

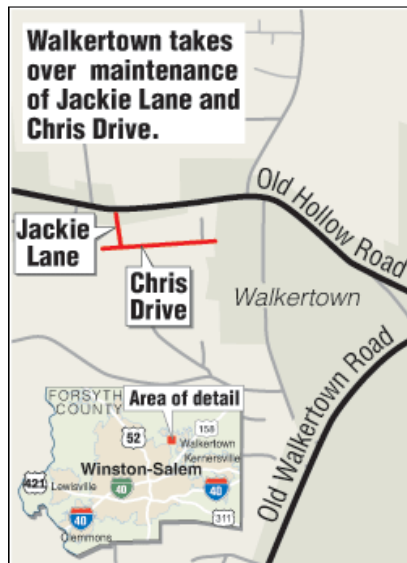
Town to add two streets to system

Residents of Jackie Lane and Chris Drive will pay 25 percent of cost of paving

By Wesley Young

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(Journal Graphic by Jeremy Boyd)

WALKERTOWN

People who live on Jackie Lane and Chris Drive say they are happy that the town is taking over maintenance of their streets. They have waited a long time for it to happen.

The town council voted unanimously last Thursday to take both streets into the town's street system. That means the streets will get new pavement. Under the town's policy for taking in streets, they must pay 25 percent of the cost.

Larry Bolden, who lives on Chris Drive, said that the N.C. Department of Transportation was supposed to have taken over maintenance in 1992, but that it never happened.

"Nothing was ever done," Bolden said. "It met state specifications then, but it doesn't meet state specifications now."

Council Member Brenda Mabe said that the residents have waited long enough to get good roads.

Residents gave the council a petition asking the town to take over maintenance. They said that the petition represented 95 percent of the property owners.

Council Member Sarah Welch asked the council to take in the streets, but it looked as if no council member would second her request. After a long pause, Council Member Wayne Hester seconded her motion, which the council approved.

The council then decided what percentage of the cost the town would pay, and what percentage the residents would pay.

The council recently developed a policy that calls for residents to pay half the cost of bringing a private road up to standard so that the town can maintain it. The town pays the other half of the cost.

But the town also has a provision that allows it to pay another 25 percent of the costs in special hardship cases. The council decided that Chris Drive and Jackie Lane were cases that needed extra help.

"We are going to fix your problem," Mabe told a group of residents in the audience. "I'm sorry it has taken this long."

The council unanimously approved allowing the residents to get their roads fixed, paying only 25 percent of the cost.

Tamra Eccles, who lives on Chris Drive, said that as soon as she knows how much money residents will have to provide, she and others will get to work together raising the money.

"We thank you very much for everything you are planning to do," she said.

Hester told residents that the problems predated the terms of the council members. "We are glad it is finally getting straightened out," Hester said.

In other business, the council named Lynn McKinnie, the town clerk, as the interim town manager. Ronald Bell resigned from the post on June 28.

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