

**Town of Walden**  
Meeting Minutes  
September 13, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

Prior to calling the regular monthly meeting to order, Mayor Lee Davis announced the passing of long-time Walden resident, Joe Robbins. Joe was Mickey Robbins' brother, and he died after complications from heart surgery last week. Mr. Robbins served one term as a Walden Alderman, and will be greatly missed. A proclamation will be announced for the Robbins' family in the next few months.

The following interested citizens were present at the Walden Town Hall: Genero Carnica, Eumbristo Roman, Charles Adams, Winston Robbins, Karen Stone, Linda Collins, Bill Thornton, Mieissa Nion, Margha and Joe Davis, Angela and Mike Cassidy, Thomas Gallant, and Katy Murphy.

Mayor Davis called the meeting to order. Mariah Prescott opened 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 and Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt. Town Attorney Sam Elliott was also present. Alderwoman Sarah McKenzie was absent.

**APPROVAL / CORRECTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 09, 2022, SECONDED BY MAYOR LEE DAVIS, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

**REPORTS**

**1. POLICE**

Officer Gregg Carson noted a relatively quiet month, with the exception of several large trucks becoming stuck on the W Road.

**2. FINANCIAL**

The financial report, given by Mariah Prescott, is attached as an exhibit to these minutes. Ms. Prescott noted that the negative balance reflected in the report is due to the August bank reconciliations have not yet been completed.

Town Administrator Maria Prescott reviewed some line item transfers from FY 2021-22:

- A. \$1,968.92 OUT OF 41000-289 "CONFERENCE AND TRAVEL TO:
  - a. \$16.40 TO 41000-311 "OFFICE SUPPLIES"
  - b. \$530.52 TO 45200-430 "SUMMERTOWN PARKS MAINTENANCE"
  - c. \$1,422 TO 41000-253 "ACCOUNTIN / AUDITING EXPENSE"

**3. CODES ENFORCEMENT**

Mayor Lee Davis reported on behalf of Codes Officer Dan Maxwell. The report is attached as an exhibit to these minutes.

#### **4. ENGINEERING**

Mack McCarley, Town of Walden Engineer, gave the engineering update, which included:

- A. Paving update
- B. Parsons Ln.
- C. Rock wall at East Brow / Sylvan City

The engineering report is attached as an exhibit to these minutes.

#### **5. WRES**

Bill Thornton reported for the Walden's Ridge Emergency Service. Mr. Thornton reported a total of 30 calls for the month of August: 13 emergency medical calls, 5 fire-related calls, 10 "assist-to-citizens" calls, and 2 tree-related calls. Mr. Thornton reminded Walden residents to especially careful when they light their first indoor fires as the cooler weather approaches, and also to change the batteries in your smoke detectors when the time-change occurs.

Mayor Lee Davis asked if he remembered correctly that the WRES had ordered two new trucks. Mr. Thornton confirmed this, stating that two new light-duty rescue vehicles have been ordered. It will be at least 15 months before they are delivered, however.

#### **6. ROADS AND SAFETY**

Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt reported that the Roads and Safety Committee is looking at the possible installation of speed humps (different than speed bumps). Feedback from several citizens indicates that many are unhappy about this prospect. Feedback regarding the new 4-way stop sign at Lake and Ivory has been much more positive.

#### **7. BACHMAN COMMUNITY CENTER**

Katy Murphy reported for BCC, noting that during the summer months they had their most successful yard sale fundraiser to date. More recently, there was a planning retreat for the Board of Directors in order to create a long-term plan for BCC. The next big project will be LED conversions of all the light fixtures at the center. Further, BCC is seeking grants in order to fund an expansion of their already-existing solar energy field.

In closing, Ms. Murphy announced that she will be leaving Bachman in mid-October this year. The Board has planned to initially fill her vacancy on an interim basis for six months.

#### **8. MCCOY FARM AND GARDENS**

Melissa Nimon reported for MFG, updating the Board and the citizens on four current projects.

First, the house will be open to the public on September 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00 PM for viewing of several Gaston artworks. Secondly, the barn restoration is nearing completion. Also, the new "Welcome Station" construction is underway. This will be an open-air station with maps and information on the MFG grounds. Lastly, the electrical lines are being moved underground. This will greatly improve the aesthetics on the property, and also decrease the probability of power loss due to storms.

## **9. CIVIC LEAGUE**

Karen Stone invited everyone to the bar-b-que contest on October 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. There is also an "Anything But" contest, where contestants are encouraged to submit dishes that are anything but bar-b-que. Participants are welcome to sign up to the very last minute. Judges will be coming from Nashville.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- 1. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #2022-349 AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WALDEN, TENNESSEE, EXTENDING THE MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF BUILDING PERMITS AND ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON ACTION ON NEW REZONING REQUESTS IN A DESIGNATED AREA OF THE TOWN OF WALDEN ESTABLISHED BY ORDINANCE #2022-346.**

Mayor Lee Davis summarized this Ordinance, which will extend the moratorium to January 10, 2023. Town Attorney Sam Elliott also noted that the Regional Planning Committee deferred a decision on the Town's request for changes to the Zoning Ordinance.

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #2022-349 AS WRITTEN, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

- 2. CONSIDERATION / APPROVAL OF MARIAH PRESCOTT FOR TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.**

Mayor Lee Davis summarized this action, noting the recent retirement of Fern Lockhart. Duties will now be divided between Mariah as Town Administrator (a job description has been completed) and Stacy Stewart as part-time Town Recorder and Treasurer. These job changes will satisfy the requirements of M-TAS and also our auditors.

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE MARIAH PRESCOTT AS TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

- 3. CONSIDERATION / APPROVAL OF STACY STEWART FOR PART-TIME TOWN RECORDER AND TREASURER.**

VICE MAYOR LIZZY DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE STACY STEWART FOR THE POSITIONS OF PART-TIME TOWN RECORDED AND TREASURER, SECONDED BY MAYOR LEE DAVIS, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

- 4. CONSIDERATION / APPROVAL OF DONALD LOCKHART FOR PART-TIME PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR.**

Mayor Lee Davis recognized Mr. Lockhart's long-time commitment to the Town of Walden. With this new title, he will also receive a boot allowance and a phone allowance.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE DONALD LOCKHART FOR THE POSITION OF PART-TIME PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR, SECONDED BY MAYOR LEE DAVIS, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

- 5. APPOINTMENT OF TIM HANCOCK AS MAYOR DESIGNEE ON THE TPO BOARD.**

Mayor Lee Davis introduced this item, clarifying that TPO stands for "Transportation Planning Organization." The TPO has appointees on the board from many small municipalities. Mr. Hancock has

a background in the understanding of these issues, and also currently serves on the Parks and Recreation Committee. Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt noted Mr. Hancock's positive contributions at a recent Roads and Safety Committee meeting.

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE TIM HANCOCK AS MAYOR'S DESIGNEE FOR THE TPO BOARD, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

**6. W ROAD CLEANUP.**

Mayor Lee Davis announced the next cleanup of the W Road, which will be on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 8:00 AM until noon. Volunteers are needed and encouraged. Please meet at McCoy at 8:00 AM on the 23<sup>rd</sup> if you wish to volunteer. Deputy Carson will assist with the road closing and police assistance.

**7. LOCAL ARTISTS ON DISPLAY AT WALDEN TOWN HALL.**

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott introduced a new program at Town Hall, where we will put a spotlight on local artists. The quilt that was recently displayed in the lobby was a welcome addition, so we want to continue this type of showcase. Our first resident artist, Ciera Paulson, will introduce her art at the October monthly meeting. If anyone is an artist themselves or knows an artist from the mountain, please contact Town Hall if they would like their art to be considered for display.

Mayor Lee Davis recommended that Ms. Prescott reach out to Tim Williams. Though his mother is currently in an Alzheimer's care unit, she created quite a bit of beautiful art that we may want to display. Mayor Davis noted that Ms. Williams created the official Walden seal.

**8. LINE-ITEM TRANSFER OF \$10,000 FROM 41000-999 "MISCELLANEOUS" TO 43100-267 "TREE AND BRUSH CUTTING" FOR W ROAD INFECTED TREE REMOVALS.**

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott noted that the tall tree stumps, brush, and logs that were left after the trees were removed are actually the responsibility of Hamilton County. Ms. Prescott has contacted the County and they are committed to completing the cleanup in the near future.

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE THIS LINE-ITEM TRANSFER, 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. SECOND AND FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE #2022-348, TO CREATE THE POSITION OF TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.**

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE #2022-348, SECONDED BY MAYOR LEE DAVIS, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

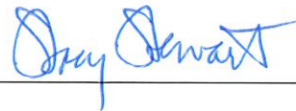
**2. ANY OTHER UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

There is no other unfinished business.

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITIZENS

- A. Attorney Kirby Yost spoke on behalf of her clients, noting her belief that the extension of the moratorium on the issuance of building permits is problematic from a legal standpoint.
- B. Mayor Lee Davis introduced Mr. Thomas Gallant and Ms. Angela Cassidy as candidates for Alderwoman Sarah McKenzie's seat on the board. Mayor Davis thanked both individuals for their willingness to serve the community.

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Davis.



Respectfully submitted:  
Stacy Stewart



Approved:  
Mariah Prescott, Town Administrator



Approved:  
Lee Davis, Mayor