



MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 24, 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 Cindy C. Pearson

STAFF: Danny Davis, Town Manager
Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk
William M. Moore, Deputy Town Manager
Estee LaClare, Planning & Project Associate
A.J. Panebianco, Chief of Police

ABSENT: Councilmember Peter Leonard-Morgan

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held their regular monthly meeting, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, 2021 in the Town Hall Council Chambers located at 10 West Marshall Street. Mayor Littleton led Council and those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The roll was called at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Pam Curran, 800 Blue Ridge Avenue, thanked Mayor Littleton for agreeing to meet with residents later in the week and noted that a traffic study was forthcoming. She further noted that there was an accident on Marshall Street over the weekend.

Ramsey Metcalf, 5 Reed Street, advised that a quote was read during the last meeting that bothered her – the quote being that Salamander put Middleburg on the map and would be a gift back to Middleburg. She opined that Middleburg had been on the map for a long time. Ms. Metcalf expressed concern that The Residences at Salamander could be utilized as short-term rentals. She advised Council that she frequently witnessed people driving down her road who were speeding and/or on their cell phones. Ms. Metcalf opined that they were just passing through and suggested that this could only get worse. She opined that the feel of Middleburg was starting to become different. Ms. Metcalf advised that she opposed the extension of Reed and Chestnut Streets and asked that the Council pursue alternative means for addressing traffic.

Public Presentation

Middleburg Business & Professional Association

Punkin Lee, Chair of the Middleburg Business & Professional Association (MBPA), advised that they were happy with their relationship with the Town. She further advised that they wanted to educate the Council on what they had been doing and identify how they thought they could work with the Town. Ms. Lee reviewed some of the items the MBPA had been working on, which included: (1) an expanded social media presence that consisted of their website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and blogs, as well as the creation of two videos over the past year; (2) community support, such as a Food Drive to support Seven Loaves, a Sock Drive to support the residents of Windy Hill, and sharing job opportunities with the residents of Windy Hill; (3) assisting the Town with the Christmas Holiday events in 2020 after COVID forced the cancellation of Christmas in Middleburg; (4) assisting the Christmas in Middleburg Committee in continuing some of last year’s activities into the weeks following this year’s event; (5) organizing local bell ringers for

the Salvation Army's Red Kettle Drive at the Safeway; (6) organizing the Winter and Summer Sidewalk Sales, with this year's Summer Sidewalk Sale marking its fifteenth anniversary; and (7) the promotion of all Town events, regardless of whether the organizers were MBPA members. She noted that their Board of Directors were available to answer any questions the Council may have about their activities.

Vice Mayor Miller thanked the MBPA for all the work they did for the town.

Mayor Littleton noted that they brought the businesses and broader community together, which helped the businesses, and brought an intangible quality that made a difference in people's lives. He opined that people resonated with how the locals interacted. Mr. Littleton advised that what the MBPA did from a human element was not measurable and noted that most business organizations did not focus on such things. He thanked the MBPA for what it did to help the businesses and broader community.

Ann Marie Chirieleison, of the MBPA Board, opined that Middleburg was larger than the town limits and advised that the MBPA supported everyone because this helped attract people to the town. She opined that they produced professional, quality products that brought money into the community. Ms. Chirieleison noted that they were a volunteer organization that provided boots on the ground for town events. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to work with the Town to network and market Middleburg.

Ms. Lee reminded Council of their monthly Bizz Buzz events, which were open to everyone. She advised that they often had people from other towns attend them to check out Middleburg. Ms. Lee noted that they received inquiries from other community business organizations asking how the MBPA was able to get eighty people per month at their Bizz Buzz events. She encouraged the members of Council to attend and noted that the next in-person event would be held on August 13th at the Salamander Resort.

Mayor Littleton reminded Council of the funeral services for George Martel on June 25th.

Consent Agenda

- A. Council Approval – June 10, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes
- B. Council Approval – Recission of Continuity of Government Operations Ordinance

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

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Miller, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Kirk, and Pearson
No – N/A
Abstain: N/A
Absent: Councilmember Leonard-Morgan
(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.)

Action Items

Council Approval – Amendments to Council's Rules of Procedure

Town Clerk North explained that due to the change in election dates from May to November, amendments were being proposed to the Council's Rules of Procedure to change the Council's organizational meeting to January. She further explained that amendments were proposed to update the section related to electronic participation to remove the language related to the COVID-19 State of Emergency and to bring it in line with recent State Code updates.

Councilmember Pearson moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council adopt a Resolution Amending the Council's Rules of Procedure as recommended in the Town staff's report dated June 15, 2021.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Miller, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Kirk, and Pearson
No – N/A
Abstain: N/A
Absent: Councilmember Leonard-Morgan
(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.)

Council Approval – Amendments to Ordinance Establishing Go Green

Town Manager Davis advised Council that in March 2007, the Council agreed to establish an ad-hoc committee, Go Green; however, the establishment was not formalized until 2011. He reviewed the history of changes to the ordinance that established the committee. Mr. Davis advised that Go Green was now recommending their name be changed to the “Middleburg Sustainability Committee” and that sustainability be added to their mission. He noted that the amendment before the Council would also eliminate the requirement for co-chairs – a practice which had not been observed for several years.

Councilmember Jacobs moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council adopt an amendment to the Ordinance Establishing the Middleburg Sustainability Committee of the Town of Middleburg.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Miller, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Kirk, and Pearson
No – N/A
Abstain: N/A
Absent: Councilmember Leonard-Morgan
(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.)

Council Approval – Lease of Atlantic Union Bank Parking Lot

Town Manager Davis advised Council that the Atlantic Union Bank agreed to lease their back parking lot to the Town on the weekends and holidays for \$10/year. He noted that the Town would not be responsible for repairs to the lot. In response to inquiries from the Council, Mr. Davis opined that the parking lot contained twenty-two spaces. He advised that the entry would be signed to identify when it was available for public use. Mr. Davis noted that he was hesitant to introduce it into the Town’s new wayfinding program as this was not a long-term lease.

Council stressed the need to advertise its existence so visitors could find it. They suggested it also be identified on the Town’s shopping and dining guide.

Town Manager Davis advised Council that he would work with Deputy Town Manager Moore to determine a comprehensive solution.

Councilmember Daly moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Miller, that the Council approve the Deed of Lease, Parking Lot of Atlantic Union Bank, effective July 1, 2021.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Miller, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Kirk, and Pearson
No – N/A
Abstain: N/A
Absent: Councilmember Leonard-Morgan
(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.)

Discussion Items

Loudoun County Zoning Ordinance Amendments

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Mayor Littleton advised that the zoning ordinance rewrite was a massive undertaking that involved the review of thousands of pages of documents. He noted that the COVID pandemic affected the Zoning Ordinance Committee's (ZOC) ability to meet. Mr. Littleton reminded Council that the original timeline was a very tight one and advised that ZOC approached the County staff and Board of Supervisors to recommend it be extended so they could do the job properly. He reported that the Supervisors agreed to extend the deadline by six to eight months for the development of the updates, as well as extend the time for public input. Mr. Littleton noted that this input would occur online, using a system that was not intuitive; therefore, more time was needed for the public to learn how to use it. He advised that the deadline extension was a good thing.

Meals Tax Receipts

Town Manager Davis reported that the meals tax revenues that were received for the May period were up significantly and were only down by 7% compared to the same period in 2019. He reported that receipts for the month were \$107,000, which was a huge increase over the prior month's receipts.

Mayor Littleton noted that overall, the revenues were still down. He further noted that the community needed to continue to support the local businesses.

Federal Street Road Repairs

Mayor Littleton reported that he received two phone calls from people who were concerned about the need to make repairs to Federal Street.

Deputy Town Manager Moore advised Council that this was the responsibility of the property owner whose lateral repairs necessitated the road repairs. He further advised that the property owner was in contact with a paver; however, he was unsure of the schedule of the repairs.

Town Manager Davis reported that the property owner had signed a contract with the paver; however, he did not know the date of the repairs. He advised Council that he would follow-up on this item at the conclusion of the meeting.

Information Items

Police Lieutenant Jones noted the recent windstorm that came through town, resulting in downed trees, including one that fell on an occupied vehicle. He recognized Officer Davis for working the accident and responding to the downed tree complaints that evening.

Lieutenant Jones also recognized Corporal Putnam and Officers Davis and Tharpe who directed traffic on Route 50 twice when the stop light failed. He advised that he was working with VDOT to improve their response time when this occurred and noted that it currently took them hours to respond.

Lieutenant Jones recognized Officer Hinegardner on his response to a resident's call expressing concern about a FedEx driver who fell. He advised that while the driver was gone when he arrived, Officer Hinegardner was able to comfort the resident who was concerned about the driver's health.

Lieutenant Jones announced that National Night Out would be held on August 3rd and noted that Corporal Putnam was working hard on its planning.

Councilmember Daly opined that Middleburg had the best police officers in the Commonwealth of Virginia. He advised that they walked the beat and met with the business owners and residents. Mr. Daly noted that they thought of themselves as Middleburg residents.

Deputy Town Manager Moore expressed appreciation to the members of the Police Department and Fire Department for their assistance with the aftermath of the storm. He also expressed appreciation to VDOT, who returned later in the week to assist with downed tree limb removals.

Deputy Town Manager Moore announced that the HDRC approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for the Town Hall Project. He reminded Council that the Planning Commission would hold a public hearing on June 28th on the Town's application for a special use permit to allow a front yard setback of greater than thirty feet. Mr. Moore encouraged the members of Council to attend the public hearing to speak in support of the application.

Closed Session

Vice Mayor Miller moved, seconded by Councilmember Kirk, that Council go into closed session as authorized under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, for the discussion or consideration of (1) the lease of property for public parking purposes and (2) the disposition of publicly held property related to the Asbury Church, both as allowed under Subsection (A)(3); and, (3) briefings by staff members pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body related to a requested boundary line adjustment as allowed under Subsection (A)(7). Vice Mayor Miller further moved, seconded by Councilmember Kirk, that the Council thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Leonard-Morgan

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.)

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 7:06 p.m.

APPROVED:

Trowbridge M. Littleton, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk

June 24, 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: See here, I'm going to call the June 24th meeting to order. First item is Pledge Allegiance.

Everyone: [Pledge of Allegiance]

Bridge Littleton: Ok, the next item here is the roll call.

Chris Bernard: Chris Bernard.

Bud Jacobs: Bud Jacobs.

Darlene Kirk: Darlene Kirk.

Bridge Littleton: Bridge Littleton.

Philip Miller: Philip Miller.

Cindy Pearson: Cindy Pearson.

Kevin Daly: John Kevin Daly,

Rhonda North: Rhonda North, Town Clerk.

Will Moore: Will Moore, Deputy Town Manager.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, next item is the big [off mic] What did you see his memo. It didn't have bullet points.

Kevin Daly: No bullet points.

Will Moore: There's no memo for me in this packet.

Bridge Littleton: That's the point.

Kevin Daly: Well, maybe he used dashes instead of bullets.

Bridge Littleton: Well, yeah, right, exactly. OK, the next item is public comment. And if any member of the public would like to address the town council, you may do so now. Is there anybody here who wishes to address the town council?

Pam Curran: I have to go. They're making me go first for a reason. Well, Pam Curran, 800 Blue Ridge Avenue. Thank you. Thank you Mayor. So I want to start off by apologizing to you and thanking you because of the apology is my 35 year old graphic artist make you a Netflix star and change your name from Bridge to Bridgton, like the movie on Netflix? So I just want to let you know, I just want to let you know I did change it. I did change it. I did change it. So, you know, and then secondly, I want to thank you for meeting with some of the neighbors and the residents tomorrow at 5:00. It means a lot to everybody. So I want to thank you for that. And I you know, I think it's timely because we did we do have a traffic study coming that we could look at. And then on top of that, the accident that happened this weekend that we talked

about on Stonewall or actually it was Marshall. And, you know, just, you know, how does that impact, you know, what we're going to do in the future with the road. So I really want to thank and I look forward to talking to you tomorrow night Bridge. Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you. Ramsey. You don't have to, but you raised your Hand.

Ramsey Metcalf : I do just thought I'd let somebody else go. So I'm Ramsey Metcalf and I reside at 5 Reed Street. And at our last meeting, there were a lot of back and forth about the future of Middleburg, the past of Middleburg, the intent, where we're going, etc. But a quote was read that I had never heard before that has the old saying goes, it's stuck in my craw and it's come back to me over and over again. Nothing has really bothered me as much as that in a while. And you all might recall, I hope I'm getting this right, but the way I remember it is that Salamander would put Middleburg on the map and that then it would be a gift given back to Middleburg and I thought about it and I said to myself, Middleburg has literally been on the map for a very, very long time, as evidenced by the sign right behind you. And at the same time, folks have come here and live here, both in good economic times and bad economic times, in times of war, in times of strife and in times of tremendous upheaval, which is what all of our lives suffered during the covid-19 period that we've just hopefully are coming out of. It works. It's a community, it's calm, people wave here. I mean, I think the motto should be Middleburg waves, because it it really makes you connect as you walk down the street or you pass someone on the road. But another thing that's worrying me a lot that was talked about last meeting was how there will be short term rentals proposed to be happening in the new housing area. And every day that I am in front of my house, puttering in the garden, I see people driving by me, young ones speeding in trucks, older ones, completely black windows. And everybody is doing this. They're not watching where they're going, they are passing through for the large part, I ask a lot of people do you happen to know who that is. Is that anybody you've seen before? No, not necessarily. It puts a lot of pressure on the police service, police department to keep track tabs on everybody. I thought, wait a minute, this is just an example of how it could get worse. Traffic is way increased. I walk to a lot of stores today and stores preexisting ones who've been here for a very long time. And they said, you know, everything is starting to feel different. But there really wasn't that much wrong with Middleburg. It's just getting boosted up some. But I strongly oppose the expansions of both Reed and Chestnut streets as access in to the resort. And I think other means must be pursued. Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you. Ok, would anybody else, and I know MBPA has a presentation later, but would anybody else like to address town council during public comment session? Yeah.

Rhonda North: [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Absolutely. Well, let's clear the room first. Was there anybody else in the room? No. OK, good, yeah, Rhonda go ahead.

Rhonda North: So for anyone, attendees who are on Zoom, if you would like to speak during the public comment session, if you would please raise your hand using the raised hand feature on Zoom or if you will send a message in chat to let me know you'd like to speak. If you're on the telephone, you can simply press star nine to let me know that you'd like to speak. Once you've been granted permission to speak. Please unmute yourself if you're on a computer or a device. If you're on the telephone, please press star six. Not seeing any hands go up.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, so we'll, for those online if you want to speak. Going once, going twice at a time. So we will now close the public comment session. We have no public hearings or special recognitions. And the first item we have is a public. Feels like it's Friday at 10 p.m. already. The next item is a public presentation from the Middleburg Business and Professional Association, Ms. Punkin Lee.

Punkin Lee: And my tribe. [laughter]

Bridge Littleton: Et al.

Punkin Lee: So thank you very much, everyone, for having us this evening. We certainly are very happy with our relationship with the town and realize that too much time has passed and we've never actually done something like this to

bring everyone kind of up to speed and on the same page about what we do, what we've been doing and how we can all still work together and keep things rolling for the town. You all have a folder and it has pretty much everything in it. But I'm just going to go down and kind of hit some highlights for you. First off, on our social media, when we started the business association, well, it started way back in the 60s, but its recent rebirth, I guess we have expanded our social media presence with a good website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, LinkedIn and blogs along the way to keep our presence expanding and putting more out about the town. And last year, when we everything was closed, we did the two videos, one that said we were closed, but we would be ready when we were open. And then once we were opening, we did a second one and had a very good response from those. And I thought they were very well presented and represented our town very well. And from social media, we do a lot of community support, food drives for seven loaves. We're working with Windy Hill Foundation to try to create a way and a means for their residents to be aware of job opportunities within the town or without or the surrounding area, even on farms and stuff. We feel that is a market that is totally untapped and probably feels a little like the stepchild. So we're trying to work with them to get us all together. And then in February, we actually did a sock drive for Windy Hill residents and we collected two hundred and thirty pairs of socks. Right. Amazing. Last December, we helped the town with Christmas in Middleburg since we had no parades. So we tried to create things that would carry through town to have visitors and our locals something to do and put our best festival face forward in a kind of quiet, calm way that I think we're best known for. We've been asked to do the same again this year, and we're working with the new parade organizers, Michelle and Doug Meyers, so that what they do and what we do for the three weeks following to the end of December kind of carry along the same kind of feeling. And we've also been called by the Salvation Army of Loudoun County to help them with the red kettle at the Safeway, because they've been a bit lacking the last few years. And they said it was when it was manned by community people obviously, they did much better because there's that shame factor when you're at the door and you see your neighbor and they're like, hit the kettle. [off mic] Thank you. [laughter] There are those who stock up on quarters and then, you know, they get every time. So that's kind of exciting that they've reached out to the town and this organization to help them again. And then, of course, we have all the events that we put on the winter sidewalk sale in February and then this August 6th, 7th and 8th will mark the fifteenth year of the summer sidewalk sale. I know that's where'd that go. But as you if you remember, last year, we did have the sidewalk sale in spite of the pandemic. We stretched it over a week. This time in order for people to not feel so jam packed and. Had the hand washing stations on the street and every store had hand sanitizer and, you know, the turnout was good, the shops did well and people went home feeling safe and having a good experience on that particular outing. We also do promote, you know, everything the town does, like Christmas in Middleburg Art in the Bur, OktoberFest and as well as other events put on by people that may not even be MBP members due to the fact that they're bringing people to town. So everybody's going to benefit. You know, we are an association with paid members, but we try our best to spread the wealth among everybody, member or not when we can. So that's a lot of that. You will find the facts and all the break down in your folder. But does anyone have any questions for us, for our board members on the back row there about what we're doing or?

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Punkin?

Philip Miller: Ok, not a question, but of course, having served on the board with you Punkin, I do always think that it's good for us to say thank you for all the work that you guys do for our town here.

Punkin Lee: Thank you. Thank you. [applause] No comments. I think Ann Marie's got a little more to add to the do you have one?

Bridge Littleton: I do have a comment. So I think, you know, just [inaudible] little bit what Philip says, what Philip said. Right. What you guys do from the perspective and the aspect of bringing together business community, but a broader community, much more than it would ever be just on its own and not from it. You know, what I think is unique about what you guys do is it's about helping the businesses and helping the businesses means dollars and cents. Right. And so but if you went to New York City. Right, or you went to Washington, D.C., or, you know, it's actually only about dollars and cents. Right. But what you guys do is bring an intangible quality that is maybe doesn't even make a difference in dollars and cents, but it makes a difference in people's lives and in an aspect that's meaningful and builds the sense of community that we have in Middleburg. That is, I think, what actually people resonate with when they actually come out here, because you can feel it. You know, you see everybody waving to each other on the street and you see everybody going to the post office and, you know, jabbering for 30 minutes. And the folks who come out here visit and see locals,

how they interact, they go, God, that's something I you know, it's enjoyable to connect with that. And that's part of what makes the attractant to Middleburg what it is. [off mic] Yeah. Yeah, but it's not. But it's not manufactured. Right. It's not coy. It's not it's just the community doing what it does. And you guys in what you do, you do it in a way that reinforces that aspect of it, which is not measurable. Right. I could never figure out how you would actually measure that. So I think that is one of the special aspects of what you guys do. And quite honestly, you could be a board and an organization, which is really just about the dollars and cents and the clicks and the number of car stops and and that would be fine and great and wonderful and whatever. But it's a different human element that you don't see a lot of business organizations focus on. And so I really want to thank you guys for always remembering to be true to what you do to help the businesses, but true to the broader community beyond just businesses. So it's it's really wonderful.

Punkin Lee: Thank you.

Ann Marie Chirieleison: I appreciate that. Yeah. I think one of the most important things that the board feels and the greater association as well is, as you said, in other places, it might be all about the business. And if you see our membership listing, which is on the last page, you'll see there are churches, there are non-profits, there are museums, there are retail centers, there are wineries. There are about 20 percent who actually lay outside of Middleburg lines. Middleburg, all of you know, Middleburg is bigger than the town limits. Middleburg is the capital of the Loudoun Valley. Middleburg is the capital of Virginia Hunt country. And so we see ourselves as supporting all of the businesses and organizations in that because they attract people to what is so great about Middleburg and what is unique about Middleburg and to borrow what Phil and the mayor have said the authenticity of Middleburg. And so we do turn out professional quality productions. We do turn out videos that get six figure views on social media. We do bring in that tourism dollar. We do bring in the TOT for the town in concert with the town's efforts. You know, but as you said, we are also a volunteer organization. Members of this board don't only volunteer with MBPA. We are boots on the ground at Artists in Middleburg schlepping tables and tents. We are boots on the ground during Christmas in Middleburg we're invested, even though we realized walking up here, only one of us resides inside the limits of Middleburg, you know. And so I think that is a testament not only to the draw of Middleburg and the importance for the whether you're for profit nonprofit organization, but also the idea that it's a magnet for people to pitch in and be part of a community. So MBPA is really grateful to have this opportunity to work closely with the town, to produce marketing, to produce networking opportunities and to produce hopefully an element of the community that brings people here. Thank you.

Punkin Lee: And that kind of brings us to the.

Ann Marie Chirieleison: Oh, I'm sorry, my name is Anne Marie Chirieleison. I can spell it for you. [laughter]

Kevin Daly: One less vowel than you think.

Punkin Lee: And a follow up on Ann Marie's sense of gathering at our monthly Biz Buzz. Which is hosted by a member at their place of business is open to anybody who wants to come, you don't have to be a member and we often have people from Leesburg, Purcellville, Haymarket, Warrington, Marshall. They're coming to check us out as a group as well as to check out and meet business people and check out the town, because some are thinking of opening a second place here or opening their first. I mean, it's a great place for the meet and greet and networking of all kinds, it's not just wine and cheese. And did you have a great day? You know, it has evolved into its own life. And we've had calls from Beth at Visit Loudoun, where other towns in the county have called her to say, how does Middleburg get 80 to 90 people a month when we're in Leesburg and we're lucky to have 18? And I think it goes back to the sense of community and the warm and fuzzy and, you know, we're just here just real people doing real things. And so I would urge all of you Council Members to try to come to the Biz Buzz, they're great. You know, and the price is right. And our first in-person will be virtual again for July. But our first one will be August 13th at Salamander. So we're trying to have our first four at larger spaces so people get comfortable being together again and not at a smaller and all our virtual ones have been from businesses in town who could never hold a Biz Buzz because they can't have more than 10 people elbow to elbow on a good day. So that's kind of what we've been pushing their service places and specialties. So it's all worked very well, but we will be in person for August, so hopefully we'll see you. And I think that's it. And then we thank you. Appreciate the time you've given us to tell you what we've been doing. And thank you for the nice comments. [applause]

Bridge Littleton: Ok, moving on. So while people are still here, I do want to remind everybody that tomorrow George Martel's service will be at 11 o'clock,

Kevin Daly: Visitation at 11

Bridge Littleton: Visitation at 11, service at 12:00, and then 1:30 there'll be a reception at the American Legion.

Kevin Daly: Yeah, we're losing more World War to veterans. And he's another one.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you. Thank you all very much. Take care. [inaudible] Visitation is 11 to 12. The service will be at 12. And then the reception will be at 1:30.

Kevin Daly: And not to get anybody nervous, but you will hear [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: At Royston's. OK, OK. What's that? [off mic] Yeah. OK, real quick, going down to staff reports, any committee or council liaison staff reports. OK, consent agenda. Would anybody like to have anything removed from the consent agenda? OK, is there a motion on the consent agenda?

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

Kevin Daly: Second.

Bridge Littleton: [off mic] Yeah, right. OK, any discussion, all those in favor, say aye.

Everyone: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Opposed, abstentions. OK, it carries. Action items, memorandum resolution amending council's rules of procedure. I'm going to I'm going to put money that this is a Rhonda North memo.

Rhonda North: [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: You don't have bullets. You have arrows. In compliance, but unique. I like it.

Rhonda North: Ok, so the reason that we're presenting this to you this evening is with the change in the election dates from May to November, we need to change the date of your organizational meeting that is established in your rules of procedure. We're also doing some slight tweaks to the section that deals with participating electronically to deal with the latest state code updates and to remove the portion that we had added for the COVID emergency time period. So those are the changes that we're proposing.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody have any questions for Rhonda or Will on this item? Yeah, I mean, and we knew this was coming. So, all right, would anybody like to make a motion?

Cindy Pearson: I move the council, adopt a resolution amending the council's rules of procedure as recommended and the town staff report dated June 15, 2021

Kevin Daly: Second

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

Everyone: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Opposed, abstentions. OK, next item, amendment to the ordinance establishing Go Green. Oh, Council Member Leonard- Morgan, please speak up.

Rhonda North: Actually, Mr. Davis, who's online is [inaudible].

Bridge Littleton: Oh, OK, well, I was just going by what was stated here on the, [off mic] I was just going by what was stated here on the agenda that Council Member Leonard-Morgan would be presenting this. But if we have to go to his alternate, Mr. Davis

Danny Davis: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Can you hear me OK? The Council Member Leonard-Morgan asked if I would just read a brief summary, if that's OK with you about the requested change. [off mic] And I'll be as brief as I can. And he wrote, In March of 2007, the Middleburg Town Council adopted an ordinance establishing an ad hoc committee to, quote, complete an environmental assessment, increase community awareness of the importance of sustainability and develop recommendations for sustainability goal an action plan, end quote, and thus Go Green was semi officially organized. In 2011, it was noted that there was no official Go Green ordinance, despite the fact that members had been appointed and therefore the town council confirmed that it wished to formalize the committee. More recently, the maximum number of members was raised from seven to nine, and the requirement of the town planner, who is also our deputy town manager to be an official member, was relaxed. However, the committee has been discussing updating its name from Go Green to the Middleburg Sustainability Committee as it feels that it describes its mission more succinctly. In fact, The attached and Mr. Leonard Morgan has an attached sustainability plan that we can send over to you that was authored by the committee sums up why the new name is more appropriate. In short, the idea of sustainability encapsulates a number of things that Go Green itself may not. So the committee has requested and voted to ask that the word sustainability be introduced also into the ordinance along with the name change. There's one other change in that the committee feels the requirement of having two co-chairs seems redundant and in fact has not been used for some considerable time. So the committee is also asking that this portion of the ordinance be amended to remove that requirement. And those are the changes and we're happy to answer any questions.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody have any questions for Danny? OK, anybody want to make a motion, Mr. Jacobs,

Bud Jacobs: I move that council adopt an amendment to the ordinance establishing the Middleburg Sustainability Committee of the town of Middleburg.

Kevin Daly: Second.

Bridge Littleton: Any discussion? All those in favor say I.

Everyone: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Opposed abstentions. OK, the motion carries. Danny, thanks. All right. Next item is lease of Atlantic Union Bank parking lot.

Danny Davis: Mr. Mayor, Mr. Moore and I are happy to answer any questions that you might have, but the item for you is pretty straightforward is the request approve the lease of the Atlantic Union back parking lot on 105 West Federal Street. We're happy to answer any questions anywhere.

Bridge Littleton: Anyone have any. Yeah.

Kevin Daly: All right. This is not a typo. They're only asking for ten dollars per year.

Will Moore: That is correct.

Bridge Littleton: Actually, it's actually if you look at negative ten dollars a year.

Kevin Daly: And we are not responsible for repair or servicing the parking lot.

Danny Davis: That is correct.

Kevin Daly: How many spaces?

Danny Davis: A brief count was approximately 22 or 26. I don't recall my head, but it's somewhere around that number.

Kevin Daly: Good offer.

Bridge Littleton: So I'm assuming you're for it?

Kevin Daly: I'm for it.

Bridge Littleton: OK, good. So when you.

Kevin Daly: I move.

Bridge Littleton: You you want to move? Well, the good thing is, in the lease, you're right. The town council and the town government is not responsible for the maintenance. Kevin Daly is. So, yeah. Would anybody have any other questions? The only question I had was, is there going to be any public signage to the parking? I get it, we're going to have the guide updated. But is there public signage? Because most people coming to town won't have the public guide.

Danny Davis: Absolutely, that's correct. At this point, the idea that we would have signage on location at the entry to the parking lot that indicates when it is available for public parking. We have not yet integrated this into our wayfinding program. And in fact, I think that would be something we'd be hesitant to do at this point just because it's not a long term or guaranteed long term lease. But at the entrance to the parking lot, there would be clear signage indicating when it's for use by employees only and when it is for use by any member of the public.

Bridge Littleton: No, I got it. My question is, it's great to have a parking lot, but if nobody knows it exists, what's the point? So, you know, I know that. the I know the like when the farmer's market would be there on Saturdays, they would put out signs and say parking here and whatever, you know. So like, if I'm a visitor to town, I would never find that. You'd never know it exists. So, I mean, maybe locals would use it, but they know where to find parking spots anyway. So how are we going to I mean, I, I guess I'll say it this way. If we're going to put it on the map, then it's not an issue that we want to try to hide it, we want to try to actually publicize it. So how do we ensure that it is actually out there, that, you know, people would get there.

Danny Davis: So I'll suggest that I work with Mr. Moore on that and that we come up with some good solutions so that we can direct folks as best as possible in a comprehensive way. That can be website, it can be signage, it can be other things.

Philip Miller: And the shopping and dining guide too, make sure we update that.

Cindy Pearson: And I'd like to say that I actually sat one Sunday at the post office while my daughter and her daughter were running a quick errand and I walked. It was crowded. The whole town was. And people stop there and read and didn't go in because it said, you know, employees only. So I think actually they will that end of town on those type of busy days, if there's a sign up there that they will get it quickly. Yeah.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. So, I mean, I think it's good. Yeah. OK, so yeah. You guys take a look at it and see, see the best way to do that. Anybody have any other questions. OK. Is there a motion.

Kevin Daly: I move that the town council approved the deed of lease parking lot at Atlantic Union Bank effective July 1st, 2021.

Philip Miller: Second,

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

Everyone: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Opposed, abstentions. OK, item is approved. Next, any discussion items? Mr. Jacobs.

Bud Jacobs: Just a question for you, Mr. Mayor, I read in the paper yesterday that the Loudoun County rezoning effort has been put on hold for six or eight months or it's going to take longer than an additional six or eight months longer than anticipated. Any news?

Bridge Littleton: And you trust the fourth estate?

Bud Jacobs: Not particularly.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. So know what it is, is it is a massive undertaking. You're literally taking thousands of pages of the 1993 plan and the 2003 plan and all the zoning and trying to rewrite it all. COVID put a huge dent in the ability for people to meet and get together and do work. I mean, we met remotely, but that's a big challenge. And they were sticking to a very tight timeline. And the timeline was literally the first chapter was going to be released about a month from now and start a 90 day clock for review. And the final chapters of the new plan wouldn't have even been out until like six weeks after that, so that you wouldn't even actually had a full 90 day review. And so the zoning ordinance committee and I, you know, individually went to the you know, the staff and the board and said, you got to give people more time. I mean, this is going to be our zoning for the next 20 years. Give us the time to be able to do it right. And so they took it to the board and the board agreed to, I think it was six or eight additional months to come up with the new draft zoning and give the public ample amount of opportunity to give as much input as possible. The other thing I think that's going to be a challenge is they're going to collect input through an online tool called [Inaudible] Plus. So on the county staff side, I get it. Everything's electronic. It's already typed in. It's all there. But it's not an intuitive tool to use. And it's kind of kaloojian, unless you're familiar with it, it'll take your time. So that's the other thing. Let's you know, [inaudible] like to write stuff down to send it in. Now it's all going to go through this tool, so let's afford them enough time to do it. So it's a very good thing. It's a very good thing. But no work has stopped. So we're still doing work. The deadline has just been pushed out.

Bud Jacobs: Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Yep. Any other questions or discussion items? I had one for Will.

Danny Davis: May I.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, raise your hand. Oh, Danny, did you have a question.

Danny Davis: Oh thank you, Mr. Mayor. Appreciate that. No, I just want to give you a quick, brief update. We received our meals taxes revenue and payments this week, earlier this week, and really pleased to tell you that we had a significant increase in our meals tax revenues, and we are down only about seven percent over the same month in 2019, which was for May sales in 2019. So we had about one hundred seven thousand dollars of meals tax revenues that came in in June. That was for the month of May meals. So that's a huge increase from prior month and continues to show the strength of our local economy. We're really happy to see that. And that's good for our 2021 budget as well.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, but so Danny, I want to make sure I get this right. I mean, that's great. But it's still from two years ago we're seven percent down.

Danny Davis: Oh, it absolutely. It's still no back to where it was and not to where it would have been with the expected increases two years in a row. However, it's better than the 20 percent decrease that we had seen.

Bridge Littleton: No, I get all that. No, I just want to make sure that I don't want to create the sense of that, you know, everything's back and it's all good to go. No, we still got to keep working hard and we still got to support the businesses because for them, I mean, seven percent for us, means seven percent for them. And, you know, what's that? Yeah. And we want to make sure that we we continue to drive hard, so. OK, anything else, Danny?

Danny Davis: No, no, sir. That's all.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you. OK, thanks. Will, I had two phone calls this week. This is the question. On Federal Street on the back where that patch has not been repaired. What's the status?

Will Moore: As of last check with the hotel manager? That responsibility is for the private property owner whose sewer lateral was compromised and necessitated those repairs and he had been in contact with a paving company. I am not sure. Danny, if you have an update, please let us know. I'm not sure of the scheduling of that at this moment, though.

Bridge Littleton: Danny, do you have any details on when that's proposed to be fixed.

Danny Davis: I do not have any date details, I do know that the property owner said he had signed an agreement with a paving company to take care of it. I will follow up with the property owner as soon as we are off our meeting tonight and see if I can get an answer.

Bridge Littleton: Ok, great, thanks. OK. Anybody have anything else?

Kevin Daly: [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: We're skipping that. OK, yeah, OK. Any information items Kevin?

Kevin Daly: Thank you for asking. Not only do we have some information items, but I brought you Lieutenant Shaun. If you want to come up forward and provide information.

Shaun Jones: Good evening, Mr. Mayor. Mr. Vice Mayor. Council Members. Mr. Moore. [multiple speakers]. I almost did, but Mr. Moore. I'm standing in this evening for Chief Panebianco. I just want to talk about a few incidents that we had the other night in town. Monday night, we had that windstorm, one of the fire captains said it could have possibly have been a tornado. Well, I just want to commend our officers who were working on duty that evening. Mark was ending his shift and Jason was coming on. Jason ran the whole entire night from the start of his shift to almost till the time he was finished. He assisted with the accident with the tree fell down on the vehicle. He was running around throughout the town with the trees falling everywhere. He worked with VDOT and Virginia Power throughout the evening to make sure everything was taken care of in the town. So I like to commend him. Also like to commend Mark, [inaudible] We had two incidents recently where the traffic signal and crosswalks stopped working. When they had the time, they were out there directing traffic and helping that go smoother. One of the things that I'm working on is getting in contact with VDOT to see if we can get a quicker response than what we've been doing in the past to see if we can get that. Safety is our number one issue and it takes them a couple of hours to get out here sometime. So I'm working with them to see if we can get a quick response. What can we do to get the light reset so it can work smoother. Daniel was one of our newest officers. He's working out well. He had an incident last night where a resident, I guess she was concerned about a FedEx delivery driver. Apparently, he fell in a rosebush, and she was concerned about his safety and kind of scared her. She spoke with his boss and come to find out he recently had a stroke not too long ago. Daniel checked the area but by the time he got there, the driver was gone. But he was able to comfort the resident. The resident came by the office this afternoon, gave her card, thanking him and thanking the police department for their service and brought some cookies and other treats. So I'm very proud of that. He did a wonderful job. As you know, National Night Out is coming up August 3rd. Mark has been working very hard, preparing for that and getting the town ready for that. And I heard the mayor might be getting into the dunk tank.

Bridge Littleton: You can hear anything you want to hear. I get your ears checked. [laughter].

Shaun Jones: I thought I try to slide that one. And other than that, I'm proud of the team. We work well together. And when we have something that goes on, we come together as a team. So good times.

Kevin Daly: And I'm going to piggyback on Shaun because he's so, so big and he can handle me on. We've been talking about community. We have probably the best community police department anywhere in Loudoun County, and I would even say wider than all of Virginia. Our guys not only talk the talk, but they walk the beat. Literally, they'll get out. They have met all the business owners and a lot of the community residents by getting out and walking the main street. And you heard we have people coming over and giving them all sorts of treats. You can see what's happened to Sean because he's having to indulge in those treats out of pure politeness. You know, you got it. You got to eat what the treats come in. But we have a community here in a community force that think of themselves as being residents, too. And so kudos to your entire department.

Shaun Jones: Thank you, sir. [applause]

Bridge Littleton: Anybody else with any information items? Will.

Will Moore: Very quickly, Mr. Mayor, I do want to follow up on the lieutenant's remarks, not only our police department, fire and rescue, helped out tremendously in the immediate aftermath of the storm and VDOT as well. They were tremendous both the evening of with an immediate clean up. But they were back in going throughout the town on Wednesday, just doing a great job of picking up piles of limbs accumulated that would have taken our crews substantially longer to take care of. We were out there doing our part, but a tremendous response by all. In case you didn't hear, last Thursday, the HDRC approved the certificate of appropriateness for the new town hall. So that was a huge step for us in that progress. So very happy with that. And then finally, this coming Monday, the 28th, the Planning Commission will be holding a public hearing and making a recommendation to forward to you about the special use permit that is required for the new town hall. And that's specifically due to it being located father then 30 feet from the Marshall Street right of way. That, of course, is due to our unique property configuration, the space programming, as well as the desire to have the pocket park in front. I would encourage any council members, if you are available to attend and speak at that hearing in support of your project. The commission has felt maybe a little isolated from the project. And if if anyone is available, I think it would be a great thing for the commission to hear directly from any council members that would be available. And again, that's Monday, the 28th at 7:00 p.m..

Bridge Littleton: Ok, thank you. Anybody got any other questions for Will? OK, now it's time to go to a closed session. [multiple speakers] Ok, who wants to read this lovely motion?

Philip Miller: I move that council go into closed session as authorized under section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the discussion or consideration for one, the lease of property for public parking purposes. Two the disposition of publicly held properties related to the Asbury Church. Both as allowed under Section A3 and 3 briefings by town by staff members pertaining to the actual or probable litigation where such consultation in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body related to a requested boundary line adjustment as allowed under subsection A7. I further move the council thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

Bridge Littleton: Rhonda did you change the wording in this? [off mic] All those in favor say aye.

Everyone: Aye.

All right, we're in closed session. Rhonda close the door. [laughter] All right. 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 such public business matters that were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting were 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.

Chris Bernard: Yes.

Bud Jacobs: Yes.

Darlene Kirk: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Yes.

Philip Miller: Yes.

Cindy Pearson: Yes.

Kevin Daly: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: All right. Any other items from council? Then our meeting is adjourned.