

Town of Walden
Meeting Minutes
November 9, 2021

CALL TO ORDER OF THE REGULAR MEETING

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

The following interested citizens were present at the Walden Town Hall: Winston Robbins, Melanie Chando, Angela and Mike Cassidy, Kristin Allen, Margha and Joe Davis, Jon Cook, Bill Thornton, Anthony Wheeler, Brian Wright, Joe Durek, Mariah Prescott, Mickey Robbins, Linda Collins, Betty Julien, and Clint Kneip.

Fern Lockhart opened the meeting with a prayer, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Fern Lockhart called the roll and noted the presence of Mayor Lee Davis, Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt, and Alderwoman Sarah McKenzie. Town Attorney Sam Elliott was not present due to a conflict.

APPROVAL / CORRECTION OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 19, 2021, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN SARAH MCKENZIE, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

REPORTS

ROADS REPORT

Mayor Davis noted that the W Road would be closed on Sunday, December 19, 2021, for another trash pick-up day. The county Sheriff's Office will coordinate the efforts to close the road safely. This project will begin at 8:00 AM and continue until noon.

POLICE REPORT

No report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Brian Wright, of Johnson, Murphey and Wright, presented the financial report. It is attached as an exhibit to these minutes. There is an "unmodified opinion" overall, which is the best report possible.

CODES ENFORCEMENT

Mayor Davis reported that Codes Officer Dan Maxwell followed up on code concerns at Lyness Avenue, on Palmer Avenue, and with Mountain City Service. Mr. Maxwell will continue to follow up to resolve each of these issues.

WRES REPORT

Bill Thornton reported for WRES, stating that the service responded to 18 total calls during the month of October. These included: 13 emergency medical calls, two fire-related calls, and three “assist to citizen(s)” calls.

Training continues on Thursday nights, and citizens are welcome to stop by and observe any time. On Sunday, November 14. The new fire hall will be dedicated at 2:00 PM, followed by open visitation for citizens until 5:00 PM.

BACHMAN COUNCIL

No report.

PUMPKIN PATCH

No report.

MCCOY FARM & GARDENS

Mickey Robbins reported that McCoy continues to work at moving beyond COVID. The children’s sensory garden is nearing completion, as are the wildflower beds and new equipment shed. In partnership with UTC, McCoy is working on completing an oral history as well. The annual McCoy fund drive will be starting soon, and this year credit / debit card donations will be accepted.

DOG PARK

No report.

LAND USE STUDY COMMITTEE

Angela Cassidy reported that “things are moving along” with the draft Land Use Plan for the Town of Walden. The plan is in the hands of the consultant now, and they have taken into account the comments and suggestions from the citizens. Once completed, it will be sent to the Regional Planning Agency (RPA) for public meetings (date and times TBA) and then possible approval.

WALDEN’S RIDGE CIVIC LEAGUE

No report.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

No report.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Mariah Prescott reported for the Parks and Recreation Committee, noting two upcoming work days: December 11 (9:00 AM) at Mabbitt Springs, and January 15 (9:00 AM) at Falling Water Falls.

ROADS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Kristin Allen reported for the committee, noting that they are in discussion with the town’s engineer regarding potential placement of guardrails and new stop signs. Tony Willingham is working on troubleshooting the speed enforcement signs that are currently not operating properly. Lastly, the committee has recommended enhanced speed enforcement by the Sheriff’s office.

NEW BUSINESS

1. AUTHORIZE EXPENDITURE FOR SHERIFF'S ENFORCEMENT. (KRISTIN ALLEN)

Kristin Allen stated that the pilot project of enhanced speed enforcement will focus on a few problem streets, including but not limited to: Olsen, Ivory, Chestnut, Forest Park, Wilson, and East Brow. This three-week pilot project requires \$960 to pay the deputy.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITION FUNDING OF \$960 FOR OFFICER GREGGORY CARSON, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN SARAH MCKENZIE, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

2. FIRST READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE #2021-341, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF BUILDING PERMITS IN A DESIGNATED AREA OF THE TOWN OF WALDEN UNTIL COMPLETION OF A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF A TOWN CENTER.

Mayor Lee Davis summarized the ordinance and stated that the reason for this is to disallow any building on the portion of Taft Highway that may be impacted by the Land Use Plan. This moratorium will be effective until such time that the Land Use Plan / Town Center Study is completed. Mayor Davis hopes that will be done no later than February of 2022.

Alderwoman McKenzie clarified that this moratorium would be extended until June 1, 2022. There is a provision in the ordinance that allows for relief if there is a hardship regarding the necessity of a building permit. The moratorium does not impact any current use of impacted property.

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE #2021-341, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF BUILDING PERMITS IN A DESIGNATED AREA OF THE TOWN OF WALDEN UNTIL COMPLETION OF A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF A TOWN CENTER, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

3. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2021-550, REQUESTING THAT THE HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION HOLD A LOCAL OPTION ELECTION TO AUTHORIZE LIQUOR BY THE DRINK AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

Mayor Lee Davis explained that this request has come from the ownership of Ayala's restaurant, as they are currently unable to sell margaritas to their patrons. Prior to the creation of an ordinance addressing this, a local option election must be held and yield a majority of Walden voters in favor of this. The next election will be in August, 2022.

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE PROPOSED RESOLUTION # 2021-550, REQUESTING THAT THE HAMILTON COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION HOLD A LOCAL OPTION ELECTION TO AUTHORIZE LIQUOR BY THE DRINK AS PROVIDED BY LAW, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN SARAH MCKENZIE, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN VIA ROLL CALL VOTE.

4. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2021-551, APPROPRIATION OF \$23,000 FOR FINANCIAL AID TO MCCOY FARM AND GARDENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022.

ALDERWOMAN SARAH MCKENZIE MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 2021-551, THE APPROPRIATION OF \$23,000 TO MCCOY FARM AND GARDENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-

2022, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

5. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2021-552, APPROPRIATION OF \$85,000 TO THE WALDEN RIDGE EMERGENCY SERVICE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022.

Alderwoman Sarah McKenzie clarified that \$60,000 of this donation would be for general operating expenses, and \$25,000 would go towards the new fire engine.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 2021-552, THE APPROPRIATION OF \$85,000 TO THE WALDEN RIDGE EMERGENCY SERVICE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN SARAH MCKENZIE, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

6. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2021-553, APPROPRIATION OF \$20,000 TO BACHMAN COMMUNITY CENTER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022.

ALDERWOMAN SARAH MCKENZIE MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION # 2021-553, THE APPROPRIATION OF \$20,000 TO THE BACHMAN COMMUNITY CENTER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

7. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2021-554, REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF THE TOWN RECORDER AND TREASURER POSITION.

Mayor Lee Davis summarized this resolution, noting that long-time Town Recorder Fern Lockhart will be retiring at the end of the calendar year. Fern will be recognized at the December meeting, and her proposed retirement package is covered in this resolution. Mayor Davis further stated that Mariah Prescott will be taking over as Town Recorder and Treasurer as of January 1, 2022. Honna Rogers, with MTAS, will be assisting with this transition.

ALDERWOMAN SARAH MCKENZIE MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2021-554, INCLUDING RECOGNITION OF RECORDER LOCKHART AND HIRING OF MS. PRESCOTT, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

8. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2021-555, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING INDIVIDUALS AUTHORIZED TO COUNTER-SIGN CHECKS IN THE ABSENCE OR DISABILITY OF THE MAYOR OR TOWN TREASURER.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2021-555, A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING INDIVIDUALS AUTHORIZED TO COUNTER-SIGN CHECKS IN THE ABSENCE OR DISABILITY OF THE MAYOR OR TOWN TREASURER, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN SARAH MCKENZIE, 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 PROPOSED ORDINANCE #2021-340, AN ORDINANCE TO REZONE A PORTION OF PARCEL 15, HAMILTON COUNTY TAX MAP 089N, GROUP D, FROM A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT TO E-1 ESTATE DISTRICT.**

ALDERWOMAN SARAH MCKENZIE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE #2021-340, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

2. **ANY OTHER UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

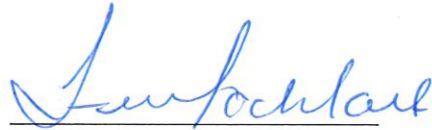
There is no other unfinished business.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE CITIZENS

There are no communications from the citizens.

The meeting was adjourned by Mayor Davis.

SES



Respectfully submitted:
Fern Lockhart, Recorder



Approved:
Lee Davis, Mayor