

MINUTES  
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING  
September 23, 2020

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, September 23, 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 Sean Williams, Communications Specialist Samantha Fowle, and 6 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 Childhood Cancer Awareness.

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Michael McNiesh noted his comments from the September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting should have included the cost of yard waste pickup twice a week late in the fall and the possibility of bulk trash day for yard waste.

*Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis to approve the Town meeting minutes of September 9, 2020 with corrections. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

2. RESULTS OF DRAINAGE STUDY

Bryan Dusza of Wilson T Ballard Company presented the results of the drainage study requested by the Town. Most of the discussion focused on the need to address the culverts at the railroad tracks North of Georgetown Road and the stormwater pipe running Southwest through town under Green Street and Maple Avenue.

3. VOTE ON ORDINANCE 2020-08 – CHAPTER 51 – PLANNING COMMISSION

*Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael McNiesh to adopt Ordinance 2020-08 Chapter 51- Planning Commission. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

4. VOTE ON ORDINANCE 2020-09 – CHAPTER 43 – PARKS COMMITTEE

There was a discussion to change “public lands” in Ch 43-1 and Ch 43-3 (A,2) to Town owned land within the corporate boundaries of Walkersville.

*Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael McNiesh to adopt with changes Ordinance 2020-09 Chapter 43- Parks Committee. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

5. VOTE ON ORDINANCE 2020-10 – CHAPTER 26 – ETHICS COMMISSION

*Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert to adopt Ordinance 2020-10 Chapter 26 – Ethics Commission. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

6. EMERGENCY ORDINANCE 2020-11 – CHAPTER 26 – CODE OF ETHICS

Discussion occurred regarding changes the Maryland State Ethics Commission is requiring of all municipalities. These changes were approved by the Walkersville Ethics Board earlier in the day. Burgess Chad Weddle requested we change to make the ordinance standard and allow for a public hearing at the upcoming October 14<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting.

*Commissioner Michael McNiesh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis to introduce Ordinance 2020-11 Chapter 26 – Code of Ethics. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

7. PROCLAMATION OF HONOR

The Town of Walkersville honored Sean Flegel for obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout on August 26, 2020. Burgess Chad Weddle read the Proclamation describing Mr. Flegel's accomplishments.

#### 8. SIDEWALK DISCUSSION

There was an extended conversation regarding sidewalk improvements, having the Town vs homeowners pay for improvements, potentially having homeowners pay a percentage of improvements, enforcing current code, installing ADA compliant corners, investigating the potential use of grants to pay for the projects, and the need to repair/repave some streets before the sidewalks can be addressed. Burgess Chad Weddle provided information for review regarding recent sidewalk improvements made in Middletown.

#### 9. YARD WASTE PICK-UP

Burgess Chad Weddle advised yard waste pick-up will be extended two weeks and will run until December 10<sup>th</sup>. Pick-up on a second day during the week was not available.

#### 10. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

#### 11. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Commissioner Michael Bailey inquired about the number of potential Water cutoffs that would be occurring on October 7<sup>th</sup>. At the time of the meeting there were a total of 139 residents that still needed to pay their water bill.

Commissioner Bailey thanked Public Works for installing the crosswalk at Sandstone Drive.

Commissioner Bailey inquired about the potential of having the Parks Committee explore the option of turning 180 acres of the Walker Farm in to a district park. There was a lot of discussion involving all Commissioners, Burgess Weddle and Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver about potential future uses of the farm including the option of not altering it. The point was also made that the future use of the farm is a topic being discussed by the Planning Commission as part of the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Bailey was approached by a resident to allow portable tree stands at the Watershed for hunters. Research was needed to check the current Town hunting permit and potentially make a change.

Commissioner Bailey discussed the potential interest to install a temporary speed bump on Ports Circle. After some discussion and acknowledgement that the new signs have just recently been installed, it was agreed to wait to hear additional feedback from residents about the need for any other changes.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh discussed the success for the first two years of the current Commissioner Board.

Commissioner McNiesh discussed his concerns with our current IT company, the Town website, and the Town camera system. The server for the Town office will be upgraded prior to the Town Hall renovation. Much of the discussion revolved around upgrading the website.

Commissioner McNiesh expressed his desire to have all Town meetings broadcast live on Facebook.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis reported having a good meeting with the Glade Valley Athletic Association. Both groups had potential edits to the Parks usage agreement that will be forwarded to the group in the near future.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis expressed an interest in coming up with an alternative to celebrate the holiday season since the annual Tree Lighting has been cancelled.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis thanked the Town staff for doing a great job.

Commissioner John Zimmerman expressed concerns about when the signage would be completed for the intersection of MD 194 and Fountain Rock Rd.

Commissioner Zimmerman also expressed concerns about the condition of the railroad crossing at Glade Road. Public Works Director Bob DePaola advised the railroad had offered to fix the crossing, but wanted to shut the entire crossing down. He will reach out to them to discuss potential future repairs.

Commissioner Zimmerman inquired if the Dunkin Donuts was still being built in Walkersville. Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver confirmed it is still in progress.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh advised due to a shortage of flu vaccines, there will not be a community flu shot clinic previously discussed.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert asked for confirmation that signs may not be placed on land owned by the Town after receiving a complaint from a resident. Signs may not be placed in the right of way.

Town Manager Sean Williams discussed getting to visit the Walkersville Library earlier in the day. Robin Bowers of the Library reported they were able to serve just short of 3,000 meals during their Summer lunch meal program. She wanted to thank the Town for helping to provide funds for the program.

Public Works Director Bob DePaola discussed getting all the small issues with the new Water Plant resolved.

Burgess Chad Weddle advised the gates at Creamery Park will begin getting locked Sunday

Burgess Weddle also made a suggestion to the Veterans Committee to move the Veterans Day event from Five Points to the Carnival ground in order to properly social distance.

## 12. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS / WATERSHED UPDATE

Ron Layman of 24 W. Frederick Street advised the Scouts will be using Gate 2 instead of Gate1 and will be having an Order of the Arrow event at the Watershed in October.

## 13. ANNOUNCEMENTS (unless changed/cancelled due to Gov. Hogan/CDC recommendations):

- Wed., Oct 7 – Water Disconnect Day
- Wed., Oct. 7, 7:30 p.m. – Parks Committee
- Tues., Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. – Planning Commission
- Wed., Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. – Town Meeting
- Tues., Oct. 27, 7:30 p.m. – Planning Commission
- Wed., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m. – Town Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Sean Williams, Town Manager