

BURGESS AND COMMISSIONERS OF MIDDLETOWN MARYLAND

TOWN MEETING MINUTES

TOWN MEETING

April 10, 2023

The meeting of the Burgess and Commissioners of Middletown was called to order on April 10, 2023 by Burgess Miller at 6:30 p.m. Present were Commissioners Jennifer Falcinelli, Rick Dietrick, Kevin Stottlemeyer, Jean LaPadula and Chris Goodman.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

FY2024 Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund Operating Budget –This proposed budget includes a CPI increase of 3% but does not include any salary increases. The proposed FY2024 Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund totals \$1,355,031.

FY2024 Water & Sewer Capital Improvement Program (CIP) - This proposed budget includes identified projects that will be funded by ARPA monies. This budget has very little development/ tap fees to increase revenue. Both expenditure and revenue sources will have to be reviewed. Discussion continued regarding raising the CIF. Some Town Board members were in favor of having a small increase annually so there is less reliance on the money generated from tap fees with annexations and development. It has been recognized that the CIF needs to be saved to assist to pay for CIP future expenses. There can be no savings without cutting items from the CIP budget. It was noted that items have been pushed to future years because they could not be paid for during previous CIP years. Things can't be pushed much further due to items breaking down. A suggestion was made to research less expensive options for equipment replacement that could include entering into agreements with surrounding municipalities or the County to use their equipment to augment Town needs.

The budget workshop ended at 7:13PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chris Johnson, 34 Boileau Court, asked why the duplicate WWI Memorial plaque is being hung in Memorial Hall, and not the original. The decision was made for the Town to retain the original plaque as there was no guarantee that future owners of Memorial Hall wouldn't remove it. The duplicate plaque clearly indicates that it is a duplicate and where the original can be found (at the Middletown War Memorial).

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **Budget Amendment 23-02** – Most of the historic newspapers in the Middletown collection have been placed in archival folders and then placed in large sized boxes for storage. However, 20 additional storage boxes are needed to complete this task at a cost of \$550. The proposed budget amendment would move \$550 from the Recreation and Culture- Maintenance line item to the Supplies for Museum Storage line item of the current budget.
- **Town Meeting Minutes**
 - *March 27, 2023 – Town Meeting*

Motion: Commissioner Falcinelli motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented. Seconded by Commissioner LaPadula. Motion passed (6-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Ordinance 23-03-01 – Amendments to Swimming Pool Regulations – Governor Hogan signed a law to adopt national standards regarding pool regulations. The Planning Commission and the Zoning Administrator recommend amending the Town pool regulations to reference these standards and to bring the Town regulations closer to alignment with County regulations. This has been before the Town Board previously.

Motion: Commissioner Falcinelli motioned to approve Ordinance 23-03-01, amendments to the swimming pool regulations as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Goodman. Motion passed (6-0).

Ordinance 23-03-02 – Amendments to Fence Regulations – Previously the Staff Planner summarized the proposed updates to this ordinance. It includes recommending the removal of the section on special exceptions for fences as it seemed specific to a property and instead gives the Zoning Administrator the approval on a case-by-case basis.

Motion: Commissioner Goodman motioned to approve Ordinance 23-03-02, amendments to the fence regulations as presented. Seconded by Commissioner LaPadula. Motion passed (6-0).

Ordinance 23-03-03 – Sign Regulations – Previously the Staff Planner summarized the proposed updates to this ordinance. The ordinance is now content neutral as required. It reflects that any areas of the Town Code which reference signs also refer to conforming with the provisions set forth in Chapter 17.36 Signs of the Town Code.

Motion: Commissioner LaPadula motioned to approve Ordinance 23-03-03, amendments to the sign regulations as presented. Seconded by Commissioner Falcinelli. Motion passed (6-0).

Program Open Space Projects for FY2024 – Commissioner Goodman reported that there are three POS projects that the Town would like to apply for: 1. Screening and lights for the Remsberg Park pickleball courts (\$75,000), 2. Water fountains for Remsberg Park, which includes infrastructure lines and labor (\$75,000), and 3. Two pavilions at the Wiles Branch Dog Park (\$55,000). The Town Board agreed by consensus to move forward with the applications.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES:

WATER & SEWER – Commissioner Falcinelli reported:

For March water use was – 309,885 gal., spring flow was – 142,161 gal., East WWTP treated 275,000 gals. and the West WWTP treated 162,000 gals. The Town received 2.9 inches of rain in March. The Town has 131 water EDU's and 83 sewer EDU's currently available. Lead and Copper testing will commence in June. Homes built between 1981-1987 would be tested. This is not new. Identified homes have been repeatedly tested in the past with no lead or copper detected. Samples must be gotten within the home. Sample size is a concern. The Franklin Street I&I project, the Remsberg Park waterline are completed. The Linden Boulevard waterline project is beginning. Well 23 was redeveloped due to reduced yield and fouling by iron and manganese.

PUBLIC WORKS – Commissioner Dietrick reported:

Town valves were repaired in Glenbrook, Crews assisted with the Town recycle event. Two hydrants were replaced. Parks were opened. Crews have been seeding town ball fields. South Jefferson Street has parking striped, and the speed limit painted on the street. Crews walked the springline. The crosswalk

sign at Prospect Street and Franklin Street was replaced. The Middleton Glen is conducting a survey regarding on-street parking. The HOA will come to the Town Board with recommendations.

SUSTAINABILITY – Commissioner Stottlemeyer reported:

The Middletown Library will host a sustainability class on the 5M Trees Initiative on April 20, 2023 at 6:30PM. Arbor Day tree planting will occur April 28, 2023 on Hollow Road near Layla Drive. The Green Expo is scheduled for April 22nd at Memorial Park.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Commissioner LaPadula reported:

The workshop will be held Wednesday, April 12, 2023. The Planning Commission meeting will be held Monday, April 17, 2023. Agenda items include the Comp Plan review of Chapter 8 – Water Resource Element and Chapter 9 – Growth Element.

PARKS AND REC. COMMITTEE – Commissioner Goodman reported:

The ribbon cutting ceremony at the softball field at Memorial Park was well attended. MVAA spent \$15000 on filed upgrades. A concrete chess table for Heritage Park has been ordered. MVAA has requested that the town place millings south of the walking trail at the lower ball fields at Remsberg Park. This would allow parking near those ball fields and keep people from driving to those fields from the direction of the solar array. The Director of Public Works will be asked to review the request and provide comments.

PUBLIC INFORMATION – Commissioner Falcinelli reported:

The quarterly update went out with the quarterly billing. Included with the update was an insert concerning sump pumps in town. Sump pumps cannot drain directly into the town’s sewer system. Sump pump drainage, and any other type of runoff should go into the storm drains. Those hooked into the sewer system run the risk of a sewer back up. It is also illegal to have that connection. As always, residents were reminded to sign up for town email notifications and robocalls to keep up to date on the latest in Middletown. It was noted that the Town meets every Friday with Shentel representatives for updates on their progress.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Planning & Zoning Report for 2022 – The draft annual summary report of all the planning and zoning activities for 2022 was completed by the Planning Commission. The Town Board reviewed the report. The Town Board agreed by consensus to approve the 2022 Annual Planning & Zoning Report.

Discussion of Amendments to Ethics Ordinance – The State Ethics Law has changed which require changes to the local government ethics laws. It includes new conflicts of interest and additional disclosure for elected officials that must be incorporated into the Town’s local ordinance. A question was asked for a definition of confidential information and the distinction of kind of information that would include. The Town Administrator will forward these changes to the Town Attorney so that they can be put into ordinance form.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The Town Board recognized that this was the Town Administrators last Town Board meeting prior to his retirement. They thanked Drew for his 30 years of service to the Town and for all that he has done.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- *Green Expo – Saturday, April 22, 2023, from 10AM-2PM*
- *Arbor Day Tree Planting – Friday, April 28, 2023, from 1PM-3PM*

- *Farmers Market Opens every Thursday through October*
- *Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage – Saturday, May 6, 2023*
- *Memorial Day Ceremony – Memorial Park, Monday, May 29, 2023*

Workshop adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Alberghini,
Office Manager