

#### MINUTES REGULAR MEETING OF THE TOWN OF WALKERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL MARCH 27, 2025 @ 7:00 P.M.: WALKERTOWN COMMUNITY BUILDING

Mayor Doc Davis **called the meeting to order** at 7:00 p.m. Present were the Mayor, Council Members Vernon Brown, Wesley Hutchins, Caroline Jones, Peggy Leight and Town Manager Scott Snow and Town Clerk Rusty Sawyer.

**The Invocation** was given by Mayor Davis. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Wesley Hutchins.

Doc: Any additions to the agenda from council? NO.

THE AGENDA WAS APPROVED AS WRITTEN BY MOTION MADE BY VERNON BROWN AND SECONDED BY CAROLINE JONES. THE VOTE WAS UNANIMOUS. (BROWN, HUTCHINS, JONES, LEIGHT)

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- FEBRUARY 27, 2025
- MARCH 13, 2025

#### THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY BY MOTION MADE BY VERNON BROWN AND SECONDED BY CAROLINE JONES. (BROWN, HUTCHINS, JONES, LEIGHT)

#### PUBLIC SESSION

THIS SESSION IS FOR NON-PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS ONLY AND IS LIMITED TO 3 MINUTES PER SPEAKER. WHEN SPEAKING TO ANY ITEM, PLEASE RESTRICT YOUR REMARKS TO THE SUBJECT AT HAND.

Mayor Davis opens the **Public Session** @ 7:03.

- My name is Mike Morris and I live at 2670 Morris Meadow Lane. I just wanted to say that I can barely see Caroline Jones. The top of her head is barely above the monitor.
- My name is John Tingen and I live at 4585 Rocklane. This is my first time seeing the new meeting space. I really like it. I have no complaints about the town. I am complaining about the trash the party crowd left behind. I have confidence you will handle it. People living outside the town limits should pay taxes too. I heard someone wants to build apartments outside town limits. This is a nice neighborhood. We don't want apartments in a residential development.
- My name is Ann Beason and I live at 4490 Rocklane. I want to complain about the Airbnb being used for parties. I have had to call the law 3 times. There were unbelievable numbers attending the party. You would have to have seen it to

believe it!

- My name is JoAnn Kortesis and I live at 4663 Rocklane. The first Lyft cars arrived at 6:00. Then cars starting parking along Rocklane and Darrow Road. They were walking down the streets smoking joints. They were smoking joints in the woods. You could smell it for hours. Four police cars came and blocked the road. They were charging \$20 per person. The house cost \$192 per night. My husband and one neighbor couldn't get home. There are additional bookings for Friday's in April and May. The owner of the house lives out of state. They were going to the bath room outside.
- My name is Sammy Ledbetter and I live at 4588 Rocklane. They were speeding down Rocklane. I called the police myself and texted the owner. He said the renters lied and booked for 4. He kicked them out. The girl that rented the Airbnb sold 800 tickets at \$20 per person. My complaints are litter, pot and speeding. The owners next door are selling. It is hard to shut down an Airbnb. Please do something.
- Doc: The Airbnb is not in the town but in the county. The county's response is to call a deputy. Courts have upheld the rights' of Airbnb's.
- Scott: The state is not in favor of municipalities regulating "short term rentals". Local government is not allowed to regulate them. Wilmington tried to regulate with a cap on the number of Airbnb's, registration and permits. Not allowed.

Iredell County tried zoning regulations. They are in court now.

Public nuisance laws do apply but must be enforced. The town can tow cars parked in the road. Could fine the owner for litter in town.

I suggest you keep calling law enforcement. Calls are tracked. Complain online to Vrbo & Airbnb directly. Neither allows parties. Civil suit by neighbors for disturbing the peace may be best option. Also, contact your county commissioners.

With no other speakers coming forward, the Mayor closes the **Public Session** @ 7:42.

# **BUSINESS FOR DISCUSSION AND/OR ACTION:**

## 1. <u>RESOLUTION PROCLAMATION FOR THE NATIONAL THERAPY ANIMAL</u> <u>DAY</u>

Doc: Mr. Sawyer, please read the resolution.

Rusty: (Rusty reads the resolution).... NOW THEREFORE, the Town Council of the Town of Walkertown, hereby proclaims April 30, 2025 as: "National Therapy Animal Day".

Doc: The proclamation was requested by JoAnn Brindle.

#### MOTION: TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION MAKING APRIL 30, 2025 "NATIONAL THERAPY ANIMAL DAY"

# BY: WESLEY HUTCHINS

# SECOND: VERNON BROWN

VOTE: UNANIMOUS (BROWN, HUTCHINS, JONES, LEIGHT)

## 2. <u>RESOLUTION: ADOPTION OF THE 2025 FALL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE</u> <u>MEETING SCHEDULE</u>

## MOTION: TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2025 FALL FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE

#### BY: PEGGY LEIGHT

SECOND: WESLEY HUTCHINS

#### VOTE: UNANIMOUS

(BROWN, HUTCHINS, JONES, LEIGHT)

## 3. PROJECT UPDATES

Scott leads this discussion.

- <u>The Fire Department</u> monthly alarm activity report is included in the agenda. Total calls are down for the month and county calls are up.
- Waste Management recycle service will change the pickup day from Monday to Tuesday beginning April 1<sup>st</sup>. No change to the regular Monday trash pickup day. This information is on the town website and the town's digital sign.
- <u>Community Meeting Building</u>: internet installation left to complete.
- Sidewalk Project:

Recording of easements. Need property owners to sign and have the Town clerk notarize.

• Getting estimates for WAHS repairs and fence replacement. Doc: Peggy, any news from the COG? *No.* 

Wesley: Old Hollow Road is 17% complete.

Reidsville Road is 11% complete with 3 years left to completion.

## 4. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

MARCH, 2025

Doc: We are 9 months into our new year or 75% of the way through the year.
All in line and on budget with no department over budget. Revenue is coming in at 57%. Expenses at 35%. Current year property tax at 101%.
We have Unrestricted Funds for May @\$6,594,963.81. Restricted Funds @\$1,024,613.05 for a Grand Total Fund Balance of \$7,619,576.86.
The average revaluation property taxes is up 35% for Walkertown residents.

# MOTION: TO APPROVE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR MARCH, 2025 AS PRESENTED BY STAFF

BY: PEGGY LEIGHT

## **SECOND: WESLEY HUTCHINS**

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

(BROWN, HUTCHINS, JONES, LEIGHT)

# **ADJOURNMENT:**

MOTION: TO ADJOURN REGULAR MEETING AT 8:01 P.M. BY: VERNON BROWN SECOND: PEGGY LEIGHT VOTE: UNANIMOUS (BROWN, HUTCHINS, JONES, LEIGHT)

#### **ANOUNCEMENTS:**

No Planning Board Meeting scheduled for April

Fall festival Committee Meeting April 14th, 4:00 pm

Town Hall Offices will be closed April 18th – Good Friday Holiday

Submitted by: Rusty Sawyer Town Clerk

Visit the Town's website at: www.townofwalkertown.us