

BURGESS AND COMMISSIONERS OF MIDDLETOWN MARYLAND

VIRTUAL TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TOWN MEETING

August 23, 2021

The meeting of the Burgess and Commissioners of Middletown was called to order on August 23, 2021, by Burgess Miller at 7:00 p.m. Present via Zoom were Commissioners Christopher Goodman, Jennifer Falcinelli, Jean LaPadula, Kevin Stottlemeyer, and Rick Dietrick.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PERSONAL REQUESTS FOR AGENDA: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- **Town Meeting Minutes**
 - *August 5, 2021 – Town Workshop*
 - *August 9, 2021 – Town Meeting*

In the August 9, 2021, minutes under “Request for Suggestion for 2022 Legislative Package”, the erroneous statement of “The Town Board agreed to write a letter of support if that request came to fruition.” Was requested to be removed and replaced with “The Town Board would like a more in-depth discussion once the language on this issue is part of the legislative package.” This will be an agenda item for the next Town Board workshop.

Motion: Commissioner Falcinelli motioned to approve the consent agenda with the changes suggested. Seconded by Commissioner LaPadula. Motion approved (5-0).

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Comprehensive Plan – Chapter Review – The Planning Commission has been reviewing Chapter 2 History, Housing and Population. Because of the large amount of statistical data in this chapter they recommend creating an appendix and organizing much of that statistical data there. The Staff Planner reviewed the goals of Chapter 2. The 2020 Census data is coming out. The population of Middletown is now 4,943, an increase of 19.5%. Middletown’s housing units are now at 1830, an increase of 16.6%. Frederick County’s population increased to 271,717 individuals. Frederick County will provide population projection numbers in mid-September. The City of Frederick voted to allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs) within city limits. The Staff Planner reviewed the requirements that must now be met for Frederick’s ADUs. There was discussion as to whether Middletown needed ADUs and what the unexpected consequences would be. More discussion will be needed. This will be an agenda item for the next joint meeting of the Town Board and Planning Commission.

Update on Streetlight Buyback Proposal Project – MD HB729 allows local governments to buy their streetlights back from the local power company and still utilize the lines for electrical power as a cost savings to the municipality. In 2015 and 2016 Middletown approached Potomac Edison about buying

back 544 streetlights in town, excluding those streetlights with cobra heads. Johnson Controls provided a costs analysis of this potential purchase. The Town has 2 options to consider:

- Option 1: The Town purchases the streetlights and ancillary equipment for \$564,813.
- Option 2: Potomac Edison keeps the streetlights but changes them all to LEDs at no cost to the Town.

The pros and cons for each option were discussed. The Town Administrator will contact Potomac Edison for updated information. ARP funds could be used for this purchase.

Ryan French, 8 Walnut Pond Court, requested that the cost analysis be included with this meetings minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of Affordable Housing Options – See the minutes on Comprehensive Chapter Review previously in these minutes.

Civil War Panel Replacement Proposal – This is regarding the proposal to replace the weathered exhibit panel across the street from town hall with a new panel. The new panel will be essentially the same with improved images and minor typographical improvements to make the panel easier to read. The proposed cost is \$1,287.50. If approved, the work would begin immediately with likely completion within two months' time.

Motion: Commissioner LaPadula motioned to approve the civil war panel replacement proposal as presented and at the listed cost. Seconded by Commissioner Goodman. Motion approved (6-0).

Discussion of Transfer of Property to County for New Library – The proposed site for the new Middletown Library on East Green Street currently has stormwater management (SWM) structures on the edges of the property for the Middletown Glen subdivision. These SWM structures are maintained by the Middletown Glen HOA. Frederick County has proposed subdividing off a section of the property which includes those SWM structures and the walking trail and giving it back to the Town. The Town will approach the HOA to see its interest in assuming ownership of that property once it was subdivided off. After that discussion, the Town will speak with Frederick County.

Crossing Guard Compensation Discussion – With the school year having begun, there is always a demand for crossing guards. The Middle School Principal has asked for a copy of the crossing guard job description to advertise. At previous town meetings it was agreed to raise the crossing guard minimum wage to \$15 an hour, with the lead crossing guard hourly wage being \$17 per hour with an annual stipend.

Discussion concerning the proposed upgraded traffic pattern planned for the school complex occurred. The plan was approved by Frederick County Public Schools previously, but the County Executive shelved the plan until upgrades to existing buildings in the complex are completed (approximately 2028). The Town Administrator will send a letter to the County School Superintendent requesting an update on this situation.

Lighting at Holter Road at Middletown Parkway – The Glenbrook HOA has requested the Town install a streetlight at the crosswalk on Holter Road near Middletown Parkway. It is dark there and is a potential safety hazard. There is a telephone pole there. The Town could contact Potomac Edison and request a cobra head or two be placed on that pole. This would light the crosswalk area and provide more

lighting at the intersection. A request to the County to place reflectors on the road to high light the crosswalk was also suggested.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ryan French, 8 Walnut Pond Court, requested that the Town make posted meeting minutes a searchable pdf document. The Town will comply if possible.

The Family Movie Night was a success. Burgess Miller thanked MAAC and town staff who supported the event for their efforts.

Frederick County Rebuilding Together approached Middletown to see if there was interest in a partnership to participate in the T-Mobil Hometown Grants Program. This program provides up to \$50,000.00 to 100 small towns each year, for the next 5 years (500 small towns total) to revitalize community spaces. These spaces can include town halls, senior centers, little league fields etc. The Town Board agreed by consensus for the Staff Planner to pursue this partnership.

2021 Community Day of Service is Saturday, September 11, 2021. It is being coordinated through the local churches by the Middletown Ministerium. Volunteers are to meet at the Christ Reformed Church at 8:00AM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- *Vintage Vehicles in the Valley – Saturday, September 11, 2021 – There will be food music and fun. It will take place in the Zion Lutheran Church parking lot and the Middletown municipal parking lot.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Annette Alberghini,
Office Manager