

Walkertown board discusses street issue

Town council is considering maintenance requests by people who live along private roads

By Wesley Young
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WALKERTOWN

Town officials wrestled with street-paving concerns and property acquisition during last week's work session of the town council.

The council took no formal action, but agreed that the town needs to have rules that will govern situations in which the town is asked to take over road maintenance.

Last November, residents of Jackie Lane, Chris Drive and Donna Marie Court asked the council for help in repairing their streets. Residents said that the streets have bad potholes that make it hard to use the road.

Garbage trucks use the street, and residents said that is part of the problem.

The streets are private roads. When council members discussed the request last November, they also wrestled with concerns that some properties on the streets are not within the town limits.

During the session, council members looked at the policy in Lewisville as one possibility for Walkertown.

Lewisville requires that nonstandard roads have 40 feet of right-of-way to be taken into the town system of roads, and requires that the roads must have been built before Jan. 1, 1990.

Lewisville also requires that the property owners on the street contribute 20 percent of the cost of paving a street or doing the initial repairs, although the town also allows up to \$5,000 in repair costs to be paid by the town alone.

Steve Garland, the town attorney for Walkertown, told council members during the work session that the board shouldn't decide to pave streets without putting in guidelines.

"If you are going to do it, you probably ought to do it as a policy for other cases," Garland said.

Council Member Brenda Mabe said that in the past, the council had not taken in streets for maintenance unless they were up to state standards.

Mayor Doc Davis took issue with language in the Lewisville policy that talks about the town's goal of having all streets paved. Davis said that Walkertown has some streets that are little more than paths and suggested that it would never be practical to pave them.

The council ended the discussion by asking Town Manager Rob Bell to gather more information on the subject.

The town could be closer to buying some land from Gant Oil Co. north of the town hall, now that a document has been signed clarifying the status of ground contamination on parts of the property.

Gant certified that lots one and two - the lots immediately north of the town hall - have contamination beneath the surface because of past oil-company activities. The lots cover less than half an acre.

Town officials said they may want to acquire the lots along with two other nearby ones that have no contamination. But the town was not willing to proceed until it obtained notice that only certain lots had the contamination. Town officials said they could put a parking lot on the "bad" properties, and use the other properties for park areas or other purposes.

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