

MINUTES  
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING  
February 28, 2024

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, Mike McNiesh, Gary Baker and Betsey Whitmore Brannen, Town Manager Sean Williams, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Director of Public Works Joe Birch, Communications Specialist Ashley Bailey, and a total of 8 citizens. The meeting was streamed on the Town's website.

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 Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis to approve the minutes of February 14, 2024 with corrections. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

2. PUBLIC HEARING RESOLUTION 2024-01 STAGGERED ELECTIONS

There were no public comments and the hearing was closed.

There was discussion about the cost of elections and the possible pros and cons to staggering the elections.

*Commissioner Mike McNiesh made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker to adopt Resolution 2024-01 Staggered Elections. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

3. PUBLIC HEARING RESOLUTION 2024-02 2024 ELECTION

There were no public comments and the hearing was closed.

There was a discussion regarding the need for the added sunset clause and a request to add enumerated numbers to be consistent with the Town Charter and Code.

*Commissioner Gary Baker made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Mike McNiesh to adopt Resolution 2024-02 2024 Election with corrections. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

4. PLANNING COMMISSION REAPPOINTMENT – DAVID ENNIS

Burgess Chad Weddle discussed the previous tie vote on the reappointment of David Ennis to the Planning Commission. Burgess Weddle chose not to break the tie the first time the matter was voted in order to confirm the legality of doing so. He explained that per the Town Charter, the Burgess is allowed to break such tie votes should they occur. Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis confirmed that she is recusing herself from the vote.

*Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker to reappoint David Ennis to the Planning Commission. There was no discussion. The motion failed (2-1) with Commissioners Tom Gilbert and Gary Baker approving, Commissioner Betsey Whitmore Brannen opposing, and Commissioner Mike McNiesh abstaining.*

5. PARKS COMMISSION APPOINTMENT – CHRIS RAGEN

*Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker to appoint Chris Ragen to the Parks Commission. There was no discussion. The motion passed by a vote of 5-0.*

*Mr. Ragen took his Oath of Office as a new member of the Parks Commission.*

## 6. CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Burgess Chad Weddle discussed the start of a committee to look at various parts of the Charter, discuss possible changes for review, and the desire to have each of the Commissioner attend or pick someone to attend those meetings. Justin Funk (Commissioner McNiesh), Nancy Kamakaris (Commissioner Whitmore Brannen), Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis (self), Daniel Yeeles (Commissioner Gilbert), David Ennis (Commissioner Baker), Vaughn Zimmerman (Burgess Weddle), and a local business owner were selected to be members of the committee. Meetings are open to the public, but will be treated as a workshop.

## 7. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

*Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker to pay the bills as submitted for the time period. Commissioner Gilbert noted that \$15,000 donations to the Walkersville Fire and Walkersville Rescue companies were paid during the time period. The motion passed 5-0.*

## 8. CHAD UPDATES, STAFF COMMENTS AND COMMISSIONER CONCERNS

Communications Specialist Ashley Bailey promoted the EDC's Pop Up on Penn event and invited local businesses to apply to attend the event on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>.

Director of Public Works Joe Birch provided an update on the follow items:

1. Wilson T. Ballard is close to getting the bid package together for the work to be completed on Green Street. It will be reviewed before it is put out for bid.
2. The first round of water meter replacements has finished up in Glade Manor I & II. DPW is currently working in the Glade Town community.
3. DPW staff started taking down the old playground equipment in Heritage Park at the small pavilion due to hazardous condition of the equipment. The playground should be removed by the end of the week as weather allows.
4. The paving and concrete services contract is currently out for bid. The pre bid meeting is 5<sup>th</sup> of March at 10:00 am.
5. The micro sewer plant feasibility study is ongoing.

Town Planner Susan Hauver noted a public hearing for the comprehensive plan will be held on Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM and hard copies of the plan will be available to Commissioners in the near future.

Town Manager Sean Williams discussed the need to move the State Police report from this evening until the first meeting in March.

Manager Williams discussed a CD the Town holds in the amount of \$850,000 at Woodsboro Bank. The CD has been in a low yield CD for the last few years. The Town had the opportunity to move the funds at no cost to a nine-month 4.6% yield CD. Those funds were moved.

Manager Williams discussed notification from Frederick County regarding POS funding for the coming year. That funding will be less than the previous few years.

Commissioner Mike McNiesh mentioned the recent efforts of Walkersville High School students Abigail Roelke and Luke Daniluck in saving the life of another person and requested the Town recognize them at an upcoming meeting.

Commissioner McNiesh congratulated the Walkersville High School academic team for winning the FCPS Academic tournament.

Commissioner McNiesh mentioned the Walkersville music programs from the middle school and high school noting all seven solo and ensemble students that recently participated in a local competition advanced to State competition in May.

Commissioner McNiesh noted the Walkersville High School will host the US Army Jazz Ambassadors on March 15<sup>th</sup> starting at 8 PM.

Commissioner Gary Baker discussed possible term limits and requested the Charter Review Committee discuss the possible changes.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert discussed the Senior Tax Seminar being held at Town Hall on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.

Commissioner Gilbert provided the Commissioners a trend sheet from the last three years involving Town water costs.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis read a statement regarding her feelings on having a diverse group of people serve the Town.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis promoted an astronomy event occurring on March 15<sup>th</sup> at Heritage Farm Park.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis recently attended a county budget event pushing for potential assistance with a senior center and Town parks.

Burgess Chad Weddle read a letter supporting Frederick County in their attempt to obtain additional funding from the State for the potential widening of MD 194 through Town. Burgess Weddle also discussed potential State funding concerns in the coming years and how Transportation funding may need to come from another source instead of just the present gas tax.

#### 9. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS/WATERSHED UPDATE

There were no public comments

Burgess Weddle read the announcements

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tues., Mar 5 – Senior Tax Credit Seminar – 10am Town Hall Meeting Room

Wed., Mar 6 – Parks Meeting 7pm

Tues., Mar 12 – Planning Workshop 7pm

Wed., Mar 13 – Town Meeting 7pm

Mon., Mar 25 – EDC Meeting 7pm

Tues., Mar 26 – Planning Meeting 7pm

Wed., Mar 27 – Town Meeting 7pm

Fri., Mar 29 – Town Office Closed – Good Friday

Meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

Sean Williams, Town Manager