

Town of Walden
Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Regular Monthly Meeting
June 09, 2026
6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER OF THE WALDEN BEER BOARD

Mayor Lee Davis called to order the meeting of the Walden Beer Board at 6:30 PM. Town Attorney Sam Elliott verified that all required background checks had been successfully completed.

1. CIVIC LEAGUE SPECIAL OCCASION BEER PERMIT FOR JUNE 13, 2026, AMERICA 250 BIRTHDAY BASH

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE CIVIC LEAGUE'S APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION BEER PERMIT FOR JUNE 13, 2026, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

2. CIVIC LEAGUE SPECIAL OCCASION BEER PERMIT FOR OCTOBER 3, 2026, SMOKE ON THE MOUNTAIN BBQ EVENT

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE CIVIC LEAGUE'S APPLICATION FOR A SPECIAL OCCASION BEER PERMIT FOR OCTOBER 3, 2026, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

Mayor Lee Davis adjourned the meeting of the Walden Beer Board at 6:31 PM.

CALL TO ORDER OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS FOR:

- 1. ORDINANCE 2026-389 AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR BUDGET**
- 2. ORDINANCE 2026-390 ANNUAL BUDGET AND TAX RATE FOR 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR**
- 3. ORDINANCE 2026-391 HAMILTON COUNTY TO COLLECT STORMWATER FEES**
- 4. ORDINANCE 2026-392 HAMILTON COUNTY TO COLLECT SANITATION FEES**

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott summarized these ordinances, stating that the first two were created to address the potential upcoming Totten Property (TProp) expenses. Mayor Lee Davis invited interested citizens to address the Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA). There were no speakers.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lee Davis adjourned the Public Hearings at 6:33 PM.

CALL TO ORDER OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the BMA was called to order by Mayor Lee Davis at 6:33 PM. The sign-in sheet listing interested citizens in attendance is attached as an exhibit to these minutes (Appendix A).

PRAYER AND PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Town Recorder Stacy Stewart opened the meeting with a prayer and Town Attorney Sam Elliott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Town Recorder 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 OR CORRECTION OF THE MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2026

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MAY 12, 2026, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

REPORTS

1. POLICE

Deputy Chad Faulkner opened by sharing the positive experience he and his wife recently had in Washington, DC while attending a memorial week for officers killed in the line of duty. He shared that they received a letter from the President of the United States recognizing the service of his son, Landon.

For the past 30 days, the statistics for all of District 2 (which includes the towns of Signal Mountain and Walden and the unincorporated portions of Hamilton County on Walden's Ridge) were as follows:

164 total calls for service, 28 traffic stops, six physical arrests, 18 assists to other agencies, 17 neighborhood watches, and 33 business watches.

2. FINANCIAL

Town Recorder Stacy Stewart gave the financial report, which is attached as an exhibit to these minutes (Appendix B). Town Administrator Mariah Prescott noted that the current negative balance is due to numerous invoices coming in from grants that are in progress.

3. WRES

Mr. Bill Thornton gave the report, noting 33 total calls in the past 30 days: 13 emergency medical, 12 fire-related, and eight assist-to-citizens.

Mr. Thornton summarized WRES's participation in a collaborative group called the Tri-State Mutual Aid Association. This includes multiple agencies in the area working together to respond to major incidents in the community. In closing, Mr. Thornton reminded citizens to stay alert for the potentially deadly allergic reactions to bee stings. In this event, call 911 immediately.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION ON WALDEN BEING AN EARLY VOTING SITE

Mr. Chris Clem, a member of the Hamilton County Election Commission, spoke to the BMA at the May meeting regarding this possibility. All board members are in support of pursuing this opportunity. Mayor Lee Davis will communicate with Mr. Clem to determine next steps.

2. DISCUSSION ON 2101 TAFT HWY TOTTON PROPERTY ACQUISITION, MUNICIPAL FINANCING OBLIGATIONS, PETITION PROCESS, AND FUTURE PROJECT DIRECTION

Mayor Lee Davis opened the discussion and invited interested citizens to address the BMA.

Mr. Mickey Robbins noted that two positive things have happened recently regarding this potential purchase. First, two anonymous donors have pledged a total of \$1.7 million, and another anonymous donor has pledged \$10,000 annually for five years. Mr. Robbins himself pledged \$50,000 towards this purchase and urged the Town to move forward with the TProp acquisition.

Mayor Lee Davis updated the audience on the current petition process, which allowed citizens to object to the financing of the TProp by the Town. The petition will be turned in to the Election Commission on June 17 for certification. If a referendum occurs, it will be on the ballot this November. The issue on the referendum would only be a YES or NO on financing of the TProp. In closing, Mayor Davis noted that the \$50,000 pledged by the anonymous donor would be managed through a 501C3 organization.

Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt stated that the \$1.7 million pledged by the two anonymous donors would be managed by the Town.

There is no action taken on this agenda item.

3. CONSIDERATION OF FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2026-389, AMENDING THE 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET, PASSED BY ORDINANCE 2025-377

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2026-389, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY. THE MOTION WAS PASSED WITH VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

Mayor Lee Davis	NO
Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt	YES
Alderwoman Angela Cassidy	YES

4. CONSIDERATION OF FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2026-390, ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET AND TAX RATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2026-390, SECONDED BY MAYOR LEE DAVIS. THE MOTION WAS PASSED WITH VOTING AS FOLLOWS:

Mayor Lee Davis	YES
Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt	YES
Alderwoman Angela Cassidy	NO

Alderwoman Cassidy clarified her vote by stating that she was concerned about the economic impact on citizens of Walden. Mayor Davis noted the budget and tax rate are necessary for infrastructure and upkeep within the Town. In closing, Mayor Davis further stated that he does not understand the logic of taking \$500,000 from the Town's reserve to acquire the TProp.

5. CONSIDERATION OF FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2026-391, AMENDING TITLE 14, CHAPTER 3 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE FOR HAMILTON COUNTY TO COLLECT STORMWATER FEES

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott noted that this fee is \$9 per home per year.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2026-391, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

6. CONSIDERATION OF FINAL READING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2026-392, ESTABLISHING REFUSE COLLECTION FEES IN TITLE 17 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE AND HAMILTON COUNTY TO COLLECT SANITATION FEES

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott noted that this fee is \$26.20 per home per month, with a 3% annual increase. This will now be collected with property taxes to pay for garbage and recycling services.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE ORDINANCE 2026-392, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-653, APPROPRIATION OF \$85,000 TO WALDEN'S RIDGE EMERGENCY SERVICE

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-653, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

2. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-654, APPROPRIATION OF \$10,000 TO BACHMAN COMMUNITY CENTER

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-654, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

3. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-655, APPROPRIATION OF \$26,500 TO MCCOY FARM AND GARDENS

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-655, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-656, APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000 TO WALDEN'S RIDGE CIVIC LEAGUE

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-656, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

5. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT FOR LDA ENGINEERING FOR 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott noted that this is a one-year contract for engineering services.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE A ONE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR LDA ENGINEERING, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

6. CONSIDERATION OF UPDATED CONTRACT FOR KEYSTONE IT SERVICES

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott stated that this new contract adds cybersecurity experts to Keystone's services.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE UPDATED CONTRACT WITH KEYSTONE SERVICES, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

7. ANNOUNCEMENT OF OPEN WALDEN PLANNING COMMISSION SEAT, BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS SEAT, AND WATER QUALITY BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Mayor Lee Davis announced these three open seats and asked citizens to submit emailed letters of interest to info@waldentn.gov prior to August 1, 2026.

8. CONSIDERATION OF AUGUST 2026 TOWN HALL MEETING DATE CHANGE

Mayor Lee Davis noted that he has a conflict with the regular meeting date of August 11, 2026.

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING ON AUGUST 25, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

Mayor Davis reminded the audience that there will be no meetings in July.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Dave Caouinard, a resident of Walden, stated his concern about a utility company trimming trees too drastically around power lines.

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott, a certified arborist, noted that the Electric Power Board (EPB) is overseeing this project. There are specs that must be followed or large fines may be imposed.

Mayor Lee Davis suggested that concerned citizens send specific comments to him via email and he will forward these to our county commissioner and the county mayor.

Ms. Catherine Colby stated that she was told by EPB to visibly wrap / cordon off any vegetation she wanted protected.

Mr. Joe Robbins, Jr., asked the cost for the contract with LDA Engineering. Town Administrator Mariah Prescott noted an annual fee of \$40,000 for general engineering services.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lee Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:13 PM.



Respectfully submitted:
Stacy Stewart, Town Recorder

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mariah", written over a horizontal line.

Approved:
Mariah Prescott, Town Administrator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee Davis", written over a horizontal line.

Approved:
Lee Davis, Mayor