

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
June 24, 2020

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners 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, Communications Specialist Samantha Fowle, and 7 citizens. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live. Commissioner Michael Bailey was not present.

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 June 10, 2020, with an amendment to pg. 3 regarding the Veterans' Committee and Adopt a Highway. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

2. DISABILITY OPTIONS AND INFORMATION

The decision to offer short and long term disability coverage to employees is postponed until the July 8, 2020 town meeting.

3. PARKSIDE REQUEST FOR STREET CLOSURE PERMIT

The Town received a request from the HOA of Parkside to close off the entrance to the development on July 3 to host a block party. Several commissioners expressed their concern about the precedence set by doing this, especially on the night of the Town's fireworks.

Commissioner John Zimmerman made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to not allow the neighborhood closure of Parkside, i.e. no permit to close the entrance on July 3rd. The motion passed by a vote of 3-1, with Commissioner Michael McNiesh in opposition.

4. JULY 3 COMMUNITY EVENT DISCUSSION

Burgess Weddle explained that in light of the cancellation of the Walkersville Firemen's Carnival, and the prior approval of funds to spend for special fireworks, the following July 3rd town sponsored activity is planned:

- Limited food sales at the carnival ground, including pizza and chicken nuggets in the fire department building
- Pre-packaged ice cream treats and sodas will be sold in the food building
- The committed band will play as the fire company already booked them.
- People will be encouraged to stay in their cars on the carnival grounds to watch the fireworks, along with social distancing and mask wearing for the event. The rain date for the fireworks will be 7/4/2020.

Burgess Weddle asked that the commissioners approve an additional \$1,000 for extra security for the event, along with the \$10,000 already approved.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert, to hold the community event on July 3rd, with social distancing and masks, with Town sponsored fireworks and extra security in the amount of \$11,000. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Donald Schildt came forward to share the following information:

- Bridge dedication in honor of Kenneth Krom will be held 9/18/2020, 10:00 a.m. at the Walkersville Volunteer Fire Company. He requested an additional \$300-\$500 for the Town to pay towards the program, noting there will be food and the dedication will follow County and State guidelines.

- He noted that the Mt. Pleasant event has been postponed until around November (Veterans' Day).
- He reported that the Veterans' Day program will cost the Town \$800 - \$1200, that the speaker is lined up and John Grimes will be helping with the sound and recording as he has done in the past.
- The veterans' bus trip has been rescheduled until 9/16/2020 and the bus company will keep the Town's original deposit rather than refunding and then requiring another deposit to hold the bus. There is still room on the bus if any veteran and guest are interested.
- Mr. Schildt would like to see a commissioner spear head a drug program in the September time frame. He reported that Walkersville still has a serious drug problem rather anyone wants to admit it. He complimented the newly relocated principal of the high school, Ms. Tracy Franklin Kibler, noting her helluva job and that she will be sorely missed.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner John Zimmerman, to give \$500 to the bridge dedication program from Kenneth Krom. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

6. PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF APPEALS APPOINTMENTS

Burgess Weddle reported the resignations of Matthew Lubold from the Board of Appeals and Kara Lubold from the Parks Committee. He recommended the appointments of the following:

- Michael Valenti for the Planning Commission
- Jason Bryant for the Board of Appeals
- David Albertson for the Board of Appeals
- Helen Nichols for Alternate for the Board of Appeals

Commissioner Michael McNiesh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to appoint Michael Valenti to the Planning Commission, Jason Bryant to the Board of Appeals, David Albertson to the Board of Appeals, and Helen Nichols as Alternate to the Board of Appeals. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

Helen Nichols was present and took her Oath of Office as Alternate to the Board of Appeals. Jason Bryant was present and took his Oath of Office as a member of the Board of Appeals.

7. PARKS COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Burgess Weddle announced that he wanted to appoint one of the previous 6 applicants to the Parks Committee, particularly Ms. Patricia Rowley.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to appoint Ms. Patricia Rowley to the Parks Committee. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

8. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

9. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis reported that the Town has been allocated \$18,000 of the Program Open Space funds designated for Frederick County development. Plans for Community Park to install a walking path to the new playground equipment, from the covered bridge to the parking lot, and new benches and display board are in the works.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis noted that she has witnessed citizens cleaning up their neighborhoods during this clean up week, June 21 – 27, 2020.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis reported that the new playground equipment is open to the public and is being enjoyed.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis also reported that helping with the installation of the new water filters at the under-construction water plant was an amazing experience.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis reported that the Heritage Farm Park building under construction is looking good. She also reported that the bank barn stabilization project should begin in about 3 weeks. Owners of furniture in the barn have been notified to remove it so that work can begin. Owners have rented a storage unit to place on Town property and store the removed furniture.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh reported that the Glade Watershed sign located on Rt. 194 is leaning over.

Commissioner McNiesh asked the status of the right turn only project at Fountainrock Road and Rt. 194. A pre-construction meeting will be set up with Mr. DePaola.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh reported that the only complaint he's had regarding the new playground equipment is the need for benches. These will be installed with the new Program Open Space funds designated for Community Park.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh also reported that working installing the filters at the new water plant was amazing.

Ms. Susan Hauver reported that the Planning Commission will resume its meetings on July 14, 2020. The Planning Commission will review the results of the Survey Monkey survey and will continue working on the Comprehensive Plan. On August 1, 2020 the Commission will began soliciting information from property owners requesting changes to their property zoning or the Comprehensive Plan. There will be another Planning Commission meeting on July 28, 2020 and the Board of Appeals hearing regarding a variance requested by Dollar General will be held on August 4, 2020.

Ms. Gloria Rollins reported on the steps taken to date to hire the next Town Manager. She also reported that the purchase of Sprint by T-Mobile will probably change our current lease agreements with carriers on the Crum water tower.

Mr. Bob DePaola thanked everyone for their help installing filters at the new water plant. He reported that Mr. Movahed reported that ours was only the 2nd system to not have to take an improperly installed membrane out. With guidance, the new plant will attempt a start next week. Mr. DePaola noted that he has paper NPDES forms available for reporting illegal discharges about Town. He also encouraged those participating in the Town clean up week to post photos on Facebook so that we can report this on our MS4 permit renewal.

Burgess Chad Weddle reviewed the following emailed questions:

- A request for the status of the sidewalk to be installed along Biggs Ford Road in front of Parkside. We are currently working on moving the poles along the road so that a sidewalk can be installed.
- A report that the bridge by the tennis courts in Community Park is slippery. It needs to be power washed and have stain and grit installed. Parks maintenance will be notified.

The Parks Committee will meet Tuesday, June 30, 2020 and will also be streamed on Facebook Live.

The next Town meeting will be Wednesday, July 8, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. and the next Planning Commission meeting will be July 14, 2020.

Burgess Weddle wished Mr. George Fisher a happy, belated Happy 100th Birthday (on June 21, 2020!).

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Gloria Long Rollins, Town Manager