

BURGESS AND COMMISSIONERS OF MIDDLETOWN MARYLAND

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

June 23, 2014

The first monthly meeting of the Burgess and Commissioners of Middletown was called to order on June 23, 2014, by Burgess Miller at 7:00 p.m. in the Middletown Municipal Center, 31 W. Main Street, Middletown, Maryland. Present were: Commissioners Larry Bussard, Tony Ventre and Christopher Goodman.

PERSONAL REQUEST FOR AGENDA:

“If I were Mayor” contest winners – 1st place winner Hannah LaPadula and 2nd place winner Jillian Allen were both present and read their essays to the public. Burgess Miller presented each winner with gift cards.

PUBLIC HEARING

Burgess Miller called to order the Public Hearing at 7:12pm.

Operating Budgets FY 2015 – General Fund and Water & Sewer Fund – Drew stated that this was properly advertised in the Citizen newspaper. Drew stated that there is no increase to the tax rate, there is a 3% water & sewer rate increase included but the Board will need to hold a separate public hearing to agree on exactly how much of a water & sewer rate increase they would like to enact. Drew stated that the budgets do not show the proposed savings of the solar array..

No public comments. The Public hearing adjourned at 7:20pm.

CONSENT AGENDA

Financial Statements

Gladhill Furniture Street banners for 100th Anniversary – The cost of the banners will be paid by Gladhill Furniture

Town Minutes – May 12, 2014 Town Meeting

Commissioner Bussard motioned to accept this consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Ventre and passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business:

Adoption of the FY 2015 Operating Budgets – Commission Bussard motion to approve the FY 2015 Operating Budgets as presented, seconded by Commissioner Ventre. Motion carried 4-0.

Ordinance 14-05-01 – Residential Clusters – Burgess Miller stated that the public hearing for this Ordinance was held on May 12, 2014. At that public hearing we heard comments from residents and we took into consideration of making the driveway’s longer to 20’ so that pedestrians are able to use sidewalk instead of walking around vehicles into the roadway.

Commissioner Ventre stated that he has a problem with where the Planning Commission wants to place this ordinance within the Active Adult section of the zoning code only. Commissioner Ventre stated that he agrees with Cindy staff report that this should be a separate section of the code in order to address any potential types of cluster developments that could occur in other zoning districts.

Motion by Commissioner Goodman to approve the ordinance as written. Motion failed with no second. It was agreed to send this back to the Planning Commission to consider as a separate section in the zoning code for all zoning districts.

Discussion of Elected Official Salaries – Burgess Miller stated that the Elected Officials salaries have not been increased since 1996 and we have added more monthly meetings. The proposed increase is as follows:

- Current Burgess Salary - \$500/month
- Proposed Burgess Salary - \$850/month
- Current Commissioner Salary - \$200/month
- Proposed Commissioner Salary - \$350/month

The ordinance, if approved, would take effect following the April, 2016 election and would apply to only those officials facing election. Other elected officials would receive a salary increase following the April, 2018 election.

Bob Smart, 7525 Coblenz Road – stated that given it's been 20 years since an increase he sees no problem with.

Commissioner Goodman asked if there was a way we could put something in to have an increase go into effect every 10 years. Burgess Miller stated that the public hearing for this will be held at the August 7th Workshop at 7:00PM.

War Memorial Lighting Bids

Drew stated that included in the packets are 2 bids one from Dixie Electric for \$11,160 and one from Antietam Electrical Contractors for \$10,988. Motion by Commissioner Bussard to approve the bid from Antietam Electrical Contractors, seconded by Goodman. Motion carried 4-0. Drew stated that the Amvet's will be donating toward this but we do not know the amount to date.

Review of Power Purchase Agreement by Town Attorney – Representatives from RER and Empower were present to go over the Town Attorney's comments as well as comments and concerns from the Commissioners.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES –

WATER & SEWER – no report

PUBLIC WORKS – Commissioner Bussard reported:

The maintenance guys replaced the concrete around the banner poles.

Crack sealing is going on this week.

Bulk Trash pick-up scheduled for Oct. 25, 2014.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Commissioner Goodman reported:

Cross Stone Commons – Burgess Miller stated that he and Drew met with the representatives with Cross Stone Commons about the entrance into this shopping center. Burgess Miller stated that they came up with a compromise...right turn lane only into shopping center from Alt. 40, the first entrance off of Middletown Parkway will be a full entrance and exit as well as the entrance across from Glenbrook Drive that too will be an entrance/exit.

PARKS & RECREATION – Commissioner Ventre reported:

POS meeting on Thursday.

FINANCE – no report

PUBLIC INFORMATION –no report

NEW BUSINESS:

Planning Commission Annual Report – Motion by Commissioner Ventre to approve the 2013 Annual Report as presented, seconded by Commissioner Bussard. Motion carried 4-0.

Community Deputy Contract for FY 2015 – Motion by Commissioner Goodman to approve the Community Deputy Contract for FY 2015 totaling \$326,657, seconded by Commissioner Ventre. Motion carried 4-0.

Request for Community Parks and Playground Projects – any ideas you have for POS please forward to Commissioner Ventre.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Susan Kraus, 104 Locust Court – publicly thanked the Town especially Drew Bowen and Bruce Carbaugh for their work on getting the water line hooked up. Ms. Kraus stated that all of her neighbors are very pleased.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Board, the regular meeting adjourned at 8:45p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Griffin
Office Manager