

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
August 26, 2020

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, August 26, 2020, 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(s) Gloria Long Rollins and Sean Williams, Communications Specialist Samantha Fowle, and 9 citizens. The meeting was also streamed on Facebook Live.

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence was made for the victims of the fires in California and the hurricane that was due to hit Texas.

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, to approve the Watershed Meeting minutes, the Town meeting minutes and the Closed meeting minutes of August 12, 2020 with corrections. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

2. CITIZEN REQUEST – SUNNY ROBINSON

Local business owner, Sunny Robinson described the hardships she has had brought on by Covid-19 and her concerns with the decision to follow County Executive Jan Gardner’s delay in reopening hair and nail salons in May 2020. Ms. Robinson requested Walkersville consider hiring a local, independent health advisor for future health concern matters that affect the town. Ms. Robinson additionally requested some way in which local citizens could have input on those decisions.

Burgess Weddle advised that he and the Commissioners will look into the legality of hiring an independent Health Advisor for the Town.

3. WATERSHED UPDATE

Ms. Hauver discussed the upcoming meeting with the Frederick County Board of Appeals on Thursday, August 27 and provided the list of proposed conditions Walkersville was willing to grant in the hopes of gaining approval. Potential changes to hunting was discussed as an additional option. Mr. Tim Hasenei requested to speak, discussed his use of the watershed and answered numerous questions from the commissioners. Rick Boyer also discussed hunter safety.

The Commissioner thanked the citizens for their time and agreed not to make any changes to hunting at the Watershed.

4. PARKS UPDATE

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis revisited the discussion from the previous Town Meeting discussed obtaining several quotes (\$450, \$825, and \$1,000 per court) to convert the tennis courts for pickle ball using paint/tape.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert to allow the Parks Commission to make the decision on which contractor to use and were given the approval to spend up to \$900 per court, provided paint is used. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis discussed the estimated cost to install the gates at Creamery Park would total \$2,397.

Burgess Weddle said it was within his approval authority and agreed to the estimate.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis discussed potentially putting in a dumpster at Heritage Park for clean up at the end of the gardening season.

Burgess Weddle advised that a dumpster would be made available or J&J Trash will pick up the waste similar to the Town's Yard Waste disposal

5. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Tom Gilbert confirmed that the Veterans Bus Trip to Washington DC was cancelled. A request was made to publish the cancellation on the Walkersville Facebook page

Commissioner Gilbert requested the old yard waste signs that had been placed around town be removed. Burgess Weddle agreed and advised the signs would be removed.

Commissioner Gilbert, per request from Commissioner Michael Bailey from the previous Town Meeting, did drive on Ports Circle to test the speed limit. He noted no speed limit or children at play signs.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver discussed the suggested placement by Wilson T. Ballard Company for the crosswalk on Sandstone Drive. Commissioner Michael Bailey and Commissioner Michael McNiesh agreed on the proposed placement.

Public Works Director Bob DePaola requested the purchase of a new 8 and a half ft, V blade snow plow. Two estimates were obtained, a steel blade for \$6,600 or a stainless steel blade for \$7,100.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael McNiesh, to approve the purchase of the stainless steel snow blade for up to \$7100. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0

Director DePaola also reported the bid opening for Biggs Ford Road Paving

Director DePaola reported all the fire hydrants are being checked to confirm correct pressure in all new developments. The fire company had an issue with one of the fire hydrants recently when there was a fire at a home in Spring View Estates.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert asked Director DePaola how the new water plant was running. Director DePaola advised the plant is running well and they are still working on some small programming glitches. He also discussed that while the new plant does soften the water some that it is *not* recommended for residents to remove the water softeners from homes, but that it may be possible to make adjustments to the softeners and not use as much salt.

Commissioner Michael Bailey inquired if solicitors going door to door need a permit and if the permit is to be visible. It was confirmed that all door to door solicitors need to have a town permit and that it should be presented if anyone asks to see it. If someone is soliciting and does not have a permit, refuses to provide proof of the permit or is acting suspicious, please immediately contact law enforcement.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael McNiesh, to introduce Ordinance 2020-10 revising Chapter 26 of the Town Code, Code of Ethics. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

Commissioner Bailey agreed with Commissioner Gilbert's prior comment about the need for better speed signage on Ports Circle but had concerns with the 25 MPH limit being too high.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael McNiesh, to designate Ports Circle a School Zone. After a long discussion, Commissioner Bailey requested the motion be withdrawn. Suggestions to address the speed concerns were to install a Speed Limit sign and a Children at Play sign, relocate the No Outlet sign, have the homeowners association discuss concerns with the neighbors that may be speeding, and look in to having a speed bump/hump installed.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert advised the motion passed regarding Long Term disability insurance at the August 12th meeting was based on an estimate of \$5088. Additional research determined that similar coverage could be obtained from Unum for \$4,188.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael McNiesh, to rescind the motion from last meeting and to move forward with obtaining long term disability insurance through Unum at the lower rate. The motion passed by a vote of 4-1, with Commissioner John Zimmerman opposed.

Commissioner Michael Bailey requested a Sidewalks discussion be added to the September 23rd agenda.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis mentioned hearing that the Bridge Dedication Ceremony for in honor of Kenneth Krom on August 18th was well attended and went well.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis stated that since the mulch pile is shut down, Kelly Woods will obtain estimates for the possible purchase of a chipper.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh asked about the status of another Shred Day. Burgess Weddle advised it will take place on September 5th at the parking lot of the Walkersville Fire Company.

Commissioner McNiesh inquired about the status of the right turn only Fountain Rock Rd. Director Bob DePaola advised that he had attended the pre-construction meeting a month previous and they should be moving forward shortly.

Commissioner McNiesh inquired about the status of the "Welcome to Walkersville" signs previously discussed. Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis advised she will work with the sign maker and continue to move forward on the project.

Commissioner McNiesh inquired about the status of having a sixth Maryland State Trooper added to the resident trooper program. Burgess Chad Weddle advised conversations had already started and an official written request would be made.

Commissioner McNiesh requested \$300 be given to the Glade Valley Community Show as they needed to cancel this year because of Covid-19. Burgess Weddle agreed with the request.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis mentioned concerns about spinning tires and kicking up stones in Creamery Park. There was a discussion about paving versus a more porous surface that could be used on the lot.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh thanked Ms. Sunny Robinson for coming to the meeting, voicing her concerns, and agreed that the Burgess and Commissioners should look in to the legal standing for obtaining a health advisor.

Commissioner McNiesh suggested a community flu shot event be held in association with the Walkersville Fire Department in the near future. Burgess Chad Weddle advised there was not a need for a motion, but he would obtain dates and discuss at a future meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments made by any citizens.

7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND UNAUDITED JULY 2020 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael McNiesh, to pay the attached bills and approve the unaudited July 2020 financial statements. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.

8. TOWN MANAGER RECOGNITION

Burgess Chad Weddle along with the Commissioners recognized Town Manager, Gloria Long Rollins for all of her hard work and dedication to the position for almost 25 years. Mrs. Rollins was also presented with a key to Walkersville.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Sean Williams, Town Manager