



MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 10, 2020



PRESENT: Mayor Trowbridge M. Littleton
Vice Mayor Philip M. Miller
Councilmember Chris W. Bernard
Councilmember J. Kevin Daly
Councilmember Morris “Bud” Jacobs
Councilmember Peter Leonard-Morgan
Councilmember Cindy C. Pearson

STAFF: Danny Davis, Town Manager
Martin Crim, Town Attorney
Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk
William M. Moore, Deputy Town Manager
Jamie Gaucher, Economic Development Director
Estee LaClare, Planning & Project Associate
Julie Rivard, Finance Director/Town Treasurer
A.J. Panebianco, Chief of Police

ABSENT: Councilmember Darlene Kirk

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held their regular monthly meeting, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2020. Due to Governor Northam’s executive orders requiring that people social distance, the Council meeting was held as a hybrid meeting, with some of the Council and staff participating in-person and others participating remotely.

Mayor Littleton explained for the viewing audience that it was the Council’s responsibility to conduct essential public business despite the COVID-19 pandemic; however, it recognized the need to do so safely, not only for its members but also for the Town staff and members of the public. He further explained that to that end, in accordance with the Council’s resolution declaring a local emergency and its ordinance implementing emergency procedures and effectuating temporary changes to address the continuity of governmental operations, the Council would hold its meetings via remote access until such time as the Governor rescinded his executive orders. Mr. Littleton advised the viewing audience that copies of the agendas were available on the Town’s website and that the meetings would be livestreamed and recorded for viewing on the website. He reviewed the process that would be utilized for the remote meetings.

Mayor Littleton led Council and those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The roll call was called at 6:03 p.m.

Mayor Littleton recognized Loudoun County Blue Ridge District Supervisor Tony Buffington for his presence during the special recognitions.

Special Recognition by Mayor & Council

Resolution of Appreciation – Lieutenant Jay Hollins

Chief Panebianco thanked Lieutenant Jay Hollins for his eight-years of service on the Middleburg Police Department. He noted that he always placed the needs of others in front of himself.

Mayor Littleton advised that Lieutenant Hollins had done an amazing job and was a member of the community. He noted that he made a special mark in Middleburg and touched a lot of lives. Mr. Littleton wished Lieutenant Hollins the best of luck. He read the Resolution of Appreciation aloud and presented it to him, along with a paperweight and gift from the Town of Middleburg. Mr. Littleton thanked Lieutenant Hollins' wife for her support over the years.

Lieutenant Hollins thanked the Town, Chief Panebianco and the members of the Police Department for their support.

Councilmember Daly presented Mrs. Hollins with flowers as an expression of appreciation for her support.

Chief Panebianco presented Lieutenant Hollins with a framed copy of his badge, rank, and Police Department patches, as well as a gift from the department.

Councilmember Daly moved, seconded by Councilmember Bernard, that Council adopt a resolution extending its appreciation to John A. "Jay" Hollins for his service in the Middleburg Police Department from July 12, 2012 through January 1, 2021, first as a Police Officer and then as a Lieutenant.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Miller, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Leonard-Morgan and Pearson

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Kirk

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.) (by roll call vote)

Oath of Honor – Officer Jimmy Lacy

Chief Panebianco explained the meaning of the Oath of Honor and noted that its administration for Officer Lacy was delayed due to the COVID pandemic. He administered the Oath to Officer Lacy.

Oath of Honor – Lieutenant Shaun Jones

Chief Panebianco administered the Oath of Honor to Lieutenant Shaun Jones. Lieutenant Jones' wife then pinned his badge on him, followed by Petersburg Police Chief Travis Christian pinning his rank on him.

Lieutenant Jones expressed his appreciation for being selected to be a part of the Middleburg community and advised that he was excited to begin his duties.

Councilmember Daly presented flowers to Mrs. Jones and welcomed her to the Middleburg family. Mayor Littleton welcomed Lieutenant Jones to the community.

Public Hearings & Action Items

Zoning Text Amendment 20-01: Penalties and Remedies for Zoning Violations

Deputy Town Manager Moore reported that the proposed amendment would bring the zoning ordinance in line with the State Code with regard to maximum fines and remedies for zoning violations. He noted that the Town rarely imposed a zoning violation; however, he opined that it was important to have these remedies available if they were needed.

No one spoke and the public hearing was closed.

Councilmember Leonard-Morgan moved, seconded by Councilmember Bernard, that Council adopt an ordinance to amend Section 81 of the Middleburg Zoning Ordinance pertaining to penalties and remedies for violations.

Mayor Littleton expressed his appreciation to the Planning Commission for their work on this item.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Miller, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Leonard-Morgan and Pearson

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Kirk

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.) (by roll call vote)

Zoning Text Amendment 20-02: Sign Ordinance

Deputy Town Manager Moore reported that this was an entire re-write of the sign ordinance and was in response to a Supreme Court decision that prohibited localities from regulating signs differently based on content. He noted that the Planning Commission used the Local Government Attorney’s Association’s sample ordinance as the basis and customized it for Middleburg. Mr. Moore advised that they made sure no business would have less signage than they were currently allowed. He noted that the Planning Commission did a lot of work on the ordinance and developed four iterations before recommending the version before the Council.

No one spoke and the public hearing was closed.

Council thanked the Planning Commission and staff for their work on this item.

Councilmember Jacobs moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council adopt an Ordinance to Repeal and Re-enact Article XIV of the Middleburg Zoning Ordinance pertaining to signs.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Miller, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Leonard-Morgan and Pearson

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Kirk

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.) (by roll call vote)

Staff Reports

In response to an inquiry from the Council regarding the water discoloration that was occurring, Stuart Will, of IES, reported that it was related to the filter backwashes at Well 4. He advised that he could change the time of the backwash so it would lessen the impact on the customers. Mr. Will suggested he could also flush the system more often.

Town Manager Davis reported that an item was included in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), that was currently in design, which would eliminate all the issues the system was experiencing. He advised that construction was scheduled to begin July 1st.

Town Manager Davis noted the Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) Report that was included in the agenda packet. He explained that it analyzed the volume of water that was treated at the sewer treatment plant following a rain both before and after system improvements were made. Mr. Davis reported that the analysis showed the sewer flows were reduced by 50,000 gallons per day after the improvements.

Mr. Will advised that this was a significant improvement that would save the Town a great deal of money through energy savings at the sewer treatment plant. In response to an inquiry from the Council, Mr. Will explained that a study was conducted in 1996 that identified which manholes were experiencing I&I. He reported that the Town rehabilitated those that were the worst. Mr. Will advised that the improvements reduced the daily flows by up to 50,000 gallons per day and the surge flows by even more. He noted that the Town spent less than \$20,000 to rehabilitate the manholes and would see a significant cost savings as a result.

Economic Development Director Gaucher reported that he was working with the Middleburg Business & Professional Association (MBPA) and Chris Bernard on the development of a MBPA gift card that would be available to its members who accepted Master Card. He further reported that eight restaurants were currently participating in the Town's outdoor seating program and advised that he expected an additional three to sign up. Mr. Gaucher reported that the Town's work with The Miles Partnership had generated 1.5 million digital impressions for Middleburg, which was substantial. He advised that the marketing of the Town brand on Facebook resulted in a considerable increase in activity in November, mostly due to the video that was created. Mr. Gaucher reported that four proposals were received to the Request for Proposals related to the Asbury Church. He noted that the committee would evaluate those next week and advised that he hoped to present a recommendation to the Council in January.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Economic Development Director Gaucher reported that the response to the tent program was that it was working well; although, concern had been expressed as to whether the tents were acting like an enclosed space. He explained that they should act more as an outdoor space and opined that the businesses were using them in accordance with Health Department regulations.

Mayor Littleton noted that under the Governor's Executive Orders, chairs at a table must be at least six feet apart from chairs at other tables. He asked the staff to make sure the restaurants were enforcing this requirement.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Economic Development Director Gaucher advised that the Governor's latest directives would have no negative impact on the restaurants as they were already required to maintain six feet of social distancing.

In response to an inquiry from the Council regarding the vacant former Duchessa/Richard Allen Clothing property, Economic Development Director Gaucher reported that he and the Deputy Town Manager were in the vacant properties in town earlier in the week to introduce them to interested parties. He confirmed that interest was still being expressed in developing retail and restaurant businesses in Middleburg. In response to an inquiry from the Council, Economic Development Director Gaucher advised that he was not aware of any businesses that were in trouble.

Deputy Town Manager Moore reported that the Town received the subdivision/construction plans for the Residences at Salamander and advised that they were currently under agency and staff review. He noted that he expected construction would begin sometime after the new year. In response to an inquiry from the Council as to the timeline for build-out of the project, Mr. Moore opined that Salamander planned to construct all the public improvements at once. He advised that the home construction would depend on sales and noted that it was his understanding that Salamander currently had eighteen non-binding reservations.

Town Manager Davis reminded Council of the American Legion plaque that was dedicated in memory of slain Police Sergeant Seaton and encouraged the members to view it if they had not done so. He further reminded Council and the public of the new law that would take effect January 1st making it illegal to hold an electronic device while driving unless it was for an emergency. Mr. Davis reported that the Police Department would do a public awareness campaign and would then give tickets to violators beginning in January as this was a safety issue.

Consent Agenda

A. Minutes – November 12, 2020 Regular Council Meeting

Councilmember Bernard moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council approve the consent agenda as proposed.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Miller, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Leonard-Morgan and Pearson

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Kirk

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.) (by roll call vote)

Staff Reports (continued)

Town Treasurer’s Report & FY ’21 Budget Revised Outlook

Town Treasurer Rivard reported that the personal property tax revenues were slightly higher than projected and the meals tax revenues were \$10,000 higher than the previous month. She advised that currently, overall revenues were projected to be ten percent (10%) below the budget, which kept the Town in the most probable scenario she previously identified.

Town Treasurer Rivard noted that she included the water and sewer user fees in the report. She advised that while the reduction appeared to be forty percent, this was not accurate as the bills were not yet due.

Town Treasurer Rivard noted that she provided a chart that showed the utility and sales tax receipts were higher than the weighted average. She opined that the sales tax revenues had not been affected by COVID.

The Council noted that the sales tax revenues were paid to the Town by the County based on a school-aged population formula, not by location of sales. They opined that the revenues were not a good barometer of sales activity in the town.

Town Treasurer Rivard advised Council that she created a major revenues chart, which identified each as budgeted, the current month’s collections, and what the Town expected to collect for the year. She reminded Council that some of the revenues received in July were booked back to June as that was when they were actually collected. Ms. Rivard noted that she provided a second chart that identified actual and projected revenues for the major sources.

Mayor Littleton noted that based on the chart, it appeared the net impact of the COVID pandemic on the Town’s revenues would be \$280,000. Town Treasurer Rivard confirmed this was correct based on the current data.

Town Manager Davis reported that the lodging tax revenues were on target for the first quarter and he expected the same for the second one.

The Council thanked Town Treasurer Rivard for the new charts and advised that they were very helpful.

COVID-19 Status Report

Town Manager Davis noted that the Centers for Disease Control updated their recommendations regarding quarantining; however, the County Health Director was continuing to recommend individuals quarantine for fourteen days if they came in contact with someone who had COVID. He further noted that his report included links for the most recent information related to vaccines and testing sites.

Town Manager Davis reported that Governor Northam issued new Executive Orders earlier in the day. He advised that they included a midnight to 5:00 a.m. curfew; a reduction in the number of people who could be in a social gathering to ten; and, a universal requirement to wear face coverings for public indoor spaces and when outdoors if six feet could not be maintained. Mr. Davis advised that the Town employees would wear masks all day long when indoors and were directed to wear them outdoors when on the sidewalks so they would set an example. He asked the community to do the same. Mr. Davis noted that the new orders took effect on December 14th.

Mayor Littleton noted that there was a testing site in Purcellville a couple of weeks ago, of which many people took advantage. He suggested the Town thank the County for setting this up and ask that they continue to offer testing in Purcellville every two to three weeks. Mr. Littleton requested that the Town develop a vaccinations page on its website so people would have up-to-date information on how they would be administered and who would get them when. He suggested this also be posted on the Town's Facebook page.

Town Manager Davis reported that Governor Northam indicated there would be additional enforcement of his new orders. Mayor Littleton noted that this enforcement would occur through the Health Department, ABC Department, and the Department of Labor & Industry. He advised that the Governor indicated the State would take a business' business license if they were not enforcing the rules.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Manager Davis advised that he was not sure how often the police officers were admonishing people for not wearing a face covering. He noted that they offered free masks to anyone without one. Mr. Davis opined that the officers had not received significant push back from anyone about wearing a mask.

Council asked that they be made aware of any such incidents. They agreed with the need to admonish people who were not wearing a mask.

Action Items (non-public hearing related)

Charitable Donations – Health Center Fund

Town Manager Davis reported that the Health Center Advisory Board reviewed the eight donation requests that were received. He noted that Backpack Buddies and the Middleburg Library were not in need of donations this year. Mr. Davis reported that the Advisory Board's review was based on who was serving the needy during the pandemic and advised that they recommended \$42,000 in donations that would come from a combination of General Fund and Health Center Fund monies.

Vice Mayor Miller, a member of the Advisory Board, reiterated that they focused on people who were really in need because of the pandemic.

The Council held some discussion of the Middleburg Community Center's request for funding for replacement trash cans. They agreed to give them \$2,000 as recommended by the Advisory Board; however, they directed that the money be used to fund their Angel Tree program instead of for trash can replacements.

Vice Mayor Miller moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council approve charitable donations as shown in the "Health Center Advisory Board Calendar Year 2020 Recommendations".

Councilmember Leonard-Morgan offered a friendly amendment that the Middleburg Community Center's \$2,000 donation be directed for use for their Angel Tree program, which Vice Mayor Miller accepted.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Miller, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Leonard-Morgan and Pearson

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Kirk

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.) (by roll call vote)

Architect/Engineering Contract – Town Hall Project

Town Clerk North reviewed the history of the procurement process and advised that the review committee recommended the award of the contract to Glave & Holmes. She noted that they were partnering with Creech & Associates, a North Carolina firm with extensive experience in designing combination Town Hall/Police Department buildings. Ms. North advised that based upon the reference checks, Glave & Holmes excelled in designing the exterior of buildings so they would fit within their environment, something that was very important to Middleburg. She noted that if approved, Glave & Holmes would commence work on the project on January 4th and anticipated having the plans completed by October 1st.

Councilmembers Bernard and Daly noted the extensive reviews that occurred of the proposals. They concurred that Glave & Holmes was the best firm for this project.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Councilmember Bernard confirmed the architect would secure input from Go Green with regard to green building practices. He advised, however, that the Town may not pursue LEED certification of the project.

Councilmember Daly moved, seconded by Councilmember Bernard, that Council award the contract for architectural/engineering services for the Town Hall Project to Glave & Holmes and authorize the Town Manager to execute it upon final approval of the contract by the Town Attorney.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Miller, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Leonard-Morgan and Pearson

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Kirk

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.) (by roll call vote)

Construction Management Services Contract – Town Hall Project

Town Clerk North reviewed the history of the procurement process and advised that the review committee recommended the award to Downey & Scott. She noted that the recommended AE and CM firms had worked together in the past on multiple projects. Ms. North advised that while she did not tell either firm who was being considered for the other contract until the committee was ready to make a recommendation to the Council, both spoke very highly of the other firm once they were told of the recommendations.

Councilmembers Daly and Bernard opined that Downey & Scott was an excellent choice.

Councilmember Daly moved, seconded by Councilmember Bernard, that Council award the contract for Construction Management Services for the Town Hall Project to Downey & Scott and authorize the Town Manager to execute it upon final approval of the contract by the Town Attorney.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Miller, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Leonard-Morgan and Pearson

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Kirk

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.) (by roll call vote)

Reallocation of CARES Act Funding

Town Manager Davis explained that he was presenting a revised spending plan for the second round of the CARES Act funding, which included approximately \$9,000 for housing assistance and funding for the first two months of the tent/business support program, with the remaining \$6,000 balance to be used for police salaries. He asked that the Council endorse the revised spending plan.

Councilmember Jacobs moved, seconded by Councilmember Pearson, that Council authorize a revision to the Second Round of CARES Act Funds spending plan as outlined in the Town staff’s memo and presented to Council on December 10, 2020.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Miller, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Leonard-Morgan and Pearson

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Kirk

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.) (by roll call vote)

Acceptance of Donations – 2020 Holiday Activities

Economic Development Director Gaucher reported that the Town secured a sponsorship from Creighton Farms for the horse carriage rides, which the Council must approve so it could be accepted. Town Manager Davis reported that the Northwestern Credit Union was also reimbursing the Town for some of the tree lights.

Mayor Littleton asked that the Town Manager send thank you notes to those who donated. He thanked the businesses for supporting the community.

Councilmember Leonard-Morgan moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council approve the donation to the Town of Middleburg from Creighton Farms and from any other entity for activities around the 2020 Christmas holidays in Middleburg. Councilmember Leonard-Morgan further moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council express its thanks to these entities for their support of the Middleburg community.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Miller, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Leonard-Morgan and Pearson

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Kirk

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.) (by roll call vote)

Information Items

Middleburg Business & Professional Association Gift Cards

Councilmember Bernard reported that he identified a company that offered digital local community gift cards and explained that they would create a Middleburg gift card that would consist of a code. He noted that the purchaser would purchase it online and would pay the associated fee. Mr. Bernard reported that it could only be spent in Middleburg at participating MBPA businesses. He advised that it would be an ongoing program that would be marketed on the Town’s website.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Economic Development Director Gaucher reported that there would be no Town funding or resources involved in the MBPA’s gift card program.

2020 Virginia Municipal League Conference

Mayor Littleton reported that the 2021 Virginia Municipal League Conference was still planned to occur in Leesburg in October. He reminded Council that it would involve all seven towns and would require contributions from them. Mr. Littleton opined that there were different ways for each to participate and suggested the Salamander Resort & Spa participate in the Expo, which would drive business to them. He noted that there would be opportunities for sponsorships. Mr. Littleton reported that registration would open beginning in January and advised that VML expected to have five hundred attendees.

2020 Virginia General Assembly Session

Mayor Littleton reported that he recently had the opportunity to speak with Delegate Wendy Gooditis regarding the upcoming session of the General Assembly. He advised that he shared his concerns about the impact of the qualified immunity bills for police officers that were anticipated and noted that one lawsuit could bankrupt a small town like Middleburg. Mr. Littleton advised that Delegate Gooditis agreed to consider the Town’s position.

Closed Session – Disposition of Publicly Held Property

Councilmember Leonard-Morgan moved, seconded by Councilmember Bernard, that Council go into closed session as authorized under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, for the disposition of publicly held property, related to the Asbury Church as allowed under Subsection (A)(3). Councilmember Leonard-Morgan further moved, seconded by Councilmember Bernard, that the Council thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Miller, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Leonard-Morgan and Pearson

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Kirk

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.) (by roll call vote)

Mayor Littleton asked that Council certify that to the best of each member’s knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting, which each member so did. He reminded those present for the closed session that any discussion that occurred within it should be treated as confidential.

There being no further business, Mayor Littleton declared the meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

APPROVED:

Trowbridge M. Littleton, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk

December 10, 2020 Middleburg Town Council Meeting

(Note: This is a transcript prepared by a Town contractor based on the video of the meeting. It may not be entirely accurate. For greater accuracy, we encourage you to review the video of the meeting that is on the Town's website – www.middleburgva.gov)

Bridge Littleton: All right, we will call the December meeting to order, first item is I got to read the COVID announcement. All right. It is the Middleburg Town Council's responsibility to conduct essential public business despite the COVID-19 pandemic. However, it recognizes the need to do so safely for not only its membership, but also for the town staff and members of the public. To that end, in accordance with the resolution confirming the declaration of a local emergency and the ordinance to implement emergency procedures and effectuate temporary changes to address continuity of government operations during COVID-19, the town council will hold its meeting via remote access until such time as the governor rescinds his emergency order mandating social distancing. Copies of the previously referenced documents are available at the town's website for those who wish to view them. Anyone wishing to participate in the public comment periods may do so by calling the number provided or by logging in through the internet. And as we will do, we will have a public comment session at the beginning of the meeting and at the end of the meeting for anybody who may have called in to join remotely. So with that, the next item is Pledge of Allegiance.

All: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, next item will be roll call. Rhonda, will you call the roll call?

Rhonda North: Mayor Littleton.

Bridge Littleton: Here.

Rhonda North: Vice Mayor Miller.

Philip Miller: Here.

Rhonda North: Council Member Bernard.

Chris Bernard: Present.

Rhonda North: Council Member Daly.

J. Kevin Daly: Here.

Rhonda North: Council Member Jacobs.

Bud Jacobs: Here.

Rhonda North: Council Member Kirk is absent. Council Member Leonard-Morgan.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Here.

Rhonda North: And Council Member Pearson.

Cindy Pearson: Here.

Bridge Littleton: Okay, normally we have the public comment at this section, but we're going to skip that and the public hearing go right to several special recognition. Well, I would certainly say two special recognition and one I don't really understand, but we'll cover that one first. [laughter]. And that will be the recognition of the retirement of Lieutenant Jay Hollins. So, AJ, I am sure you have got some humiliating comments. But before we start that, I just wanted to also recognize and thank our Loudoun County supervisor, Tony Buffington, for coming tonight. Tony, we really appreciate you showing up for not only us ejecting Jay, but welcoming the two new officers that we have. [Off mic] We always appreciate your support. So, AJ, it's over to you then I'll take it from there.

AJ Panebianco: All right, a little bit about Jay, there's going to be a little bit more read about him in the resolution that you have, so I'm going to stop when we get to Middleburg. First, I want to say thank you for the job that you've done. He has and will continue to serve this community well. In fact, I fully intend to invite him back next year for the Christmas Parade. Yes, I'm optimistic, to assist Shaun in knowing what the lieutenant is supposed to do during that event. So you may be leaving, but you're not gone. Jay caught the police bug in 1994 when he got started as a Reserve Officer for the Front Royal PD. I first met Jay that same year when he applied for the Buena Vista Police Department, which I was an officer there, and I was assisting with the hiring. Funny little story about that. We liked Jay. We wanted to hire Jay. We offered Jay a job. We put the paperwork in City Manager came down, and said, no we've decided to freeze that job for until January. We were like, Jay, don't quit. But we thought he had quit his job. So we really were in a bad shape, but thankfully, he had not. So after that frantic call, Jay settled into the Buena Vista Police Department, became a D.A.R.E. Officer, Defensive Tactics Officer and instructor. He did a lot of our in-house training. And then shortly after about five years, he moved on to the Winchester PD, where he was promoted to a Corporal. He instructed Radar and was a member of the SWAT team and was also a Certified Accident Investigator. Among the duties as serving as an FTO. In 2008, he pulled a short stint with the Clark County Sheriff's Office before he landed in Berryville and so in 2009, he went to work for Berryville as a patrolman. Among the many accomplishments he had there, besides getting promoted to senior officer and really getting their evidence room in really good working order; Jay is a guild member as he was present and starring in a Wendy's commercial for Berry Milkshakes at the Berryville town of Berryville. Berryville does not have a Wendy's, but they set up a big table in the middle of town. And if you watch that commercial, you'll see Jay and his chief. And Jay was not only eating, but he was getting paid at the same time. So it was a win win. So in 2012, Jay found his home here. He was hired as a patrol officer and the resolution covers most of what he did there. But I just want to say that I'm not sure what we can effectively say that covers the impact that he had on our town. He often placed the needs of others in front of his own. Jay served this town well, so I'm proud to have been your Chief. But I'm honored to have been your friend. Thank you. Yeah. [Applause] [Off mic] and then some gifts, right?

Bridge Littleton: All right AJ thanks a lot, appreciate it. So one thing I want to remind Jay of, and I bet he doesn't remember it.

AJ Panebianco: At his age. [laughter]

Bridge Littleton: Well, I'm surprised I remember it. So this is going back probably must have been six, eight months after Jay was hired here. And I was just moving back to town and I was going down Marshall Street and I sort of glided through a stop sign when out of nowhere, this patrol car lights up right behind me. And mind you, my dad was on council at the time and pulls me over. And this fairly longer white haired guy gets out of the car, walks up and says, did you see that stop sign back there? And I said, yes, yes, officer, I did. I saw it. And it was really kind of it's not a stop sign. It's a hesitation point. And he said, well, not in this town. [laughter]. So I handed him my driver's license, handed him my registration and all that kind of stuff. Goes back to his car, you know, writes everything up, all that kind of stuff. And I'm expecting him to come back and say something, you know, either, like, well, you know, I won't tell your dad or, you know, boy would he be disappointed. But Jay, you know, totally kept composure, handed it back to me and said, you know, here's your ticket. Just drive safely, be careful. And as he walks away, he then turns around and says, and I'm going to tell your father. [laughter]. And I mean, Jay, that was like eight years ago.

Jay Hollins: I remember [Off mic].

Bridge Littleton: So, yeah. And then as I'm driving away, I'm thinking, you know, that's actually worse than the ticket. So anyway, but, Jay, you have done an amazing job serving the town and the community, not only in just your duties as a

police officer, but you are a member of the community. I mean, you are a citizen of Middleburg and you have made a special mark here, one that will always be remembered, you know, for lifetimes to come. So it's not the work you do, it's the lives you touched. And you've touched the lives of every single person here and every member of our community. And we cannot say thank you enough for all you've done. So we wish you all the best on a well-earned retirement and a future career in Wendy's commercials. [laughter] So with that. Oh, and I forgot to tell you and we did check with the, was it VRS? The Virginia Retirement System or whatever it is. [off mic] So apparently you are committed to forever arranging the national night out for free. So we'll get in touch with you in May about all the planning.

Jay Hollins: I don't want to [off mic].

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, I heard it's a lot of work, so we really appreciate it. All right, let me read the resolution here. So resolution of appreciation, John A. "Jay" Hollins. Whereas John A. "Jay" Hollins was hired as a police officer for the Middleburg Police Department on July 12th, 2012, and whereas Officer Hollins was subsequently promoted to Lieutenant on September 13th, 2017, and whereas during his tenure with the Middleburg police department, Lieutenant Hollins achieved many accomplishments, including: redesigning and updating the property evidence storage system, training and recertifying officers in the use of LIDAR/RADAR, developing a system to calibrate and test the patrol vehicles, which reduced department expense, training and recertifying officers from the town, as well as other police departments, in the use of their duty sidearms, shotguns, AR-15 tactical rifles; serving as the Training Manager for the Town's police officers to ensure their recertification as law enforcement officers, annually organizing the Virginia Bloodhound Search and Rescue Training for recertification purposes; maintain the Police Department's record of firearms, equipment and vital information for the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services; and reviewing and approving all IBR and crash reports prior to their formal submission into the system. And whereas, in addition, Lieutenant Hollins increases education, and thus value to the town by completing training through the New Chief/Deputy Chief's Training School and attending the Professional Executive Leadership School, a program offered by the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police through the University of Richmond. And whereas Lieutenant Hollins is retiring from the Town of Middleburg effective January 1, 2021. [laughter]. 2021, and whereas the Middleburg Town Council deem it appropriate to express its gratitude to Lieutenant Hollins for his personal dedication, exceptional service to our community over the past eight years. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Mayor and Members of the Town Council of Middleburg, Virginia, recognize and express our sincere appreciation for the extreme exemplary services of John A. "Jay" Hollins as a Police Officer and Lieutenant of the Middleburg Police Department from July 12, 2012 to January 1, 2021, and for his dedication and support to the Middleburg community. Be it further resolved that the Mayor and Town Council express our profound thanks to him and hope for his continued success in life. So there's that. [Applause] Now, before we actually vote on this and, you know, I had to whip the vote earlier, you know, it was kind of shaky. We do have two things we want to present you with, Jay. First and foremost, as always. So it wouldn't be Middleburg if you didn't get the glass paperweight. [Off mic] And again, I search eBay routinely to see if these show up. And if they do, they're numbered and I'll know it. [laughter] So thank you. [Off mic]. Here's this and already framed, thanks to Rhonda. And again, thank you for all your help and all your service.

Jay Hollins: Thank you very much.

Bridge Littleton: And then lastly, now, Rhonda claimed this was for lunch meats. AJ claimed it was for cans. And I don't know what the right answer is, but there's also not suitable for framing, but suitable for using at any occasion. [Off mic]. A good dear stand. [Off mic] [Laughter]. So is there anything you'd like to say? I'll put you on the spot.

Jay Hollins: Yeah, thank you.

Bridge Littleton: You knew this was coming.

Jay Hollins: Most of all, I want to say thank you to the Town, and Chief and the entire department. And may everybody just stay safe and thank you again. I appreciate it. Love you all.

All: Thanks Jay. [Applause]

Bridge Littleton: [Inaudible] I have to say too it wouldn't be complete if we didn't you also thank the real Chief, your wife. [Laughter] Thank you so much for allowing Jay to be a part of our lives. [Off mic].

J. Kevin Daly: And with that Mrs. Hollins, please accept this with the gratitude and also condolences. [Laughter] Because you are now stuck with Jay [inaudible] 24/7. [Laughter].

Bridge Littleton: All day and all night long. [Multiple Speakers].

J. Kevin Daly: I'm a little worried. We're still trying to find this desk underneath all the candy wrappers [Laughter] [inaudible] for you to sit in.

AJ Panebianco: So, Jay, a little something from the guys we have one more item that is being made so it will come later and then you can open that up. It [Off mic] go with what you have.

Bridge Littleton: Here you go Jay, hand that to me and I'll take that stuff. [Multiple Speakers]

Jay Hollins: And now we definitely know what's going to go in there. [Laughter] And then there's a few other items there, some of which are for [inaudible].

Bridge Littleton: There we go.

Jay Hollins: Oh, man. There's one for the boss in there too. [Laughter]. I guess she gets the blue one. [Laughter] For your [inaudible]. [Off mic].

AJ Panebianco: For your you love it. Thank you very much. [Multiple Speakers] And then two more items. You're not done yet. This is your retirement badge and ID and a new wallet to keep it. I did not put any money in it.

Jay Hollins: I thought it was [inaudible] card, about one hundred dollars. [Multiple Speakers]

AJ Panebianco: And this we wanted to present to you. This is from the police department itself. So this is your badge, your rank and your patches with your name and when you started in law enforcement.

Jay Hollins: So fantastic. [Applause]

AJ Panebianco: We do thank you and Chrissy, we thank you and your family for being part of our family for the last [off mic].

Jay Hollins: Thank you very much, I appreciate everything and I appreciate everybody.

Bridge Littleton: We appreciate you.

AJ Panebianco: But we still got you till the end of the month so.

Jay Hollins: You still got me here for a few more weeks.

Bridge Littleton: And Jay just remember one thing after January 1st, when you come through town, if you're speeding we'll arrest your [explicit]. [Laughter] [Off mic]

Jay Hollins: [Multiple Speakers]. [Off mic] Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: All right.

Chris Bernard: Not sure how we follow that. [Multiple Speakers].

Bridge Littleton: So we will take a moment real quick, I know. [Off mic].

Rhonda North: Mr. Mayor, we do need to formally vote on the resolution.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, yeah, God. [Off mic]. You know, I always forget that with it. It's funny.

Rhonda North: I know.

J. Kevin Daly: [Off mic] Have a chance to [Off mic] after this.

Bridge Littleton: If you'd like. All right. So we need to vote on the resolution. Would anybody like to make a motion? Kevin would you like to make a motion?

J. Kevin Daly: Is it written down [Off mic]?

Bridge Littleton: It is.

Rhonda North: It is. [Off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Here you go.

J. Kevin Daly: I move that council adopt a resolution extending its appreciation to John A. "Jay" Hollins for his service to the Middleburg Police Department from July 12, 2012, through January 1, 2021, first as a police officer and then as a lieutenant.

Chris Bernard: Second.

Bridge Littleton: OK, I'll do the roll call vote. Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Enthusiastic Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: [inaudible]

Bridge Littleton: Chris.

Chris Bernard: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: All right, abstentions? All right, motion passes. Jay, again, congratulations.

Jay Hollins: Thank you again. I appreciate everything.

Bridge Littleton: All right. So we're going to take one second. We're going to transition, folks, so we can do the two inductions and swearing in, but also keep the room as COVID safe as possible. So, we'll do. Who you want to do first Jimmy or Shaun?

AJ Panebianco: Want to do Jimmy first?

Bridge Littleton: We'll do Jimmy first. [Off mic]. Okay, perfect. We'll do Jimmy first and then we'll do Shaun.

AJ Panebianco: Just a little bit about what we're doing is as police officers are hired and unfortunately when Jimmy got hired, COVID started, I think he brought it. So what we do is we not only swear them in at the court to give them their authority, but we have them swear in, in front of council and the citizens of Middleburg for the law enforcement oath of honor, which gives them accountability. So they have authority and we have accountability. So I put my glasses on because I'm at a certain age. I'll read this first part once, so pay attention Shaun.

Shaun Jones: Yes sir.

AJ Panebianco: And then we'll go with the oath only for you. In doing so, we want to talk a little bit about what the oath means. So we hit a couple of the key words in it. Honor, which means giving one's word or bond. Betray, is defined as breaking the faith. The badge is your visible form or source of symbol of power. Integrity is a adherence to principles. Character means, qualities and standards of behavior that distinguish an individual. Public trust is a duty imposed in faith to those we are sworn to serve. Courage is having heart and the mental and moral strength and virtue to preserve and withstand and overcome danger and difficulty and fear. Accountability, which means that we are aware and answerable to and responsible for our actions and community is the municipality the location that we serve. So having said that, we'd like you to take the oath of honor. If you'd raise your right hand and repeat after me. On my honor.

Jimmy Lacy: On my honor.

AJ Panebianco: I will never betray my badge.

Jimmy Lacy: I will never betray my badge.

AJ Panebianco: My integrity.

Jimmy Lacy: My integrity.

AJ Panebianco: My character.

Jimmy Lacy: My character.

AJ Panebianco: Or the public trust.

Jimmy Lacy: Or the public trust.

AJ Panebianco: I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable.

Jimmy Lacy: I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable.

AJ Panebianco: I will always uphold the Constitution.

Jimmy Lacy: I will always uphold the Constitution.

AJ Panebianco: The community.

Jimmy Lacy: The community.

AJ Panebianco: And the agency I serve.

Jimmy Lacy: And the agency I serve.

AJ Panebianco: So help me God.

Jimmy Lacy: So help me God. Thank you Jimmy.

Jimmy Lacy: Thank you. [Applause]

AJ Panebianco: [Inaudible]

Bridge Littleton: Jimmy, thanks.

AJ Panebianco: [Off mic] Now you're legal to go on patrol.

Jimmy Lacy: Yes, sir. Thank you.

J. Kevin Daly: Stay safe out there.

Bridge Littleton: Okay, next will be the swearing in for our new Lieutenant, Shaun Jones.

AJ Panebianco: Wife or whoever you'd like to have in [off mic] [Multiple Speakers]. All right, so we generally do a badge pinning ceremony, but we didn't feel like that was appropriate for Jimmy since Jimmy's been here for several months, six, eight months now. But we want to welcome Shaun. And I believe this is a good showing of support, not only from family, which is ultimately what's most important, but peers and the community in which you've served in the past. So it fortifies the premise that we made the right decision and that you're going to be an asset to our community. So we thank you. We're going to get you to take the same oath and then we're going to have your badge pinned on you as it's time.

Shaun Jones: Okay.

AJ Panebianco: So if you'll raise your right hand and repeat after me. On my honor.

Shaun Jones: On my honor.

AJ Panebianco: I will never betray my badge.

Shaun Jones: I will never betray my badge.

AJ Panebianco: My integrity.

Shaun Jones: My integrity.

AJ Panebianco: My character.

Shaun Jones: My character.

AJ Panebianco: Or the public trust.

Shaun Jones: Or the public trust.

AJ Panebianco: I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable.

Shaun Jones: I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable.

AJ Panebianco: I will always uphold the Constitution.

Shaun Jones: I always uphold the Constitution.

AJ Panebianco: The community.

Shaun Jones: The community.

AJ Panebianco: And the agency I serve.

Shaun Jones: And the agency I serve.

AJ Panebianco: So help me God.

Shaun Jones: So help me God.

AJ Panebianco: So that is a law enforcement Oath of Honor. If we could have you get your badge pinned on. We're excited to welcome you as our new Lieutenant.

Shaun Jones: Thank you. My [Off mic] come on [Off mic]

AJ Panebianco: Sorry I didn't see that one.

Shaun Jones: Don't stick me. [Off mic] Don't go away, Mrs. Jones.

AJ Panebianco: And by the way, this is Travis. He's the Police Chief in Petersburg. Travis and I met when I was in Louisa for the first time, and we've been friends ever since. And subsequently, he knows Shaun and he's close friends with Shaun, which is nice, and actually gave Sean a good review for those of you that are recording.

Shaun Jones: [Laughter] I didn't get a phone call.

AJ Panebianco: Travis got used to putting on those [inaudible] they are easier.

J. Kevin Daly: Now could you scuff up the Lieutenant [Off mic] so it doesn't look like he just [Multiple Speakers]

AJ Panebianco: [Off mic] brand new. And while this is going on, I will say that we're very excited and happy to have Shaun on board. We are glad that your family is going to share him with us, because as you know, because this isn't your first rodeo, a good Leo family is required to make a successful police officer. We can't do it without support. So thank you.

Mrs. Jones: Thank you.

AJ Panebianco: He's not kidding. Don't look at the patches because I sewed them on. [Laughter] Video.

Bridge Littleton: Now, that explains a lot.

AJ Panebianco: So, all right. And I don't know if you've got this, this is Tony. Tony's our representative for the county.

Tony Buffington: Congratulations.

Shaun Jones: Thank you.

AJ Panebianco: Tony is a good friend of law enforcement and a member of the law enforcement.

Shaun Jones: Okay, thanks. Can I.

AJ Panebianco: So, yeah you can go and say what you need to say.

Shaun Jones: I apologize. I appreciate you guys give me the opportunity to be part of the Middleburg community. I'm excited. This week it's been a little difficult for me, but I appreciate you guys. It's helpful to be a part of your family already. Thank you. I'm sorry my dad use to [inaudible]. Yeah, but I got to thank a lot of people who helped me get to where I'm at today. Travis, me and him will always talk on the phone and have a lot of conversations early in the morning sometimes and so forth. Major [inaudible], who was my major at the sheriff's office, always had my back, always supported me. He was there from day one. Sheriff Turner, one of my good friends as well. I couldn't decide I wanted everybody to come up here, but there was just too many people. Sheriff Turner I thank you for coming up. My brother and his sister in law, my good friend Rashawn, one of my closest friends Rashawn. [inaudible] from Fredericksburg PD, and his wife. Deputy Tony Watson, [inaudible] sheriff's office. Deb Fleming and I think Frank's somewhere. Frank is one of my deputies that I worked a lot with in Spotsylvania County, and they used to call us Ebony and Ivory. So, wherever I go, he's usually with me. [Laughter] Yeah, Lieutenant [inaudible] from Stafford Sheriff's Office. So I got a lot of folks that actually took the time to drive up and support me. And I just want to thank you guys for taking the opportunity out of your evening. And thank you to the mayor and town council for giving me an opportunity. Danny, Chief, as well for giving me the opportunity. Jay I get you for a couple more weeks. So I appreciate that, too. So I just want to thank everybody and I'm truly blessed and I'm humbled. So thank you. [Applause]

J. Kevin Daly: Mrs. Jones would you mind standing beside your husband please. We're welcome you to the Middleburg family because we're thanking you because any decision made in the family it takes two and thank you for allowing your husband to take this opportunity. And thank you for signing up to it.

Shaun Jones: Thank you.

J. Kevin Daly: [Inaudible] On behalf of the Town of Middleburg, welcome to the Middleburg family. Thank you for sharing your family with us. And your dad is standing right beside you and he is as proud of you as your sons are, as your wife is and as we are.

Shaun Jones: Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you, everybody for coming and sharing this moment with Shaun. And Shaun welcome to the community. [Multiple Speakers]

Shaun Jones: Thank you, sir I appreciate it.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you. And please do me one favor.

Shaun Jones: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Abuse the hell out of Jay until he leaves. [Laughter]

J. Kevin Daly: [Multiple Speakers] And Shaun one more thing. Shaun you don't have to keep your hair as short as Jay's. [Laughter] That wasn't prerequisite to be a Lieutenant. [Laughter] [Off mic]

Shaun Jones: Thank you guys [Multiple Speakers].

All: Thank you. Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: [Multiple Speakers] All right. We will fire back up in about two minutes. Take care. Thank you. Ok, so next item we will go into is the public comment. We will now open the public comment session, Rhonda is there anybody on the phone for public comment? [Off mic]

Rhonda North: There is there is no one Mr. Mayor.

Bridge Littleton: Okay, we will now close the public comment session and go on to the public hearing. Public hearing number one for Zoning Text Amendment 20-01. Will, I believe this is over to you?

Will Moore: Yes, sir. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Members of council, this First Amendment is intended to bring our zoning ordinance in line with state code in terms of having available to us the maximum tools, including potential fines available for penalties and associated remedies for zoning violations. While we rarely reach a point in our enforcement process where we would ever impose penalties, it is important to have those available to us in case we ever encounter a situation where we do. And again, this just brings our audience in line with what's available in the state code. Now you did review this last month. There have been no changes to the draft since then.

Bridge Littleton: Okay, perfect, thanks. Before we open, well, you know, I'm going to go ahead and open the public hearing. So we will open the public hearing now for the zoning text amendment. Rhonda, there's no one here in the room. Is there anybody online?

Rhonda North: There is not, Mr. Mayor.

Bridge Littleton: Okay, we will close the public hearing. Any comments, questions or input from council? Let's go around the room real quick, Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: No thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: No comment.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: No comment.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: No, no comment.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Negative.

Bridge Littleton: And Chris.

Chris Bernard: No comment.

Bridge Littleton: Okay so with that, is there a motion? [Off mic] motion.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I move that the council adopt an ordinance to amend Section eighty one of the Middleburg zoning ordinance pertaining to penalties and remedies for violations.

Bridge Littleton: Is there are second?

Chris Bernard: Second.

Bridge Littleton: Okay, any further discussion? Only thing I would say is Will, just if you could thank the Planning Commission and Estee for you guys pulling this together I'd really appreciate it. Rhonda, will you do the roll call vote?

Rhonda North: Sure. Vice Mayor Miller.

Philip Miller: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Bernard.

Chris Bernard: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Daly.

J. Kevin Daly: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Jacobs.

Bud Jacobs: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Leonard-Morgan.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Pearson.

Cindy Pearson: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Okay, motion passes. Next, we will go on to the public hearing for Zoning Text Amendment 20-02 sign rewrite. Will, I believe this is over to you again.

Will Moore: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. A bit more extensive of an amendment in this case. This consists of an entire rewrite of Article 14 of the zoning ordinance, which pertains to signs, as we previously discussed, this was primarily in response to a Supreme Court decision a few years ago that it's a very nuanced decision. But the basic premise is that localities cannot treat signs cannot regulate signs differently based on their content. So that was the impetus behind this. We used a model ordinance that was drafted by the local government attorneys of Virginia as the base for this. But then we customized it and it was set up so that it could be customized. Customized to the unique character of the town. I think it's important to point out that one of the basic premises that the commission employed in coming up with the customizations was that we wanted to ensure specifically for a business community that when we do the reallocation of signage, that's available, that no business would come out of this being allocated less sign area than they would be by today's regulations. So that's an important thing to keep in mind. But otherwise, we will use the base that the LGA drafted and the commission did a lot of heavy lifting on this through four different iterations just to get it right. And they put in a lot of work and they should particularly be commended for their work on this rewrite.

Bridge Littleton: Perfect. Okay, we will now open the public hearing for this zoning tax amendment. There's no one here in the council chamber. Rhonda is anybody on the phone?

Rhonda North: There is not, Mr. Mayor.

Bridge Littleton: Okay, we will close the public hearing for this. Does any member of council have any input, questions or thoughts? Let me go around the room real quick. Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: No, thank you. Very comprehensive. Appreciate the work.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Thank you Will, Estee, and Martin, for shepherding [inaudible] the Planning Commission through this process. It's taken a long time. But finally done, thank goodness.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: I just second Bud's remarks. Nice work.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: I do the same. And nice work. No questions.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: No question. And I concur. Well done. It's a Comprehensive document.

Bridge Littleton: Chris.

Chris Bernard: Nothing here. Thanks, guys.

Bridge Littleton: Perfect. Okay with that Rhonda, would you do the roll call vote?

Rhonda North: We need someone to make a motion first.

Bridge Littleton: Oh yeah. Who wants to make the motion?

Bud Jacobs: I'll do it.

Bridge Littleton: All right.

Bud Jacobs: I move the council adopt an ordinance to repeal and reenact Article 14 of the Middleburg Zoning Ordinance pertaining to signs.

J. Kevin Daly: Second.

Bridge Littleton: Any further discussion? Okay, Rhonda, would you do the roll call vote? Thank you.

Rhonda North: Vice Mayor Miller.

Philip Miller: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Bernard.

Chris Bernard: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Daily.

J. Kevin Daly: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Jacobs.

Bud Jacobs: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Leonard-Morgan.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Pearson.

Cindy Pearson: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Okay the motion passes. Great. Will again, thank everybody for all the hard work.

Will Moore: Yes sir.

Bridge Littleton: Okay, moving on to staff reports. Is Stuart on. Yes, he is. OK, Stuart, anything specific from you?

Stuart Will: NO, do you have any questions?

Bridge Littleton: Does anybody have any questions for Stuart. Anybody on the phone? [off mic]

Stuart Will: I'm well sir.

Bridge Littleton: So I have a question and Stuart, it's just bringing it up as a topic. And I know I brought this up to Danny earlier this week. It's about the water discoloration. We're just getting on a far too regular basis. I mean, like literally it's every week or two getting water discoloration. And, you know, I'm not asking for an answer right now, but we got to figure out a plan of how to fix it and and minimize it. If we've got to do maintenance, that stirs it up, OK, it needs to be scheduled. It needs to be in the middle of the night and we need to notify people when it's going to happen. So any thoughts you can give us right now? I know you guys are going to work on it, but I just want to I want to highlight it because I think it's really important. And, you know, here's the funny thing. I know. I understand from Danny, it's all safe to drink, but it doesn't matter. I don't drink brown water. So restaurants don't serve brown water. So it's that exactly. I know it's not a safety issue, but it is a problem. So any thoughts on your end? If you don't if you guys are working on it, that's fine. But just like I said, I wanted to highlight it.

Stuart Will: Yes, sir. Well, the discoloration you are seeing is in direct relation to when we backwash filters at Well 4 and it we absolutely can anticipate when it's going to happen and we absolutely can do it at a time of day other than when we're doing it now so that we could possibly you know, it may still occur and people may not notice it and businesses may not notice it. That's about the only thing I know right now to tell you that we could do that would be effective in minimizing its impact. And Danny and I discussed this the other day. Other than that, maybe more flushing and that is on the table. We're going to flush again in January if we have to do the quarterly flushing and, you know, just try that for a while and see if maybe we can minimize it or eliminate it. That may be effective. And until we try it, we don't know.

Danny Davis: And if I may, Mr. Mayor, Stuart's absolutely right. And I did speak with Mark Inboden as well before the meeting today on that topic. So we will look at scheduling that and coming up with awareness for the community as well as a regular timeframe that it can be as much as possible off hours. That's the short term solution. There's also a long term

capital solution that's already approved in the CIP. And we can talk about that at a future date, if you'd like. But that is something we are progressing forward with design and then we will have in the CIP for beginning July 1st construction. We may talk about whether we move that forward, if we're ready to get that sooner rather than later. And we hope that that would eliminate all the issues with this backwash process.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, great. No I appreciate it. OK, any other input for Stuart or anybody?

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I just quick question. Will we be talking about the I&I update after this?

Danny Davis: Yeah. Yeah. Or now.

Bridge Littleton: [off mic] ok. now I&I.

Danny Davis: Yeah. And I'll let Stuart briefly go over it. But the report was provided to you that he analyzed the amount of water treated at our wastewater facility prior to making improvements to our system and then after making improvements to our system. We also compared that to rainfall that occurred during those periods of time. What we saw prior to the improvements, a big peak of flow at the wastewater plant, which indicates that indicates that water is was getting into our sewer system. This is rainwater groundwater. After those improvements, we don't see those same spikes of flow at the wastewater plant, which shows us that we believe those were very successful improvements, likely reducing our inflow at the wastewater plant by around 50000 gallons a day. And that's a lot of treatment capacity. So with that, I'll let Stuart cover anything else that you might like to from that report.

Bridge Littleton: Stuart. Any other input from the I&I report?

Stuart Will: Yes, I think it's very significant the amount of progress we have made. Not only are the spikes not as high, but 2019, the graft, the first graft you look at from 2019 indicates spikes that are just off the charts in excess of the plant's capacity. And the plant handled it. It did OK. It can do that. But we've seen one day in particular where the flow was greater than 300000 gallons and the spikes have been knocked way down. That's great. But then your groundwater saturation, when your ground is saturated with water, those levels have also been significantly reduced. And that's all around. This is going to save the money, save the town money on electricity, because that town, the treatment plant is very energy consuming when it treats water, it has to move the water from several different places by way of using pumps. And for every gallon we don't have to pump that's a lot of electrical energy that we're going to save on. And I think these improvements we have made and they were low hanging fruit, they were easy targets, but they're going to save the town a lot on their electricity bill alone in the coming years.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, that's great. Does anybody have any other questions or input for Stuart? Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Stuart, thanks for that. I think it would be very helpful if you give us a one minute sort of layman's summary as to what sort of improvements were made, because I know I learned them on the utility committee. And it's kind of interesting how you did that, if you wouldn't mind.

Stuart Will: Yes, we had on file a study from Bowman Engineering from 1996 that was a survey of all the towns manholes and this is where people go out. They pop the top on the manhole. They document the construction of the manhole. And at the time they're there, they document what they're seeing as far as any I&I in the manhole. And they, with whatever process, quantify how much water they're seeing getting into the manholes and some of the manholes they observed or seeing wet weather water flows of 10000 gallons of rainwater coming into a manhole per day. And some of them were in excess of that. And we turned think it was Little Construction. They specialize in sewer rehabilitation. We turn them loose on the worst of the offenders. It was six or eight manholes and had them rehabilitate those manholes. And by way of doing so, we estimate that the daily weather flows have been reduced by 50000 gallons per day. And that's huge. And the surge flows when we get a major rain event, we've probably reduced those flows in significant excess of 50000 gallons per day. And so basically by way of spending, I think it was less than 20000 bucks we've, you know, saved ourself huge amounts of water coming into our plant that's just rainwater that should never get into the system and should never have to be treated, but it was.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Thank you very much for that Stuart.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody have any other input for Stuart? Ok, Stuart, thanks a lot, we really appreciate it.

Stuart Will: Yes, sir, very good. Have a good evening.

Bridge Littleton: You, too. All right, Rhonda, your next.

Rhonda North: Mr. Mayor, the two things that I would have to talk about are on the agenda for later on, so I'll just hold until then.

Bridge Littleton: All righty. Even better. OK, Jamie.

Jamie Gaucher: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I just want to take a second and highlight several things on my report. The first being that I am working with the MBPA and Council Member Bernard around a gift card program that we're hopefully going to be able to roll out next week sometime. And it would be available to all the local businesses that are members of the MBPA and that also accept MasterCard. That is the only primary requirement that a business would need to meet. Secondly, we currently have eight restaurants participating in our outdoor seating program. We're expecting an additional three to come on board, if not tomorrow, the early part of next week, and that would give us 11 total. I also want to bring to your attention the fact that the work that we've been doing with The Miles Partnership and specifically through Virginia.org and Destination D.C. has generated almost one and a half million digital impressions for the town. That number surprised me pleasantly. I think it's substantial and I'm excited about that. And additional sort of piece of data connected to marketing and connected to managing the town's brand. The town's Facebook account saw an incredible amount of growth in the month of November. And I think that's directly related to the first video that we put together the Make Your Escape video focusing on the fact that the town is open for business and that we're very safe here in Middleburg. And then lastly, I know we're going to talk about this later, but I wanted to highlight the fact that the towns are [inaudible] focused on the Asbury Church property generated four responses and our committee, sat down and evaluated those responses earlier this week. We're going to have another series of meetings next week. And our review committee is hopeful that we'll be able to come to the town council in January with a recommendation regarding the Asbury Church. And with that, I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have with regards to my report.

Bridge Littleton: So we'll go around, see if anyone has any questions, Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Can I just ask you, what's the response so far, if any, to the tents? Are people happy with them or any concerns about any aspect of it?

Jamie Gaucher: Generally, they are working well. The concerns, the dominant concern that I've been made aware of is whether or not the tents are actually acting like enclosed spaces. Right. They should be closer to an outdoor space than they are necessarily an indoor space. I believe all the people in town that have tents are using them appropriately as per the health regulations. But several members of the community have pressed that issue. You know, are we just moving indoor space to another indoor space?

Chris Bernard: [off mic]

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I've heard a bit of this as well, and I think it's almost it's a tough one and it's almost like an education that the whole idea is to keep the distancing. So increasing the indoor capability, but keeping the spacing, you know, at minimum, you know, more than minimums. So it's a difficult one. Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: I mean, I think that I think the deal is if you are at a table, the back of the furthest away chair has to be six feet or more from the back of the next closest chair. [off mic] So people if the restaurants aren't measuring that and making sure that you know if I'm sitting at the table the back of my chair is six feet away from the next table chair. That's the problem. So, you know, I think that's actually. I mean, you know, tented, it's indoors. It's indoor seating. It is. I mean,

so it's enclosed. Right. So I just I mean, I think if we make sure that we get out to the public that, you know, that's what we're going to be enforcing here and that's what we expect every restaurant to be doing. And if restaurants aren't doing it, we need to make sure they are, then that's fine. But I mean, that's and that's not a new rule. That's been a rule since. [off mic] Yes. Yeah, exactly. Exactly. So, OK, bud did you have any questions?

Bud Jacobs: No, no thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: No, no question. Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: No, no questions.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Ok, with the governor's directives this afternoon, what impact is that going to have on the restaurants, indoors and outdoors? Any?

Jamie Gaucher: From what I understand, having reviewed the governor's remarks. I believe the restaurants are in the same place they are to the mayor's point. They are still required to maintain a minimum of six feet between tables between patrons. And I don't think it's going to negatively impact them.

Chris Bernard: [off mic]

J. Kevin Daly: [off mic] Ok, so yeah, if you'd like me to briefly update.

Bridge Littleton: Not right now. Do it when we get to your update. Ok, so it was a direct question. Direct question answered. Chris, anything from you. You good? All right. So Jamie, I have a quick question or two related questions. So we've got some like Rick and Robin's place. Has there been any interest in people looking at that?

Jamie Gaucher: There has been.

Bridge Littleton: Like anything on the horizon or I know it's a tough time for someone to start a business.

Jamie Gaucher: No, I was in a vacant property with Mr. Moore on Tuesday. And I was involved in some introductions on another vacant property earlier today. So there still is some activity for retail and dining establishments here in Middleburg.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, that's good. And then and you don't have to say I'm not asking to say who is there anybody who's in trouble right now?

Jamie Gaucher: Not that I'm aware of. OK.

Bridge Littleton: All right, that was my only question. OK, let's move on to the next and another thing. OK, good. Thanks, Jamie. All right. Next one is deputy town manager. Mr. Will the hits keep on rolling more.

Will Moore: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. You have my report, I think the only thing I would like to highlight for the council is that obviously you've seen that Salamander has rolled out their marketing for the Residences. And we have we have received a new iteration of their subdivision construction plan. So those are under review with staff and multiple, multiple referral agencies right now. They're not close to getting approval of construction. So the construction plan is what we can authorize, the turning of dirt out there. And for things to start moving, they're not going to happen in the next month or

two. But it's reasonable to expect to see some construction activity kicking up sometime after the new year. So I just want to make you aware that. We're already getting a lot of calls regarding the project. People have noticed some activity. People have noticed marketing materials on this. This could evolve into another attempt by the public to kind of re-litigate the project. But the project is moving forward. So I think that's very important for council to be aware of. Happy to answer any questions you have on that or any other topics.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, let's go around, Peter, any questions?

Peter Leonard-Morgan: No, thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: All right. Yeah, I'd like the council to take note of my formal protest of Mr. Moore's actions on the Planning Commission at our last meeting. He gave us homework. [laughter] That's all I have. [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Bud don't worry, that will definitely reflect negatively on his performance evaluation. Philip.

Philip Miller: No, no questions.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: No, no questions thanks.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Negative.

Bridge Littleton: Chris.

Chris Bernard: I actually do have one. Do you and I may have missed this on there. And I know you said their probably going to start moving dirt in January. Do we what know what the timeline is for there to be potentially done?

Will Moore: No clue.

Chris Bernard: Is this a two year thing, a five year thing?

Will Moore: I mean, the that will come into greater focus as the construction plans near approval. And what I mean by that is they have the opportunity to potentially phase the public improvements or do them all at once. And we don't know. I think as of right now, they have removed the phasing plan, which would indicate that they intend to do all the public improvements at once, which could greatly minimize ongoing impacts.

Bridge Littleton: And it's cheaper.

Will Moore: Right. But in terms of the actual construction, the construction of the individual homes, that all will depend on, you know, how well they [inaudible]. We do understand that they have taken quite a number of reservations. They can't actually execute contracts because there's no final plat approved yet, but they've taken non-binding reservations. I've heard a number as high as 18 so far out of forty nine. So there's definitely some interest. [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Ok, any other input, I think we're good on that one. OK, next is. Well chief's already gone.

Danny Davis: Two quick things for chief. One is for those who didn't get to be a part of the event for the plaque honoring Sergeant Seaton. Stopped by The Noble House at the corner of Washington and North Madison. It's a wonderful plaque. Very well done. And thanks to the American Legion for that. The second thing is, just as a reminder for the council as

well as for the public, there's a very important new law taking effect on January 1st as it relates to holding an electronic device while driving a vehicle. It is it will now be illegal to hold an electronic device to do anything on it unless it's to make essentially an emergency call while driving a vehicle. I have already asked Chief to begin the public awareness of that through his Facebook and to be ready the first couple of weeks of January to start enforcement, because you see it as much as I do when you're walking down the sidewalks, people going through town in a pedestrian heavy area staring at their phone. And I would like to give every single one of them a ticket. I can't, but I would like our police to. So that is an important reminder. And I would ask that you continue to share that and then we get that word out because it's a safety issue. It really is. So thank you for that, Mr. Mayor.

Chris Bernard: [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: No, no. We give them one of the little Segways. [multiple speakers] Ok. Uh oh, God. Paid by the word county attorney's report.

Martin Crim : Thank you. Mayor you have my report. Ready for any questions.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Martin. Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: No, thank you Martin.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: No thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: None, thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: No. No, thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Negative.

Bridge Littleton: Chris.

Chris Bernard: Nope.

Bridge Littleton: All right, Martin, thank you so much.

Martin Crim : Yes, sir.

Bridge Littleton: All right. Consent agenda. Would anybody like anything removed from the consent agenda? Oh, boy. All right. Is there a motion to approve the consent agenda?

Chris Bernard: I move that we adopt the consent agenda as proposed.

J. Kevin Daly: Second.

Bridge Littleton: Any discussion. All right, Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Chris.

Chris Bernard: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: All right. Yes.

Danny Davis: We had two other staff reports perhaps.

Bridge Littleton: Where. Oh, I'm sorry. Yep, you're right. I jumped right over those. Sorry. Well, I know who's given one of them. I was trying to save us time.

Philip Miller: Hey Bridge. I thought you were trying to put Danny's Covid update on the consent agenda. [laughter]

Bridge Littleton: It is on the is on the consent agenda. All right. Treasurer's report.

Bridge Littleton: I don't know why, so, I mean, why aren't those just included in the normal list? Why is it broken out?

Danny Davis: So we pulled them out because.

Chris Bernard: They don't usually happen.

Danny Davis: Because you would ask that we do the Treasurer and budget report every single meeting. So we pulled them out separately and then COVID-19___0 just because it's extra attention.

Bridge Littleton: It's your special thing.

Danny Davis: Yeah.

Bridge Littleton: OK.

Julie Rivard: Good evening. Ok, so I'm going to roll through this kind of quickly. I'm going to bring your attention to a couple of the high points. The first other than the memo, the first part of the packet are the typical financials that I give you every month. But the thing to note about the typical financials, if you took a look at them, was that our personal property taxes that we received about half of this month were slightly higher than we had projected and that our meals tax revenues came in ten thousand dollars greater than the previous month. Taking a look at the expected revenues charts,

which are these charts here, if you took a look at those, you know, that we show about roughly a 10 percent decline at this point, which is a little bit better. It's not as sharp of a decline as we were showing last month. So slight improvement. It still keeps us in that most probable case scenario where we're comfortable and we can manage and we have a plan in place to mitigate that revenue decline. I would like to bring your attention to the fact that we have included the water and sewer user fees this month and a look at those. I know the 40 percent decline looks a little alarming. Nothing to be worried about just yet. This is based on collections, not on billings. We've been in previous periods or previous years. I did notice that people were usually a little quicker to pay. And now and I'm assuming it could be because of Covid, I'm not sure but we've not received our water and sewer user fee payments as quickly. I would like to point out that even though there's a large balance still due for the bill that we sent out, it's not actually due until December 15th. So people still have a little time to pay. I do expect that these numbers will look better and we'll balance out on next month's financials because the due date will have come and gone and we should have received the water, sewer, water and sewer user fee payments at that time. I will point out on the second chart, that is the comparison of the fiscal year percentages and the weighted average with the current fiscal year. The weighted average is that the dot, the yellow dot with the bar going through it, our utility tax and our sales tax is slightly above the weighted average for collections this month. So just something interesting. Sure.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I looked at that and I highlighted it. Why do you think the sales tax is? Is there a reason for that?

Julie Rivard: Yes, Danny had gotten some information through the county and found out that the sales tax revenues have not seen a decline even through this Covid pandemic. People people are shopping. They're coming here to shop on the weekends. They're shopping online. So we've just not seen a sales tax decline, which is good.

Bridge Littleton: But that's not directly correlated. The sale tax we generate is not correlated to what we get back.

Danny Davis: But county wide.

Bridge Littleton: No, I get it. I get it.

Danny Davis: You're absolutely correct. [multiple speakers] It is by the county imposed one percent sales tax, and then it's distributed to us by number of school age children. But the better the county does overall.

Bridge Littleton: I know, I get that, but if we're doing a hundred percent better and the county is doing 10 percent better. We get 10 percent.

Danny Davis: This gets back to the conversation [multiple speakers] we generate here in town.

Bridge Littleton: My point was it's not driven by people coming to Middleburg and shopping. It's the county. We're in the whole bucket with everybody else.

Danny Davis: As well as online sales continues to be.

Bridge Littleton: What's that Philip?

Philip Miller: Definitely not a good barometer of our economic activity in town. I can tell you that. Yes, correct.

Julie Rivard: Ok, moving right along, I've provided some additional charts this time that we're not that are new from last time. You'll notice there's a chart titled major revenues. The top piece is all of our major revenues as they were budgeted and shown in the month in which we expected to collect those revenues and the amount in which we what the budgeted expectation of collections would be. You'll notice that the month of July is zero because we operate on a on it on a an adjusted basis where we back our revenues. So the revenues that we actually receive in July are for June of the previous fiscal year. So those are booked back. And you'll notice that the month of June in this chart is rather heavy. That's basically two months' worth of revenue at the end of the year. So in June, we're receiving revenues that were based upon

May. And then in July we received June revenues, which were then booked back to June 30th. So this chart is reflective of that.

Danny Davis: And to add on real quickly, some of those actually come in in August as well, potentially depending on the type of revenue that it is.

Julie Rivard: In the chart just below that is our actual and projected revenues. So for the month of July, August, September, October and November, you'll see our actual revenues for each of those major sources and the amounts that we received in those months. For December through June. That's highlighted in blue. Those are projections based upon our current where we currently stand. So looking back at this chart here, the comparison of budgeted revenue to Year-to-date expected versus year to date actual for each of the major revenue sources, there's a percentage variance there. That percentage variance was applied to what we expect to collect for each of those sources in the months December through June, and then used for the projections and the blue chart below. There is a graphical representation of this chart. The Green Line are budgeted revenues. The red line that shows July through December are actual revenues and the extenuating blue dotted line are the projected. I've also included just for ease, the Covid plan budget, which I had given you all before, just so you can look at it for comparison sake.

Bridge Littleton: So I've got a quick question, as I'm looking at and I appreciate the line chart, I'm looking at that line chart and I'm just sort of fingering it, it's 280, the delta.

Danny Davis: Yes, that should match the Delta [multiple speakers] that is 235. Would that be correct? Julie? Or is that close?

Bridge Littleton: So I added up everything on major revenues, the differences between the top and the bottom. It comes out to about 290. Yeah. I mean, it's probably all ten grand, but I'm just doing rough numbers. So I just wanna make sure I understand I'm reading this right. So what we're saying is, is that we anticipate for the year from what we originally budgeted, which had no Covid impact in it that the net effect of the impact of the town is going to be about 280000.

Danny Davis: At this time that is what our current projection is.

Julie Rivard: Now this will change.

Bridge Littleton: I got it. I got it. I got it. [multiple speakers]

Julie Rivard: As our revenues change.

Bridge Littleton: Understood. So. Ok. Right, OK, so like I'm looking at April for occupancy and we're saying from January to April, our original budget was 185, we're now saying that the impact is actually going to be a nine thousand dollar difference. Which is like, what, seven percent? It's six, seven percent? Yeah, ok.

Julie Rivard: Right around there. Yeah. You can look at the you can look back at the percentages here too.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. No I just, I'm just trying to compare the chart with the graph so.

Danny Davis: Yeah. On that particular revenue source. You know, TOT came in almost on target in first quarter of the fiscal year and we expect it to be probably right on target again when we get that payment in January. So we I mean, that revenue source is seeing a minimal at this point, minimal impact from Covid.

Bridge Littleton: No, I just like I said, I want to make sure I'm reading it right, so no and I appreciate the the other graph. It's very, very helpful. Ok, we go around the room. Anybody has any questions, Peter?

Peter Leonard-Morgan: None. Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: thank you for putting together those two new charts, the major revenue slide and the line graph. That helps. I'm not a financial analyst and this really helps me understand it a little better.

Julie Rivard: Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: I second Bud's remarks, I think this is very easy to keep track of it in a visual way, just like the graph you did in the last report that are also in here with the weighted averages. I think that's great. Thank you.

Julie Rivard: Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: No, but thank you, Julie, for all your hard work putting this together. '

Julie Rivard: Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Negative. Again, well done. Excellent presentation of information.

Julie Rivard: Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Chris.

Chris Bernard: Nailed it.

Julie Rivard: Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, Danny. Mr. Covid.

Danny Davis: Yes, sir. As mentioned in here, the CDC has revised their guidance about when to quarantine and how long to isolate. However, the Loudoun County health director continues to recommend that full 14 days if you are exposed to a known case of Covid. So that is important to remember. It's the best way to keep yourself and others safe and healthy. I did provide a few links in here for your viewing if you wish to hear more information from the health director about vaccines and vaccine plans for Loudoun County specifically. But as you know, there's a lot of information from the state as well as local officials on that. We also provided a link for covid-19 testing sites to the important news today. As mentioned, the governor's new executive orders, in addition to what was discussed about the 12:00a.m. midnight to 5:00 a.m. curfew, which I think probably has been relatively minimal impact. The big changes were the reduction in social gatherings. Social gatherings may only be up to 10 persons. And I know that's very important around the holidays right now. And the other item was the universal face covering requirements. And what that means is that face coverings are required in any indoor space that is shared by others, any public indoor space as it is shared with others. Practically what that means is here at the town office, we will be wearing face coverings all day long, not just when the public comes in. In addition the universal mask order or face covering order requires you to wear a face covering outside if you cannot maintain six feet of separation or distance from another person. Practically what that means is I have directed that all staff will wear a face covering when walking in public areas i.e. sidewalks throughout the town, because it's nearly impossible to not come within six feet of somebody, especially if you're on Washington Street. So we as a town will do our best to set the example and to abide by that, we are going to ask the community to abide by that and to follow those as well as the governor's indicated additional potential enforcement mechanisms for that. But that is definitely a change and something

that we're happy to answer any questions on or help clarify as this and to clarify this becomes effective Monday at 12:01 a.m.

Bridge Littleton: Has the order been released yet?

Danny Davis: It has.

Bridge Littleton: Oh good.

Danny Davis: Safely as soon as they finish the press conference, it was available.

Bridge Littleton: So I think we learned from the last time. Press conference and then the order was released a day and a half later, obviously, and then had to be modified. So, OK, I had a couple of quick questions, number one. We had a Western Loudoun pretests in Purcellville a couple of weeks ago, all the mayors of COLT, you know, got with the chair and other members of the Board of Supervisors because they had not had a test in Western Loudoun for a while. And so, you know, a lot of people took advantage of it. So I would definitely like us to just write them and thank them for doing that and encourage them to continue. I mean, not like every week that they do like in Sterling or whatever, but, you know, once every two to three weeks having a test in [inaudible]. Just make it Purcellville. Right. I mean make it sort of central for everybody in Western Loudoun. I think that was really beneficial. I let a lot of people know and I know a lot of people took advantage of it, so that was good. The second thing I wanted to mention was vaccines. And I'm you know input from council. I think it's going to be very, very important for us to maybe even have a page on our website with always keeping you up to date vaccine information cause that's always going to be driven by two things. Number one, how the state sets the guidelines for who goes first. And that may change. Right? So, you know us just making sure we always have that information there. And the second thing is how the Loudoun County Health Department will then administer it. So that's like two information sets which is going to be hard for people to get. So if we can just be a keeper of that and, you know, if anything changes, let's flag a Facebook post. You know, hey, if you live in Middleburg, here's what you need to know. Here's your new. You know, I don't know how it's going to work. If you're in Group B, you can start going on Monday and this is where you go. I think that would be something to be, especially with the older community we have here, and maybe letting them know that we're going to, you know, do our best to stay on top of it for them. Yeah.

J. Kevin Daly: Regarding the older community, we do have a kind of a senior care center here and now are they going to be able to be bussed or transferred to a inoculation zone or is it the possibility that the state would be able to come to them?

Bridge Littleton: [off mic] I mean, the vaccines haven't been approved yet. [off mic] And then, yeah, that was only questions I had. So. All right, we'll go around the room. Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Thanks for that Danny. Any changes on enforcement at all, to your knowledge?

Danny Davis: There were additions to enforcement. I did not get a chance to dive into what those are. I still believe that it's more not as strong as it could be or I should say not extremely strong, but I it's [inaudible] I will read through that and let you know.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: OK, and I think I probably speak for everyone that we'll be also wearing masks as we walk around town. Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: I'm just not going to walk around town. No so as I believe on enforcement. They're going to what he said was they're going to up enforcement, but no change in rules. Just enforce more. [multiple speakers] they're going to actually do it. Yeah, and it's to be health department. And I think the the what is it? [inaudible]. Yes, exactly.

Danny Davis: And then the Department of Labor and industry.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. Yeah. DOLI that's it.

Danny Davis: The Department of Labor and industry for businesses.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. And what they're going to do is, you know, they can do the misdemeanor thing but they can also he mentioned that they would be taking people's business licenses for not enforcing so but yes. Expanded use of people to be able enforce. No, that was not that was not done. OK, Bud any input?

Bud Jacobs: Yes. I noticed in Chief Panebianco's report that he mentioned stepped up frequency with the idea that punishing people to wear masks publicly admonishing them. Danny, do you have a sense of how frequently that has occurred?

Danny Davis: I do not, sir. I know that the officers take the encouragement approach to encourage folks, at least under the rules that they have been, to either take a free mask, which they will offer to them or to step outside. But I don't have a sense of the the numbers behind that.

Bud Jacobs: And certainly we haven't had any pushback from visitors or residents.

Danny Davis: Not that I'm aware of, at least in a major or significant way.

Bud Jacobs: Well, I would ask you as the over the next three or four months that if those kinds of incidents do occur, that you make us aware of them.

Danny Davis: Yes, sir.

Bridge Littleton: Bud anything else? OK, thanks, Philip.

Philip Miller: I would second the admonishment about wearing masks, I think it's going to be more important as obviously it's getting colder this week and the spread is going crazy. We're going through the holidays. We're still trying to encourage people to come to Middleburg so that our businesses survive. I think it's really important that we do everything we can to encourage people to wear masks and follow the law.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, Cindy?

Cindy Pearson: No questions. Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Negative.

Bridge Littleton: Chris?

Chris Bernard: Nothing.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, thank you, Danny. Next item is, we did the consent agenda, charitable donations.

Danny Davis: Mr. Mayor, the Health Center Advisory Board met on November 24th. We received eight funding requests. I will note, just for your information, and it is noted, I believe in the attachment that both backpack buddies and a library advisory board said that they did not need funding this year because they were either financially whole or did not have direct needs. But they would like to be considered for future years. And we appreciate their sensitivity to the current situation and the needs of others. So the board did meet and reviewed all of the requests. They reviewed these in light of the current pandemic and the ability of these organizations to serve vulnerable and needy populations, specifically in regards to covid-19. And you can see the recommendations in the attached chart, which equals forty two thousand dollars.

The council has appropriated twenty thousand dollars from the general fund to go towards charitable contributions and then there the rest. The remaining twenty two thousand is proposed to be taken from the Health Center Fund. So I'm happy to answer any questions. Also, Vice Mayor Miller was at that meeting, if there are any questions as well.

Bridge Littleton: So, Philip, before we go around, do you have any input?

Philip Miller: No, I mean, I think, you know, we worked really hard on on going through what we thought would do the most good for the people with the most need right now and I mean with one personal objection to one of them. But I think we're just trying to give help to people to pay their bills, put food on the table. You know, we really try to keep it very focused on people who are really in need because of a pandemic, especially.

Bridge Littleton: We'll go around for any questions. Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Thank you Philip and thank you, Danny. I think you probably answered my question that I had here, which is why are some granted lower amounts and some are granted higher amounts, but obviously the higher amounts are the direct food oriented type requests.

Danny Davis: Yes, sir, that's correct.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Looks good, no questions, thank you.

Bridge Littleton: We've heard from Philip. Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: No questions. Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Negative.

Bridge Littleton: Chris.

Chris Bernard: Yeah, real quick, can you, Philip, since you were there? Can you walk us through the conversation around the community center and their request?

Philip Miller: Well, yes, I'd be happy to. And Danny, feel free to chime in if you'd like. Their request was that essentially because they have outdoor space with tables for people to sit, that they've seen higher use of their trash receptacle throughout the Covid outbreak and then therefore ask for assistance in replacing those, I raised a personal objection. I think that we give them a lot of money for capital improvement project and I don't think that's our job. And I don't personally feel that that's something that is 100 percent necessary right now when there are people who are trying to pay their bills or pay, you know, medical bills or looking for shelter from abuse. I think that there are better personally, I think there are better uses for the money. But ultimately the committee felt differently. But we did pare down from their original ask.

Chris Bernard: So, yeah, I was glad to see that it was adjust like that. I just don't know if that's the right venue. I mean, is it just any time we're offering to give money away, they make a request for something? I don't know all the rest, like Philip said seems to be going directly towards something that that seems to be more impactful. Not that I don't think we should give them money for things, but that could happen any time. And I don't know if that's a health center thing, that might be something else.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I think having read through it also, I think that it's what was requested for because they actually do it. Exactly. And they do do some wonderful things for older members of the community. And I think that's a different thing altogether. But it was for this specific request.

Danny Davis: [off mic] and I do think to your point, that the Health Center Advisory Board did feel that, you know, there are things that the community center does that are benefiting the community, whether it is related to the outdoor concerts or supporting those or programs to a degree. But I do think, as Vice Mayor Miller mentioned, the board also felt that capital requests weren't necessary excuse me, necessarily as important these days as the operating requests that are directly benefiting the public. So that's the general tenor of the conversation.

Bridge Littleton: So, Chris, let me ask you.

Philip Miller: I mean, to my knowledge, they've mostly been closed throughout this except for the pool throughout the summer and the grounds correct?

Danny Davis: Indoors. I believe they've had a few programs with limited registration requirements, you know, but they're not the same as they normally would have been.

Bridge Littleton: Chris, are you recommending something else or are you happy with the two or.

Chris Bernard: No, I was curious to see why they went from what was requested down to the two. And I mean, I may have pushed a little harder for less, but I mean, [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: I mean, I don't think it's a bad point. I mean, you know.

Chris Bernard: [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Or we can direct the Community Center to do something with it, to provide food drives or whatever. Right. I mean, it's not to buy trash. I agree. I don't like the optics of buying trashcans and lights for the fox.

Danny Davis: Ok, I will note if I may that Olivia. Olivia did respond later this afternoon that they are doing their current Angel Tree initiative. I don't know all the details about it, but I believe they're using that to raise money to help those in need related to Covid. The council could, if you wish.

Chris Bernard: [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Specifically for that. Yeah.

Danny Davis: And not related to trash cans at all.

Bridge Littleton: And better not be fungible that they take from their general fund that they were going to put to the angel thing. Old rusty trash cans to the end of next year.

Chris Bernard: [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Everybody comfortable with that amendment.

J. Kevin Daly: I'd rather see people with food so they can throw the wrappers away opposed to having a nice receptacle for stuff they can't throw away because they don't have the food.

Bridge Littleton: [off mic]

Chris Bernard: Ok, quick question for Philip. Is that, is that going to be an issue with the Health Center Advisory Board? I mean, it sounds like there was some push back.

Philip Miller: I mean, I think I don't think so. No, I think actually that would have solved the conversation problem that we had around it. Yeah, I mean, everybody wanted to give them something. We just wanted it to be something immediate for, you know, the Covid situation.

Chris Bernard: Success.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, yeah, let's do that. All right, we'll make that amendment. Any other questions from anybody on health center advisory board donations?

Danny Davis: Yes, just briefly, I did my share, Bob Dale said normally he would be here and just thank the council for your continued support. But because of Covid, he's not and asked me just to share that with you.[off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Ok. Is there a motion? Someone doesn't volunteer, I'll start assigning.

Philip Miller: I'll do it.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I move the town council.

Philip Miller: The town council will approve charitable donations as shown in the Health Center Advisory Board calendar year 2020 recommendation with a stipulation that.

Philip Miller: Well, this is going to be coming from Danny, right?

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I'll make a friendly amendment.

Bridge Littleton: Go ahead, Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I'll make a friendly amendment that the Middleburg Community Center two thousand dollars be directed to direct community food.

Bridge Littleton: What's the program called?

Peter Leonard-Morgan: The Angel Tree Program.

J. Kevin Daly: Second.

Philip Miller: Accepted.

Bridge Littleton: Any other discussion. Ok, Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Chris.

Chris Bernard: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: OK, that passes. Next item, town hall project memo award of AE contract. Ms. North.

Rhonda North: Mr. Mayor, thank you so much. So, as you're aware, at the end of September, we issued a request for proposals for architect and engineering services for the town hall project. We received a total of 13 proposals was. [off mic] Long proposals. Was reviewed by the committee consisting of council members Daly and Bernard, myself, Town Manager Davis, Deputy Town Manager Moore. And we also invited Tim Clites, who is both on our HDRC and is a local architect so that he could give us an architect's perspective. After reviewing the 13, we narrowed it down to four firms that we brought in for interviews, conducted the interviews, ranked those four firms and following the ranking, we contacted the references for the number one ranked firm. References all came back very glowing. And so we are pleased to to recommend the award of the contract to Glave and Holmes. Glave and Holmes is actually partnering with another architectural firm, Creech and Associates, they're out of North Carolina. They have considerable experience in designing both town halls and combined police departments, which this is right in line with with that. So we think that they will be a good firm to work with. We believe that they will do an excellent job and based on the reference check in ensuring that the exterior of the building will fit within the Middleburg community. That is one of their strong suits, according to the folks that I've spoken with. So we would like to recommend the award of that contract. They have proposed a schedule, if we get the contract signed, negotiated this month and signed, they would start work on January the 4th and we anticipate that they would have the plans ready for bid October the 1st. So we're talking about roughly a ten.

Bridge Littleton: At the absolute utter latest. And they would be heavily incentivized to move quickly.

Rhonda North: Ten months is is already, you know, probably the shortest window we can ask for, for a project like this. [off mic] So I will see if Council Members Daly or Bernard have anything they'd like to add.

Chris Bernard: [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Kevin, any other input?

J. Kevin Daly: [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Well, one second. We start, you know, throwing money away here. No. Does anybody have any questions for Rhonda, Kevin or Chris? I'll go around the room, Peter?

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Yeah, first of all, it took me forever to read just one. [laughter] So thanks for going through so many things. I really, really appreciate that. I did also notice that a lot of the people involved at Glave and Holmes are LEED certified. So I'm hoping there's going to be as a Go Green Council representative, I'm hoping that we'll see a lot of not necessarily LEED exactly, but green building practices. I also saw that they've got some big projects on the go at the moment. So presumably there's not going to be too much of a loss of manpower. They've obviously got a big [off mic] Right.

Chris Bernard: [off mic] very interested in them working with Go Green and getting your input and then proposing, you know, some different ideas to us, but not going after a certification per say.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Indeed. Indeed. Well, thanks very much. Appreciate that. Looks great.

Bridge Littleton: Bud. Any questions or input?

Bud Jacobs: No, thanks for the hard work guys.

Bridge Littleton: Philip?

Philip Miller: No, I agree they were pretty long, this one in particular, but thanks for reading them all and going through and being so thorough. I think this is going to be a good partnership.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy, any input.

Cindy Pearson: No, thank you for all your work.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin and Chris, I guess you guys are good, so with no other questions, would somebody like to make a motion?

J. Kevin Daly: [off mic] I move that council award, the contract for architectural engineering services for the town hall project to Glave and Holmes and authorize the town manager to execute it upon final approval of the contract by the town attorney.

Chris Bernard: Second.

Bridge Littleton: Any discussion? All right. All those in favor say aye. Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Chris.

Chris Bernard: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: All right, no opposed and no abstentions. So it passes. All right. Next item, construction management contract for the town hall project. Ms. North, you're back on deck.

Rhonda North: Yes, thank you, Mr. Mayor. Still in conjunction with the RFP for the Architect Engineering Services, we also issued an RFP for construction management services. This will essentially be two phases of services. They will come on board. They will help us with the design, reviewing the design and [inaudible] submits it. Look at it from a value engineering standpoint. They will confirm cost estimates just so we are sure that we're running correctly with the cost proposals. We received 11 proposals for the CM services. Followed essentially the same process as we did for the AE and we are recommending the award of the contract to Downey and Scott. Their reference is also a reference check also was glowing and we did not tell either firm that we were considering the other one up until we were ready to make the recommendation. And we were pleased to find out that Glave and Holmes and Downey and Scott have worked together on multiple projects in the past, and they both speak very highly of each other. So we're pleased to recommend the award of the CM contract to to Downey and Scott.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, Kevin or Chris, any input?

J. Kevin Daly: Negative. I think this was an excellent choice.

Chris Bernard: These guys are out of [inaudible] and I know some people that have worked with them in the past and got glowing reports on them as well. So I think it's a solid move.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin, yeah, you're good.[off mic] Any questions or input for Rhonda, Kevin or Chris? Peter?

Peter Leonard-Morgan: None. Just another big thank you for going through all of those.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: No, nothing for me, thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: We're all going to have to run for another term if we want to go into this building.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: No comment. Thank you,

Bridge Littleton: Kevin and Chris, you guys are good. All right. Is there a motion? [off mic]

J. Kevin Daly: I move the council award the contract for construction management services for the town hall project to Downey and Scott and authorize the town manager to execute it upon final approval of the contract by the town attorney.

Chris Bernard: Second.

Bridge Littleton: Ok. All those in favor say aye. Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: And Chris.

Chris Bernard: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: All right, no abstentions or no, so motion passes, contract approved. Next item is in 30 seconds or less. The update on the CARES money.

Danny Davis: We are just bringing back slightly revised spending plan for the second round of CARES funding. I do need to update the figures, the housing assistance program we have. We helped six families at almost 11 or almost nine thousand dollars. And we are also including the first two months of the tent program as business support. Any remainder that is not spent, which right now looks like to be about six thousand dollars, will be applied towards reimbursement of police salaries. So we're just asking your re endorsement of this spending plan the final figures will be tweaked slightly. We'll get this to the county next week.

Bridge Littleton: Got it. Ok, so I'm assuming no questions or concerns, OK. Is there a motion?

Bud Jacobs: I move that the town council authorize a revision to the second round of CARES funds spending plan outlined in the town staff memo and presented to council on December 10, 2020.

Cindy Pearson: I second.

Bridge Littleton: Ok. All those in favor. Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: And Chris.

Chris Bernard: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: OK. Before we go into closed session, does anybody have any other discussion items? [multiple speakers] Oh, OK. Good Lord, I totally missed it again. [off mic] All right, Jamie.

Jamie Gaucher: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. As per the memo, we were fortunate enough to secure a sponsorship connected to the horse drawn carriage rides that are operating every Saturday, the 5th, the 12th and the 19th in December. And consequently, in order to accept that we're bringing it in front of council this evening.

Danny Davis: And I do believe I left something off this memo. I was unclear about one of the other donations. Northwest Federal Credit Union is also paying for the lights on the Christmas tree. And we paid for that. And they're reimbursing us, I believe. I thought they were paying for them directly. So they are also donating towards this cause up to a thousand dollars. [off mic] And so we thank them for their support.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, OK. So I. All right, two things when you send thank you notes and then anybody have any questions on the donation stuff? Going once, going twice. OK, let's, there's a motion to be had? Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Yes, I move that the town council approved the donation to the town of Middleburg from Creighton Farms and from any other entity for activities around the 2020 Christmas holidays in Middleburg. I further move that the town council will express its thanks to these entities for their support of the Middleburg community.

J. Kevin Daly: Second.

Bridge Littleton: Any discussion? I'll just say, really, you know, thanks to both those organizations for sending money, especially in these tough times, it's great that they're supporting the community in the way that they are, OK? All those in favor say aye. Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: And Chris.

Chris Bernard: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, awesome. Ok, now, before we go, the closed session. Did anybody have any discussion, additional discussion items or information items?

Chris Bernard: I got one. Go ahead. I'll try to keep it brief. So Jamie mentioned a little bit in his report, but I just want to give you guys a little bit more of a download. So we've identified a company that does local community gift cards. And so starting next week, whenever we get it launched, we are going to have a Middleburg gift cards, not a physical card. It's a

code that gets emailed to you. Any of the businesses that choose to participate will be listed as part of this card. There's no cost to the merchants in town. No cost to the person who gets the card. Whoever purchases the card, will have to pay a little bit of a fee on top to get it. And that's where the, that's what pays for it all. But it'll be a nice branding opportunity for the town. It's going to carry the new horse logo. I think it be a good way to really draw people to the town because they will only be able to spend that gift card right here.

Bridge Littleton: This is not something we're doing just for this time.

Chris Bernard: This is ongoing. But we're trying I've been really pushing to try to get it launched so we can have for the holidays. last minute gifts.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Sounds great. Where can people buy it?

Chris Bernard: It'll be marketed through the town website, through the MBPA. MBPA is kind of formally launching this thing. And their board met earlier this week and approved it. And we're going to start getting merchants on board tomorrow.

Danny Davis: Are they online purchases? Is that correct? [off mic]

Jamie Gaucher: It can be online purchases or they can be [multiple speakers]

Chris Bernard: You purchased the gift card online. There is no physical. There's no card. It's purely digital.

Bridge Littleton: So and, you know, it's a good question because [inaudible] said to me and I already forgot about it, but you said something that it was only going to be offered through MBPA.

Jamie Gaucher: You have to be if you are a business in Middleburg and you want to participate in this program, you have to be a member of MBPA.

Chris Bernard: It's a MBPA project.

Bridge Littleton: But it sounds like we're sponsoring it.

Chris Bernard: I just drove, I got the ball rolling. As I said, the MBPAs board, I think it's their deal.

Bridge Littleton: OK, OK. I just wanna make sure I understood that it wasn't something we were funding. [multiple speakers]

Chris Bernard: There is no funding at all.

Bridge Littleton: Or running it or setting it up or anything like that. OK. OK. [off mic] Got it. No problem. OK, that's good to know and thanks for doing that. Any other input or information items. Anybody on the phone.

Bud Jacobs: Nope.

Bridge Littleton: I just had two things to give everybody a quick update on. Number one, VML's conference is still planning to be held in October and it is going to still be Leesburg. I mean, it's Leesburg. COLT is doing this as a you know, it's not just Leesburg. It's all the seven towns of Loudoun, which is great. We had a meeting earlier this week. There will be a requirement for contributions. And so the way it normally works, the host city, you know, you actually have to contribute to. I think it's normally well, I don't want to say because it varies town by town or excuse me, host by host. All seven towns are going to participate. But we all have different ways in which we can participate. I also had the idea of, you know, we have some local businesses who, you know, because the VML conference always has an expo. We have some local businesses that we could drive to that. And actually, like Salamander could get a lot of great exposure

from all these different cities and towns coming and creating opportunities for them. So we're going to look at sponsorship as well to be able to help that. You know, Leesburg obviously will be paying the lion's share, we'll have a significant piece of this. But, you know, towns like Hillsborough, I mean, they're one of us. So, you know, we're going to figure out how that works. But everybody's all in and they are going to open registration in January and it's going to be like 50 bucks. So you don't have to put a bunch of money down up front. And if it gets canceled because of Covid, then you're 50 bucks can go to the next year. So they do want to get a good turnout. We're I think they're expecting 500 people for the conference, which would be great. I had a long conversation with Delegate Gooditis last week. Very good conversation. Just sort of bringing up certain things are going on in the House or in the state legislature and the session coming up. Two biggest things that I mentioned to her that we wanted to make sure were on her plate was qualified immunity for police. So you all may or may not remember that earlier in the year, a draft bill was put out there, which essentially said if a police officer, you know, does something, you know, on duty or off duty or whatever outside his authority, that the the way it stands right now, the town is immune from civil suits. You know, we're not responsible or we can't be sued. It would basically take away that qualified immunity. It would also take away the qualified immunity for a police officer. But, you know, so literally, if a police officer did something outside the scope of his duty, the town could actually be sued and we could be sued with punitive damages. So, you know, policing needs to improve, no question about it. But I mean, the punitive damage lawsuit can be 10, 20 million dollars depending on what happened. We could literally bankrupt a town. It could bankrupt us with one lawsuit. [off mic]. Oh, yeah. I mean, you know, think of how many small towns there are I mean, there's, what, 400 Towns Incorporated towns in Virginia. 300 of them are like us.

Chris Bernard: [off mic].

Bridge Littleton: And you can't insure against it. No insurance company will insure you against that kind of liability. So I just expressed that that was a real problem. It would make us actually think about whether we would have a police force anymore because we just can't take that kind of liability. So it was a good conversation. She understood. And she's going to, you know, consider it and, you know, let us let us know back. But it was a really good conversation. She she totally understood where we were coming from and the concern there. So I think that was yeah, that was it. Ok, last item here is public comments. So we're going to open the second public comment session. There's no one here in the council chambers. Rhonda, do we have anybody online for public comment?

Rhonda North: We do not, Mr. Mayor.

Bridge Littleton: OK, we will close the public comment session and go on to the closed session so somebody gets to read that. Peter. [off mic]

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I move the council go into closed session as authorized under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the disposition of publicly held property related to the Asbury Church as allowed under subsection A3. I further move that the council therefore thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

Chris Bernard: Second.

Bridge Littleton: OK, all those in favor say aye. Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Philip. Philip? All right. Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Chris.

Chris Bernard: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: All right. That's enough. Don't need Philip.

Chris Bernard: He'll find his way back.

Bridge Littleton: We're back. OK. I asked that council certified to the best of each member's knowledge. One only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. And two only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting. I would like to remind those present for the closed session that any discussion that occurred within it should be treated as confidential. Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Chris.

Chris Bernard: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: And yes. Any other items? All right, everybody, have a great Christmas and a great New Year. Staff. Thanks for all your help this year. Martin. [multiple speakers] Meeting adjourned.