

Town of Walden
Board of Mayor and Aldermen
Special Called Meeting – McCoy Farm and Gardens
September 08, 2026
6:30 PM

CALL TO ORDER OF THE PUBLIC HEARING FOR:

1. PROPOSED ORDINANCE 2026-394, AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET PASSED BY ORDINANCE 2026-390

Mayor Lee Davis called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 PM and invited input from the public. Mr. Bill Underwood asked for clarification on the monetary “blank spaces” within the ordinance. Mayor Davis explained that those blanks will be filled in and confirmed before a vote takes place.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lee Davis adjourned the Public Hearing 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 Town Attorney Sam Elliott 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 also present.

APPROVAL OR CORRECTION OF THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2026

ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 17, 2026, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

REPORTS

1. POLICE

No report.

2. FINANCIAL

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

3. WRES

No report.

4. ROADS AND SAFETY

Ms. Kristin Allen gave the report, noting that placement of several new road signs should be completed by the end of this year. Town Engineer Carson Willis is working with the committee and town staff to finalize placement of all signs. Mayor Lee Davis requested to put an update for this project on the November agenda.

Engineer Willis is also exploring ways to improve safety in the curves on Anderson Pike going down to the W, such as grooves in the road. In closing, Ms. Allen noted that Carson is also working on the correct placement of the speed monitor sign on Chestnut Ave.

5. MCCOY FARM AND GARDENS

Ms. Melissa Nimon gave the report, first thanking the town staff for all their work in preparing to host this meeting. Ms. Nimon also thanked the BMA for their continued support of McCoy (MFG).

There are several upcoming fall events, including:

- The third annual China Luncheon will be held on 09/23/2026, and there are only three tickets remaining. Because of the anticipated sell-out, a second day of sales will be held on 09/24/2026.
- On October 3rd, MFG will host a migratory bird walk beginning at 8:00 AM. The Chattanooga Chapter of the Tennessee Ornithological Society will be hosting the event, which is open to experienced birders and beginners.
- The MFG house will continue to be open to visitors on the second Sunday of each month from 2:00 – 4:00 PM. This fall, several of the open houses will feature a theme. September's theme is apples; October's theme will focus on the art of painter Emma Bell Miles; November's theme will focus on the special trees at MFG.

In closing, Ms. Nimon noted the partnership that MFG shares with the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC). The archeology department at UTC will be conducting field studies on Fridays from 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM in the fall at MFG.

Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt thanked Ms. Nimon and the McCoy Board for hosting this meeting at what is widely considered the “crown jewel” of Walden.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION ON 2101 TAFT HWY TOTTEN PROPERTY DIRECTION FOR EXISTING HOME

Mayor Lee Davis asked Vice Mayor Lizzy Schmidt to summarize the options regarding the existing home on the Totten property. Vice Mayor Schmidt noted that the home could be demolished through a demolition team or possibly a controlled burn. The BMA will continue to consider cost-effective options.

There is no action taken on this item.

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

Mayor Lee Davis noted that agenda item will be addressed in the “New Business” portion of the agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

1. ELLEN YOUNG RETIREMENT SEND-OFF

The Board of Mayor and Aldermen (BMA) recognized Communications Director Ellen Young's five years of service to the Town of Walden. Mayor Davis specifically thanked her for the work on the town's website and communications with citizens via social media.

2. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION 2026-663, ADOPTING A BUSINESS CONTINUITY AND DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN

Mayor Lee Davis noted that this is the second part of the town's Cybersecurity Grant, which will protect the town in the event of a cyber attack.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE RESOLUTION 2026-663, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

3. CONSIDERATION OF ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR PAVING IN THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE ADVERTISING FOR PAVING BIDS IN THE 2026-2027 FISCAL YEAR, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

4. CONSIDERATION OF ADVERTISING FOR BIDS FOR CHESTNUT CULVERT REPLACEMENT

This item is tabled to a future meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ADDITIONAL TASK ORDER FOR LDA ENGINEERING FOR CHESTNUT CULVERT REPLACEMENT

This item is tabled to a future meeting, as additional quotes for this repair are being sought.

"UNFINISHED BUSINESS" agenda item #2 is now addressed.

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott summarized this budget amendment, noting that \$576,200 is being reapportioned for costs associated with the potential purchase of the Totten property, pursuant to a referendum passing at the November election.

MAYOR LEE DAVIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FINAL READING OF ORDINANCE 2026-394, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

6. APPOINTMENT OF OPEN SEAT TO THE WALDEN PLANNING COMMISSION

Mayor Lee Davis introduced Mr. Jefferson Drumm as the newest appointed member to the Walden Planning Commission.

7. APPOINTMENT OF OPEN SEAT TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Mayor Lee Davis introduced Mr. Tom Self as the newest appointed member to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

8. REAPPOINTMENT OF KEITH BARRY TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Mayor Lee Davis announced the reappointment of Ms. Keith Barry to a five-year term on the Board of Zoning Appeals

9. DISCUSSION ON AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT POLICY AND COMPLIANCE DOCUMENTS

Town Administrator Mariah Prescott summarized the necessity of coming into compliance with the ADA. The document outlining this process is attached as an exhibit to these minutes (Appendix C).

10. CONSIDERATION OF OCTOBER 13, 2026 TOWN HALL MEETING DATE CHANGE

Mayor Lee Davis noted that the October 13th BMA meeting would occur during Fall Break. Because of this, it has been suggested to move the meeting to the following Wednesday at 5:30 PM.

VICE MAYOR LIZZY SCHMIDT MOVED TO APPROVE MOVING THE OCTOBER MEETING OF THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN TO 10/21/2026, SECONDED BY ALDERWOMAN ANGELA CASSIDY AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN.

11. W-ROAD CLEANUP SEPTEMBER 13 REMINDER

Mayor Lee Davis reminded the audience of the upcoming W-Road cleanup, to be held on 09/13/2026. Volunteers are needed and are asked to meet at McCoy Farm and Gardens at 8:00 AM.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Mr. Tony Wheeler reminded the audience that "Rock the Ridge" will be held at the Bachman Community Center on Saturday, 09/12/2026, from noon until 7:00 PM. Multiple speakers will be featured.

Communications Director Ellen Young announced to the audience that Walden's new website will be live on Friday, September 11. Please visit it at www.waldentn.gov

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Lee Davis adjourned the meeting at 7:07 PM.



Respectfully submitted:
Stacy Stewart, Town Recorder



Approved:
Mariah Prescott, Town Administrator



Approved:
Lee Davis, Mayor