

MINUTES
WALKERSVILLE BURGESS & COMMISSIONERS TOWN MEETING
August 9, 2023

The Town meeting of the Walkersville Burgess & Commissioners was called to order on Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. Those in attendance included Burgess Chad Weddle, Commissioners Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis, Tom Gilbert, Gary Baker, Mike McNiesh, 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 6 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 Town Meeting minutes of July 12, 2023. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0-1 with Commissioner Mike McNiesh abstaining.

2. PUBLIC HEARING ORDINANCE 2023-03 – CODE UPDATE

Town Manager Sean Williams summarized the minor changes in Ordinance 2023-03 and Resolution 2023-06 suggested during the updating of the Town Code by General Code. Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver discussed the Planning Commission's approval of the specific items located in the Town Code that require the Commission's recommendation on such changes. It was agreed to change all reference to Frederick County Council to Frederick County Government.

There were no public comments and the public hearing was closed.

3. PUBLIC HEARING RESOLUTION 2023-06 – CHARTER UPDATE

There were no public comments and the public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert to approve Ordinance 2023-03 – Code Update and Resolution 2023-06 – Charter Update. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0.

4. MARYLAND AND MAPLE AVENUE UPDATE

Director of Public Works Joe Birch discussed the installation of sidewalk and curb on Maryland and Maple Avenue. When roadwork begins, Maple Avenue will be one way with no parking on the section that is being completed. Director Birch requested an additional \$64,240.00 for the roadway remediation based on soil samples and the additional stone that will be needed. There was a discussion regarding soil cement. There will also be a water shutoff for 4-5 hours on Maple Avenue on Monday, August 14th.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Tom Gilbert to approve spending \$64,240 for increasing the stone base from 6" to 12". There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0.

Lori Himes of 43 Maple Avenue, 45 Maple Ave, and Abloom Florist located on Maple Avenue advised the workers on Maple Avenue are doing a great job, but expressed her concern with the altered sidewalk design located at Frederick Street and Maple Avenue noting potential issues with emergency vehicles and trucks having issues turning, vehicle safety, and the safety of children walking to school. There was a discussion regarding additional no parking being added, altered center line striping, efforts made with the property owner, addition of sidewalk, ADA

ramps, police involvement, and possible crossing guards when school starts that should address the concerns.

5. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker to pay the bills submitted for the time period. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0.

6. CHAD UPDATES, STAFF COMMENTS AND COMMISSIONER CONCERNS

Burgess Chad Weddle expressed his interest in donating \$2,500 towards Frederick County Goes Purple. There was general agreement.

Communications Specialist Ashley Bailey discussed a special EDC networking event that will be held on September 18th.

Burgess Weddle discussed an upcoming back to school vaccination clinic through the Frederick County Health department.

FEMA approved the Town's updated flood plain ordinance.

Burgess Weddle provided photos of the work completed by Ron Layman at the Manor House and thanked him for his hard work.

Burgess Weddle noted Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver had a meeting on Monday with Wawa regarding the possibility of them opening a location in Walkersville.

Burgess Weddle notified everyone that Dave "Buzz" Bussard will be retiring from DPW in January of 2024.

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

1. The spiral slide at the playground in Heritage Park has been damaged and needs replacing. The Town is looking to replace the slide with a non-enclosed straight slide at the cost of \$7,150. Once ordered, delivery will be 9-10 weeks.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Betsy Whitmore Brannen to spend \$7,150 to replace the playground slide. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0.

2. The Fire Alarm Sprinkler Control System at the WTP needs to be replaced at the cost of \$8,506.00. The system is currently not working correctly and BFPE is recommending total replacement due to a corrosive atmosphere and its reaction to the electronics. The replacement electronics will be placed in a seal tight box (NEMA Rated) National Electrical Manufacturers Association.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Gary Baker to approve \$8,506.00 to replace the fire alarm control system at the Water Plant. There was no discussion. The motion passed 5-0.

3. Glade Towne will be the next location for meter replacements. This replacement is on the outside of the houses so town staff will be entering yards for the replacement.
4. The new walk path in Community Park is completed.

5. New stop signs have been installed at Silver Crest and Kenwood Drive.
6. The Green Street storm drain has been visually recorded and cleaned and that information has been forwarded to Wilson T. Ballard to develop a potential plan for remediation.

Planning and Zoning Administrator Susan Hauver discussed the draft Comprehensive Plan and noted a public hearing is set for September 26th. Citizen comments written and provided at the public hearing will be welcome.

An industrial company is potentially interested in obtaining property in Century Center. Administrator Hauver will be scheduling a legal meeting to discuss the hurdles with that property.

Walkers Overlook will be connecting to public water and installing a new septic system.

There will be a future Public Hearing through Frederick County regarding a historical designation for part of Fountain Rock Park.

Last month, the Planning Commission met with a representative of the new restaurant inside Circle K regarding signage. An additional meeting with the Planning Commission is still required.

Town Manager Sean Williams discussed an email letter sent to Burgess and Commissioners regarding a solar panel company. It was agreed to have staff obtain more information and wait for a few local projects to be completed.

Starting the week of August 21st, structural maintenance work will be performed on the Crum Water tank. The work should take a week to ten days.

The Town will receive \$59,612 for this year's law enforcement grant. This is a yearly grant the Town obtains and is \$13,000 more than last year.

Manager Williams will be out of Town starting next Wednesday and will miss the next Town Meeting.

Commissioner Tom Gilbert discussed National Night Out and thanked the Fire Company, Recue Company, and State Troopers for their involvement.

Commissioner Gilbert expressed thanks for the company picnic.

Commissioner Betsey Whitmore Brannen noted the newly renovated Safeway which now includes local photographs.

Commissioner Brannen also thanked everyone for the Town picnic.

Commissioner Mary Ann Brodie-Ennis thanked the Library, Historical Society, Glamourview Creamery Dairy Bar, and Town Staff for all the hard work with the reopening and dedication of Creamery Park.

Commissioner Brodie-Ennis also expressed continued concerns with speeding along Glade Boulevard and trying to come up with alternatives to speed bumps.

Commissioner Gary Baker echoed everyone's feelings for the Town Picnic, Creamery Park and National Night Out.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND CONCERNS/WATERSHED UPDATE

Bill Butler of the Veterans Committee discussed upcoming events

- August 26th 3-6 PM Veterans Picnic at Heritage Park
- September 13th Veteran Trip to Shanksville PA, Flight 93
- November 12th 1 PM Veterans Program at Memorial Park

Burgess Weddle read all announcements.

Elizabeth Anderson of the Woodsboro-Walkersville News Journal noted The Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County will be holding a Blue Crabs and Blue Prints event at the Walkersville Fire Hall on August 26th 3 PM – 8 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mon., Aug 14 – EDC Meeting 7pm
- Tues., Aug 22 – Planning Commission Meeting 7pm
- Wed., Aug 23 – Town Meeting 7pm
- Mon., Sept. 4 – **Town Office Closed – Labor Day**
- Wed., Sept 6 – Parks Commission Meeting 7pm
- Tues., Sept 12 – Planning Commission Workshop 7pm
- Wed., Sept 13 – Town Meeting 7pm

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Sean Williams, Town Manager