Town of Walden
Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Regular Monthly Meeting
June 10, 2025

CALL TO ORDER OF THE WALDEN BEER BOARD

The meeting of the Walden Beer Board was called to order by Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt at 6:30 PM. Vice Mayor Schmidt invited the applicant, Mr. Patel, to summarize his application. Mr. Patel is planning to purchase and renovate the closed BP station at the corner of Timesville and Taft Hwy. He wants to sell beer as well as breakfast and lunch items in this new convenience shop.

Vice Mayor Schmidt asked why he was seeking a beer permit prior to the property purchase. Mr. Patel stated that he did not want to invest in the property unless he knew he could secure a beer permit. Alderwoman Angela Cassidy noted that a portion of the application was incorrect, as it listed a commercial property as the nearest residential address. Mr. Patel was asked to correct the application and bring it back before the board at the August meeting.

ADJOURNMENT OF BEER BOARD

The Beer Board meeting was adjourned by Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt at 6:36 PM.

CALL TO ORDER OF THE REGULAR MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Walden Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) was called to order by Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt at 6:36 PM. The sign-in sheet listing interested citizens in attendance is attached as an exhibit (Appendix A) to these minutes.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

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

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES OF APRIL 8TH, 2025

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED MINUTES OF APRIL 8TH, 2025, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES OF MAY 13TH, 2025

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 13TH, 2025, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

REPORTS

POLICE

Hamilton County Sheriff's Deputy Lauren Brooks gave the Police Report. In the last 30 days, there were 15 traffic stops, 1 arrest, and 35 total calls for service. These statistics reflect all of District 2, which includes the towns of Walden and Signal Mountain, and also the unincorporated portion of Hamilton County on the mountain.

FINANCIAL

The Financial Report, given by Town Administrator Mariah Prescott, is attached as an exhibit (Appendix B) to these minutes.

WRES

Mr. Bill Thornton gave the report for Walden's Ridge Emergency Services. In the last 30 days, 39 calls were received: 15 fire-related, 17 emergency medical, and seven miscellaneous calls for service. Mr. Thornton reminded the audience that the dangers of potential brush fires and bee stings will increase over the next few months.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Mr. Lance Pope gave the Parks and Recreation report, updating the audience on the water fountain project at Griffiss Park. Mr. Pope noted that the water meter and pipe have been installed, the fountain has been ordered, and the contractor has been hired to complete the installation. The committee hopes to have the fountain – which includes a bowl from which dogs can drink – functioning by the end of this month. In closing, Mr. Pope noted a positive relationship with state officials who are assisting with the expansion of the Falling Water Falls trail.

ROADS AND SAFETY – REPORT AND FUNDING REQUEST

The Roads and Safety report was given by Ms. Kristin Allen, and she noted that the new speed monitors are in place on Wilson Avenue and Anderson Pike. The committee wants to order 22 road signs that read "Speed Limit 30" to be placed throughout Walden. Ms. Allen requested an appropriation of $3,500 from the committee's budget in order to purchase these signs.

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

In closing, Ms. Allen announced the road sign clean-up date on August 02, 2025. If you are interested in helping, please meet at 9:00 AM at the Little Brown Church.

ENVIRONMENTAL

No report.

BACHMAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Ms. Kim Rackel gave the report for Bachman (BCC), and she noted that the center is transitioning between their school and summer sessions. The floors at BCC have been redone, and the Tivoli Theater

donated some seating for placement in the auditorium. In closing, Ms. Rackel stated that BCC is excited to host the Walden Jubilee celebration in September this year. Town Administrator Mariah Prescott also stated that there is rental space at BCC for hosting birthday parties and other gatherings.

CIVIC LEAGUE

The Civic League report, given by Ms. Karen Stone, is attached as an exhibit (Appendix C) to these minutes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **CONSIDERATION OF FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE #2025-377, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026**

Town Attorney Sam Elliott noted that the tax rate for FY26 must be adopted before June 30th according to state law. An amendment of the adopted tax rate can occur at the August meeting.

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE #2025-377, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2025-626 APPROPRIATION OF $85,000 TO WALDEN'S RIDGE EMERGENCY SERVICE**

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2025-626, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

2. **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2025-627 APPROPRIATION OF $10,000 TO BACHMAN COMMUNITY CENTER**

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2025-627, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2025-628 APPROPRIATION OF $26,500 TO MCCOY FARM AND GARDENS**

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2025-628, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

4. **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2025-629 APPROPRIATION OF $5,000 TO WALDEN'S RIDGE CIVIC LEAGUE**

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2025-629, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2025-630 WALDEN'S INTENT TO APPLY FOR HAMILTON COUNTY COMMUNITY GRANT**

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott verified that this matching grant would mean $250,000 from Hamilton County, with $125,000 added from Walden.

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2025-630, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

6. **CONSIDERATION OF WALDEN PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION FOR HIRING DARK SKY / LIGHTING ORDINANCE CONSULTANT FOR UP TO $5,000 FROM PROFESSIONAL PLANNING LINE-ITEM**

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE HIRING A CONSULTANT TO ASSIST WITH THE DARK SKY / LIGHTING ORDINANCE, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

7. **DISCUSSION ON WILSON AVE LOT 089M A 015 FOR POTENTIAL SURPLUS PROPERTY**

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott stated that a nearby resident is interested in purchasing this property. Administrator Prescott is seeking the authority to get the property appraised. This appraisal would then go to the Walden Planning Commission for a recommendation, at which time their recommendation would return to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE SEEKING AN APPRAISAL OF THIS PROPERTY, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

8. **ANNOUNCEMENT OF W-ROAD CLEANUP JUNE 22**

The cleanup will be from 8:00 AM until 11:30 AM. If you would like to volunteer, please meet at McCoy Farm and Gardens at 7:30 AM.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

There are no communications for citizens.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Stacy Stewart, Town Recorder

Approved:
Mariah Prescott, Town Administrator

Approved:
Lee Davis, Mayor

(A)

TOWN OF WALDEN	ATTENDANCE
Sign in Sheet — Regular Meeting – Bd of Mayor & Aldermen	06/10/2025 – 6:30 PM

Name (Please Print)	Signature	Address	E-Mail
Joe Robbins Jr.			
Kristin Allen			
Linda Collins			
Karen Stone		2611 E Brow	
TED TUMELAIRE		1809 E BROW	
Bl Thornton		WRES	
Rick Cowan		8126 HIXSON SPRINGS RD	
MIKE SUTTON		4609 CHESTNUT	
Grace Mynatt		1458 Palisades Dr	
Kim Rachel	K Rah		
Tavis Chouinard		6332 FOREST PK DR	
B Sullivan		6331 FOREST PK DR.	
Lance Pope		6221 Forest Park	
Mary Ann		419 Glen Way Ave	

(B)

Town of Walden, Tennessee

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget 2024-2025 - FY25 P&L

July 2024 - June 2025

	TOTAL		
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	REMAINING
Income			
31111 Current Property Tax	505,169.85	500,000.00	-5,169.85
31211 Delinquent Property Tax	16,853.63	7,000.00	-9,853.63
31311 Interest & Penalty - Property Tax	3,158.89	2,250.00	-908.89
31511 Utility Tax	11,628.13	13,000.00	1,371.87
31611 Local Option Sales Tax	243,160.53	248,904.00	5,743.47
31711 Wholesale Beer Tax	27,215.81	31,000.00	3,784.19
31712 Wholesale Liquor Tax	3,236.13	4,000.00	763.87
31750 Franchise Tax	17,463.90	30,000.00	12,536.10
33434 ARPA Grant	7,145.73	30,000.00	22,854.27
33509 State TVA In lieu Tax	18,050.04	24,168.00	6,117.96
33511 State Sales Tax	226,944.53	245,644.00	18,699.47
33531 State Beer Tax	833.71	911.00	77.29
33551 State Gas Tax	63,781.98	70,326.00	6,544.02
33554 State Mixed Drink Tax	2,701.75	3,500.00	798.25
33561 State Telecom (city streets) Tax	3,508.27	3,625.00	116.73
33571 State Telecom Privilege Tax	0.03	220.00	219.97
33581 State Sports Betting Tax	4,328.22	3,566.00	-762.22
33585 State Transportation Modernization	792.14		-792.14
36101 Interest Income	158,888.26	162,000.00	3,111.74
37991 Miscellaneous Income	425.04	3,000.00	2,574.96
38010 Permits	1,175.00	3,000.00	1,825.00
38020 Pavilion Rental	6,590.00	5,500.00	-1,090.00
38550 Insurance Recovery	6,150.00		-6,150.00
Total Income	**$1,329,201.57**	**$1,391,614.00**	**$62,412.43**
GROSS PROFIT	**$1,329,201.57**	**$1,391,614.00**	**$62,412.43**
Expenses			
Total Expenses			**$0.00**
NET OPERATING INCOME	**$1,329,201.57**	**$1,391,614.00**	**$62,412.43**
Other Expenses			
41000 General Admin			
41000-111 Salaries and Wages	180,680.14	221,120.00	40,439.86
41000-141 Payroll Taxes	13,776.79	16,916.00	3,139.21
41000-142 Insurance - Health/Life	43,277.27	64,000.00	20,722.73
41000-143 TCRS Retirement	31,049.43	38,460.00	7,410.57
41000-144 Cell Phone Allowance	3,240.00	4,320.00	1,080.00
41000-190 Commission on Sales Tax	2,431.63	2,489.00	57.37
41000-191 Commission on Property Taxes	10,682.68	10,000.00	-682.68
41000-193 Election Expenses	2,000.00	8,000.00	6,000.00
41000-233 Dues and Subscriptions	14,418.14	19,000.00	4,581.86
41000-242 Utilities	10,325.46	12,000.00	1,674.54
41000-252 Legal Expenses	26,411.37	30,000.00	3,588.63
41000-253 Auditing Services	16,750.00	16,000.00	-750.00

Town of Walden, Tennessee

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget 2024-2025 - FY25 P&L

July 2024 - June 2025

	TOTAL		
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	REMAINING
41000-254 Accounting Services	27,900.00	30,300.00	2,400.00
41000-289 Continuing Education	659.00	4,000.00	3,341.00
41000-290 Professional Planning-development	18,385.00	26,385.00	8,000.00
41000-311 Office Supplies	5,092.58	6,000.00	907.42
41000-511 Insurance - General	52,177.50	55,000.00	2,822.50
41000-600 Donation - WRES	65,000.00	130,000.00	65,000.00
41000-601 Donation - WRES Capital Project	20,000.00	40,000.00	20,000.00
41000-605 Donation - Bachman		10,000.00	10,000.00
41000-607 Donation - McCoy Farm and Garden		26,500.00	26,500.00
41000-608 Donation - Civic League		5,000.00	5,000.00
41000-700 Bank/CC Fees	1,007.04		-1,007.04
41000-940 Capital Outlay - Equip	9,276.75	17,000.00	7,723.25
41000-999 Miscellaneous	4,178.14	12,769.00	8,590.86
Total 41000 General Admin	**558,718.92**	**805,259.00**	**246,540.08**
42100 Public Safety			
42100-112 Codes Enforcement Officer	12,050.00	8,700.00	-3,350.00
42100-114 Contract County Police	11,640.00	36,000.00	24,360.00
42100-260 Animal Control	8,577.00	12,000.00	3,423.00
Total 42100 Public Safety	**32,267.00**	**56,700.00**	**24,433.00**
43100 Public Works			
43100-111 Publics Works Salaries	102,892.91	118,175.00	15,282.09
43100-141 Payroll Taxes - Field	7,841.31	9,040.00	1,198.69
43100-144 Cell Phone Allowance - Field	2,970.00	3,240.00	270.00
43100-146 Boot Allowance	600.00	600.00	0.00
43100-240 Repairs & Maintenance	26,904.26	28,000.00	1,095.74
43100-290 Professional Services	119,677.85	210,000.00	90,322.15
43100-320 Fuel Expense - PW	2,351.53	3,000.00	648.47
43100-345 Stormwater Fees	8,899.00	8,600.00	-299.00
43100-600 Garbage Service Contract	210,245.53	226,000.00	15,754.47
43100-940 Capital Outlay - Public Works	21,626.84	43,600.00	21,973.16
Total 43100 Public Works	**504,009.23**	**650,255.00**	**146,245.77**
43200 State Street Aid			
43200-240 SSA - Street Lights	3,763.95	5,500.00	1,736.05
43200-267 SSA - Tree/Brush Cutting	7,800.00	9,000.00	1,200.00
43200-268 SSA - Snow Clearing	14,217.39	15,000.00	782.61
43200-269 SSA - Emergency	19,131.02	20,000.00	868.98
43200-271 SSA - Pothole Repair	431.76	500.00	68.24
43200-298 SSA - Engineering/Consulting	52,210.87	70,000.00	17,789.13
43200-337 SSA - Roads & Safety Committee	3,534.03	8,150.00	4,615.97
43200-342 SSA - Signage	964.56	3,500.00	2,535.44
43200-931 SSA - Paving/Striping	13,136.77	320,000.00	306,863.23
Total 43200 State Street Aid	**115,190.35**	**451,650.00**	**336,459.65**
45200 Parks and Playground			

Town of Walden, Tennessee

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget 2024-2025 - FY25 P&L

July 2024 - June 2025

	TOTAL		
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	REMAINING
45200-290 Professional Services	185.00	7,500.00	7,315.00
45200-430 Repairs/Maintenance - Parks	44,742.79	60,000.00	15,257.21
45200-435 Utilities - McCoy	6,428.51	6,000.00	-428.51
45200-437 Utilities - Parks	1,734.58	2,500.00	765.42
45200-600 Environmental Committee	258.49	3,000.00	2,741.51
45200-610 Walden Native Plants		2,000.00	2,000.00
45200-620 Parks & Recreation Committee	0.00	7,500.00	7,500.00
45200-940 Capital Outlay - Parks	4,166.00	4,000.00	-166.00
Total 45200 Parks and Playground	57,515.37	92,500.00	34,984.63
Total Other Expenses	$1,267,700.87	$2,056,364.00	$788,663.13
NET OTHER INCOME	$ -1,267,700.87	$ -2,056,364.00	$ -788,663.13
NET INCOME	$61,500.70	$ -664,750.00	$ -726,250.70

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Walden's Ridge Civic League Report to the Town of Walden June 10, 2025

Thank you for allowing us to report on recent developments at the Walden's Ridge Civic League.

The long-awaited siding project is finally underway. President Mark Dwyer is leading a crew of volunteers to take off the old, deteriorated shakes from the Auditorium. Under those, they discovered the original boards are pine covered in green paint. This was a surprise, since the only old photographs we have of the building are in black and white. It was no surprise that there is no insulation in the walls.

Stripping the exterior has allowed us access to any problems that might have been hidden. Wiring leading to eight antique sconces gracing the interior walls has been replaced. Any structural issues in the attic and in the basement are being addressed. The unsightly ramp that had been tacked onto the front is gone, and the building is returning to its original configuration.

As a reminder, the 104-year-old Auditorium was built by the mountain people themselves with money for construction garnered through their own fundraising efforts and donations. We appreciate the generous help of the Town of Walden toward the current rehabilitation. To husband the donated funds, we have cut white-oak trees, hauled them to the mill, and had them sawn into lumber that we have been seasoning in a drying kiln we built in the basement. As a result, we have managed to reserve most of the $51,000 set aside in 2021 for the siding project. Labor, except for licensed electricians and other requirements, is all volunteer. We welcome the Mayor and Aldermen to visit the site, especially after 9:00 AM on Saturday mornings, when the volunteers are working.

On May 21st, a gift of replacement seats arrived from the Tivoli Theater. Again, volunteers, including Walden employees Bobby Higgins, Gerald Hensley, and David Lockhart who came to help on their lunch hour, carried all the seats onto the Auditorium stage where they are stored until the old seats can be removed and the floor refinished. New seating and fresh floors are the next big steps we will take.

John Stone, a Scout in Troop 176, has submitted plans for his Eagle Project at WRCL, and the project has been approved by the Board of Directors. He will clean up the area around the old Boy Scout Cabin that had been camouflaged at the back of the property by trees, weeds and brush. His plans include building a deck over the foundation, improving the landscaping, and adding seating. He anticipates completion by the *Smoke on the Mountain BBQ Contest* on October 10 & 11, 2025.

On April 17, we hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Dinner preceding the second Quarterly Membership Meeting of the 2025. We could not have made the progress we have in the last four years without the services of such dedicated Walden residents. Membership in the Walden's Ridge Civic League is open to all residents of Walden's Ridge. We invite everyone to join and to volunteer.

Karen Stone, WRCL Publicity & Membership Chair