

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

**SWEARING-IN OF ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY**

Mayor Lee Davis introduced Judge Herbert Thornbury, who has just been reappointed to another two-year term as Walden's judge, to swear-in Angela Cassidy. Alderwoman Cassidy completes her swearing-in and takes her seat with the rest of the board.

**CALL TO ORDER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE BEER BOARD APPLICATION FROM KAREN STONE AND CIVIC LEAGUE**

Mayor Lee Davis confirmed that everything was in order regarding this application. There are no comments or questions from the citizens.

**CALL TO ORDER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE #2022-352; LIQUOR BY THE DRINK**

Mayor Lee Davis called the public hearing to order and invited comments or questions from those in attendance. There were none. Mayor Davis adjourned the public hearing.

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

The following interested citizens were present at the Walden Town Hall: Bill Trohanis, Joe and Margha Davis, Mike Cassidy, Herbert Thornbury, Joe Durek, Ed and Mary Catherine O'Kelley, Peter Robbins, Eloise Robbins, Mickey Robbins, Sarah McKenzie, Genie Robbins, Greg and Frances Conner, Jim and Cathy Robbins, Lance Pope, Brian and Kim Powell, Bill Thornton, Gene Robbins, John Barry, Lou Ziebold, Betty Julian, Lee Behar, and Kristin Allen.

**PRAYER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

Prior to the prayer and Pledge of Allegiance, Mayor Lee Davis requested a moment of silence in memory of former mayor and longtime Walden resident Elizabeth Akins following her recent passing. Stacy Stewart opened the meeting with a prayer. Attorney Sam Elliott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2022, ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY SECONDED, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

**PROCLAMATION FOR JOE ROBBINS**

Mayor Lee Davis recognized Mr. Robbins' family members that were present, and read the proclamation for Joe Robbins. The proclamation is attached as an exhibit to these minutes.

## REPORTS

### 1. POLICE

No report.

### 2. FINANCIAL

- 2021-2022 FY AUDIT REPORT – Given by Brian Wright of Johnson, Murphey and Wright. Mr. Wright noted that the Town of Walden is in excellent shape financially. The audit of the previous fiscal year concluded with an “unmodified opinion,” which Mr. Wright stated is the best outcome possible.
- The financial report, given by Stacy Stewart, is attached as an exhibit to these minutes.
- Line-item transfers:
  - \$5,000 FROM MISCELLANEOUS TO PROFESSIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR SOUTHEAST TENNESSEE DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (SETD) CONTRACT THROUGH 22-23FY
  - \$5,000 FROM CONTRACT LABOR OFFICE TO PROFESSIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FOR SETD CONTRACT THROUGH 22-23FY
  - \$5,000 FROM MISCELLANEOUS TO CELL PHONE ALLOWANCE TO COVER ALL REGULAR EMPLOYEES THROUGH 22-23FY
  - \$400 FROM ELECTION EXPENSES TO BOOT ALLOWANCE TO COVER PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES THROUGH 22-23FY
  - \$5,000 FROM MISCELLANEOUS TO CAPITOL OUTLAY EQUIPMENT TO COVER SECURITY SYSTEM EQUIPMENT UPGRADE

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE ALL LINE-ITEM TRANSFERS AS WRITTEN, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

- UPDATED CD AMOUNTS WITH PINNACLE BANK – Summarized by Mayor Lee Davis.
- ARPA ALLOCATION LIST – Recommended allocations are attached as an exhibit to these minutes. John Barry noted that all ARPA funds must be allocated no later than 03/23/2023.

### 3. WRES

Bill Thornton, Board Chairman for the Walden’s Ridge Emergency Service, gave the report for November service calls. There were 28 total calls: 11 emergency medical, 13 fire, 4 “assist to citizen” calls. Mr. Thornton also made a public service announcement, noting that preparation is key to surviving an emergency. He recommended that citizens keep a fire extinguisher in any room that has a Christmas tree. He also recommended that an escape plan be shared with any overnight houseguests.

#### **4. PARKS AND RECREATION**

Mr. Lance Pope reported for the Parks and Recreation Committee. He noted three current projects on which the committee is currently focusing. (1) Mabbitt Springs – Working to control drainage on the trail. Larry Scaggs is watching the bridge closely for any signs of problems, and repair of the bridge is being discussed as a possible Eagle Scout project for the spring. (2) Falling Water Falls – Parking remains an issue. The committee has painted new lines and is using temporary plastic chains as a deterrent to parking along the roadway and on the grass. The committee is also considering placing small stones, set back from the road, and planting larger plants near the roadway to further deter roadside parking. (3) Connector to access McCoy Farm and Gardens – Committee is researching safest ways for pedestrians to cross Anderson Pike. Mr. John Barry asked who owned this stretch of Anderson Pike, and Attorney Elliott confirmed that it belongs to the town.

#### **5. WALDEN'S RIDGE CIVIC LEAGUE**

No report.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mayor Lee Davis began the New Business by asking for a motion to approve the beer permit application for the Walden's Ridge Civic League.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY THE WALDEN'S RIDGE CIVIC LEAGUE FOR A BEER PERMIT, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

#### **1. FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #2022-352, AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE 8 OF THE WALDEN MUNICIPAL CODE TO ESTABLISH ON-PREMISES LIQUOR REGULATIONS.**

Town Attorney Sam Elliott noted that he will send some proposed edits to this ordinance via email to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Attorney Elliott reminded the Board to respond only to him in order to uphold the Sunshine Law.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE #2022-352, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

#### **2. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2022-575, TO REPLACE RESOLUTION #2021-556 FOR THE APPROPRIATE USE OF TOWN CREDIT CARDS.**

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2022-575, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

#### **3. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2022-576, EXTENDING THE MORATORIUM ON BUILDING PERMITS IN A DESIGNATED AREA OF WALDEN.**

Mayor Lee Davis noted that this extension has been recommended by the SETD. Further action regarding the moratorium will be delayed until the Walden Planning Commission is in place and active.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2022-576, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

**4. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2022-577, APPROPRIATION OF \$85,000 ANNUAL DONATION TO THE WALDEN RIDGE EMERGENCY SERVICE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023.**

Mayor Lee Davis noted \$60,000 represents the annual donation to WRES. \$25,000 is earmarked for the purchase of a new fire truck.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2022-577, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

**5. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2022-578, APPROPRIATION OF \$22,500 ANNUAL DONATION TO MCCOY FARM AND GARDENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023.**

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2022-578, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

**6. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2022-579, APPROPRIATION OF \$20,000 ANNUAL DONATION TO THE BACHMAN COMMUNITY CENTER FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023.**

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2022-579, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

**7. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2022-580, APPROPRIATION OF \$12,000 ANNUAL DONATION TO THE WALDEN'S RIDGE CIVIC LEAGUE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023.**

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2022-580, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

**8. PROPOSED RESOLUTION #2022-581, MTAS REVIEW OF WALDEN CODE OF ORDINANCES.**

Attorney Sam Elliott summarized that this ordinance will approve seeking review of all new Walden ordinances by the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS).

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION #2022-581, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

**9. APPOINTMENTS OF WALDEN PLANNING COMMISSION (WPC).**

- Alderman Representative – Alderwoman Angela Cassidy is recommended.
- Commission Members – Mayor Lee Davis appoints Joe Robbins, Jr. as his designee. Also appointed to the commission are: Bill Trohanis, Lou Ziebold, Tom Bartoo, and Werner Slabber. Mayor Davis will assign the designated terms for each at a later date.
- Interim Chair – Tim Hancock

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ALDERWMAN ANGELA CASSIDY TO THE WPC, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

**10. DISCUSSION OF DRAFT ORDINANCE #2022-351 TO AMEND SHORT-TERM VACATION RENTALS IN TOWN OF WALDEN**

Mayor Lee Davis noted that there will be no vote on the ordinance at this time. This item is for discussion only. The proposed ordinance will be reviewed by the Walden Planning Commission and resubmitted to the board for a vote at a later time.

Lee Behar confirmed that the proposed ordinance would allow for these rentals only in owner-occupied homes. Mayor Lee Davis confirmed that the Town of Walden would benefit from the taxes received for these rentals.

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO SUBMIT ORDINANCE #2022-351 TO THE WALDEN PLANNING COMMISSION FOR REVIEW, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

**11. CONSIDERATION / APPROVAL OF HOLIDAY BONUSES**

Mayor Lee Davis introduced the proposal to continue holiday bonuses for all regular office employees. Each bonus would be an additional week's pay.

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE HOLIDAY BONUSES FOR ALL REGULAR TOWN EMPLOYEES, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

**12. CONSIDERATION / APPROVAL FOR PURCHASE OF TOWN TRACTOR**

This item was tabled to the January meeting.

**13. DISCUSSION ON TOWN HALL MEETING RECORDINGS**

Mayor Lee Davis referenced Signal Mountain meeting live-stream and recordings, stating that the start-up cost would be approximately \$8,000 with an additional annual fee of \$3,000. This service must be put out for a bid since the initial cost will exceed \$10,000.

**14. CONSIDERATION / APPROVAL OF HIRING A PART-TIME PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE**

Mayor Lee Davis noted that funding for this additional employee is already included in the FY23 budget. This position will be a part-time, year-round position, as opposed to a seasonal worker.

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE HIRING OF AN ADDITIONAL PART-TIME PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEE, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT, AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

**15. ANY OTHER NEW BUSINESS.**

There is no other new business.

**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.



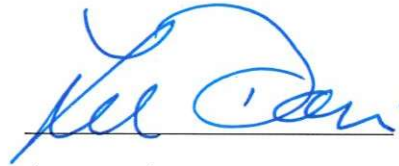
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Respectfully submitted:  
Stacy Stewart



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Approved:  
Mariah Prescott, Town Administrator



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Approved:  
Lee Davis, Mayor