Town of Walden
Walden Planning Commission
Regular Monthly Meeting
September 24, 2026
5:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of the Walden Planning Commission (WPC) was called to order by Chairman Tom Bartoo at 5:30 PM. The sign-in sheet showing interested citizens in attendance is attached as an exhibit to these minutes (Appendix A).

II. ROLL CALL

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott called the roll, noting the presence of Tom Bartoo, Angela Cassidy, Jefferson Drumm, Joe Robbins, Jr., and Bill Trohanis. Commissioner (Comm) Dawson Wheeler's seat is vacant and Comm Tim Hilvers was absent. Town Attorney Sam Elliott and Ashley Gates, Walden's consultant from Southeast Tennessee Development District (SETD) were also present. Chairman Tom Bartoo verified the presence of a quorum for the Walden Planning Commission (WPC).

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

CHAIRMAN TOM BARTOO MOVED TO ADOPT THE AGENDA, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY A QUORUM OF THE WALDEN PLANNING COMMISSION.

IV. CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES – AUGUST 27, 2026

CHAIRMAN TOM BARTOO MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2026, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BILL TROHANIS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY A QUORUM OF THE WALDEN PLANNING COMMISSION.

V. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott gave the report, noting that the Dark Skies Ordinance, recommended by the WPC, is now with the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The Public Hearing has been held, but the first reading has been tabled to a future meeting.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS FROM CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

a. New Planning Commissioner – Jefferson Drumm

Chairman Tom Bartoo introduced and welcomed Mr. Jefferson Drumm to the WPC. Comm Drumm has filled the seat vacated by Werner Slabber.

b. Planning Commission Vacancy

Chairman Tom Bartoo noted that Mr. Dawson Wheeler has resigned from the WPC. Chairman Bartoo requested that Town Administrator Mariah Prescott share copies of Mr. Wheeler's resignation letter with the WPC members.

VII. HEARING OF PERSONS HAVING BUSINESS WITH THE COMMISSION

There are no citizens having business with the WPC.

VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Zoning Ordinance Updates

SETD Consultant Ashley Gates summarized the most recent updates to the Zoning Ordinance. The updated ordinance is attached as an exhibit to these minutes (Appendix B). Chairman Bartoo reminded the Comms to send questions, comments, and suggested edits only to Mariah and Ashley.

There was no action taken on this agenda item.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

a. Final Plat for Revised Lot 4 – Hefner Acres

Ashley Gates summarized the memo of findings from SETD (Appendix C). Ms. Gates recommends that the WPC refer the newly submitted draft resolution (Appendix D) to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

COMMISSIONER ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO RECOMMEND APPROVAL OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION TO THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN, WITH AN ADDENDUM OF REQUIRED ADDRESS APPROVAL BY WALDEN'S RIDGE EMERGENCY SERVICE AND NEIGHBORS' INPUT ON THE NEW ROAD NAME, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BILL TROHANIS AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY A QUORUM OF THE WALDEN PLANNING COMMISSION.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Tom Bartoo adjourned the meeting at 7:01 PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Stacy Stewart

Approved:
Mariah Prescott, Town Administrator

Approved:
Tom Bartoo, Chairman