

BURGESS AND COMMISSIONERS OF MIDDLETOWN MARYLAND

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING

October 4, 2012

The Public Hearing of the Burgess and Commissioners of Middletown was called to order on October 4, 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 and Christopher Goodman.

PUBLIC HEARING – Prohibition of Farm Animals within Town Limits

Burgess Miller announced since this issue has been discussed over the last few months, the total time limit for this hearing will be ½ hour and vote on Ordinance 12-09-01 will be at the October 8, 2012 Town Meeting. The following residents spoke:

Agnesanne Danehey, 3 Layla Dr. – had mentioned the following;

Supports having farm animals within the Town Limits

Can property owners safely support the animals in question

Disappointed the Town did not confer with Extension Service and/or Dept. of Agriculture of MD. Representative

This is a farming community and not long ago there were horse and buggy, where did they stay?

Overcrowding of schools could be a cause of low housing cost.

Ernesto Geisler, 3 Layla Dr. – had a pet chicken when he was 10 and had a small yard. He did not get sick and feels chickens are a safe animal. Mr. Geisler went on to say ducks and cats can carry disease.

Ian Yarmus, 16 Walnut Pond Court – mentioned the following:

Before getting chickens, spoke with Town and neighbors.

Does the Town need another enforcement issue on their plate

Asked that a grandfather clause be put in the ordinance. Burgess Miller said the ordinance calls for 4 and since you have 9, would you lower the number. Mr. Yarmus said when the chickens die, they will not be replaced.

Jack Rieser, 14 Caroline Dr. – Mr. Rieser mentioned this is an adult issue and still has concerns with property value, health related issues and salability of property. Mr. Rieser suggests if there is compromise that consent from neighbors be included. Mr. Rieser went on to say dogs and cats can be kept in a home while chickens are not.

Ronald Heavner, 16 Gray Fox Court – Mr. Heavner presented a power point and letter (copy attached) with regards to his chicken(s). Burgess Miller mentioned the Board will ignore the personal attacks.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine H. Moore
Administrative Assistant