Town of Walden
Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Special Called Meeting
September 09, 2025

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION TO LINDA COLLINS

Mayor Lee Davis read the proclamation for Ms. Linda Collins, which is attached as an exhibit to these minutes (Appendix A).

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SENATOR BO WATSON

Senator Bo Watson presented Mayor Lee Davis with a Tennessee state flag, which was flown over the capital building in honor of Walden's 50th anniversary.

CALL TO ORDER OF THE WALDEN BEER BOARD

1. APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL EVENT BEER PERMIT – THE SMART MUSIC PROJECT

Mayor Lee Davis called the meeting of the Walden Beer Board to order. He also noted that the "Smart Music Project" is a Christmas event to be held at Bachman. All necessary background checks have been completed and passed.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THIS SPECIAL EVENT BEER PERMIT, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE BEER BOARD

The Beer Board meeting was adjourned by Mayor Lee Davis at 6:40 PM.

CALL TO ORDER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 2025-383, LAND USE PLAN AMENDMENT

Mayor Lee Davis invited comments from the public. There were none.

CALL TO ORDER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 2025-384, REZONING APPLICATION FOR 2809 TAFT HWY

Mayor Lee Davis invited comments from the public. Mr. Dan Franklin and Mr. Gabe Whitmer spoke in favor of the rezoning and the proposed indoor athletic facility. Ms. Catherine Colby and Ms. Sandy Koss noted that they are not against the rezoning for this address, but they are very concerned about stormwater runoff. Ms. Colby and Ms. Koss both stressed the need for mitigation of this issue.

ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Mayor Lee Davis adjourned the public hearings at 6:51 PM.

CALL TO ORDER OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

The special called meeting of the Walden Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) was called to order by Mayor Lee Davis at 6:51 PM. The sign-in sheet listing interested citizens in attendance is attached as an exhibit to these minutes (Appendix B).

PRAYER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott opened the meeting with a prayer, and Town Attorney Sam Elliott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2025

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 12th, 2025, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

REPORTS

POLICE

Hamilton County Sheriff's Deputy Chad Faulkner gave the Police Report. Since the August meeting, there were 11 arrests, 57 traffic stops, 20 assists to other agencies, 180 calls for service, and 32 district patrols. These statistics reflect all of District 2, which includes the towns of Walden and Signal Mountain, and the unincorporated portion of Hamilton County on the mountain.

FINANCIAL

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

WRES

No report.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Mr. Lance Pope gave the report for the Parks and Recreation committee, and he noted several in-progress projects, including:

- Trail erosion is being addressed at Mabbitt Springs.
- A trail extension is being scouted at Falling Water Falls.
- The water fountain (complete with a dog-watering station) has been delivered and will be installed soon at Griffiss Park.

MCCOY FARM AND GARDENS

Melissa Nimon gave the report for McCoy Farm and Gardens (MFG). Ms. Nimon first thanked the Town of Walden for its ongoing support during the ten years of MFG's existence. She also thanked the MFG Board, and recognized Karen Stone, Joe Davis, Mickey Robbins, and Community Events chairperson Mary Catherine O'Kelley.

- There are several upcoming events at MFG, including:

- "Decorated Tables and China Luncheon"
  - 09/25/2025
  - This will include 18 themed tables with TV show themes from the 50's – 70's.
  - Each table will be sold at a silent auction prior to the luncheon.
- Ten-Year Anniversary Celebration
  - 10/04/2025
  - Festival with multiple activities and music.
- Trivia Fundraiser dinner
  - 10/05/2025
  - MFG is partnering with Pruett's and Chattanooga Whiskey.
  - Quizmaster Andy Tucker will lead the trivia.

BACHMAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Kim Rackel gave the report for the community center (BCC). She noted the following:

- Summer events have wrapped up, and a wide range of programs were offered.
- More family-friendly movie nights are being planned for the future, including a Fall Break "Milkshakes and a Movie" double-feature.
- BCC has partnered with the Hamilton County Schools' transportation department, and BCC is now a bus stop after school, so students are able to be dropped off there for after-school activities.
- The "Rock the Ridge" festival is this weekend, with live entertainment, food trucks, and activities for the whole family.
- The "Fab-BOO-lous" Halloween party will be at the end of the month. Please check the website and social media for updates on BCC events.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **CONSIDERATION OF FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-378, LEVYING A CERTIFIED TAX RATE OF $0.3589 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026**

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-378, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

2. **CONSIDERATION OF FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-379, AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET, PASSED BY ORDINANCE 2025-377**

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-379, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-380, THE LINDA T. COLLINS TREE PROTECTION ORDINANCE DEFINING AND ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS FOR THE PRESERVATION, MAINTENANCE, AND ENHANCEMENT OF PUBLIC TREES**

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-380, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

4. **CONSIDERATION OF FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-381, AMENDING THE ZONING ORDINANCE TO ADD LANDSCAPING REQUIREMENTS IN CERTAIN ZONES**

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-381, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-382, ABANDONING THE UNOPENED RIGHT-OF-WAY KNOWN AS FIRST STREET BETWEEN 1003 AND 919 PALMER AVENUE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WALDEN PLANNING COMMISSION**

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-382, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **CONSIDERATION OF FIRST READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-383, AMENDING THE TOWN OF WALDEN PLAN BY RECLASSIFYING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 2809 TAFT HIGHWAY (PARCEL 089) FROM THE CIVIL / INSTITUTIONAL PLACE TYPE TO THE TAFT HIGHWAY NON-RESIDENTIAL PLACE TYPE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WALDEN PLANNING COMMISSION**

Mayor Lee Davis

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-383, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

2. **CONSIDERATION OF FIRST READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-384, AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP TO ZONE PARCEL 014-00 OF HAMILTON COUNTY TAX MAP 089J GROUP "C" FROM R-1 RESIDENTIAL TO TC-MU TOWN CENTER MIXED USE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE WALDEN PLANNING COMMISSION**

Mr. Justin Cox, owner of 2809 Taft Highway, spoke to the BMA. He has had a water runoff study completed and believes that any stormwater issues will be solved by the installation of multiple rain barrels. He is asking for this rezoning so he can make the existing building into a youth athletic facility. He believes the purchasers will work with him in good faith to make positive changes to better address the runoff concerns. If the rezoning is not approved, he will sell the building to a religious group who will use the building for their worship services.

Mayor Lee Davis asked Catherine Colby to create a "punch list" of ideas to help mitigate the potential stormwater runoff. This list will be considered at the October meeting prior to the second reading.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2025-384, SECONDED BY MAYOR LEE DAVIS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

3. **CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2025-633, INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT FOR HAMILTON COUNTY BUILDING PERMIT AND INSPECTION SERVICES**

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2025-633, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2025-634, EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE DENSITY PROVISIONS OF PLAN HAMILTON AND CALLING FOR AREA-SPECIFIC GROWTH

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2025-634, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

5. CONSIDERATION OF QUOTES FOR TOWN HALL AND PUMPKIN PATCH CLEANING SERVICE

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott recommended that CMS be awarded the contract. She noted that CMS was not the least expensive quote, but they have been cleaning Town Hall on a temporary basis and are doing a great job. They also clean a few other Hamilton County municipal buildings, and their references are positive.

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

6. CONSIDERATION OF QUOTES FOR PUMPKIN PATCH IMPROVEMENTS

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

7. UPDATED QUOTE AMOUNT FOR SPEED TABLE CAPITAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott stated that the quote needed to be amended due to increased shipping costs.

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE UPDATED QUOTE AMOUNT FOR THE SPEED TABLE PROJECT, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

8. DISCUSSION ON BROW ESTATES PETITION

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott noted that the creator of the petition was unable to attend this meeting. One citizen was present from Brow Estates, and she expressed her concern over how the petition (for the installation of a new four-way stop sign) was initiated and managed. Mayor Lee Davis tabled further discussion until the October meeting.

9. CONSIDERATION OF OCTOBER TOWN HALL MEETING DATE CHANGE

Mayor Lee Davis explained the reason for the change – the second Tuesday in October falls during Hamilton County Schools' Fall Break.

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO SCHEDULE THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22nd AT 6:30 PM,

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

10. **UPDATE ON TAFT HWY PROPERTY NEGOTIATIONS**

Mayor Lee Davis gave the update, where he noted that Walden is in discussions with Hamilton County for a possible joint purchase of the 40+ acres on Taft Hwy just across from Town Hall. It is possible that a portion of the property would remain green space and perhaps become a park. Hamilton County is exploring the possibility of a new elementary school with outdoor classrooms.

11. **REMINDER OF WALDEN'S 50TH JUBILEE**

Alderwoman Angela Cassidy noted that the celebration of Walden's 50th Anniversary will be on Saturday, September 20th, from 4:00 – 7:00 PM at Bachman Community Center. The celebration will include barbecue, activities, and live music. Citizens are encouraged to RSVP if they plan to attend.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lee Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Stacy Stewart, Town Recorder

Approved:
Mariah Prescott, Town Administrator

Approved:
Lee Davis, Mayor