



MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 8, 2021



PENDING APPROVAL

PRESENT: Mayor Trowbridge M. Littleton
Vice Mayor Philip M. Miller
Councilmember Chris W. Bernard
Councilmember J. Kevin Daly
Councilmember Morris “Bud” Jacobs
Councilmember Darlene Kirk
Councilmember Peter Leonard-Morgan (arrived late)
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
Estee LaClare, Planning & Project Associate
Julie Rivard, Finance Director/Town Treasurer
A.J. Panebianco, Chief of Police

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held their regular monthly meeting, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 8, 2021. 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of governmental operations, the Council would hold its meetings via remote access until such time as the Governor rescinded his executive orders.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 6:00 p.m.

Staff Reports

Staff Reports – March 2021

Town Manager Davis reported that Well 4 was continuing to run smoothly. He advised that the hydrants would be flushed next week, or the following one, and noted that one of the reasons for doing so was to see whether there has been a change in the amount of sediment in the lines since the Town was no longer using Well 3 as much. Mr. Davis reported that maintenance work was performed on the Marshall Street water tower. He further reported that the membranes at the wastewater treatment plant were cleaned in an attempt to extend their life as long as possible.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Manager Davis confirmed he received a proposal from the Town of Round Hill regarding the use of their centrifuge system to remove water from sludge. He advised that the Utility Committee would review it; however, he expressed doubts that it would be cost effective for Middleburg.

Town Clerk North reminded Council that most of her time was currently dedicated to the Town Hall Project. She advised that she was also filling in at the front counter for the Administrative & Accounting Assistant in her absence.

Mayor Littleton noted that he would soon receive a listing of companies that performed billing/collections outsourcing from the Virginia Municipal League (VML) that he would share with the staff and opined that this could save them a considerable amount of time.

Town Treasurer Rivard reported that meals tax revenues were 21% below projections. She noted that business license revenues were also below projections and explained that this was due to a large refund that was issued to a business after it was determined that their classification needed to be changed. Ms. Rivard reported that overall, General Fund revenues were down by 6%, which would place the Town in the best-case scenario under the COVID plan. She opined that the Town would end the fiscal year 6-10% below revenue projections.

Town Treasurer Rivard reminded Council that utility bills were not due until April 15th. She further reminded them that water consumption was down. Ms. Rivard advised that water and sewer revenues were down by 13%; however, this figure included the unpaid bills that were not yet due. She noted that she would continue to track water consumption.

Deputy Town Manager Moore reported that the Planning Commission would hold public hearings during their April 26th meeting on a zoning text amendment that was related to infill/redevelopment in the Ridgeview area and on two rezoning items related to the Town Hall Project.

Mayor Littleton asked that the zoning text amendment be sent to the Council immediately for their review.

Chief Panebianco reminded Council of the Drug Take Back event scheduled for April 24th, which would be handled as a no-contact drop off. He noted that Go Green would also host their Spring Clean-Up Event that same day.

Town Attorney Crim reported that the Senate passed the amendments proposed by the Governor related to the marijuana bill. He advised that as a result, simple possession of home cultivation of up to four plants and adult sharing for anyone 21 or over would be legal effective July 1, 2021. Mr. Crim reported that the sale of marijuana and possession with intent to distribute would continue to be illegal until January 1, 2024. He advised that the earliest the Town could petition for a referendum to allow voters to decide whether to allow the retail sale of marijuana in town would be July 1, 2022. Mr. Crim noted that the referendum would then be held in November of 2022. He advised that the County could also hold a referendum on prohibiting sales in the entire County that would apply to Middleburg. Mr. Crim suggested the Town could also adopt zoning regulations limiting the hours of such retail operations. He noted that if the Council were interested in pursuing that, he would research some reliable case law. In response to an inquiry from the Council on how an individual could use marijuana if it could not be sold, Mr. Crim confirmed they could grow it.

Mayor Littleton asked the Town Clerk to set up a tickler file to petition for a referendum in July of 2022.

Town Hall Project Report

Town Clerk North reported that Glave & Holmes presented the sustainability items under consideration for the Town Hall Project to the Go Green committee during their meeting held earlier in the week. She noted that the members planned to discuss the project during their next meeting and offer recommendations for any additional sustainability items they believed should be considered. In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Clerk North confirmed that previous pavers were included on the list of items presented to Go Green; however, the members did not specifically discuss them.

Councilmember Leonard-Morgan noted that they did discuss the fact that there were some budgetary considerations under discussion at the moment.

Town Clerk North reported that the staff was working with Downey & Scott to identify value engineering opportunities, as well as space reductions, necessary to reduce the project's cost to the three figures identified by the Council during their special meeting. She noted that the list would be distributed as a part of the upcoming special meeting agenda.

Town Clerk North reported that the HDRC would hold a pre-application discussion during their special meeting next week on the proposed exterior colors and materials. She further reported that the Planning Commission would hold public hearings on two rezoning applications associated with the project.

COVID Status Report

Town Manager Davis reported that the County was giving vaccinations to those in Phases 1B and 1C. He advised that they were encouraging anyone sixteen and over to pre-register, as vaccinations would be open to those in Phase 2 shortly.

Town Manager Davis reported that he was awaiting guidance from the Department of the Treasury on the allocation of the funding to towns from the American Rescue Plan.

In response to Council concerns that there had been an increased rate of infection of youth in the 12-17 age group, Town Manager Davis noted that the British variant, which was now prevalent in the U.S., attacked those in the younger population. He encouraged those in that age group to continue to take precautions.

Mayor Littleton noted that while the infection rate was higher, the rate of hospitalization and death remained the same. He acknowledged that the British variant was easier for young people to get and questioned why. Council opined that it may be because schools were back in session and that younger people tended to not be as cautious.

Reports of Town Committees

Councilmember Leonard-Morgan reported that Go Green would hold their Spring Clean-Up and Battery Collection events on April 24th. He noted that twenty-five individuals had volunteered thus far for the clean-up.

Consent Agenda

- A. Council Approval – March 25, 2021 Regular Council Meeting Minutes
- B. Council Approval – 2021 VML Policy Committee Nominations

Vice Mayor Miller moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council approve the consent agenda as proposed.

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

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

Discussion Items

Changes to Election Process Based on State Legislation Moving Town Elections to November

Town Manager Davis reminded Council that the General Assembly adopted legislation to move municipal elections to November. He reported that they would be held in even years by default; however, the Council had a limited window to move them to odd years. Mr. Davis noted that this needed to occur in May as the deadline to register to be a candidate in this year's elections was June 8th. He reminded Council that moving the elections to odd years would shorten the members' terms by six months; whereas, if they were held in even years, it would lengthen them by six months.

Town Manager Davis reminded Council that they previously expressed a desire to get a sense of the voters' preferences and reported that he developed a mailer, which included a postage-paid postcard to vote. He noted that individuals would also be allowed to vote online. Mr. Davis advised that if there was no objection from the Council, the mailer could go out on April 12th. In response to an inquiry from the Council, he confirmed the mailer would only go to registered voters in the town limits. He noted that households that had multiple registered voters would receive multiple mailers so each voter could vote for their preference.

The Council held some discussion on the need to set a deadline to vote. They asked that the staff include an April 30th deadline in the mailer and add language to the exterior of the envelope to the effect of "reply immediately".

Mayor Littleton asked the Council to encourage voters to respond.

Town Manager Davis reiterated that there would also be an online survey available for people to vote. He noted that it would be password protected, with the password being distributed in the mailer. Mr. Davis suggested that if a voter did not receive a mailer, they could simply call the Town Office and, once it was verified that they were a Town voter, the password would be shared with them.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Mayor Littleton advised that Round Hill was moving their elections to odd years. He further advised that Leesburg and Hillsboro's elections were already held in November. Mr. Littleton opined that none of the other towns in Loudoun County were moving them to odd years.

Possible Ideas for Stimulus Funds

Town Manager Davis reported that it was still uncertain as to how much towns would receive as a result of the American Rescue Plan. He explained that the issue was independent cities and noted that Virginia had the most independent cities of all the states. Mr. Davis further explained that the independent cities were arguing that they would be underfunded and should be treated like counties. He advised that in addition, some towns' allocations may have been calculated using the city formula. Mr. Davis reported that Middleburg could receive \$757,000 or \$155,000. In response to an inquiry from the Council, he advised that the Department of Treasury was responsible for properly calculating and certifying the amount jurisdictions would receive. Mr. Davis suggested the Council pause its discussion of how to use the money until the Town knew how much it would get for certain. He noted that there was no rush to spend it, as the Town had until 2024 to do so.

Mayor Littleton agreed the amount would drive what the Town could do with the money; however, he suggested there was a rush to help those individuals who were struggling. He agreed anything else could wait. Mr. Littleton opined that the suggested options made sense.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Manager Davis advised that the Treasury Department had sixty days to certify and allocate the money and thirty days thereafter to distribute it. He noted that the Town would receive its allocation through the State and advised that the State had thirty days to allocate it as well. Mr. Davis noted that it may not be received until the next fiscal year. He advised that it would be received in two separate distributions.

Mayor Littleton suggested that once the Town knew how much it would receive, it could use its cash reserves to provide assistance and reimburse itself once the stimulus money was received.

Council expressed a desire to give the utility customers a flat fee credit on their accounts. They held some discussion as to what could occur if someone did not want to accept it. It was agreed that individuals who did not want/need it could donate a like amount to a local charity if they desired. It was suggested that the Town provide a list of the charities.

Information Items

Town Staff Vacancies

In response to inquiries from the Council, Town Manager Davis reported that the deadline for applying for the Business Development & Community Partnerships Director position was April 25th. He advised that eight individuals had submitted their applications and others were in the process of doing so. Mr. Davis advised that as to the upcoming vacancy for the Town Treasurer, he was in the process of evaluating the recruiting process. He reported that he had spoken with John O'Neill, who agreed to fill the role again on a part-time basis a few days a week. Mr. Davis noted that he was also reaching out to one of the employees who was currently on extended leave to determine if she would be willing to do some work from home until she returned the end of May.

Letter to Loudoun County – Aldie/MOJAX Offer

Mayor Littleton reminded Council of the letter they sent to the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors regarding the proposals they received for the sale of County owned property in Aldie. He reported that the alternative proposal received from a local resident had been revised and was a good one. Mr. Littleton suggested the Council follow-up with another letter to the County Board supporting it, as Aldie was the gateway to Middleburg. He advised that in the revised proposal, the resident offered to demolish the old fire house so he could turn the property into a park and to restore the old tavern and other buildings. Mr. Littleton opined that this would preserve Aldie. He advised that this individual offered \$600,000 for the property. Mr. Littleton reported that his proposal was to place some of the property in an open space easement and to keep the remainder as-is.

In response to inquiries from the Council, Mayor Littleton reported that the County was not exercising its powers of eminent domain on the St. Louis/MOJAX project site. He further reported that the last he heard, the applicant did not plan to advance their plan and was in the process of figuring out what they wanted to do. Mr. Littleton confirmed the applicant was on the hook to do some remediation of the site and for the payment of penalties and fines as required by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Mayor Littleton advised Council that he would draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors and send it to them for their review.

Miscellaneous Items

Vice Mayor Miller noted that the Board of Supervisors reduced the County's real estate tax rate by \$.055.

Town Manager Davis announced that the Boy Scouts would host a 5k race on April 17th and that Art in the Burg would be held on May 15th.

Mayor Littleton suggested that, during their next meeting, the Council look at the future of special events in Middleburg. He further suggested the need for a plan from the Town's perspective and noted the need for input from the Cultural & Community Events Committee.

Town Manager Davis noted that the Events Committee would meet just before the Council meeting. He advised that while they may not have details, the Council would be able to hold a discussion at their next regular meeting.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Manager Davis reported that there was already a plan in place to relocate where the Fourth of July fireworks were launched. He reminded Council that outdoor events were now allowed; therefore, he was comfortable that the Community Center could proceed with their annual Fourth of July Celebration. Mr. Davis noted that he already held a discussion about it with their Executive Director.

Closed Session

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

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

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

There being no further business, Mayor Littleton declared the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

APPROVED:

Trowbridge M. Littleton, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk

April 8, 2021 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, calling the meeting to order. First item is Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone: [Pledge of Allegiance]

Bridge Littleton: All right. Let me do the meeting announcement. 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, not only for its membership, but also for the town staff and members of the public. To that end, in accordance with the resolution confirming a 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 meetings via remote access until such time as the governor rescinds his emergency orders prohibiting the gathering of 10 individuals and mandating social distancing. As we have been doing, we will have a public comment section at the beginning of the meeting and the end for anybody who is called in on the Internet. Next item is Roll Call. Chris.

Chris Bernard: Chris Bernard.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: Philip Miller.

Bridge Littleton: Bridge Littleton.

Cindy Pearson: Cindy Pearson.

Darlene Kirk: Darlene Kirk.

J. Kevin Daly: John Kevin Daly.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Bud Jacobs.

Rhonda North: Rhonda North, Town Clerk.

Danny Davis: Danny Davis, Town manager.

Bridge Littleton: Martin.

Martin Crim: Martin Crim, Town Attorney.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, next item is public comment. We will now open the public comment session. Nobody's here in the room. Rhonda, is there anybody on the line who would like to speak at public comment?

Rhonda North: There is not, Mr. Mayor.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, we will close the public comment session and move on to staff reports. Danny you want to go?

Danny Davis: I will I'll take utilities, things are running very well. Well Four continues to operate smoothly, which is a very, very good thing for our system. We are looking to do a hydrant flush, water main flush, probably either next week or the following week, and we'll get an advance notice of that. But part of that is also to see if there's been a change in the amount of sediment in the lines since we're not using, well three as much eyes, which doesn't go through the filtration. So we're interested to see that, but we're happy with the system right now. We did an interior wash out of the water tank on Marshall Street here, and then we did some touch up painting on the exterior of the stone wall tank. So things continue to work very smoothly. And we did, as Stuart mentioned earlier, some cleaning of our membranes in the wastewater plant. And today they did the other [off mic] the wastewater plant. So taking those measures to continue to extend the life of those membranes as long as possible. With that if there are any questions, I'm happy to answer or connect up with IDS if need be.

Bridge Littleton: Does anybody have any questions for Danny on Utility Report? The only question I've got is and I think we talked about it, it would be good to get a download on Centrifuge, for liquid waste.

Danny Davis: Yes, in fact, I just got that info the back from Round Hill yesterday or today, I'll send it on to our utility committee to review and we'll get some information. Get back to you. I think the short answer is it's probably not cost-effective for us, but we'll continue to look at that.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, all right. Next, item opened the wrong thing next here is Rhonda.

Rhonda North: Yes, Mr. Mayor, the majority of my time continues to be tied up with the town hall project. We do have that coming up as a future report. So I'll talk on that at that time. I continue to handle the front counter in Shannon's absence, doing the daily deposit's, ordering supplies, responding to citizens. And, you know, that type of thing, that's pretty much it.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody have any questions for Rhonda? OK, you just made me think of something for you and for Danny. VML is going to send me a list early next week of companies that do outsourced billing, you know, payments for small towns around Virginia, so that's something you guys can look at. But it's like you know, an outsourced service that stuffs and mails for you and all that kind of stuff. Rhonda, I'm sure you love stuffing and opening envelopes. [laughter] But they did say that they did there's a number of firms in the state that do that and that they would send me the info. OK, Julie.

Julie Rivard: Good evening, I'll do a quick rundown of some of the high points of the the Financial Reports and the Treasurer's report. Meals tax continues to be down. We're hovering at about 21 percent less than budgeted projections. We seem to be kind of sticking in that percentage range. We've been close to that the majority of the year. Business license, tax revenues that are reflected in this report are slightly lower than last month's report. And that's because we had to issue a significant refund as that was a result of a classification change. The overall general refund revenues continue to hover at roughly six percent less than budgeted projections, which is pretty good considering. And at this point, it does appear that even though our revenues are down, I think we're safe to say that we are going to fall in the best case scenario rather than the most probable case scenario. Feels safe to call it at this point. We are definitely not down enough. We're down, but we're not down enough to say that we're somewhere in the neighborhood of 25 percent down. It's more like, you know, 6 to 10 percent somewhere around in there. And I think that it looks like that that's where the town will end out the year, this fiscal year as well. For the water and sewer revenues we just sent out on March 11th, the water and sewer bills were sent out and those bills are due April 15th. We do still show a decline in the water and sewer billings, although if you look at the report this month, the billings are not down quite as much as they were last to report. If you look at the water and sewer collections, it's about 13 percent down. But keep in mind that that includes the amount that the billings are down by. And also we have not received all of the revenue for the current billing. So just keep that in mind. We still have about sixty two thousand dollars outstanding on that billing, but we hope to collect that here in the next couple of weeks. We'll continue tracking the consumption of the billing cycles as that is concerning on the water and sewer revenues. Overall, though, generally the general fund looks pretty decent and we are hovering within the same frame that

we had been within. We're not dipping down any lower than we were prior. Some things are looking a little better. We've done really well in some categories considering. Do you all have any questions for me?

Bridge Littleton: Anyone have any questions for Julie? Anybody on the phone?

Peter Leonard-Morgan: No, thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, Julie, thanks.

Julie Rivard: Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Will.

Will Moore: Yes, thank you, Mr. Mayor. You have my report just to highlight there are some items coming up at a pretty high profile in terms of being advertised for public hearing, but hearing signs will be going up, direct mailers as required. So I would point your attention to those items under the planning commission heading. The commission will be holding three public hearings in April. One on a zoning text amendment. That is kind of an initial step at addressing some of councils concerns about the character infill and redevelopment in Ridgeview and then a rezoning and proffer amendment, both of which are related to the town hall project. Other than that, I don't have anything to highlight but would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody have any questions for Will? Hey Will the infill zoning text amendment stuff that the planning commission is working on, you know, when that's ready would you mind sending it to everybody?

Will Moore: Well, sure, I could get that out to you right away. The commission is settled on, I shouldn't say they've settled yet they've settled on a draft pending public comment of the public hearing. But I can get that out to council right away.

Bridge Littleton: That'll be great. I appreciate it. Anybody have any other questions for Will? OK, next is A.J..

A.J. Panebianco: Very quickly, just a reminder of the drug take back the 24th, also a reminder that that morning prior to that there Peter will probably elaborate, but there'll be a cleanup as well. So sort of looking like we're turning back to a little bit of normal, which is good. The cleanups are always a great event for the town and the drug take back also works well. So collect your used drugs, unused drugs actually, and your expired drugs. [laughter]. And if you took a bite off one, that is a used drug. So if you only used half. But yeah, have them ready. We'll have a drop off. So it'll be a drive through sort of they won't even have to get out of the car, it'll be no contact, just drop and go. Any other questions?

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for A.J.? OK, thanks, A.J.. And last but not least, is Martin Crim.

Martin Crim: Thank you, Mayor. Since I wrote my report, the Senate passed a vote of 21 to 20, the marijuana law modified by the governor. So it is now going to be taking effect July 1st, that simple possession home cultivation of up to four plants and adults sharing, which means anybody over 21 or older, is legal in the Commonwealth of Virginia effective July one, that those three things will be legal, but selling marijuana will continue to be illegal and possession with intent to distribute will continue to be illegal until January 1st of 2024. The law is extremely complicated in terms of what takes effect when. But that is the high point, we've talked about the referendum issue before. It remains in there. The earliest that you could petition for a referendum would be July 1st, of 2022, for one would suppose, a referendum to be held in November of 2022 to make a decision about whether marijuana sales would be allowed in the town. And then, of course, the county could hold a referendum of its own. And if either of those result in a ban on a marijuana sale, there would be no marijuana sales in the town. Just a reminder, you do have some limited ability to regulate by ordinance in terms of the hours of operation. You can adopt a zoning ordinance that might affect that. We need to think carefully about how we would characterize marijuana sales separate from other kinds of retail. But I think it's comparable to [inaudible] oriented businesses which courts have found can be regulated, separate from other similar businesses because of the negative secondary effect. So we would if that's the direction we want to go [inaudible] look for reliable case studies showing

negative secondary effects of marijuana dispensaries in Colorado and California, Washington, Oregon. So that's something to keep in your mind, as you have to go down the road here and on the horizon. I stand ready to answer any questions.

Bridge Littleton: Anyone have any questions for Martin? Mr. Cheery? [laughter]

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Yes, please. Martin I'm just curious. It seems like a catch 22 that you can you [inaudible] use it, but you can't sell it. So how do you buy it or do you have to grow it?

Martin Crim: You grow. [multiple speakers] You have to grow it. I guess the seeds have to fall from Heaven. I don't know how you're supposed to get the seeds. [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: So, Rhonda, put on your [inaudible] file July 1st, next year, referendum here. OK, next item is Rhonda on the Town Hall Project.

Rhonda North: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So we did appear before Go Green last night, Glavé & Holmes did a presentation on the sustainability items that are under consideration as a part of the project. Go Green had a number of very good questions related to the presentation. And we anticipate during their next meeting they may identify some other items that they would like for us to consider as a part of the project.

Philip Miller: Did they discuss permeable pavers for parking?

Rhonda North: Not specifically. We did mention that you know, we were going to try to do as much as possible in that area. But they didn't specifically discuss the permeable pavers. It was raised. [multiple speakers] discussion,

Danny Davis: But it did not come down to the conversation of should we or shouldn't we. I think there was a sense that it's a good thing to shoot for if possible. But I will say that Council Member Leonard-Morgan and his role as chair also set a and I don't mean to speak for you sir but a good stage for the committee about, you know, some of the challenges as we're looking at the current costs of the project too?

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Yes. And if I can just say, first of all, thanks very much, Rhonda, for organizing that. And I think that went very well. The representatives of Glavé & Holmes [multiple speakers]. Thank you, Danny [multiple speakers] were wonderful. You know, [inaudible] great questions. Excellent answers clearly based. They do focus on sustainability as company and they knew what we were talking about and that was great. And there were some good questions. Dependability was briefly talked about. But, yes, you know, we did discuss the fact that, you know, there are some budgetary discussions going on at the moment. And obviously we'd love to have everything, but that's not going to happen so.

Rhonda North: We are continuing to work with Downey and Scott to identify value engineering items, possible space reductions to, you know, what would be needed to achieve the three budget levels that the council discussed earlier in the week in a special meeting. And we'll have that out in the agenda for tomorrow for the special meeting coming this Monday. Next week on April the 15th the HDRC will be considering the elevation sketches for the town hall project specifically related to materials and colors. So they'll begin their pre application review of that piece of it. And then finally, as Will mentioned earlier, the Planning Commission has a couple of public hearings scheduled on rezoning and proffer amendments that are related to the Town Hall Project. So very busy month.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Rhonda? All right, next is Danny with the COVID update.

Danny Davis: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, for the benefit of the public, all persons in Phase 1B and 1C are currently being scheduled for vaccines. And the county is encouraging anyone ages 18 and over or 16 and over [multiple speakers]. Sixteen and over to go ahead preregister for phase two because they intend to be opening that up shortly. So we do encourage anyone who has not yet gotten on that list to get on that list. And again, they are still currently scheduling Phase 1B and 1C members of the public. And then as noted here, we're still waiting to get guidance from the Department

of Treasury related to the American rescue plan and allocation to towns specifically. And confirmation of those dollars. That's an item further on the agenda and we can talk about it at that time. I have no further information at this time.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody have any questions for Danny about COVID stuff? Darlene.

Darlene Kirk: Actually, it's just a comment I saw on the Today's News at Noon news at noon. That the 12 to 17 year old group is now the highest in terms of infection. And so I don't know. I just thought I'd mention that.

Danny Davis: Yeah it's a very good point. And it's an encouragement, especially for young people who have been not as susceptible to showing your symptoms or positive results that the British Variants, I guess, as they call it, is the predominant one in the US now. And they think it does seem to be causing more positives in the younger population. So it's a reminder to continue to take appropriate measures for your children, your grandchildren or others. And it will continue to be a topic, I'm sure, of the health department.

Bridge Littleton: I think if I read everything correctly, the infection rate is higher, but the incidence of hospitalizations and death is the same. I mean, more people get sick, but the people who get sick, [off mic] it's just it's no more deadly. It's just a lot easier to catch.

Chris Bernard: I [off mic] to say it's that they get sicker they get positive tests.

Bridge Littleton: Well I mean [off mic].

Chris Bernard: But, anyway.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, yeah, it's like it's easier for you to get it. But if you get it, your odds of, you know [off mic] right aren't any different. And I guess the other question is, is there and Darlene you may know this. Why is it the 12 to 17 year old's are the most? Is it because schools are going back?

Darlene Kirk: I assume it's because school's are [off mic]. They didn't have any reason for it. They didn't say any reason for it. But I assume it's because of the schools going back four days a week.

Cindy Pearson: Tend not to be as cautious.

Bridge Littleton: And they tend not to be as cautious. OK, OK. Got you. All right. All right any reports of town committees? Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Thank you very much. Just a reminder about the cleanup on the 24th of April between 8:00 and 10:00 o'clock in the morning, followed by the battery collection from 10:00 until 2:00, together with the police department's, not used drug take back event. We've got about 25 people so far. So I suspect we'll probably double that number by the time we get through the day. So it should be quite exciting to get back to some sort of normalcy, normality.

Bridge Littleton: Anything from anybody else? All righty. Next is the consent agenda. Would anybody like anything removed from the consent agenda? Since not, is there a motion?

Philip Miller: I move, we adopt the consent agenda as proposed.

Chris Bernard: Second.

Bridge Littleton: All right. All those in favor say Aye. Chris.

Chris Bernard: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Darlene.

Darlene Kirk: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: John Kevin Daly.

J. Kevin Daly: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Great. All right. Next item is discussion items. First one is the item regarding election process changes based on the new state laws. So, Danny, if you want to go through that.

Danny Davis: Sure. Try to be brief. As you know, Members of Council, we discussed this at the last meeting. The General Assembly passed legislation that the governor signed that will move all municipal elections to November. And by default, if no choice or decision is made ahead of time, that will become in even years November elections for town elections. The town has a very limited window to decide whether to consider preempting that and moving it to November in odd years, as noted here, that needs to be made by your, I would encouraged by your first meeting in May. Because the filing deadline for the November 2021 election is June 8th. That would also have the impact of any existing council members whose terms would normally expire next June 30th of 2022 would actually be shortened by six months as well as [off mic] the other council members whose terms expire June in 2024. Theirs would also be six months earlier, becoming [off mic] December 30th of 20 [inaudible] [laughter]

J. Kevin Daly: It's so confusing. [multiple speakers] I was adding six months.

Bridge Littleton: Chris hold back the disappointment. [laughter]

Danny Davis: That is if you end up choosing to move the odd year November elections by default,

Bridge Littleton: No you mean if we would choose to move the even year.

Danny Davis: No the odd year. [multiple speakers] Odd year moving will be this November election and will shorten [multiple speakers].

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, okay, that's right. Yeah okay.

Danny Davis: If you go with the default, which would be even years, it actually would extend your terms by six months. And that's built into the state legislation that was passed. [multiple speakers] So part of the conversation last meeting and with Mayor and Vice Mayor was wanting to get a sense of the community and the voters about their preference. There are pros and cons to each option. So we have prepared and in order to get this out as quickly as possible, we have Mr. Print

already working on it, as shown here in draft, a letter to go out to the public along with a postage paid postcard. That can be just dropped in the mail across the town office and it lays out for the voters, every registered voter, these options. And then to see if there is a preference, it can also be filled out online. So if there's no objection after this conversation we'll continue forward with that and have it sent out probably go out on Monday, but if there's a preference not to send that out we will put a pause on the [off mic] process. So I'm happy to answer questions. And Mr. Crim is here as well to answer questions. If there are any.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody, I mean, I know we talked about this last time. Anybody have any questions?

Darlene Kirk: [off mic] stayed out of it. [multiple speakers]

Chris Bernard: That's more of a comment but I agree.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, that's. [multiple speakers]

Cindy Pearson: So are you using the mailing list from the registration for voting is that what you are doing? So it'll include outside of Middleburg also or just inside Middleburg.

Danny Davis: Just town voters.

Cindy Pearson: Okay thank you.

Danny Davis: But it's about I think it was about five hundred and eighty nine names on it [off mic]. And just to cover everybody, we're going to send duplicates so it will be if you have four voters at your home you will get four mailers because each voter might have a different preference.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, and those lists are by registered voters who live in Middleburg. Darlene.

Darlene Kirk: So each one will have the person's name. So like Joe Smith and Mary Smith, so they don't have to give [multiple speakers].

J. Kevin Daly: Is there a deadline for the return in ballots?

Danny Davis: You know, that maybe something I left off the letter I intended to put that and we would like that input within a couple of weeks, I would say by April 30th.

J. Kevin Daly: Because there would have to be a cutoff time so a end of [multiple speakers]

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, so Will.

Cindy Pearson: It would be nice [multiple speakers].

Chris Bernard: [Off mic] sat down for a month and then come back [multiple speakers].

Bridge Littleton: It's like what we did with the coupons. It should be the red thing on there that says, you know, for immediate. [multiple speakers] Okay good.

Danny Davis: It says important information town election [Off mic] town input needed or something like that.

Cindy Pearson: Maybe you put reply immediately because if you don't people set things down. I don't know [inaudible].

Danny Davis: Sure we can do that.

Bridge Littleton: Has Albert started to print them yet?

Danny Davis: I don't think he started printing the envelopes. We got proofs today.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah.

Danny Davis: But I think we would probably make one tweak.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. Yeah, I think that's a good idea. Put it on there red your reply needed by the town immediately. Something like that. Okay, any other questions? Okay, and I think for all of us, you know, we've got two hats here, we've got hats as voters and hats as, you know, elected officials. I think from, you know, putting on our elected official hat, telling people, hey, please send this in. We really want to hear from you. It's really, really important not trying to, you know, sway one way or not, you know, what I'm saying. But then the other hat is if they ask us, what do we think, hey, this is what I think, you know, that's John Q. Citizen. So but, you know, hey, whatever you decide is what you decide. But you really need to send this in. We want to get it right for you, the citizen.

Danny Davis: And Mr. Mayor we do have it online, on a survey as well.

Bridge Littleton: Yep.

Danny Davis: If they are tech savvy and would like to and maybe haven't received the mailer and when you talk to them, you can direct them to our website. The only thing they will need is a password protected of sorts so we don't just get anyone from California filling it out.

Bridge Littleton: Yes.

Danny Davis: That code is in the packet it's going to be in mailers.

Bridge Littleton: Yep. Okay.

Danny Davis: So you can share that because it is the same for everybody. Just share that with people in the town or they can always call us and we can verify they are a voter and they are here in town and we can provide that to them.

Bridge Littleton: Ok. No, I think it's good. And I will say I really appreciate you guys putting that all together. And I appreciate, you know, us as the council, you know really asking the citizenry about this, because I don't think a lot of councils are doing that. Okay.

Cindy Pearson: Do you know what other towns are choosing?

Bridge Littleton: So I know Round Hill last night voted to move it. They didn't go out to their citizens, they just did it themselves.

Cindy Pearson: Move it?

J. Kevin Daly: Forward or back?

Bridge Littleton: To odd. Leesburg is already November. Hillsboro is already November. Everybody else is, man, I don't think anybody else is voting to move it, so they will then by default go to even numbers. [multiple speakers] Yeah, so I guess if you ask me at the. When's the cutoff date, Danny?

Danny Davis: So there's no formal, I guess, cutoff date, but the registration for voting is June? I'm sorry.

Bridge Littleton: [multiple speakers] So by July 1st, if you didn't move it, you're locked.

Danny Davis: Filing deadline for November elections is June 8th.

Bridge Littleton: Okay, so if by July 1st you didn't move to an odd you're locked into even?

Danny Davis: That's when the [multiple speakers]

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, I'm just picking a date. So I would probably say that, you know, take Middleburg out with the other six towns. Hillsboro, Leesburg, Hamilton, Purcellville, five of the six will be on even. Well, unless they do something and I haven't heard of any of them doing it. I don't know Danny, have you seen anybody else besides Round Hill?

Danny Davis: No I haven't. I was just looking to see if there was anything for Purcellville, and I haven't seen anything yet.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, OK. Next item is stimulus funds.

Danny Davis: Yes. Mr. Mayor, as discussed, there still remains some back and forth uncertainty about the amount of funding that the town will receive. There are two aspects of this uncertainty. One relates to independent cities. From what I understand, there are only forty one, I think independent cities in the entire nation. That means fully independent they run their own schools, courts, social services, everything. Thirty eight of those are in the Commonwealth of Virginia. So Virginia is a very unique place. And I believe that many of these cities, Alexandria being a key one, are actually lobbying that they were under represented in the funding allocations because they should be considered like counties, essentially. There are a bunch of other factors that go into this Title One Schools or that's for school systems but again, so that's the city part of it. On the flip side, we think that some towns, at least, maybe not all, but in some way or another, may have been calculated using the city formula, because when you look at the allocations, Leesburg was allocated forty eight million dollars, whereas Loudoun County was only allocated eighty. So in relation to each other, there's just not a [multiple speakers].

Bridge Littleton: The county's four hundred thousand and the town is fifty thousand.

Danny Davis: Yeah. And in fact Leesburg's allocation would have been higher than Arlington County's. So, you know, it's just something felt a bit off. Now some people think maybe they're only going to look at the large towns and lower them, but others think it might apply across the board if there's a reduction in that calculation. So, again, I realize this is not an answer for you, but simply to say I was encouraged that we just hold on. It could be as high as the seven hundred and fifty seven thousand dollar amount, which was the higher amount given to us than was in the legislation passed. But the Department of Treasury has the direction and the authority to certify those allocations and make sure they are calculated properly. The original number as stated here that we were anticipating was one hundred and fifty five thousand dollars. So needless to say, it should be somewhere in that range. And I realize that's a wide gap to be considered. I'm comfortable if we want to just pause the conversation until we know for certain. I've also laid out a few of the comments I've heard from some of you about the uses of this. But I think it'd be difficult to make really any decisions at this point until we know the exact amount of that fund. And there's no rush to suspend the funds, honestly, regardless of how they were to be used and what the amount is, we will have at least until 2024 to allocate those funds. And so we can come back as soon as we have the number we can just come back to you at that time.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, so the one thing I would say is depending on so I totally agree with what you're saying, depending on how much we get will drive what we want to do with it. I think there actually is a rush if we're going to use this money to help people who are struggling, to help them struggling. So I know we've we've all been thinking, you know, we want to help folks. So whatever portion of that we do, that we want to move quickly. Other stuff, yeah, we can take our time. But I mean, the options you put on the table make total sense to me. And I agree. We can't really decide until we know what the number is. So I'm totally fine waiting until we know. But does anybody else have any concerns with what's on the list or do you think anything's missing from the list that we should put on there as a consideration? Philip.

Philip Miller: I was just thinking, when will we actually receive the funds?

Danny Davis: Correct. So thank you. The Treasury has 60 days to make the certifications and allocations from and the guidance, and so that turned up being made [off mic] is when they have to give the final allocations they're mandated to distribute those, I believe, within 30 days of that date. However, ours will be coming through the Commonwealth of Virginia because we're under 50,000 people. So they then give the states an additional 30 days to allocate it in each of the localities.

Philip Miller: So we'll get it in the next fiscal year. [multiple speakers]

Danny Davis: It could be next fiscal year. That's correct. Which is [multiple speakers]

Bridge Littleton: But think about it this way. If we know what we're going to get and we know it's given to the state, we can take out of reserve, do what we want to do and then, you know, backfill it when it gets here. I mean, so we've got that flexibility.

Philip Miller: Yeah, that's true.[multiple speakers]

Bridge Littleton: I mean, I agree with you, Philip, I would hate to see waiting, you know, 180 days for all the paperwork.

Philip Miller: That's what I was thinking, is, you know, how long they have to do it, because obviously it's an enormous bill, an enormous lift of money to allocate for the Treasury. Those poor people must be working day and night. But, yeah, I mean, we shouldn't delay once we know the number what we can do to help people.

Bridge Littleton: Right.

Danny Davis: I should also qualify that my understanding is that will be distributed as two separate tranches. So half right get the first tranche in the second one will either be, it may not be exactly a year from now, maybe six or five months from now. I'm not sure if that's specified. I don't recall, but it will be my understanding, split in two separate payments.

Bridge Littleton: Does anybody have any other ideas, thoughts or questions? Yeah, Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: I do. Well, it's just a thought with a support to the water sewer customers given a flat fee credit. I think we discussed this before that not everybody needs that or wants it. So I don't know. I don't know how else you can do it is the problem or if those people that receive it that really don't want it, if there's another place they can donate or put it to, to help those people who need it in other ways or I know our restaurants are still hurting. Just nobody has the magic answer here.

Bridge Littleton: You know what? It's almost like we did with the gift vouchers. Some people said, hey, I'm fine [off mic] use it and they donate it to Windy Hill.

Cindy Pearson: Or.

Bridge Littleton: [off mic] can donate their credit back and allow it to go to those in need. [multiple speakers] It's difficult.

Cindy Pearson: It's going to take some work. Sorry.

Bridge Littleton: I got it. You guys figure out if it's workable.

Danny Davis: [multiple speakers] through and find ways that we can encourage people to get to their favorite charity, to support local charities, to use it to support local businesses, we'll come up with some ideas.

J. Kevin Daly: Well, I think the thought should be supporting local as opposed to outside of the town. [multiple speakers]

Cindy Pearson: Oh, definitely.[multiple speakers]

Darlene Kirk: Yeah.[multiple speakers]

Cindy Pearson: Definitely.

Bridge Littleton: I hate to say it. I'm almost thinking that we give them a water voucher and if they want to donate that voucher and a person shows up with their bill and here's two vouchers. So I, you know, decremented it off my bill. It's like what they do with the food vouchers. So if I want to go give it to the people of Windy Hill, Windy Hill can distribute them to those in need.

Cindy Pearson: And yeah, I think that would be a little complicated in the long run.

Chris Bernard: But I think we're getting real, like we're talking about heavy administrative lift. I would encourage you to say, hey, we're giving you this rebate on your water sewer. Take that amount and go spend it at a restaurant or [multiple speakers].

Cindy Pearson: Spend it locally.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, I see you're saying.

Philip Miller: [multiple speakers] Chris. I was thinking the exact same thing, because I'm thinking [multiple speakers] that's a lot of complicated stuff for us to do [multiple speakers] and we won't have a Treasurer. [multiple speakers].

Chris Bernard: That's right. That's right.

Cindy Pearson: Yeah. That's a good idea Chris to have some suggestions what to do with it. [multiple speakers].

Philip Miller: Yeah. I mean we can put it on the bill that says, listen, here's two hundred dollars off this water bill, please spend it in town. [multiple speakers] You know, support your local business. [multiple speakers]

Bridge Littleton: If you got, or donate it to Windy Hill. [multiple speakers] That's, good. Yeah. Yeah. Go ahead Darlene. What's that.

Darlene Kirk: Or the health center.

Bridge Littleton: Or the health center. Yep. Bud go ahead.

Bud Jacobs: I was going to mention the health center. So thank you Darlene. The question I have, Danny is this process with respect to federal government level, is a little confusing. Do you happen to know if these allocations have to go through the OMB apportionment process or does Treasury deal directly with, I guess, the states on the allocations and dispersals?

Danny Davis: Council Member Jacobs I'm not aware that they have to go through any process with OMB. I think it's all been designated directly from Treasury then to either municipalities directly if they're over 50 thousand in population, and or to the states.

Bud Jacobs: Well, if that's so, that's great news.

Danny Davis: Yes, sir.

Bridge Littleton: Wait a minute, Bud are you hinting that OMB is difficult to deal with?

J. Kevin Daly: Oh let me count the ways.

Bud Jacobs: No that they're a very, very small agency, and Danny mentioned how complex this all is. [multiple speakers]

Bridge Littleton: Oh yeah.[multiple speakers]

Bud Jacobs: I can only imagine how much the process would be slow rolled if it, in fact, did have to go through an [inaudible].

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, OK. Does anybody have any other questions for Danny on this? OK, thank you, Danny. Any information items from anyone? So I only had one question and that was, where are we on the hiring for Jamie's position and for getting a Rec out there on Treasurer?

Danny Davis: So the job ad for the Economic or Business Development and Community Partnerships Director is open, I believe through the 25th. Latest report I have we have eight completed applications, but I know there's many either in-process or interested. We have met with John O'Neill to come back and do some part time work for us and are still evaluating next steps for the Treasurer's recruitment.

Bridge Littleton: And excuse me he's willing to do that?

Danny Davis: He is a few days a week, not full time.

Bridge Littleton: Okay gotcha.

Danny Davis: But enough to help us through. And also speaking with one of our staff members on extended leave to see if she might be interested in doing some administrative work from home as well. So we're going to try to cover the basis and get moving forward.

Bridge Littleton: Other than John, do you need any additional temp help?

Danny Davis: At this point? No, but we're going to continue to evaluate [off mic] based on the timing of the return of another staff member. That's at the end of May. I think we'll be able to make it through that time period. And Estee has been an incredible help to sit in the front desk, obviously, Rhonda is bearing the brunt of most of this. So they're teaming up together and will continue forward.

Philip Miller: So what's the projected date that you would have, final list of Treasurer's final candidates? When do you think?

Danny Davis: For Treasurer or [off mic]?

Philip Miller: Treasurer?

Danny Davis: I have not developed that out as far.

Bridge Littleton: [off mic] OK, any other questions for Danny on that? OK, the only thing I wanted to make council aware of so was it two months ago we all sent a letter to the county about the Aldie deal going on with MoJax. So the gentleman who submitted an alternate proposal, which was kind of thin on the details, he has updated that proposal and given schematic sketches and a much more fleshed out. I think it's a very well put together a proposal. I got a copy of it earlier this week. I will forward it to everybody. But I think, you know, if everybody's on board. I think it would be great to follow up to the county with a letter of support saying, hey, we really like this proposal. You know, it meets the character, nature of whatever of what we want to see as the gateway to Middleburg. And so we would appreciate your

positive consideration of it. His idea, you'll see the sketches of it, but his basic idea is to where the firehouse is, you take that down and that becomes sort of an open park area and the other buildings are just restored and put into better working shape and restore the tavern. And keep the whole downtown or not downtown. But that area of Aldie, you know, preserved pretty much the way it is. So he did a nice job. He did a really nice job.

Cindy Pearson: Is that the person that owns the property?

Bridge Littleton: No, no, no. It's an individual. His name is Guy. I can't remember his last name. He lives here. He's local. And he you know, he's got a successful business and he doesn't want to see it develop into a 35,000 square foot retail and brewery with one hundred and fifty parking spots right there where the firehouse is. And so he's put an offer. I think his offer is six hundred thousand dollars to buy it all from the county. He would put some of it in conservation easement and then basically preserve what's there. Like I said, he would tear down the old firehouse, which I think was only built in the 40s or 50s anyway, make that sort of an open space and then everything else, you know, pretty much keep it as is. So I'll forward that to everybody. And, you know, if there's no objections, I think it's helpful for the board gives them some top cover. So I think that's it. [off mic] Yeah. Yeah, Bud sorry.

Bud Jacobs: Bridge, what's the status of the other MoJax development in St. Louis? Is the county going to exercise eminent domain for that property?

Bridge Littleton: I don't think they're going to exercise eminent domain. I honestly, the last I heard was that the St. Louis piece or the St. Louis element is all on hold. I think they are trying to regroup and figure out what they're going to do. So the last I heard was they weren't moving forward with what was the last sort of big deal of everything. They still want to do something, but they need to figure it out. So I think it's in a holding pattern.

Bud Jacobs: I think they I think MoJax is still on the hook with Virginia Department of Health for some of the unauthorized.

Bridge Littleton: Oh DEQ Yeah,

Bud Jacobs: I'm sorry Environmental Quality. Yeah. That's right. OK, thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, they've still got some remediation they have to do and I think it's like a couple hundred thousand dollars' worth of penalties or fines or something like that. [off mic] So yes ma'am.

Darlene Kirk: Who's going to draft the letter that you want to send to the.

Bridge Littleton: I'll do it.

Darlene Kirk: OK you'll do it.

Bridge Littleton: Well what I want to do is I'm going to send everybody what their plan is and I'll send along a draft letter. And if everybody is good with it based on the plan, then I'll update it and we can send it next week.

Darlene Kirk: Sounds good. Just checking.

Bridge Littleton: All right.

Philip Miller: And everybody saw the vote on Tuesday, right at the county lowering tax rates?

Bridge Littleton: Oh, yeah.

Philip Miller: Five and a half cents.

Bridge Littleton: Five and half cents. Yep. Data Center City. [off mic]

Danny Davis: No it's Data Center USA.

Bridge Littleton: Well, that's true. Yeah. They are getting bad looking.

Cindy Pearson: And everywhere.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. OK, any other items from council or staff? Danny.

Danny Davis: But just briefly, this is a little bit of a plug but there is a five K on Saturday, the 17th the Boy Scouts 5K if anyone is interested in that, and then there are various events coming up. And Art in the Burg is May 15th and lot's beginning to kind of kick into gear. So we're excited about activities coming up in and around town.

Bridge Littleton: Is this appropriate for the next council meeting? It would be good to get a line of sight on what we think our events are going to be like starting at a certain point. Will we start having events again, even if they're sort of limited in scope? Like I mean, so far enough out is October Fest, you know, and then there's Fourth of July. I don't know if it's a big conversation in the Cultural Events Committee, you guys probably have to be the first blush at all that. But it would be good to understand what our planning is from a town perspective. And you know what we want to try to accomplish. I mean, National Night Out, you know, I don't know what else we have in the early spring. [off mic] What's that. [off mic] Yeah Christmas in Middleburg. Right. I mean, Christmas in Middleburg. Right. But some of those things are starting up and, you know, do we, where are we on that?

J. Kevin Daly: [off mic] Start planning.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah.

Philip Miller: Well, I think and I've already talked to Punkin about this no matter what, we need to start planning Christmas in Middleburg now, especially if we want to include the added elements from this year. [multiple speakers] So there's no time like now to start planning because you can always have it planned up to scale and scale it back. And I think, you know, we start looking at July Fourth as our first potential event, even if it's, again, much smaller scale, much different than it has been in the past. But I don't think there's any reason why we shouldn't start those plans.

Danny Davis: Yeah, we could definitely put an agenda item on to discuss that. I intend that we would be having a cultural and community events meeting the Tuesday before the next council meeting, if that works out. So we might have some conversations about that, but I'm not sure we will have any significant details beyond that. But I think it's a conversation we do need to have about council's desires around some of those events, whether they are to be similar in prior years or to mix it up, especially July 4th. Is there anything different intended for that so that those conversations can be happening soon.

Cindy Pearson: Do we know if there's any problem with the fireworks set up? There's none.

Danny Davis: There's no problem with [multiple speakers] around that they had a plan in place already to move them on this side of Pendleton. So I don't see any issues an at this point the governor's guidance would allow us to hold these types of events because it's essentially outdoors and there's no space capacity limits, if you will. So at this point, we feel comfortable that we can proceed with some of these events.

Cindy Pearson: And we'll wait. I guess we should talk to Olivia to see.

Danny Davis: Yes, she's already reached out to me about interest and I told her I'm pretty certain we'll be having something, but that we can follow up [off mic]. Yes, I think we'd be interested in going ahead and doing fireworks and the [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Any other questions?

Cindy Pearson: Woo hoo. Something.

Bridge Littleton: I know, finally. All right, we will now open the second public comment session. No one's here in the council chambers. Rhonda is anybody online?

Rhonda North: There is not, Mr. Mayor.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, we will close public comment session and move on to. [off mic] Closed session item. Who would like to read it? Philip.

Rhonda North: As we all look at Philip. [laughter]

Philip Miller: I move that council, go into closed session as authorized under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for discussion or consideration of the disposition of publicly held property related to Asbury Church as allowed under subsection A three. I further move that council thereafter, reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

Darlene Kirk: Second.

Bridge Littleton: All those in favor say aye. Chris.

Chris Bernard: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Darlene.

Darlene Kirk: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Great. We are now in closed session. [off mic] No, no, I got it, Ok. I ask that council certify to the best of each member's knowledge, one only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, and two only show public business matters that were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting. I would like remind

those present for the closed session that any discussion to occur within it should be should be treated as confidential.
Chris?

Chris Bernard: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Philip.

Philip Miller: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Yes,

Cindy Pearson: Yes,

Bridge Littleton: Darlene.

Darlene Kirk: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: OK. Any other items? All right, meeting adjourned.