

**Plan for bequest money gets OK
Walkertown to hire firm to seek grant money, plan park**

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JOURNAL REPORTER

Thursday, December 27, 2007

WALKERTOWN

Two new council members took their seats in Walkertown, and the departing council members tried to wrap up a \$100,000 recreation problem during last week's meeting of the town council.

The council also approved a McDonald's restaurant for Walkertown Landing shopping center and approved a resolution calling for lower speed limits on U.S. 158.

Council Members Marilyn Martin and Randy Mendenhall waited in their seats as the previous council held its last session and tried to wrap up the issue of how to spend a \$100,000 recreation bequest.

The money had been given to the town in 2005 by the estate of the late Spencer Waggoner, but the money remains unspent. In August, the Waggoner estate sued for the return of the money, but the town and the estate agreed to consent order on how to spend the money.

Council Member Brenda Mabe - she lost her bid for a new term - asked the council last Thursday to spend the money on recreational items associated with a park the town wants to build near town hall.

Mabe proposed spending the money to hire a company to apply for grants and to develop park plans. She said the bequest could be used to supply the money to match grants from the state.

The grants could be used to build recreational equipment and provide parking spaces, bathrooms and the upgrading of an old fire station building as a meeting area.

While various groups in town have asked for a portion of the money, she said, Waggoner would have given them the money if he had wanted to spend it on them. "If we give this money away here and there we never will have a park."

The council voted 3-1 to approve Mabe's motion. Council Member Sarah Welch opposed it. Welch said that the plan didn't spend enough on recreation.

Martin and Mendenhall then were sworn in as council members along with Wayne Hester and Welch. Departing Council Members Ralph Landreth and Mabe received plaques of recognition for their service.

In other business, the council voted unanimously to approve a final development plan for the town's first McDonald's restaurant after a public hearing that drew no opposition.

The McDonald's will be built in Walkertown Landing, a new shopping area at the northeast corner of U.S. 158 and N.C. 66. The council rejected a previous effort to build a McDonald's on the southwest corner of the intersection.

The council unanimously approved a request to lower speed limits on U.S. 158 and N.C. 66.

The proposal calls for a speed limit of 35 mph on U.S. 158 around the N.C. 66 intersection, and 45 mph on the approaches to it. The speed limit is 55 mph on the highway. The town wants a speed limit of 35 mph on a portion of N.C. 66.

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