

**SPECIAL CALLED WORKSHOP MEETING
6:00 P.M. @ TOWN HALL
DECEMBER 9, 2009
MINUTES**

Mayor Doc Davis called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m. Present were Mayor Davis, Marilyn Martin, Sarah Welch (arrived at 6:25 p.m.), Wayne Hester, Randy Mendenhall, Lynn McKinnie, and Scott Snow. In the audience were Peggy Leight, Robert Butler, and Al Slater.

1. **CHURCH STREET HOUSE UPDATE**

The agenda was rearranged to start with Item #6 – Church Street. The Town has purchased at foreclosure the house at 3058 Church Street. Council agreed to discuss with the Walkertown Area Historical Society provisions for use of this house. As soon as the attorneys have completed the real estate closing submittals, this property will be closed on and paid for.

2. **TO APPROVE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR SUBMITTAL TO MPO FOR FUNDING FOR:**

RESOLUTION - to “exempt” ourselves from the bidding regulations due to size of project.

- (A) FRIENDLY ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT DESCRIPTION
- (B) DARROW ROAD SIDEWALK PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Town has contracts ready to sign for various sidewalk projects, mainly, Darrow Road and Friendly Road. Discussion concerned the scope of the sidewalks, costs, and other details. This issue will be put on the Council Meeting agenda of December 17th with the following actions:

1. Approval of the projects to be submitted;
2. Resolution to exempt the Town from the model code; and
3. Approve the AWCK contracts for construction.

3. **PLANNING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**
APPLICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING BOARD

- **NEED ONE FULL-TIME MEMBER TO REPLACE PEGGY**
(Planning Board recommends **Kevin Briggs** as full-time regular member.)
- **NEED AT LEAST TWO MEMBERS AS ALTERNATES**
(Brenda Mabe and Wendy Dudley are the only applications received).

After discussion, Council agreed to list on the December 17th Council meeting agenda the appointment of Kevin Briggs to a full term as a Planning Board member. Mr. Briggs was complimented for his attention to the Board as a Planning Board alternate for several years – attending all meetings, participating in all areas of the Board, and has earned the right to be a full member.

As for Alternates to the Board, it was felt that more volunteers should be solicited by the Council and Board, and, thus, the Council felt it should wait on appointing alternates at this time.

As an added item, Mr. Al Slater, Planning Board Chairman, spoke on a more in-depth ordinance needed to control facades in the Town. He asked council if they were willing that the Planning Board go forward with working on wording for a façade ordinance – to which the Council agreed unanimously that this should be pursued. Mr. Slater said the objective of the Planning Board for a façade ordinance was to give the Town Council a working tool that would govern all buildings (commercial) coming in to town. Pods, trailers, and outbuildings were all discussed and the visibility of businesses in the town were be considered. Mr. Slater used a copy of the October 6, 2009, Planning Board minutes to brief the council on what the questions actually were pertaining to an ordinance dealing with facades. There are several questions in the minutes, he said, that needed to be answered by either the town attorney (Bo Houff) or the Forsyth County Planning Board liaison (Gary Roberts).

The Planning Board would consider working on the wording of an ordinance to recommend for the Council's ordinance. It was suggested that the Board would formulate and put ordinance ideas together, then meet jointly with the Council to fine-tune an ordinance for voting on.

Town Council members heartily advised Mr. Slater to go forward with the ordinance wording.

4. TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING DATES FOR 2010
DO WE WANT TO SET UP SCHEDULED WORKSHOP MEETING DATES OR
CONTINUE NOTICING AS "SPECIAL CALLED" MEETINGS?

The Council unanimously opposed setting workshop dates and asked that the resolution listing only regular council meeting dates be put on the December 17th agenda for voting. Workshop meetings would henceforth continue to be scheduled as "Special Called Meetings" and noticed accordingly.

5. BOOE HOUSE UPDATE
TOWN CENTER PARK UPDATE

Mayor Davis said that the contract for renovations on the Booe House has been signed and work should start in mid-February and conclude possibly in April, 2010.

The Town Center Park update included minor changes such as changing the park entrance to Sullivantown Road and using the town's water tower to show messages (ie. "*Welcome to Walkertown!*"). These were suggestions by the PARTF representative to further enhance our grant application.

6. STATUS ON FIRE DEPT ELEVATED STREAM APPARATUS
Walkertown Volunteer Fire Department is in dire need of an elevated stream truck and they have picked one out for purchase. Unfortunately, they do not have the entire means to purchase at this time and have requested help from the Town of Walkertown. The need for an elevated truck has been an ongoing issue for years as Walkertown has grown and profited from the commercial and residential growth it has seen. With this growth, the town has more buildings

which can not be accessed by the current fire department vehicles. A new Pierce elevated fire truck with a 75-foot ladder has been priced – at \$628,237. The Fire Department currently has approximately \$228,000 in their truck fund. They have budgeted \$655,000 for this piece of equipment but have asked the town for funding help. After considerable discussion on the pros and cons of purchasing a fire truck, the Council decided to consider an amount to be given towards purchase of the truck – consideration which would be acted upon at the December 17th council meeting.

Wesley Hutchins, WVFD Fire Chief, briefly attended the meeting and gave several explanations for the need of the truck with the most important being: *“Life safety is the most important consideration”*.

MOTION: TO CONSIDER A RESOLUTION TO BE ACTED UPON AT THE DECEMBER 17TH COUNCIL MEETING THAT WOULD DONATE A SET AMOUNT TO THE WALKERTOWN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE FUNDING OF A PIERCE ELEVATED STREAM FIRE TRUCK. COUNCIL HAS THE OPTION AT A FUTURE DATE TO REVISIT THE FUNDING AMOUNT AND POSSIBLY TO DONATE AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT AS IT SEES FIT.

BY: RANDY MENDENHALL

SECOND: MARILYN MARTIN

VOTE: MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

7. LEAF PICK-UP POSSIBILITY – CAN WALKERTOWN PROVIDE THIS SERVICE?

This issue has been discussed several times over the past few years, with several council members questioning the option of the town paying for pick-up of leaves. Suggested as an alternative was having the town maintenance man pick up the leaves and remove to a C&D landfill. Still another suggestion was to have an ordinance designed to make people rake/pick-up leaves in their yard. It was ultimately decided to have town staff look into the vacuum removal of leaves and get cost comparisons. This will be brought back to the council at a future date.

8. BANK MONEY MOVES – DO WE NEED TO MOVE MONEY?

Finance Chairman, Wayne Hester, asked that the council reconsider this idea perhaps in January, 2010. Nothing needs to be done at this time.

9. WALKERTOWN WARRIORS GRANT REQUEST

This is no longer a valid request as the tournament the group needed money for has been canceled.

10. DESCRIPTIONS/CLASSIFICATIONS – WORK ON

Randy Mendenhall requested that the town staff prepare job descriptions for every job in town hall. This will be worked on and brought back to the council at a future date.

At 8:13 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Ms. Welch, the council went into Closed Session – attended by the Mayor, Council Members, and Town Staff only.

1. **§ 143-318.11. CLOSED SESSIONS CONFIDENTIAL !!!**

§ 143-318.11. Closed sessions.

- (a) Permitted Purposes. – It is the policy of this State that closed sessions shall be held only when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted in this section. A public body may hold a closed session and exclude the public only when a closed session is required:
- (6) To consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee; or to hear or investigate a complaint, charge, or grievance by or against an individual public officer or employee. General personnel policy issues may not be considered in a closed session. A public body may not consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, appointment, or removal of a member of the public body or another body and may not consider or fill a vacancy among its own membership except in an open meeting. Final action making an appointment or discharge or removal by a public body having final authority for the appointment or discharge or removal shall be taken in an open meeting.
- (c) Calling a Closed Session. – A public body may hold a closed session only upon a motion duly made and adopted at an open meeting. Every motion to close a meeting shall cite one or more of the permissible purposes listed in subsection (a) of this section. A motion based on subdivision (a)(1) of this section shall also state the name or citation of the law that renders the information to be discussed privileged or confidential. A motion based on subdivision (a)(3) of this section shall identify the parties in each existing lawsuit concerning which the public body expects to receive advice during the closed session.

At 8:35 p.m., Town Staff removed themselves from the Closed Session meeting and Mayor and council deliberated on an additional subject:

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At 8:39 p.m., on a motion by Ms. Welch, seconded by Mr. Hester, the Mayor and Council returned to Open Session.

After a few more deliberations concerning the purchase of the Fire Truck, on a motion by Ms. Martin, seconded by Mr. Mendenhall, the Special Called Workshop Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by:

Lynn McKinnie
Town Clerk