

***BURGESS AND COMMISSIONERS
OF MIDDLETOWN MARYLAND***

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

September 24, 2012

The second monthly meeting of the Burgess and Commissioners of Middletown was called to order on, September 24, 2012 by Burgess John D. Miller at 7:00 p.m. in the Middletown Municipal Center, 31 W. Main Street, Middletown, Maryland. Present were: Burgess Miller, Commissioners Jennifer Falcinelli, Larry Bussard, Richard Dietrick, Vincent O'Reilly and Anthony Ventre.

CONSENT AGENDA

September 10, 2012 Town Meeting – Commissioner Bussard motioned to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Goodman and passed unanimously.

PERSONAL REQUEST FOR AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Establishment of Focus Group on Farm Animal Ordinance – Burgess Miller stated the Board could establish a Focus Group or approve the draft ordinance before them. The Commissioners, Jack Rieser, 14 Caroline Dr., Ian Yarmus, 16 Walnut Pond Court & Bob Smart, 7525 Coblenz Road discussed:

- This issue has been discussed a lot for the past 2 months;
- Health and property value are a concern to those opposed to allowing farm animals;
- Having a well rounded group and a Board member appointed to the Focus Group, if the focus group option is pursued; and
- Grandfathering was discussed and the public told since this is an ordinance regarding public health and safety that grandfathering should not be allowed.

Commissioner Bussard motioned to approved the draft ordinance as amended; in B1 remove *no more than 4 animals at any time*, B2 remove *and shall annually obtain the written consent from each adjoining property owner or occupant consenting to the keeping or maintaining of the farm animal(s)*. *The written consents shall be submitted to the Town on or before June 1 of each year*. In Paragraph A add *bees and beekeeping*, add #3 to include Ag zoning exception, seconded by Commissioner Falcinelli and the motioned passed with 5 votes for and 1 (Commissioner Dietrick) against. Burgess Miller stated since the draft ordinance has been amended, the appointment of a Focus Group is not needed. This

amended ordinance will be forward onto the Town Attorney and a Public Hearing is scheduled for October 4, 2012.

Central Maryland Heritage League – Offer to Sell Rear of Property – Staff is instructed to contact the owners for their price.

Review of Planning Commission’s Comments on Draft Ordinance for Vehicle Sales – Schedule Public Hearing – Public Hearing is scheduled for November 1, 2012 and vote will be on November 12, 2012.

FY 2013 Patching Contract Bid Award – The Town received 3 bids:

CJ Miller	\$ 75,832.00
RFP	\$ 75,959.91
L.W. Wolfe	\$109,470.95

Since the lowest bid is about \$7000.00 more than what was budgeted, staff will reduce patching at the WWTP and look into some cost reductions where patching is made over waterline breaks.

Commissioner Bussard motioned to accept the bid from DJ Miller and have staff look into reducing this amount by \$7,000.00, seconded by Commissioner Dietrick and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Zoning Violations – Thompson Funeral Home – Mr. Thompson installed a parking lot along E. Green St. without obtaining permits from the County and the Town. Upon review, a parking lot is not an approved use in an R2 zone. By general consent, the Board asked the Zoning Administrator to send a letter to Mr. Thompson suggesting further investment on his part might not be prudent until this is resolved. Commissioner Falcinelli mentioned the Town often encourages businesses to provide parking for their customers.

Commissioner Ventre mentioned he has forward to the Town Board several e-mails regarding the children’s garden. He asked the Board to review these e-mails in order to make a recommendation to the Park Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Smart – 7515 Coblenz Road, said Heritage Festival was very successful and the Library Committee book sale was also successful. Mr. Smart thanked the Brennogens for allowing the book sale to be held at the Memorial Hall and also thanked the Town for the storage of the books until the sale.

Pam Dietrick, Heritage Board member, mentioned that she saw a little girl at the Wiles Branch Park this week with a parasol that was made at the Children’s Craft during the Festival which was very successful this year.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine H. Moore
Administrative Assistant