

Town of Walden
Regular Monthly Meeting
March 12, 2024
6:30 PM

AGENDA WORKSHOP

The agenda was reviewed and briefly discussed beginning at 5:15 PM. The following interested citizens were present: Kristin Allen and Logan Faulkner.

CALL TO ORDER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON SPECIAL PERMIT APPLICATION FOR 734 HIGH PASTURE ROAD

Mayor Lee Davis called the Public Hearing to order and invited comments from citizens. There were no comments or questions, so the Public Hearing was adjourned by Mayor Davis.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

CALL TO ORDER OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Walden Board of Mayor and Aldermen was called to order by Mayor Lee Davis. The following interested citizens were present: Joe Robbins, Jr., Laura Jolley, Margha and Joe Davis, Mike Cassidy, Kristin Allen, Ed Jolley, Karen Stone, Betty Julian, Dave Chouinard, Bill Thornton, and Kim Rackel.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Town Recorder Stacy Stewart opened the meeting with a prayer, and Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Town Recorder Stacy Stewart called the roll and noted the presence of Mayor Lee Davis, Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt, and Alderwoman Angela Cassidy. Town Attorney Sam Elliott was absent.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION FROM GREEN STEPS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JIMMY URCIUOLI

Mr. Jimmy Urciuoli reported for the non-profit group, Green Steps. The goal of Green Steps is to help eradicate litter and reduce waste through community education. Green Steps has removed over 15,000 large trash bags of litter since being founded in 2017.

For a fee of \$500 per event, Green Steps will provide volunteers, trash grabbers, gloves, bags, drinks, snacks, and all marketing for the event, including an online registration platform. The average cleanup event volunteer size is 50. For more information, please visit www.greenstepschatt.com, or follow their social media: @greenstepschatt.

Mr. Urciuoli can be reached via email at: jimmy.greenstepschatt@greenstepschatt.com

Mayor Lee Davis asked for clarification as to whether or not the Town of Walden will still provide a dumpster for the cleanup, to which Mr. Urciuoli responded in the affirmative. Communications Director Ellen Young noted that the dumpster at McCoy Farm and Gardens would also be available for use during the cleanup. Mr. Bill Thornton also offered use of the dumpster at Walden's Ridge Emergency Services.

Following Mr. Urciuoli's presentation, Mayor Lee Davis suggested that New Business agenda item #6 be moved up in the agenda for a vote at this time. Mayor Davis also specified that the total cost for Green Steps to organize two cleanups (one for the W Road, one for the Town of Walden) would be \$1,000.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE PARTNERING WITH GREEN STEPS AT A COST OF \$1,000 FOR ORGANIZATION OF THE APRIL 21ST CLEANUP OF THE W ROAD AND THE TOWN OF WALDEN, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

APPROVAL / CORRECTION OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2024.

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2024, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

REPORTS

1. POLICE

Hamilton County Sheriff's Deputy Jordan C. Faulkner gave the Police Report, noting 27 calls for service in the past 30 days. There were also 29 traffic stops and four arrests in Hamilton County on Walden's Ridge.

2. FINANCIAL

The Financial Report, given by Town Recorder Stacy Stewart, is attached as an exhibit to these minutes.

3. WRES

The WRES report was given by Bill Thornton. Mr. Thornton noted that there were 25 calls for service in the last month: 10 fire, 10 emergency medical, four assist to citizens, and one mountain rescue call for a car off the side of the W Road. Mr. Thornton closed by reminding everyone to change the batteries in their smoke detectors whenever the time changes.

4. ROADS AND SAFETY

The report for the Roads and Safety Committee was given by chairperson Kristin Allen. The first order of business was to request an allocation from the committee's budget to purchase 100 "Slow Down Walden" yard signs. The cost is \$6.45 per sign, and this includes the stakes necessary for display.

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE AN EXPENDITURE OF NO MORE THAN \$700 FOR SIGN PURCHASES BY THE ROADS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

The Roads and Safety Committee is also planning on a cleanup day on April 21st, and they will be focusing on washing road signs in Walden.

In closing, Ms. Allen reported that the Chestnut Street speed monitor has been vandalized and is no longer functioning. The company has sent parts for possible local repair, but the sign may need to be replaced or returned to the company for repairs.

5. BACHMAN

The report for Bachman Community Center (BCC) was given by Kim Rackel, Director. She noted that BCC is in great shape financially, and summer camps will begin on June 3rd this year. For a full listing of upcoming activities, or to subscribe to BCC's email updates, please visit the center's website.

There will be an indoor / outdoor work day at BCC on Saturday, April 6th beginning at noon.

Ms. Rackel also noted that BCC participated in Signal Mountain's initiative and became a "Certified Wildlife Habitat." In closing, gift cards are available for purchase at BCC. They can be used for all events at BCC, both indoor and outdoor.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CONSIDERATION OF ADVERTISING RFP FOR PAVING / STRIPING FOR 23-24 FY BUDGET.

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott opened this agenda item, summarizing that Walden recently had a \$438,000 liability forgiven by the state. Ms. Prescott requested approval of an RFP for paving and striping, stressing that the funds must be spend by July 1, 2024.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE GOING FORWARD WITH AN RFP FOR PAVING AND STRIPING, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

2. FIRST READING BY CAPTION OF ORDINANCE 2024-362 TO AMEND 2023-2024 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET TO ADD PAVING / STRIPING EXPENDITURES TO PAVING LINE-ITEM.

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott noted that any time the Town moves over \$15,000 of monies that had been previously allocated, an ordinance to do so must be approved.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2024-362, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

3. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 2024-607 SPECIAL PERMIT 734 HIGH PASTURE ROAD TO BUILD NEW CONSTRUCTION HOME ON PRIVATE ROAD.

There being no opposition to the issuance of this special permit, Mayor Davis asked for a motion and a second.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2024-607, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

4. CONSIDERATION OF ADVERTISING RFP FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR TDEC GRANT – COMPREHENSIVE STORMWATER ANALYSIS.

Mayor Lee Davis introduced this agenda item, noting that the TDEC Grant provides \$685,000 with a \$218,000 match for the Town. The current proposal includes completing all drainage culverts, completing the Signal Mountain water connection, and completing a stormwater audit.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE AN ADVERTISING RFP FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

5. CONSIDERATION OF TDEC GRANT ADMINISTRATION CONTRACT.

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott statement that Southeast Tennessee Development District (SETD) by contracted to administer the TDEC Grant. If approved, SETD would administer the grant, managing all oversight of the project(s).

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO CONTRACT WITH SOUTEASTERN TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT FOR TDEC GRANT ADMINISTRATION, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

6. CONSIDERATION OF PARTNERSHIP WITH GREEN STEPS AND CORRESPONDING EXPENDITURE FOR W ROAD AND SPRING CLEANUP APRIL 21.

See “Special Presentation” on page 1 of these minutes for approval of this agenda item.

7. CONSIDERATION OF DATE FOR 2024-2025 ANNUAL BUDGET WORKSHOP.

Mayor Lee Davis introduces the possible date of April 18, 2024 at 3:30 PM for the annual budget workshop for the 24-25 fiscal year. There is no further discussion, so Mayor Davis asks for a motion and a second.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE APRIL 18, 3:30 PM, AT WALDEN TOWN HALL, FOR THE ANNUAL BUDGET WORKSHOP, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITIZENS

Prior to inviting comments from citizens, Mayor Lee Davis summarized a recent request from Kristin Allen, asking to move “Communications from the Citizens” from the end of the meeting. Mayor Davis recommended that citizens be invited to comment on items up for a vote after a motion and a second. Other citizen comments will still be welcome at the end of each regular monthly meeting.

Mr. Ed Jolley, a Walden Resident, spoke about concerns regarding a neighbor whom he feels has impeded on his property line. Specifically, he noted construction of a treehouse, a storage shed, and placement of a large 25’ camper trailer with electricity.

Mr. Jolley’s request to the Town is for the Planning Commission and / or the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to deal with any zoning violations in an expeditious manner.

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Davis.



Respectfully submitted:
Stacy Stewart



Approved:
Mariah Prescott, Town Administrator



Approved:
Lee Davis, Mayor