

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
April 24, 2024

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, Mike McNiesh, and Gary Baker, Town Manager Sean Williams, Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver, Director of Public Works Joe Birch, Communications Specialist Ashley Bailey, and a total of 11 citizens. The meeting was streamed on the Town's website. Commissioner Betsey Whitmore Brannen was absent.

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 April 10, 2024. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

2. RESOLUTION 2024-07 LIFE SAVING RECOGNITION

Burgess Chad Weddle read Proclamation 2024-07 recognizing the heroic actions of Luke Daniluck, Christina Huffer, Abigail Roelke, and Natalee Williams in saving the life of Joan Fairbank on January 28th 2024.

3. VETERANS COMMITTEE UPDATE – KATHY SIXX

Kathy Sixx of the Veterans Committee provided updates for upcoming events that include the ARIA Remembrance May 6th, a bus trip to WWII American Experience September 12th, the veterans picnic September 28th, and the Veterans Day Service Nov 10th.

4. 2024 ELECTION – ELECTION JUDGES

Burgess Chad Weddle requested the addition of election judges for the upcoming 2024 Election with the election times going back to 7 AM until 8 PM. The Town is hoping to increase the number of volunteers to ten so the judges can work in shifts. There was the suggestion to have the Charter Review Committee consider appointing election judges to four-year terms instead of three-year terms. There was no objection to the request.

5. FY 2025 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Burgess Chad Weddle discussed the introductory Budget information provided to Commissioners in the hopes of having the budget formally introduced at the next Town Meeting. There was a short discussion involving projected revenue, some expenses, the Discovery water main replacement using ARPA funding, MS4 projects, trying to reduce expenses, and concerns with some of the long-term projects.

6. FY 2025 PROPERTY TAX RATE DISCUSSION

Burgess Chad discussed the need to advertise for the property tax rate and inquired if there was a desire to raise the current rate. There was no discussion or request to alter the current rate.

7. TRAFFIC CALMING DISCUSSION

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis discussed recent meetings requesting speed bumps on Glade Blvd and other similar requests in different areas in Town. There was a discussion on the

possible addition of crosswalks to slow down traffic. It was agreed to have the Town engineer attend a future meeting to discuss additional options.

8. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker to pay the bills as submitted for the time period. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed 4-0.

9. CHAD UPDATES, STAFF COMMENTS AND COMMISSIONER CONCERNS

Burgess Weddle discussed an upcoming drug takeback day sponsored by Frederick County Health Department on April 27th.

Communications Specialist Ashley Bailey promoted the EDC's Pop Up on Penn event on Saturday May 4th 10 AM – 4:00 PM.

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

1. The Town is getting close to putting the Green Street project out for bid.
2. Meter replacement appointments will start in May focusing on Old Towne, but we are still accepting appointments for areas we have already canvased.
3. Town wide community clean-up week is this week thru April 28th, with bags, gloves, and vests available at Town Hall. Town staff is currently cleaning up along Glade Creek.
4. Once we have received all the required documentation for the on-call concrete contract Director Birch and the Town Manager Williams will formulate a plan and move forward with sidewalk/curb gutter hazards determined and prioritized by the roadway study.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver discussed the Planning Commissions meeting involving the Comprehensive Plan. Another public hearing will occur before returning to the Burgess and Commissioners for approval.

Town Manager Sean Williams explained that \$700,000 was transferred from our MLGIP General Fund (GF) Savings account to our PNC General Fund operating checking account in order to pay for the 3rd quarter Maryland State Police bill which was just over \$500,000. This makes a total of \$2,000,000 transferred from our MLGIP account to the checking account this fiscal year. The total amount remaining in the MLGIP GF account is \$5,008,057.11.

Manager Williams met with Shantel/GloFiber regarding installation of fiberoptic in Town. The Town needs to sign a franchise agreement with Shantel before they would start the engineering/design process. It was agreed to have a representative of Shantel attend a future meeting.

Commissioner Mike McNiesh questioned the need for a public hearing for the Walkersville Rescue Company Written Agreement that was originally on the agenda. Burgess Weddle advised a public hearing was suggested by the Town Attorney. It will be on the next agenda.

Commissioner McNiesh mentioned a possible solution that would be introduced if an off-cycle Commissioner were to be elected Burgess.

Commissioner McNiesh mentioned his donation of salary would be given to a Walkersville PTA to help the middle school start a food pantry.

Commissioner Gary Baker promoted the upcoming Walkersville Day.

Commissioner Baker mentioned he and Commissioner Brodie-Ennis received a letter from Council member Mason Carter supporting their vote on the Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Mike McNiesh inquired why the Town does not sanction Walkersville Day. There was discussion on having the EDC potentially promote the event.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis thanked Town Staff for working on Glade Creek and publishing Community clean up this week.

Parks is looking to upgrade some playground equipment at Community Park using POS funding from the County.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert noted Frederick County recently held an awards banquet and noted Town Trooper James Bluemenauer received an award. Commissioner Gilbert thanked him for his service.

Burgess Weddle also noted John Zimmerman Jr. was inducted into the Frederick County Fireman's Association Hall of Fame, Larry Beard received the Church and Community Service Award, Anthony "Tony" Wilson received the Winona Crum Rookie of the Year Award, Logan Boston won the Charles Deater Apprentice of the Year Award, Bradley Bliven received Firefighter of the Year Award, and Chase Tracey received the Millard Mastrino Instructor/Safety Award from the FCVFRA. Captain Matt Staley also won Frederick County Public Safety Award for Volunteer Firefighter of the Year.

10. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS/WATERSHED UPDATE

Burgess Weddle read the announcements.

Carol Emslie of the Walkersville Historical Society inquired about historical information on former Burgess W. Nelson Stauffer. Town Staff advised information would be provided to Ms. Emslie.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Wed., May 1 - Parks Meeting 7pm
Sat., May 4 – Pop Up on Penn EDC Event
Mon., May 6 – ARIA Remembrance Service
Tues., May 7 – Charter Review Committee Meeting 7pm
Wed., May 8 - Town Meeting 7pm
Tues., May 14 – Planning Commission Workshop 7pm
Wed., May 22 – Town Meeting 7pm
Mon., May 27 – Town Office Closed – Memorial Day
Tues., May 28 – Planning Commission Meeting 7pm

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Sean Williams, Town Manager