

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
January 13, 2021

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, John Zimmerman, and Michael Bailey, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Public Works Director Joseph Birch, Town Manager Sean Williams, and 6 citizens. Commissioner Michael McNiesh joined the group via phone. 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 service and sacrifice of Brian Sicknick, Howard Liebengood and all of the Capitol Police.

1. MINUTES

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis to approve the Town meeting minutes and closed minute meetings of December 9, 2020. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

2. GVAA USAGE AGREEMENT

There was discussion regarding the most updated version of the GVAA usage agreement and potential changes. A severability section will be added and sent to everyone. Commissioner Tom Gilbert requested specific representatives be named in the attesting location. Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis discussed the need for the term sports fields should include all appurtenances. Everyone agreed to continue conversation and vote on the agreement during the January 27th Town Meeting.

3. HERITAGE PARK BRIDGE UPDATE

The estimated cost to remove the existing bridge \$4,500 - \$7,500, but Town staff will be able to remove it for under that cost. Testing the load capacity of the bridge will cost \$7,400. There was additional discussion about how best to configure walking paths if the bridge is removed. There was agreement to have a meeting at Heritage Park to discuss potential path fixes in the near future along with the Parks Commission.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Michael Bailey to have Town staff remove the bridge at Heritage Park. The motion passed 4-0.

4. CROSSWALK REQUEST – WINTER BROOK TO LONGLEY GREEN

Public Works Director Joseph Birch advised the request to create a crosswalk joining Winter Brook and Longley Green could be completed by Town staff but would be dependent on warmer weather. The Longley Green side would potentially need to be done twice once paving is completed. Costs for the project and potentially redoing the one side will be provided by Mr. Birch at the next Town Meeting.

5. CHANGE ELECTION TIMES

Burgess Chad Weddle discussed potential changes to the election times for September 13th, favoring a shorter window of time instead of 7 am – 8 pm. The need to change absentee ballots was also discussed. Burgess Weddle advised drafts of these changes would be provided in the future. There was discussion of possible ways to best make changes to the absentee request and how the Town will provide safe, in-person voting.

6. CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

Town Manager Sean Williams advised of plans to move forward with a job posting for a new Code Enforcement Officer. Current Code Enforcement has continued to work during this process. Commissioner Tom Gilbert advised of a few trouble spots during this past snow where locations were not properly shoveled.

7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

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

8. COMMISSIONERS' CONCERNS

Burgess Chad Weddle mentioned the Water Operator pager has been retired and Operators can now be reached directly at 301-880-6510.

Burgess Weddle advised Frederick County is currently in stage Phase 1A of the COVID Vaccine rollout. Updates can be learned by texting FredCoVID19 to 888777.

Public Works Director Joseph Birch advised the punch list items for the Heritage Park Building have been completed per JCS Construction and a walkthrough will be scheduled. Additionally, paving of the parking lot may occur this week.

Director Birch advised there have been four water main breaks in Discovery over the last four weeks.

Director Birch advised the barbed wire on the fence at Heritage Park will be removed by Town Staff in the future.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert thanked the railroad for fixing the crossing at Glade Road.

Commissioner Gilbert thanked Frederick County Schools for quickly removing the fencing on Frederick Street in front of the middle school.

Commissioner Gilbert thanked Public Works for the good job with snow removal.

Commissioner Gilbert requested potentially waiving interest on residents that may receive their water bill late or not at all due to the delays in postal issues. Interest was not charged for bills in December and consideration would be made in cases brought to the Town's attention.

Commissioner Michael McNiesh congratulated Burgess Chad Weddle for being reelected as the Chaplain to the Fire Company.

Commissioner McNiesh thanked the community for the support he received regarding his deployment to Texas.

Commissioner McNiesh thanked the Town Staff for the Snow removal.

Commissioner McNiesh proposed a potential junior member of the Parks Commission for local students.

Commissioner McNiesh discussed concerns of residents of the Gladetown Condos regarding ongoing issues with trash removal and recycling removal. There was a discussion of potential fixes including requiring Gladetown Condos to provide dumpsters, improve communication with residents, receiving larger recycling bins, and a possible future conversation with the Board of Directors regarding the resident concerns. There was a request to have Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver check the site plan and Town code.

Commissioner John Zimmerman inquired if the Town was aware of a sinkhole located in Mill Run. Public Works Director Joseph Birch advised the Town was aware of the issue and communication has occurred with their HOA to repair the issue.

Commissioner Zimmerman inquired why the County did not install sidewalks on Devilbiss Bridge Road. The property is owned by the County and it was not required to install the sidewalk. There is a future plan to connect a sidewalk to Sun Meadows.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis introduced Matthew Lynch of GVAA to discuss a possible future project to be completed by the National Guard. Mr. Lynch advised the National Guard would deploy for

two weeks in June, build dugouts on the softball field, remove a shed, build a more permanent storage facility, and shift the existing scoreboard with the potential of installing electricity in the future.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert to allow the National Guard to deploy to Heritage Park and conduct business at the park. The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Michael Bailey made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis to donate \$1,000 to GVAA for the building project. The motion passed 4-0.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis recounted the success of Light Up Walkersville contest and announced all the winners.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis advised there was a request at the Parks Commission for a dog park. Information will be gathered for a future conversation.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis advised a neighbor mentioned concerns of snow removal for older residents. There was a request made for a potential "snow patrol" for Walkersville.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis advised the desire for a ribbon cutting event for the new Heritage Building.

Commissioner Michael Bailey thanked the Town staff for removing the snow.

Commissioner Bailey inquired about the two lights that are still out on Sandstone Drive. The issue is known to Town staff and requests have been made fix the break with Potomac Edison.

Commissioner Bailey expressed the desire to develop and reform an Economic Development Commission.

Commissioner Bailey advised he will generate questions for review for a Town survey on sidewalks.

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS / WATERSHED UPDATE

Resident Ron Layman advised Scouts are available to assist with snow removal.

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

- Mon., Jan, 18 – MLK Day – OFFICE CLOSED
- Tues., Jan. 26, 7:30 – Planning Commission
- Weds., Jan. 27, 7:30 – Town Meeting
- Weds., Feb. 3, 7:30 – Parks Meeting
- Weds., Feb. 10, 7:30 – Town Meeting
- Tues., Feb. 23, 7:30 – Planning Meeting
- Wed., Feb. 24, 7:30 – Town Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Sean Williams, Town Manager