

Town of Walden
Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2023

AGENDA REVIEW SESSION

There was a general discussion of the agenda items for tonight's meeting. The discussion was led by Town Administrator Mariah Prescott and Mayor Lee Davis. The following interested citizens were in attendance for the review: Joe Durek, Mickey Robbins, John Barry, Anne Davis, Ted Tumelaire, Kristin and Scott Allen, and Mike Cassidy.

CALL TO ORDER OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

Mayor Lee Davis called the regular monthly meeting of the Town of Walden to order.

The following interested citizens joined their neighbors for the regular monthly meeting: Tim Hilvers, Melissa Nimon, Linda Collins, Harrietta Hereford, Mary Catherine O'Kelley, Bill Thornton, Jeannie Siegel, Winston Robbins, and Thomas Gallant.

Town Recorder Stacy Stewart opened the meeting with a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Town Attorney Sam Elliott.

ROLL CALL

Mariah Prescott called the roll and noted the presence of Mayor Lee Davis, Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt, and Alderwoman Angela Cassidy. Town Attorney Sam Elliott was also present.

APPROVAL / CORRECTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2022, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

REPORTS

1. POLICE

No report.

2. FINANCIAL

The financial report, given by Stacy Stewart, is attached as an exhibit to these minutes

3. WRES

Mr. Bill Thornton, Chairman of the WRES Board, gave an update on emergency calls for the month of December. There were 27 total calls: 11 emergency medical, 2 rescue, 8 fire, and 6 citizen assist. Mr. Thornton reminded the citizens that WRES is made up of volunteers who train on a weekly basis. Their mutual goal is to save life and property. Mr. Thornton thanked the Board for their continued support.

4. ROADS & SAFETY

Kristin Allen, committee chairwoman, reported on behalf of the Roads and Safety Committee (RSC). She noted that Mack McCarley, Town Engineer, met with the Hamilton County Highway Department at the request of the RSC. The highway department approved the RSC's request to place a stop sign at top of the W Road / bottom of Anderson Pike. This will make the top of the W a three-way stop intersection. Traffic coming up the W will be the only traffic that is not required to stop. Mayor Lee Davis recommended aggressive public service announcements precede the placement of this sign.

Ms. Allen reported that Engineer McCarley also recommended that two yield signs be placed at the triangle intersection of Ivory and Chestnut Avenues. The RSC and Town Administrator Prescott are scheduling a meeting with Sheriff Austin Garrett to discuss further enhancement of speed enforcement on the streets of Walden. The possibility of reducing speed limits has been discussed. Town Attorney Sam Elliott stated that any speed limit changes require a traffic study and an engineering basis.

Future tasks for the RSC will be reflector replacement and the creation of an emergency evacuation plan.

5. MCCOY FARM AND GARDENS

Ms. Melissa Nimon reported for McCoy Farm and Gardens (MFG), noting recent successes and ongoing improvements. First, the celebration of the Christmas tree lighting brought back a McCoy tradition that began in the 1940's. It was a huge success, with over 100 people in attendance.

On April 2, 2023, there will be an "Egg Roll" (a race while holding an egg on a spoon) and a picnic to celebrate the spring season.

The annual fund drive for MFG is underway, and donations are encouraged. All money donated to MFG helps with the improvement and upkeep of the public trails and gardens.

The major project of transitioning all power lines from poles to underground is nearly complete. There are only three lines remaining to be moved, and this should occur within the next two months.

Lastly, the Apple Orchard Revival Committee has planted 60 new apple trees.

NEW BUSINESS

1. PRESENTATION FROM NEW ARTIST ANNE DAVIS.

Mayor Lee Davis introduced the current featured artist, Anne Davis. Ms. Davis has been a resident of the mountain for 40 years, and she has several connections to the Town of Walden. Her husband's family was part of the "Walden" family from Stinking Creek, Tennessee. In the 1989's, Ms. Davis began reading about Walden artist Emma Bell Miles. Twenty years later, she read "Spirit of the Mountains," and was inspired by it. She has continued to research the life and art of Ms. Miles, and she pushed an Emma Bell Miles celebration at McCoy Farm and Gardens – which occurred in 2009. Ms. Davis has visited several sites on the mountain that Ms. Miles loved. In closing, Ms. Davis said that she loves everything about the mountain, and so she paints it.

2. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2023-582, ESTABLISHING TERM AND APPOINTMENT TO THE TOWN OF WALDEN, TENNESSEE, BOARD OF APPEALS FOR TOM COFER.

Mayor Lee Davis summarized that this is the Board of Zoning Appeals, made up of five members serving five-year terms. He noted that Mr. Cofer has served the committee well, and that he sees no issues with extending his appointment. Town Attorney Sam Elliott noted that this board primarily hears and votes on variance applications. This board, therefore, is a quasi-judicial entity,

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2023-582, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

3. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2023-583, APPROPRIATION OF \$92,000 DONATION TO MCCOY FARM AND GARDENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2023-583, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

4. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2023-584, APPROPRIATION OF \$55,000 DONATION TO BACHMAN COMMUNITY CENTER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2023-584, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

5. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2023-585, APPROPRIATION OF \$51,000 DONATION TO WALDEN'S RIDGE CIVIC LEAGUE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2023-585, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

6. APPOINTMENTS OF WALDEN CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt summarized the new members to the Budget, Environmental, and Parks and Recreation Committees, noting that there are no new members to the Roads and Safety Committee. She further noted that the board is working on creating a consistent set of rules for future committee appointments. Alderwoman Angela Cassidy commended Mayor Lee Davis for creating these advisory committees. A list of the committees with new members is attached as an exhibit to these minutes.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE ALL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

7. CONSIDERATION / APPROVAL OF ARPA ALLOCATION LIST

Mayor Lee Davis stated that these are federal monies, part of the ARPA relief funds. A list of the recommended final allocations is attached as an exhibit to these minutes.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FINAL ARPA ALLOCATIONS, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

8. CONSIDERATION / APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR PURCHASE OF TOWN TRACTOR.

Mayor Lee Davis asked Town Administrator Mariah Prescott to summarize the bids and her recommendation. Ms. Prescott stated that she recommends purchase of the Kubota tractor and attachments. While this was actually the middle-priced bid, she feels that the higher horsepower and longevity of this brand is well worth the cost. Further, Kubota of Chattanooga offers on-site maintenance.

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE PURCHASE OF THE KUBOTA TRACTOR FOR THE TOWN, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

9. ANY OTHER NEW BUSINESS.

There is no other new business.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE #2022-352, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 8 OF THE WALDEN MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH ON-PREMISES LIQUOR REGULATIONS.

There were no questions or discussion regarding this final reading.

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #2023-352, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

2. ANY OTHER UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

There is no other unfinished business.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITIZENS

There were no communications from the citizens.

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Davis.



Respectfully submitted:
Stacy Stewart



Approved:
Mariah Prescott, Town Administrator



Approved:
Lee Davis, Mayor