

Town of Walden
Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Special Called Meeting
August 17, 2026
6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR:

1. PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2026-393, AMENDING ZONING ORDINANCE TO REGULATE OUTDOOR LIGHTING AS RECOMMENDED BY WALDEN PLANNING COMMISSION

Mayor Lee Davis called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 PM, and invited input from the public. There were no comments or questions.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lee Davis adjourned the Public Hearings at 6:31 PM.

CALL TO ORDER OF THE SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

The special called meeting of the BMA was called to order by Mayor Lee Davis at 6:31 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 Administrator Mariah Prescott opened the meeting with a prayer and Alderwoman Angela Cassidy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott called the roll and noted the presence of Mayor Lee Davis, Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt, and Alderwoman Angela Cassidy. Town Attorney Sam Elliott was absent.

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 09, 2026

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 09, 2026, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2026

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 15, 2026, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

REPORTS

1. POLICE

Deputy Chad Faulkner shared 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. In the past 30 days, there were 168 total calls for service, 26 traffic stops, 16 arrests, 26 assists to other agencies, five traffic accidents, and 18 business checks.

2. FINANCIAL

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott gave the financial report, which is attached as an exhibit to these minutes (Appendix B).

3. WRES

Mr. Bill Thornton gave the report, noting 31 total calls in the past 30 days: 13 emergency medical, 12 fire-related, and six assist-to-citizens.

Mr. Thornton's "Tip of the Month" was to encourage families to prepare an escape plan and to practice a home fire drill on a regular basis. He also reminded citizens to share this plan with friends and family who may be visiting.

4. PARKS AND RECREATION

Mr. Lance Pope gave the report, opening with a statement of gratitude and recognition for all the work Leslie Millwood's tree service has completed at Griffiss Park. He noted that Mr. Millwood's work was done well and thoroughly, and at a reasonable cost to the committee.

Ongoing projects include the installation of water fountains at the trailheads of Mabbitt Springs and Falling Water Falls. Two additional fountains have been ordered, and the concrete pad at Mabbitt Springs has been completed. The pad at Falling Water Falls has been roughed-in and should be completed soon.

Mr. Pope noted that an agenda item tonight will request an expenditure for improvements at the disc golf course, located near the Pumpkin Patch Playground. This money will be used to purchase and install signs noting the entrance to the course as well as signs at each tee box. Mr. Pope recommends that the company "Gravity" be selected for this project. Though their quote was higher than the other quote received, it includes all installation and the other quote did not.

In closing, Mr. Pope noted that kudzu is becoming a problem at the Mabbitt Springs trail. He will be seeking solutions to address this issue going forward.

5. BACHMAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott gave the report for Kim Rackel, reminding the audience of the "Rock the Ridge" celebration, which is scheduled from noon until 7:00 PM on September 12, 2026. During this celebration of the natural beauty of Walden's Ridge, there will be live music, food trucks, activities, exhibits, and speakers.

6. CIVIC LEAGUE

The Civic League report, given by Karen Stone, is attached as an exhibit to these minutes (Appendix C).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. CONSIDERATION OF FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2026-393, AMENDING ZONING ORDINANCE TO REGULATE OUTDOOR LIGHTING AS RECOMMENDED BY WALDEN PLANNING COMMISSION

Mayor Lee Davis summarized this ordinance, noting that it was related to the “Dark Skies” initiative. Because of new information that needs to be reviewed, Mayor Davis suggested moving the first reading of Ordinance 2026-393 to the September meeting. This was agreed upon by Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt and Alderwoman Angela Cassidy.

2. CONSIDERATION OF FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2026-394, AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET, PASSED BY ORDINANCE 2026-390

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott noted that this budget amendment was necessary to approve expenditures for projects that have already been approved.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2026-394, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

3. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-658, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF WALDEN, TENNESSEE, AS REQUIRED BY TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED (TCA) 89-21-209, CALLING FOR AN ELECTION RELATING TO INCURRING CERTAIN INDEBTEDNESS

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-658, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

4. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-659, INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, BY AND THROUGH ITS TRUSTEE AND THE TOWN OF WALDEN, TENNESSEE, FOR SANITATION FEES COLLECTION

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-659, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

5. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-660, DESIGNATING PINNACLE FINANCIAL PARTNERS AS A NEW DEPOSITORY AND AUTHORIZING BANKING SERVICES FOR THE HAMILTON COUNTY PARKS GRANT CROSSWALK EXPENDITURE RETAINAGE ACCOUNT

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-660, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

6. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-661, UPDATED MCCOY FARM AND GARDEN'S LEASE

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-661, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

7. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-662, TOWN OF WALDEN CYBERSECURITY POLICY

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott summarized that approval of this policy is necessary in order for the Town of Walden to apply for cybersecurity insurance.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-662, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

8. CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL TASK ORDER FOR LDA ENGINEERING FOR TOTTEN EXPENDITURES

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott summarized that this task order is for the Phase I Environmental Study necessary for the potential purchase of the Totten Property (TProp).

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THIS ADDITIONAL TASK ORDER FOR LDA ENGINEERING, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

9. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT WITH REAL ESTATE ATTORNEY FOR POTENTIAL TOTTEN PURCHASE

Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt noted that the recommended attorney, a Walden resident, is Mr. Trey Harris.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACTING WITH A REAL ESTATE ATTORNEY, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

10. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT WITH ANNE IVERSON AS COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR CONTRACTOR

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH ANNE IVERSON AS COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

11. CONSIDERATION OF CONTRACT EXTENSION WITH JOHN BARANTINE WITH DARK SKIES CONSULTING FOR LIGHTING ORDINANCE CONSULTATION

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE THIS CONTRACT EXTENSION, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

12. CONSIDERATION OF PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE EXPENDITURE FOR DISC GOLF COURSE

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE THIS PARKS AND RECREATION EXPENDITURE, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

13. DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL OF HELMETS REQUIRED FOR MOTORIZED SCOOTERS

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen are all in favor of pursuing this requirement. Mayor Lee Davis stated that he will work on drafting an ordinance. He will also consult with the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office to discuss how such an ordinance would be enforced.

14. CONSIDERATION OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 TOWN HALL MEETING AT MCCOY FARM AND GARDENS

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE HOLDING THE SEPTEMBER 8th TOWN HALL MEETING AT McCOY FARM AND GARDENS, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

15. W-ROAD CLEANUP SEPTEMBER 13 REMINDER

Mayor Lee Davis reminded the audience of the upcoming W-Road cleanup date, September 13, 2026. Volunteers should meet at 8:30 AM at McCoy Farm and Gardens. All volunteers will receive a free t-shirt designed by Mayor Davis and his wife, Heather Ott.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Mrs. Karen Stone inquired about the possible installation of light switches on EPB power poles for manual powering-on and off. Dan Reynolds and Mary Aho are working with EPB on this.

Mr. Tony Wheeler expressed concern about the extreme clearing and cutting of trees by the Xylem Tree Service, an EPB contractor.

Mr. Dan Reynolds announced that Pruett's will be hosting a "Hemlock Day" on September 19, 2026. There will be hemlock trees and "Save the Signal Mountain Hemlocks" t-shirts available for purchase,

Mrs. Margha Davis voiced her concern about the intersection of the W-Road, East Brow, and Anderson Pike. Her comments are attached as an exhibit to these minutes (Appendix D).

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lee Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM.



Respectfully submitted:
Stacy Stewart, Town Recorder



Approved:
Mariah Prescott, Town Administrator



Approved:
Lee Davis, Mayor