the following announcements:

- Tues., Jan. 28, 7:30 – Planning Meeting
- Weds., Feb. 5, 7:30 – Parks Committee
- Tues., Feb. 11, 7:30 – Planning Workshop
- Weds., Feb. 12, 7:30 – Town Meeting
- Tues., Feb. 25, 7:30 – Planning Commission
- Weds., Feb. 26, 7:30 – Town Meeting including 3 public hearings

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mike Rice, GVAA President, announced that he would not be running for President in the upcoming GVAA election. He reported that the GVAA election will be held March 18, 2020 and he encouraging people to run for office in the organization. The next meeting of GVAA will be held February 19, 2020 at 8:00 p.m. and attendance is encouraged for anyone interested in the Walkersville feeder area.

Dick Brady, Chairperson of the Planning Commission, 13 Kenneth Drive, reported on his campaign to rename the Rock Creek School to Fountain Rock School. He reported on his various letters and meetings chronologically, ending up with a meeting to be held February 26, 2020 at 3:00 p.m. to discuss the naming of the school. Ms. Hauver, Commissioners Gilbert, Brodie-Ennis, and Bailey plan to attend in support of the renaming.

The next Town meeting will be Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.
Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Gloria Long Rollins, Town Manager