

# *BURGESS AND COMMISSIONERS OF MIDDLETOWN MARYLAND*

## TOWN MEETING MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING

December 28, 2020

The virtual meeting of the Burgess and Commissioners of Middletown was called to order on December 28, 2020, by Burgess Miller at 7:00 p.m. Present via Zoom were: Commissioners Christopher Goodman, Jennifer Falcinelli, Jean LaPadula and Rick Dietrick. Others present: Suzanne Lewis (13122 Brandenburg Hollow Road Smithburg, MD 21783), Evelyn Holmes (4035 Trego Road Keedysville, MD 21756), and Mark Carney (Planning Commission Chairman).

**PERSONAL REQUESTS FOR AGENDA: None.**

### CONSENT AGENDA:

- **Covid Policy Updates** – The CDC updated its guidelines regarding Covid19. Commissioner Falcinelli reviewed how this affects the Town’s policy.
- **Town Meeting Minutes**
  - *December 3, 2020 – Town Workshop*
  - *December 14, 2020 – Town Meeting*

**Motion:** Commissioner Goodman motioned to accept the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner LaPadula. Motion carried (4-0).

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

**Introduction Ordinance 20-12-01 for Off-Site Sale of Liquor within Town Limits** – An unscientific survey was made available to Middletown residents as to the interest in allowing the off-site sale of liquor within town limits. There were over 700 responses to the off-site sale of liquor in town limits survey with at any given time 64-68% in favor of it. Copies of the draft developed by the Town Attorney were provided for review. The Town Board agreed it would be allowed in the General Commercial District as a special exception only. It addresses parking requirements, sign standards, hours of operation and location in regard to houses of worship and schools. The Town Board added language to the ordinance about items such as soda machines, ice storage and other accessory items not being allowed outside the front of the structure. Those businesses that currently have such accessory items out front of their premises would be grandfathered in. The Town Board modified the hours of operation on Mondays through Saturdays to be 9 A.M. to 10 P.M. The proposed Sunday hours would remain the same. Suzanne Lewis (13122 Brandenburg Hollow Road Smithburg, MD 21783) agrees with the requirements in the ordinance but asked if hours could be extended by an hour for certain holidays like New Year’s Eve. Board members stated that store owner could ask permission from the Town on these certain occasions.

Evelyn Holmes (4035 Trego Road Keedysville, MD 21756) asked what does a special exception mean for a liquor store in Middletown? Board members stated that any special exception must go through the Board of Appeals committee for approval. Any persons interested in opening a liquor store in Middletown must get approval from the Board of Appeals before going to the liquor board. There was also discussion on what the process is if more than one person wants to open a liquor store. Board stated that all interested parties would still have to go through the process of filing a special exception with the

Board of Appeals and then the liquor board would determine who would get the one spot available in Middletown.

Town Board decided on January 25, 2021 for a Public Hearing to discuss Ordinance 20-12-01 for Off-Site sale of Liquor within Town Limits and February 8, 2021 to vote on the ordinance.

**Ordinance 20-11-01- Amendments to the Water & Sewer Billing Policies and Procedures** – The introduction of this ordinance reflects the updates that states credit card payments are accepted and a new payment plan form for high water bills. The payment plan form includes a recommended minimum monthly payment that must be paid by the resident and that any payment plan granted must be paid in full within a year. The Water and Sewer committee is working on new ways to calculate these high bills and will submit them to the Town Board once completed. Water and Sewer committee will be meeting on January 6, 2021.

**Comprehensive Plan – Chapter Review** – Commissioner LaPadula reviewed the Sustainability Chapter of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan. She suggested that each chapter of the Comp Plan follow the same general format as this one for ease of review of information. Town Board will review the chapters with the Planning Commission at the joint meeting on January 4, 2021.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Discussion of Recycling drop site at Middletown Park** –The recycling drop site at Middletown County park was closed years ago due to single stream recycling but residents requested for the dumpster to come back. There have been issues for several years with people dumping junk and overflowing the recycling dumpster. The board discussed different solutions from adding more signage of what can be placed in dumpster, adding a second dumpster to the site, and getting rid of the drop site all together. Town Administrator will contact Frederick County Solid Waste for more signage and suggestions on what can be done to prevent junk from being dropped off.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next Town Board/Planning Commission joint meeting will be held virtual on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 6:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Guyton  
Town Receptionist