

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
July 8, 2020

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Michael Bailey, Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, Michael McNiesh (7:35), and John Zimmerman, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Bob DePaola, Town Manager Gloria Long Rollins, Communications Specialist Samantha Fowle, and 3 citizens. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live.

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 John Zimmerman, to approve the Town meeting minutes of June 24, 2020. The motion passed by a vote of 3-0-1, with Commissioner Michael Bailey abstaining.

2. PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

Burgess Weddle recommended the reappointment of Michael Kuster to the Planning Commission.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to reappoint Michael Kuster to the Planning Commission. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

3. SWEAR IN PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF APPEALS APPOINTEES

Burgess Weddle read the Oath of Office to appointee David Albertson, to the Board of Appeals. Mr. Albertson took the oath. There was no appointee present to be sworn in to the Planning Commission.

4. REPORT ON JULY 3 COMMUNITY EVENT

Burgess Weddle reported that the July 3 event was successful. The band played from 7 – 9 p.m., there was food available, tip jars, and cash bingo. The event grossed \$ 6,377, with a projected net of \$ 3,000 – 4,000. He was very pleased that the carnival grounds never got overwhelmed and there was a good fireworks show. It was a nice, positive event for the community. The fire company plans to buy a new fire engine for \$ 725,000 and thanked the Town for sponsoring the event.

5. KEYSTONE POWER HOLDINGS, LLC SOLAR PRESENTATION

Mr. Anthony Fotopoulos, of Keystone Power Holdings, LLC handed out a report proposing areas and costs for the Town to utilize solar around Community Park and the Town's Public Works. Public Works Director Bob DePaola was directed to investigate the possibility of installing solar panels atop the newly constructed water plant. The only interested response was from Keystone Power Holdings, LLC and all respondents reported that installation on the new water plant was not viable. Mr. Fotopoulos suggested that the Town should switch to a third party supplier even if it doesn't select this solar proposal, stating that we are overpaying by buying from our current provider of electricity. Commissioners will continue to investigate options for power savings.

6. UPDATE THE WALKERSVILLE BUSINESS AND AREAS OF INTEREST MAP

Suggestions were made for updating the brochure and map to be handed out with the Town of Walkersville Welcome packages. Starting August 1st the Town will be utilizing information provided on the Water Fund settlement sheets and sending Welcome packets to new residents.

7. UPDATE ON INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR TOWN MANAGER POSITION

Burgess Weddle reported that there will be 3 interviews held on Tuesday, July 7th, and 4 interviews held on Friday, July 10th.

8. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

9. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Michael Bailey passed out his ordinances with revisions for Town Code Chapter 51, Planning Commission, Chapter 43, Parks Committee, and Chapter 26, Code of Ethics. These revisions will be introduced at an August 2020 meeting, after they have been sent to all the committee/commissions involved and input received.

Commissioner Michael Bailey reported that a resident wants a phone # for the police (Maryland State Resident troopers). Burgess Weddle reviewed the process for contacting police via 911 if there is a police emergency or calling the Frederick Barrack at 301-600-4151, if not an emergency. He recommended not using the phone # designated for the police office downstairs, as, depending on schedules, it may be days or weeks before the message is retrieved. Burgess Weddle will email a request to the Barrack and cc. Commissioner Bailey regarding the possibility of getting a duty phone for the police.

Commissioner Bailey asked if the solar facilities are allowed in the Town Comprehensive Plan. Commissioners Bailey and Brodie-Ennis will discuss where the solar panels can go within the Town.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh reported that a citizen wants a mirror installed at Frederick Street and Main Street, as vision is blocked by the parking, making it difficult to make a right hand turn. Commissioners and staff were having difficulty understanding the problem so we will research and find out what is meant.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh reported that, per Joe Kelly, the sidewalk between Solar Drive and Glade Avenue ranks 8th with Frederick County to be connected with access given to Glade Elementary.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert reported that the grass growing in the roadway on Frederick Street is unsightly and could the Town do something about it. Mr. DePaola reported that the Town has 2 licensed sprayers of pesticides on staff and he will check with them regarding the possibility/rules for spraying weeds in the roadway.

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 Gilbert also reported that the grass at the holding pond, by the jewelry store, along Rt. 194 and Frederick Street (owned and maintained by SHA) needs to be mowed and cleaned up.

Commissioner John Zimmerman asked Ms. Hauver regarding issues at the old hardware store, i.e. the used appliance store. She reported that the Code Enforcement Officer is working on the issues and she will follow up with him.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis thanked employees Kelly Wood and Robbie Norwood for their work emptying the barn at Heritage Farm Park so that the rehabilitation project could be started.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis reported that Parks Committee member Jay Lochner is the new Parks Committee chair and is doing a fantastic job.

Burgess Weddle reiterated that 301-600-4151 is the number to call for the Maryland State Police Frederick Barrack and to PLEASE CALL 911 FOR AN EMERGENCY!!!!

Burgess Weddle reminded everyone of the Town-sponsored shred event from 9 a.m. – 12 noon, this Saturday, July 11, 2020. Options are to enter from Frederick Street, unload your own car and watch your items being shredded, or wait in line and allow volunteers to unload your car and shred or place on a pile

for shredding later in the day during lulls in the line. A list of acceptable and unacceptable items is posted on All-Shred's website.

Commissioner Michael Bailey encouraged citizens to check out the Town's new Twitter account and postings.

Burgess Chad Weddle reviewed the following announcements:

- The census is 80% completed.
- Two new troopers have started with the Town's resident trooper program, Trooper Brad Zimmerman and Trooper James Blumenauer.
- Noted that Governor Hogan announced phone number 240-466-4488 for Covid-19 tracing.
- The western most bridge at Community Park needs attention as it is slippery when wet.
- The status of the sidewalk the Town plans to build along Devilbiss Bridge Road is on hold until legal issue with a property owner are resolved.
- Talk of the Town town newsletter is available on-line and hard-copy upon request.
- Planning Commission meetings are July 14 and July 28.
- Board of Appeals is scheduled for August 4, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Hauver reviewed the following Planning Commission meeting dates:

- 7/14/20 – Work on Comprehensive Plan and review survey results
- 7/15/20 – Board of Appeals orientation with Town Attorney
- 7/23/20 – Continuation of Frederick County Board of Appeals Walkersville Watershed case
- 7/28/20 – Agenda still in progress

Ms. Hauver also noted that there is a temporary delay in the construction of Dunkin' Donuts.

Mr. DePaola reported the approval was received today from MDE to use the new water treatment plant. Plans to start it up tomorrow are in place. He noted it will take about a week to notice any difference.

Commissioner Michael Bailey reported that he will look into the company Shorescan for scanning the Town's records and emptying file cabinets.

Burgess Weddle reminded everyone of the Town's year-round water ban with no watering allowed between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Bailey, to hold a closed legal meeting. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis in opposition.

The next Town meeting will be Wednesday, August 12, 2020, 7:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Gloria Long Rollins, Town Manager