



MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 14, 2022



PENDING APPROVAL

PRESENT: Mayor Trowbridge M. Littleton
Vice Mayor Peter A. Leonard-Morgan
Councilmember Chris W. Bernard
Councilmember J. Kevin Daly
Councilmember Morris E. "Bud" Jacobs
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
Ali MacIntyre, Director of Business Development & Community Partnerships
A.J. Panebianco, Chief of Police
Tina Staples, Town Treasurer/Director of Finance

ABSENT: Councilmember C. Darlene Kirk
Councilmember Philip M. Miller

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, April 14, 2022 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.

Special Recognitions by Mayor & Council

Resolution in Memory – Mary Woodruff

Mayor Littleton advised that Mary Woodruff was a bright, shining star, who meant the world to everyone at the Town and The Hill School. He noted her impact on the lives of the students she touched, with her legacy being her impact on them would be passed to future generations. Mr. Littleton advised that Mrs. Woodruff would be deeply missed.

Councilmember Pearson noted that she worked with Mrs. Woodruff at The Hill School many years ago. She opined that when she and Mr. Woodruff came to Middleburg, they were wonderful additions to The Hill School family. Ms. Pearson advised that Mrs. Woodruff assisted anyone who needed help and was highly creative artistically. She noted that both Mr. & Mrs. Woodruff were a great part of the Middleburg community.

Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan noted that he first met Mrs. Woodruff when he was appointed to the Go Green committee, at which point, she became an important part of his life. He advised that her smile was contagious and that she was always involved in the community.

Councilmember Daly read a statement on behalf of Father Gene of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church, who noted that the church was blessed to have had Mrs. Woodruff as a beloved member of its congregation. He opined that she would be remembered fondly.

Betsy Davis, former Mayor, noted that she was present to support Mr. Woodruff and advised that much of what she wanted to say had already been said. She noted that she missed seeing Mrs. Woodruff. Ms. Davis also noted her many contributions to the community over the years.

Bundles Murdock, a former Councilmember, noted that she missed Mrs. Woodruff's smile.

Rebecca Poston, a former member of Go Green, opined that Mrs. Woodruff's melodious voice made people smile.

Mayor Littleton read the Resolution in Memory of Mrs. Woodruff aloud. Following the vote, he presented a signed copy to Mr. Woodruff.

Councilmember Pearson moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council adopt a Resolution in Memory of Mary Woodruff for her service on the Middleburg Sustainability Committee and to the community.

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmembers Kirk and Miller

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

Public Comment

Catherine “Bundles” Murdock, 609 Blue Ridge Avenue, noted that Dominion Power was in the process of installing underground electric lines on Locust Street. She cited the Washington Street Improvement Project as an example and questioned why the remainder of the utility lines could not be buried at the same time so the power poles could be removed from this area. Ms. Murdock suggested that in the future, the placement of utility lines underground be coordinated with all the utilities.

Mayor Littleton advised Ms. Murdock that the government paid to have the utilities placed underground as a part of the Washington Street Project. He explained that Verizon and Comcast would have to pay to bury their lines and may not want to do so. Mr. Littleton suggested the Town determine whether there were any grants to cover the cost of burying utility lines in the future.

Staff Reports

March 2022

Town Clerk North announced that the retirement party for Officer Tim Tharpe would be held on May 17th at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church Parish Hall.

Town Treasurer Staples noted that her monthly report now contained information on the Town Hall Project, including both funds held for the project and expenses paid to date. She advised that as opposed to providing a total for the entire Town budget, she separated them out by funds. Ms. Staples noted that it had been more than a year since interest rates had changed in a good direction for investments and reported that the Town received a nice jump in one of its investment funds.

In response to an inquiry from the Council as to the \$4 million difference in the numbers on the graph on the second page of her report, Town Treasurer Staples advised that one figure identified revenues received to date and the other was the total budget, including capital funding. She noted that she could remove the capital monies if it were too confusing.

Mayor Littleton noted that the CIP monies were not revenues that were generated through taxes. He suggested the bar graph either include total revenues or the number just state tax-generated revenues. Town Treasurer Staples suggested she just leave the numbers as being separate by funds, as this would be less confusing.

Business Development & Community Partnership Director MacIntyre announced that at the recommendation of EDAC, she was organizing a job fair on May 11th at the Middleburg Community Center. She noted that she had already heard interest from some businesses in participating. Ms. MacIntyre advised that she would coordinate the job fair with the Middleburg Business & Professional Association, the Loudoun Workforce Resource Center and Loudoun County Economic Development.

Business Development & Community Partnership Director MacIntyre reminded Council of the business survey that was underway. She reported a 25% response rate to date and expressed hope to increase it to 30%. Ms. MacIntyre advised that she would report on the results next month.

Business Development & Community Partnership Director MacIntyre reported that the date of the Middleburg Spring Races had been changed to April 23rd. She noted that it was normally held on the third Saturday.

Deputy Town Manager Moore reported that Salamander's development partner received their final approvals from the County for their construction and was working to provide the Town with the required bonds. He opined that they would begin work on The Residences at Salamander within the next week or two.

Police Chief Panebianco reminded Council of the Town-wide Clean-Up Event, to be followed by the Drug Takeback Day event, scheduled for April 30th. He reported that the officers were assisting large construction vehicles so they could enter their job sites safely. Chief Panebianco thanked the MBPA for their recognition of Lieutenant Jones and Officer Tharpe during their recent Bizz Buzz. He reported that he was making progress on hiring an officer to replace Officer Tharpe, who recently retired.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Attorney Crim reported that he just received the revised contract from Blink regarding the electric vehicle charging stations and was in the process of comparing it to the previous version.

Town Hall Project Report

Town Clerk North reported that due to inclement weather, the sewer main extension work in Marshall Street would last through the end of the month. She further reported that the rough-in plumbing work was underway and that the building footers would be poured in two weeks, followed by the building foundation. Ms. North advised Council that the web camera for the project was live and could be seen on the Town's website. She displayed the new Town flag that would be flown at the new Town Hall building.

Reports of Town Committees/Council Liaisons

Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan reminded Council of the five-cent plastic bag tax that would be implemented in Loudoun County effective July 1, 2022 and noted that the only location required to impose the tax in Middleburg was the Safeway. He displayed a sample reusable bag and reported that the Middleburg Sustainability Committee would like to order 1,500 of them, which would include the Town's logo, in order to distribute three bags per household within the town limits. Mr. Leonard-Morgan advised that unless the Council had an issue with it, he would proceed with ordering the bags. No issues were raised.

Consent Agenda

- A. Council Approval – March 24, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes; March 31, 2022 Special Meeting Minutes; April 4, 2022 Strategic Planning Session Minutes

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

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

Action items

Council Approval – 2022 Strategic Initiatives

Town Manager Davis reminded Council that they met last week to update their strategic initiatives for 2022 and identified seven top initiatives on which they wanted to focus. He reported that Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan and Councilmember Daly agreed to serve as the Council representatives for the new attainable housing initiative. Mr. Davis advised that the staff was working to develop action plans related to the seven items.

Councilmember Jacobs requested that the phrase “in order” be changed to “so” in the vision statement, to which the remainder of Council agreed.

Councilmember Jacobs moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council approve the Strategic Plan for 2022 and the updated Strategic Priorities, Objectives and Initiatives as amended at the Strategic Planning Retreat.

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

Discussion Items

FY '23 Budget (continued)

Town Manager Davis reminded Council that they set the real property tax rate during their special meeting held March 31st and reported that the revenues were adjusted in the proposed budget to reflect the reduced rate. He advised that there were no other changes in it. Mr. Davis reminded Council that the public hearing would be held on May 12th. He noted that this year’s budget appeared to be large and explained that this was due to the expenditures associated with the Town Hall Project. Mr. Davis noted that including the Town Hall Project and the Health Center Fund, the total FY '23 Budget was \$16.7 million.

Town Manager Davis reminded Council that they suggested waiting to discuss the budget further until they saw what would happen with inflation and noted that it continued to get worse, particularly the costs for gas, energy, and food. He reported that the staff was continuing to watch this; however, he opined that the effect on the General Fund would be minimal. Mr. Davis suggested the biggest effect was on salaries and noted that a 5% cost-of-living adjustment was included in the proposed budget, which was in line with what other jurisdictions were giving.

Mayor Littleton asked that the staff provide two documents during the public hearing – one that presented the entire budget and one that removed the costs of the Town Hall Project so the public could do a comparison with past budgets.

Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Short-term Rentals

Deputy Town Manager Moore reminded Council that last year, they expressed concerns about the need to review the Town’s short-term rental regulations in light of the pending residential development, which was anticipated to have such uses. He noted that the regulations were five years old and that no applications had been received for a special use permit during that time. Mr. Moore advised that after some discussion, the Planning Commission agreed this was something that needed to be addressed. He reported that they originally began their discussions for both a Comprehensive Plan amendment and zoning text amendments; however, they ultimately agreed to bifurcate the two. Mr. Moore noted that the Commission engaged with both Prem Devadas, of Salamander, and the Mayor and was recommending the additional of language to the Comprehensive Plan that would talk about the potential impacts of transient uses on the residential neighborhoods. He explained that the main point of their discussions centered around treating short-term rentals differently based on neighborhoods, in particular the older neighborhoods that would be more impacted by them. Mr. Moore opined that this use would be less of a shock in the pending development, as it would be anticipated by the property owners that this would be a part of their neighborhood. He advised that the Comprehensive Plan amendment was the first step and explained that if approved by Council, the Planning Commission would then begin work on zoning text amendments that would treat this use differently depending on the neighborhood.

Councilmember Jacobs explained that the main takeaway was that the proposed Comprehensive Plan amendment was the basis for allowing the Planning Commission to proceed with the related zoning text amendments.

Town Attorney Crim explained that if an applicant applied for a special use permit, the application would be evaluated based on the language in the Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Littleton thanked the Planning Commission for their hard work and noted that this would be a multi-step process. He advised Council that the television show *60 Minutes* recently did a report on affordable housing and noted that short-term rentals were having a negative effect on the affordability of houses because large corporations were buying them for use as short-term rentals, thus driving up the cost of housing. Mr. Littleton opined that it was important for Middleburg to get ahead of the wave. He noted that people were now buying second homes in Middleburg, as well as investment properties. Mr. Littleton opined that Middleburg wanted to its homes to be primarily owned by people who would live in them on a full-time basis.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Deputy Town Manager Moore advised that a public hearing on the amendment had been advertised for Council’s April 28th meeting. He further advised that should Council adopt it, the next step would be for the Planning Commission to begin work on possible zoning text amendments.

There being no further business, Mayor Littleton declared the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVED:

Trowbridge M. Littleton, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk

April 14, 2022 Middleburg Town Council Meeting

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

Bridge Littleton: All right. We're going to call the meeting to order. First item is the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Bridge Littleton: All right. Next item is Roll Call. [technical difficulty] Yikes.

Don Woodruff: [off mic] God save the queen. [laughter]

Peter Leonard-Morgan: [off mic] Shirt's tucked in. [off mic]

Don Woodruff: Mine is, is yours?

Cindy Pearson: We got an echo.

Bridge Littleton: Danny is it good?

Danny Davis: No. How did you dial in?

Rhonda North: I dialed the number and entered the Meeting ID number and then entered the.

Chris Bernard: [off mic] [multiple speakers]

Bundles Murdock: [off mic] Sorry it's the peanut gallery.

Bridge Littleton: Ladies would y'all please separate. [laughter]

Chris Bernard: We're taking that out of your 3 minutes. [multiple speakers] [laughter]

Danny Davis: It's the zoom. Hit the button on the Polycom if you will?

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, I see that.

Don Woodruff: That's even better, better, better. [technical difficulty]

Rhonda North: I mean, we have no one on the line. We can actually just hang it up.

Bridge Littleton: Just hang it up. We're not required to have it. [off mic] Okay, fine with me. We'll solve this technical difficulty next time. All right, roll call.

Chris Bernard: Chris Bernard.

Bud Jacobs: Bud Jacobs.

Bridge Littleton: Bridge Littleton.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Peter Leonard-Morgan.

Cindy Pearson: Cindy Pearson.

J. Kevin Daly: John Kevin Daly.

Rhonda North: Rhonda North, Town Clerk.

Danny Davis: Danny Davis, Town Manager.

Martin Crim: Martin Crim, Town Attorney.

Bridge Littleton: That took a while. Okay. [off mic] What's that? [off mic] He knows who he is. So first item up for tonight is a special recognition. And everybody I know is aware of this. So we have a resolution that we want to read and pass. But I thought also as well, because Mary meant so much to everybody in the community, if there is anything that any member of council would like to add or members of the community who had known and worked with Mary for so long, if there's anything they would like to say, we, you know, we want to afford everybody that opportunity. But I think I just wanted to start real quickly and say, you know, and Don is here, that it's rare in life that you come across people who are absolute bright, shining stars of positivity, hope, joy, friendship and selflessness. And that is exactly what Mary is and meant to all of us. Don and Mary came to Middleburg, you know, some 30 years ago and have meant the world to everybody here, have impacted the lives of so many students at Hill School in a way which they are going to be adults and members of society, which will, you know, hopefully transform things for the better. And those traits will pass on to their kids and their kids. And that's a legacy that Mary leaves that will live on for eternity. Because for every, you know, ten bad things that there are in the world, attributes and traits like that, that past forward are 1000 times more powerful. And I am deeply going to miss Mary, not only just for what she did for the community, what she did for Hill's school and did for the town in her service on various committees. Her dedication to Don through an unbelievably wonderful marriage, but just who she was as a human being and as someone that all of us should always aspire to be a 10th of what she was. So I will deeply miss her. Don, we are you know, our heart goes out to you and your family and if there's anything we can ever do you know, we're here to do it. But she was one of a kind and so special. So that's what I wanted to say in case there's anything anybody else would like to say. Yeah, Cindy go ahead. Ladies first.

Cindy Pearson: Geez. As some of you know, I worked at Hill School in the business office when Don and Mary came to Hill School those however many years ago. It seems like just yesterday they were a wonderful addition to the Hill family. Mary was always such a kind, caring person, and she brought a special energy to any project that she took on. She gladly assisted teachers in their classroom. Her knowledge of books and the willingness to share that knowledge made the library a great place to visit. I'll never forget one time I got, I always had to go back and laminate things back and the laminating machine was back in the library. I got a feather duster hung up in the laminating machine. [laughter] Mary and I laughed about that so hard. And actually she just reminded me that the last event we had at the community center, there was always things popping up like that and to share things with her was always such a delight. And needless to say, that machine had a mind of its own. I think it got people's ties when it warned you about it. It just was a nightmare. Anyway, Mary's creativity with art was enjoyed by her students and the staff, and on occasion, when things got difficult, which, you know, at a school, things never get difficult, hmm. She just she never said a bad word about anyone. She may just get this, like, regrouping, look on her face, and then she'd go on about her business. [laughter] It was just so nice not to have her say things about people. Don and Mary were a special couple. So amazing to see two people be together for so long and just blended so well with everything. When music was part of any of the events around town, the two of them would be dancing, kicking a leg or whatever cutting the rug, whatever they say. Mary's family, Mary and Don, their family was always very important to her, as was the school family. She enjoyed having her daughter Michelle close here at Foxcroft. Mary was a great part of the Middleburg community. She and Don attended a lot of, many local events and supported nonprofits. They became members of our town committees and always a familiar face to all in the Safeway or other shops in town. Her demeanor and graciousness will always be appreciated by all. I've been so fortunate to have Mary as a friend. We shared work getaways, meals, drinks and many good times together.

[inaudible] That's my throat more than anything. Now that Mary's life here on Earth has ended, she'll be greatly missed by many including me. I hope the family knows how much we all cared for her.

Bridge Littleton: Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Well, it's really hard to follow that. Thank you very much, Cindy and Bridge. All I would like to say is that when I sat here nearly six years ago when I was first elected to council and I sat next to Betsy, Betsy looked at me, she said, Would you like to be on Go Green? And I thought to myself, What is Go Green? [laughter] So I was first meeting at Go Green, I met Mary and I met Rebecca. It's great to see you here today, Rebecca. Thank you. And Mary became just such an important part of our whole lives. She was so wonderful on the Go Green Committee. She had this smile that was contagious and had such great contribution to everything we did, was always getting involved, and was just lovely to be with and I will miss her greatly.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin.

J. Kevin Daly: Well [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: No. [off mic]

J. Kevin Daly: Well, this isn't from. Father Gene of the Emmanuel Episcopal Church could not be here tonight. We're in the middle of Holy Week. But on behalf of the rector and people of Emmanuel Episcopal Church, we were blessed to have Mary Woodruff as one of our members. She was a warm, fun and beloved member of the congregation. We remember her fondly and mourn with Don and all who loved Mary. We look forward to celebrating her life at the Hill School on April 24th. As it is written in the book of the wisdom of Solomon, the souls of the righteous are in the hands of God. Not being one to critique the Bible, but I question the translation. The souls of the righteous are in the heart and soul of God. C.S. Lewis, the author, once wrote, I don't have a soul. I have a body, I am a soul. And Mary's soul was love. And every one her soul touched every soul she touched a bit of that love is going to be there with them. So Mary is always going to be with us and sometimes it's good to make a little joke. And one of the signs I've always admired about Mary that she always had whenever she came to church with Don, she had this beautiful smile and just a warmth about her. And it was tough to understand, especially since she had this big curmudgeon standing next to her. [laughter] But, Don, she loved you and you are blessed.

Cindy Pearson: Absolutely.

Bridge Littleton: Betsy.

Betsy Davis: Well, as Bundles said.

Cindy Pearson: [multiple speakers] come up?

Betsy Davis: [multiple speakers] Came here to support Don. You all said everything beautifully. A lot of what I wanted to say. But basically, Don, we love you. We love Mary. All of you have been to this community and we will continue to do her work. I hope. I will miss seeing both of you at all the events, because you all have supported this town in every possible way, from committees to coming and being part of events that are going on. And it's very warming to see you all always there at everything. And just I want to thank you.

Bundles Murdock: I didn't go to Hill School. I never served on a committee with her and you all stolen what I was going to say. [laughter] [off mic] Never ever went to the Safeway, the Post Office and the [off mic] Hill School [inaudible] Music Street.

Cindy Pearson: Bluemont Concert series.

Bundles Murdock: I never went anywhere that I didn't run into her, that she didn't have the biggest and warmest smile. And I will miss that. And think of her every time I see [off mic]. My heart goes out.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody else like to say anything? Okay.

Cindy Pearson: Wait a minute.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. Oh, Rebecca, I'm sorry.

Rebecca Poston: I'm sorry. Well, they have, like Betsy and Bundles just said, the words have been spoken so beautifully. And I met Mary at the Hill School Library. I volunteered with her and loved her from the first time I met her. And it's the smile. It was the voice. It was a melodious voice it just made you smile and made you happy. And I will miss that greatly. And I know Don has to have [off mic]. They are truly a couple.

Bridge Littleton: Well I appreciate it. Thanks, everybody, for all the thoughts. So let's do the resolution. So resolution in memory of Mary Woodruff. Whereas Mary Woodruff was appointed to serve on the Go Green Committee now known as the Middleburg Sustainability Committee on May 12th, 2011. And whereas, during her tenure, Mrs. Woodruff assisted in the organization and operation of the Wellness Day events, including offering suggestions to improve future events, participated in the town-wide clean-up and battery-recycling and drug take-back events, and offered inspirational ideas for future projects and activities. And whereas, Mrs. Woodruff served as the Librarian and Lower School Arts Teacher at the Hill School for over 25 years, mentoring hundreds of students during her tenure. And whereas, Mrs. Woodruff was a supporter of the Bluemont Concert Series and other musical events in the community, often lending a helping hand when needed. And whereas, Mrs. Woodruff was a dear friend to many across the Middleburg Community whose wonderful presence and selfless friendship will be deeply missed. And whereas, Mrs. Woodruff passed away suddenly on February 16, 2022, leaving her husband of 57 years, family, and the community to grieve our tremendous loss. And whereas, The Middleburg Town Council deems it appropriate to posthumously express its gratitude to Mrs. Woodruff for her personal dedication and exceptional service to our community for many years. Now, therefore be it resolved that the Mayor and Members of the Town Council of Middleburg, Virginia recognize and express our sincere appreciation for the exemplary services of Mary Woodruff as a member of the Middleburg Sustainability Committee from May 12th, 2011 through February 16, 2022. And for her contributions to the greater Middleburg community. Be it further resolved that the Mayor and members of the Town Council express our deepest condolences to her family and friends. [inaudible] Is there a motion?

Cindy Pearson: Yes. I move that council, adopt a resolution in memory of Mary Woodruff for her service on the Middleburg Sustainability Committee and to the community.

J. Kevin Daly: Second.

Bridge Littleton: All those in favor say aye.

All of Council: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Motion passes. Don, if you wouldn't mind. Thank you very much. We are really going to miss her.

Don Woodruff: So am I.

Bridge Littleton: Don. You're welcome to say anything if you like or. [multiple speakers]

Don Woodruff: Just say thank you very much. It was beautiful, everybody.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you, Don. [off mic] Oh [inaudible] Okay. We'll move on to the next item on the agenda, which is the public comment session. If anybody yeah, if anybody would like to speak during the public comment session,

you're please approach the bench. [laughter] For the council thrashing. Give us your name, address and please address the council. Public comment session is now open and any member of the community that'd like to speak.

Bundles Murdock: Yes please.

J. Kevin Daly: 3 minutes.

Bridge Littleton: Is there anybody else out there? [laughter] Anybody? Anybody of importance?

J. Kevin Daly: Anybody on the phone?

Bridge Littleton: Oh, Ms. Murdock, please.

Bundles Murdock: Said before my 3 minutes begins, let me just say that was probably the most moving tribute since I've ever been in the council chambers, ever. So it really, really was. All right. So now Catherine Chittenden Murdock aka Bundles 609 Blue Ridge Avenue, Middleburg, Virginia. When I was on council centuries ago and we tore up Main Street and everybody [expletive] and moaned because it took so long. We buried the sewer, water, power, internet. I don't know what else, telephone everything at once. Locust Street, I understand, is being torn up and they are burying only power. And I've just heard that the polls are remaining up and they are not burying telephone or internet, so it thus remains ugly and stupid. So I understand we don't control any of those entities, but somehow we made it work when we did Main Street. So I'm wondering in the future if we could sort of talk to people and try and get a coordinated effort the way we did years ago because it would make sense when the power goes out and we lose it. You know what I mean? Then I also heard that when the power goes out, those buried lines aren't going to help us at all. It's going to help somebody on [inaudible] road. So I didn't understand that. But I just I don't understand the point of tearing everything up and not burying everything at once. And I'm sure there's a reasonable explanation, but it's stupid. [laughter]

Bridge Littleton: Bundles tell us how you really feel?

Bundles Murdock: Yeah.

Bridge Littleton: Would you please stop holding back? [multiple speakers] Thank you. Any other member of the community that'd like to speak during public comment? Ok. We'll close the public comments session. So, Danny, good question. I think I know the answer, but I'll let you field it. About the lines.

Danny Davis: Yeah. I don't have an answer so.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. So I can't remember who I was talking to, I think. And, Bundles we'll check and find out. But I, was talking I think it was a VDOT person a month ago about this. And the point was that the I think it's Verizon or Comcast didn't want to, they would have to pay to have their lines buried. And then I don't know who owns the poles and then someone's got to pay to remove the poles and they didn't want to pay to do it. I think the difference was and Betsy may know because she was on the Route 50 Committee. When that was done on Route 50, the government paid everybody to do it. [off mic] You're right, that was part of the funding was, oh, Verizon, Comcast, it will cost you nothing to bury it. So everybody was like, well, that's fine if you're going to pay for it, I'm happy to bury it. I think that's what it was. But I will double check unless Martin You look like you had something. Okay. Because yeah, I got asked that question a month ago and I talked to somebody from VDOT and it was you know, they reached out to Comcast and Verizon. They said, we're not paying to do that. So.

Bundles Murdock: It would've been a lot cheaper.

Bridge Littleton: Well, they'd have to pay to.

Chris Bernard: Bury their own [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: To bury it, right? To have it. You and I don't know how expensive it is. [multiple speakers]

Chris Bernard: It's already dug up. [multiple speakers]

Bundles Murdock: Again and again as they do the street [off mic] it won't go away.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, totally. Absolutely.

Chris Bernard: Absolutely.

Bundles Murdock: [multiple speakers] think about it for the future other streets.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. And I don't you know, it's if that's going to be their same argument every time. Well, I'm not paying to do it, then we're going to have to figure out how to pay for it for them.

Chris Bernard: [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: I don't want well, I don't want it to be the town to pay for it. But if there's federal grants or state grants or VDOT or something, then we should we'll take a look at that.

Bundles Murdock: Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: But no, it's a great point. Yeah, absolutely. If they're going through the hassle and you're only talking another 10%, well come on, just get on board. But 10% is 10% so. Okay. No public hearing related matters, no presentation matters. So we're onto staff reports. Rhonda.

Rhonda North: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. For those who didn't see it, just a reminder, we're going to be holding a retirement reception for Officer Tim Tharpe on Tuesday, May the 17th, at 5:00 p.m. at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church Parish Hall.

Bridge Littleton: Anything else?

Rhonda North: The rest of it I'll give during my Town Hall Report.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, okay. Tina.

Tina Staples: All right. [off mic] so fast. Thank you. So you have my report. I did include a link to the E welcome packet so you can see what it looked like on the website. Because last time, I don't think I've had it in time for when I put the report together. I also added in some information on the funding for the Town Hall project just to give a visual of the amount that we are holding to date and how much has been expended so far. So that's on the last graph. In your report, but there is a link to it in that paragraph. So I also did something a little bit different, this time for the budget report. Instead of doing a total of all of them combined, we separated them out by funds. So you can see a total, just a general total in the second page of the report. But under each, under the general fund, you can see a total for just the general fund revenue and expenditures and then so on for each fund. And I did have one point to make that it's been probably a good year and a half since interest rates have moved at all in a good direction for investments and they are finally starting to do that. They took a nice jump on one of our investment funds, which was really good to see. There's still a lot of debate over where that's going to go. So I'm trying to continue to meet with the Virginia Investment Pool and VML to talk about liquidity and volatility in this market so. Are there any questions?

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Tina? Tina, I have one question. So on your page two.

Tina Staples: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: In the graph at the bottom, the graph says revenue 9.6 million. But the two bars above say, well, one is month to date, one's year to date, 5.6 million. So what's that difference? What's the \$4 million dollar difference?

Tina Staples: The 5.6 million is the year to date. Where are you seeing the other one? I'm sorry.

Bridge Littleton: Well, look below the two bar graphs. It says 9,681,000 is our revenues. [multiple speakers] Right below [multiple speakers].

Cindy Pearson: Here on the chart [multiple speakers].

Bridge Littleton: On the chart.

Tina Staples: Oh.

Bridge Littleton: Bottom half of the chart. I didn't understand what that meant.

Tina Staples: So that's the total budget.

Bridge Littleton: Our budget for revenues is 9.6 million?

Danny Davis: It includes CIP.

Tina Staples: It does include CIP. So do you see how. I'm sorry if that's not clear and it's hard to see on this, it's probably easier on the computer, but that's the revenues and the expenditure totals are the same. That's just your budget line. Your budget number is kind of a baseline, but if that's confusing, I can take it out.

Bridge Littleton: Well, I would say this, they don't balance with the graphs above. So you have 5.6 million, you have 818 or that's not. You have 5.6 million is the graph above, which is year totals. I get it right. That it's the year is not over. So a little bit more is coming in. But there's no way. I mean, if I'm John Q Public and I'm reading that and I'm going, So you're telling me that \$4 million dollars is going to come in the last two months of the year?

Bridge Littleton: Yeah right. I didn't realize it was the CIP.

Tina Staples: Yeah.

Bridge Littleton: So that you, I wouldn't, I don't think you want to [inaudible]. So you're talking the CIP is what we're going to borrow. Yeah. I don't count that as revenue. I mean I know on the books it's revenue, but it's not tax revenue. So either make this total revenues so that your bar graphs need to reflect the CIP or make it tax revenues and not reflect the CIP, but not one number of one and one number or the other.

Tina Staples: I think it's a valid point because that's the reason why we instead of totaling the budget all together, as I had before, we separated it out by fund because we didn't want it to appear confusing. So this is just that same total, but if giving the total might be a little misleading, then we can just leave it separated by fund if that's easier to understand I think for the public. [multiple speakers]

Bridge Littleton: I just think it's confusing. So I thought it was an error.

Tina Staples: Yeah.

Bridge Littleton: I mean, I know the number's wrong. I know our revenues from taxes are not \$9.5 million dollars. I thought it was just wrong.

Tina Staples: It's just [inaudible]

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, yeah. So. [off mic].

Tina Staples: Yes, for the year.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. So if you just want to be if this is about which either way you guys want to do it, that's fine. Break it out or keep it all together in one. But yeah, just the numbers need to add on the page.

Tina Staples: Okay.

Bridge Littleton: All right. Any other questions for Tina? Okay. Thank you. Who's next? [off mic].

Danny Davis: Ali. [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Ali. Yeah whoever Ed is? [multiple speakers]

Ali McIntyre: Ed is me, it's my code name. All right. So you guys have my report. Just wanted to go over a few highlights. As you may or may not have heard, we are at the recommendation of EDAC. We are doing a Middleburg Job Fair on May 11th at the Middleburg Community Center from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.. I did send out an email to all of the businesses last week, I believe, and I have already started getting interest for people that want to participate. Currently it's at 11:00. And then I'm partnering with the MBPA Loudoun Workforce Resource Center and Loudoun County Economic Development to help orchestrate this event. So people are excited about it. The majority of businesses do lie within the town of Middleburg, there are a few just on the outskirts, a little bit closer to Aldie, but yeah. So excited about that. Additionally, as you guys may remember, we did do a ton of Middleburg business survey and in my last report we only had 11%. To date we have 25% response rate. So we are looking to get that up to at least 30%. But in the next staff report, I will include high level with graphs and percentages and all that fun data for you guys to look at and review. And then I also included the events, but I did want to make a quick edit as the Middleburg Spring Races are indeed not Saturday. They are on a Saturday, but they are next Saturday. So I was informed a couple of times by a couple of people and yeah. [laughter] So traditionally they are the third Saturday in my defense. But yes, so now I know and I will be there. And any questions?

Cindy Pearson: Could I add to your calendar the Arbor Day celebration?

Bridge Littleton: Oh, yeah.

Cindy Pearson: On the 30th at 9:00 a.m. at the Pink Box.

Ali McIntyre: Oh, yes. I'm so sorry. I thought I had that on there. [multiple speakers]

Chris Bernard: It's [off mic] sprinkling of the Arbor Day. [multiple speakers]

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, April 30th.

Ali McIntyre: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, Ali I got quite a number of posts that Spring Races are wrong. It's not this Saturday. It's next Saturday.

Ali McIntyre: Oh, yeah. Lots of emojis. Yeah, but you know what? I appreciated the feedback and I quickly [multiple speakers].

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, they're reading. [multiple speakers] Yeah.

Ali McIntyre: Yeah, I know our engagement will be a little spiked next month, so that'll be great.

Bridge Littleton: So, Ali, you know, as we were talking before about having metrics, performance metrics of what do these things mean, that would probably be an example where increased engagement was a bad thing.

Ali McIntyre: You're correct, Mr. Mayor. [laughter] [multiple speakers] [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Okay. P. T. Barnum.

Chris Bernard: [off mic] Noticed.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, God. Okay. Who are you able to go to the Job Fair on the 11th. Okay, I will be in Colorado. So cool. Any other questions for Ali? Going once, going twice. All right. Thanks, Ali. All right. Next item is. Oh, here he is, dancing Will Moore.

Will Moore: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, Members of Council. The only thing I have to add to my report is just an update that Salamanders Development partner just received their final approvals from the county to begin construction, so I'm working with them on the final little missing piece for their bonding. But we can expect to see their construction beginning in earnest probably within a week or two. So a lot more construction, traffic and everything that goes along with that. Otherwise, nothing to add to my report but happy to answer any questions.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Will? Once, twice, three times a lady? Bud.

Bud Jacobs: We're talking about the comprehensive plan amendment later, right?

Bridge Littleton: Yes, sir.

Bud Jacobs: Okay.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. Thanks Will. AJ. In three bullets or less literally. [laughter]

AJ Panebianco: Let me get the one out of my pocket. [multiple speakers] Drug take-back is April 30th as well. Cleanup starts at 8:00 a.m. and drug take-back starts at.

Bridge Littleton: Woah. In the morning?

AJ Panebianco: We'll come by your house, and wake you up.

Bridge Littleton: Okay.

AJ Panebianco: And drug take-back starts at 10 as that ends. So any drugs found while you're cleaning, we can throw them away. Construction traffic has been manageable, but is picking up as Will was just saying they're preparing very quickly for construction to begin at Salamander? They're having some pretty heavy equipment. We helped a couple of vehicles come in there, one today. And I think one of the other day. They did not hit our new bollard. And just one note of thanks to the Biz Buzz and Ali and Punkin for setting up the acknowledgment of Sean ringing the bell and Timmy and his fight as well. Because we were shocked this year when we had two of our members get one form of cancer or another. So really touching. Sean was moved and so was Timmy because Timmy was completely in the dark. And sadly, we may have to give Sean a harder test when we hire because he's supposed to be the investigator and did not discover that this was about him. [laughter] He kept saying, is this what every Biz Buzz is like? All the guys come? Yeah, but no, it was it was really good. And then Sean was moved and he appreciated everything that council as a whole did. But also as what Chris and his wife did as well, really meant a lot to them. And last but not least, we are working hard on our hire process and we're making some progress. So we may have something coming up.

Chris Bernard: Excellent.

AJ Panebianco: Cool.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions?

J. Kevin Daly: One question are you going to [inaudible] Bermuda shorts for the Summertime with the Police Department?

AJ Panebianco: You do not want to see me in Bermuda shorts.

Bridge Littleton: Kevin, be careful what you ask for. We don't want to scare people out of town. Okay, Martin.

Martin Crim: Thank you, Mayor. You have my report. I stand ready to answer any questions.

Bridge Littleton: Well, you're not really standing, but.

Martin Crim: Metaphorically.

Chris Bernard: You have to pay him extra to stand. [off mic]

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I just just a question. I think, Danny and you have been talking about the electric vehicle charging station contract. I don't know if there's anything new on that.

Martin Crim: So I just got the revisions from Blink. I've had my legal assistant on a comparison between the two documents, so I'm going to look at that shortly.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Thanks, Martin.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody else? All right. On to the Town Hall project. Rhonda, back to you.

Rhonda North: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So we announced earlier in the month about the sewer main work that was being done in Marshall Street, and we anticipated closures through the 15th. First week we had bad weather, of course, so the dates have been revised. We expect that work to continue through the end of the month, off and on. The rough end plumbing is underway on the town hall job site and we do expect the footers to be poured in about two weeks and then we will be moving on to the foundation. The Web camera is operational now. So if anybody wants to go to our town website, to the town hall project page, they'll be able to see the web camera. Those photos are updated at five minute intervals. And the last thing is, as you know, we worked to develop a new Town Flag that will fly at the new town office, and we received it this week.

Bridge Littleton: Lovely. [off mic] [applause]

J. Kevin Daly: Looks great.

Rhonda North: That's all I have to report.

Bridge Littleton: Excellent. Okay. Any other reports from committees, Peter?

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Actually, I do have a little

Cindy Pearson: Show and Tell.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Show to tell. Does anyone know what this is?

Chris Bernard: It's a badge.

J. Kevin Daly: It's a green bag.

Bridge Littleton: It's a coffee filter. [laughter] [multiple speakers]

Peter Leonard-Morgan: So what kind of coffee maker you got?

Bridge Littleton: At Starbucks?

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I think most of us are aware that on July the first, a disposable plastic bag tax comes into effect, a five cent tax in Loudoun County, which means Middleburg. And the only retail outlet that's affected by this is our Safeway. And Safeway is a grocery store and a drugstore. Not a convenience store.

Chris Bernard: What about the ABC store?

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Nope, not included. So the Middleburg Sustainability Committee would very much like to is going to move on with a project to order 1500 of these, but with the town's logo on it to give to town's residents so that when it comes to the 1st of July and they walk in and they have to pay a 5 cent tax for each plastic bag, they'll have three of these each and can get used to using the bags. [off mic]. Three. Three per household.

J. Kevin Daly: [applause] Bravo.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: And I wouldn't want to just mention that we've got that in the budget of the Sustainability Committee. So unless there's are any complaints we're going to proceed. Thank you very much.

Bridge Littleton: Well, if you're looking for complaints, I'm sure we can find some.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: From you, Mr. Mayor? No never. [off mic]

Bud Jacobs: The Sustainability Committee has a budget? [laughter]

Bridge Littleton: I never saw it.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Well it's part of the overall budget.

Bridge Littleton: I think we used most of it.

Chris Bernard: [multiple speakers] had a budget. I don't know the Sustainability Committee has a budget.

Bridge Littleton: They spent all their money on rebranding.

Chris Bernard: That's right. [laughter]

Bridge Littleton: Okay. Any other input? All right. Consent agenda. Would anybody like anything removed from the consent agenda? Someone going to make a motion.

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

J. Kevin Daly: Second.

Bridge Littleton: Any discussion? All's in favor say aye.

All of Council: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Opposed? Abstentions? Okay, next item is action item council approval of the Strategic Initiatives. Oh boy. Where's the press when you need it? Okay Danny.

Danny Davis: Thank you, Mr. Mayor and Council Members. As you all were there and know, we met last week on Monday to discuss Strategic Initiatives for yeah, for the town for the upcoming year. And as part of that updated specifically the action plan and initiatives your top ten or excuse me for this year top seven goals for 2022. That's provided in the packet there. Just one clarification in the meeting, I had inadvertently left one off and that was related to exploring strategies and options for attainable housing. And so that is added in here. And Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan and then Councilmember Daly agreed to serve on that. So where I do have a couple of question marks on that, we would fill in Councilmember Daly's name on that page. Other than that, we are working as staff to put together action plans and steps and schedules for each of these so that we can bring that to you and we can have timelines and keep ourselves accountable, but also keep you updated on our status for these. I know some of you are working on various ones of these already as we're moving forward. Happy to answer any questions, but right now we'd appreciate if council would endorse the strategies that you agreed upon at that council meeting and then we will continue moving forward.

Bridge Littleton: So as I understand, Danny, you want us to approve the strategies and action plans you haven't written yet?

Danny Davis: You're only.

Bridge Littleton: [multiple speakers] I was kidding.

Danny Davis: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Totally kidding.

Bridge Littleton: So anybody have any questions, feedback or input for? Bud.

Bud Jacobs: I have a complaint. I think I must have been dozing at the Strategic Planning Session.

J. Kevin Daly: That's hard to believe.

Bridge Littleton: We noticed.

Bud Jacobs: Nobody woke me up and I find that I've been tagged with responsibility for several more of these than in our previous plan. [laughter] I don't like that. [multiple speakers]

J. Kevin Daly: The rest of us [inaudible] we saw you raise your hand.

Bridge Littleton: Well, actually, was it raising your hand? It was just remaining silent. And when you're asleep, that's remaining silent.

Bridge Littleton: Silence is [multiple speakers].

Bud Jacobs: I got it. Okay. [laughter] And the other thing Danny is a minor quibble on the vision statement.

Danny Davis: Yes, sir?

Bud Jacobs: Could I ask that we change in order to just so. We say, embracing purposeful changes in order that Middleburg's, it's jarring. Can't we just say purposeful change so that Middleburg's heritage and cultural traditions.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: It's so English the way it's written.

Bud Jacobs: Did you put that in there?

Chris Bernard: They were hoping to make it like one of those ridiculous resolutions.

Bud Jacobs: It's a minor quibble, but I read it again. This is on my nightstand, as you know. [laughter] And I found it jarring.

Danny Davis: You could not sleep because it was in there. I would actually defer to your colleagues. It is simply a wording issue. But if council is okay with that, we can easily change that.

Bridge Littleton: So here's the way this will go down. We're going to have to vote on it because it was what we put in our vision three years ago or whatever. And I think this is all coming down to it's basically, a, you know, do we like Bud or not vote?

Bud Jacobs: Well. [laughter]

Bridge Littleton: I mean, hey, Bud I'm fine with it.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: If it makes Bud sleep at night, I'm happy. [multiple speakers]

Bridge Littleton: Less is always more.

J. Kevin Daly: Well, the question is it less expensive? There's two letters in so and then you have in order. Do we save money by dropping all those other letters?

Bridge Littleton: This is about fiscal responsibility too. Cindy is that good with you?

Cindy Pearson: It's good with me.

Bridge Littleton: [multiple speakers] That works. Danny go have everything reprinted. [laughter]

Chris Bernard: [multiple speakers] Got to change the flag now.

Bridge Littleton: All right. Would anybody like to read the draft motion?

Chris Bernard: Bud has to do it now.

Bud Jacobs: Okay, I've got to find it. Hang on. [off mic] Happy to read. [off mic] Get strategic initiatives. [multiple speakers] First attachment okay. I move that the Town Council approve the Strategic Plan for 2022 and the updated strategic priorities, objectives and initiatives as amended at the Strategic Planning Retreat.

J. Kevin Daly: Second.

Bridge Littleton: Any discussion? All's in favor say aye.

All of Council: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. Next item is General Fund Budget update for 2023.

Danny Davis: Thank you, Mr. Mayor and Council Members. We've discussed the budget a few times. Just a brief recap at the Special March 31st Town Council meeting. The Town Council did approve a reduction in the real property tax rate to 13.69 cents per \$100 dollars of assessed value. So we have adjusted that revenue line item in the FY 23 proposed budget. There have been no other changes in the budget since your last discussion. We will be advertising a public hearing on the budget for May 12th and that advertisement will go in the paper in two weeks. Briefly to the question you had earlier for Ms. Staples about the overall budget number. This year, the budget number is going to look extremely large because of the additional debt or the additional debt financing, as well as expenditures on the town hall project that will be occurring in fiscal 23. That, combined with the Health Center Fund, puts all funds together, both operating and CIP, at approximately \$16.7 million dollars for fiscal 23. So just a heads up for that when the number looks really big, it's combined. And it's not that you know all those are dollars being you know general fund revenue dollars being expended that primarily is going to the town hall project. Other than that, the council had previously suggested continuing to put a bit of a wait and see approach on the budget specifically as it relates to inflation, cost pressures, challenges related to other things like that. As you've I'm sure saw earlier this week, the inflationary number has not gotten better. It's actually gotten worse and specifically has gotten worse in the key areas that hit personal expenditures hard, which are gasoline, energy costs and food costs. So we're continuing to watch that. We will see if that impacts our budget. In the general fund those line items specifically as an operational amount are fairly minimal in terms of electricity, some gas costs here and there, nothing significant that would severely swing the budget line item. Of course, the big number there is personnel and salaries where we have at this point proposed a 5% cost of living increase to accommodate for what many around us are doing in their personnel costs, but also for the costs of inflation around us. So I'm happy to answer other questions that may have come up as you've reviewed through this or we can essentially, if you'd like, put this on hold until we have the public hearing in May? Or if there are other specific topics or issues we'd like to discuss either at the next council meeting or even a special meeting? You know happy to work through that.

Bridge Littleton: Does anybody have any questions for Danny on the tax rate or on the updated budget submission? No. I mean, I think it was all pretty self-explanatory. Anybody see any need to have a special meeting to go through the details? Okay.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I think we've been through a lot in great detail, so I don't. Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Oh yeah. So Danny, I would say this, when we get to a final set of documentation, again, for the public's perspective, I would really like to see two graphs. One, that is the total budget, which is exactly what we're going to approve. That's going to be from an accounting perspective. You know, the books have got to balance and all that kind of stuff. I totally understand that. But also taking out what we're borrowing in terms of the new town hall project and what we're spending on the new town hall project so that people can also look at outside the town hall project, you know, in if we weren't doing the town hall, how are we doing revenue wise? How are we doing expenses wise? You know, are we running a sound government?

Danny Davis: Sure.

Bridge Littleton: And again, that's just you know, we all are in the weeds. But, you know, for the regular folks, they want to be able to look at and say, oh, you're bringing in five, you're spending four. Okay, you're doing a good job or you're not or whatever.

Danny Davis: Sure.

Bridge Littleton: Unless anybody's got an issue with that? Okay. What's that?

Bud Jacobs: It's a good idea.

Bridge Littleton: Oh okay. Wait you said what?

Bud Jacobs: I said, Mr. Mayor, I said you had a good idea. [laughter] [multiple speakers]

Bridge Littleton: Oh, it's recorded. Trust me, I wrote it down too.

Bridge Littleton: The date and time is no. Okay, next item, Mr. Moore. Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Short Term Rentals. Let the games begin.

Will Moore: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I would like to also remind Mr. Jacobs that the vision statement appears prominently on the first page of the introduction of the Comprehensive Plan, which I.

Bud Jacobs: Change it.

Will Moore: [multiple speakers] distressed to now hear that it has been replaced. That used to be his nightstand. [laughter] [off mic]

Cindy Pearson: We're so glad you're here Bud. [off mic]

Will Moore: So Council expressed some concerns in the fall of last year about the need to look or relook at our short term rental requirements, our policies the ordinance that governs it, partially knowing that we have pending residential development that is about to kick off where it is anticipated that short term rentals will be part of that development. But also, just to look a little more closely at our regulations overall, we adopted those regulations more than five years ago, and to date we've had no applications for it. And that was a topic of conversation among the commission as they began work on this at your direction is are we may be addressing something, looking for a solution to a problem that doesn't exist? But I think they quickly decided that, that was not the case and that this was an endeavor that they really needed to dig into. And they did. So when we first started working staff and the commission in tandem on this, we were trying to do it kind of in one fell swoop with a comprehensive plan amendment and a zoning text amendment together. But we realized that we needed to focus at first on the comprehensive plan amendment before we got into the details of that. So over the months, the Commission came to that decision. They had they were engaged in conversations with Mr. Devadas from Salamander and with the Mayor who came and addressed them as well in January. The result is what you have here. It's not an extensive amendment to the plan. It basically adds one small section that talks about the potential impacts that transient uses could have and that that we would need to look closely at those. What I highlighted on page two of my report, which I think is the main thing that came out of their discussions, and that is kind of that this amendment would leave the door open for would be potentially treating short term rentals differently by neighborhood. And in particular with older established neighborhoods, which is generally our R-2 district, which is already identified in our zoning ordinance as a district that is specifically for older established neighborhoods. It's most of Ridgeview as well as the north side of Stonewall Avenue, which is a different subdivision technically, but it's the Chinn Lane neighborhood and it's Lincoln Road essentially are our R-2 neighborhoods and that those neighborhoods might be impacted differently by higher frequency uses of a transient nature then maybe other neighborhoods where maybe in the R-1 district where lots are much larger and there's greater spacing, as well as the pending new development, which includes R-1 and R-3, where there may be less of a shock because these are all new homes coming in essentially at the same time and where it's expected that there will be at least some frequency of the transient use. So again, this is only the first step. But just I thought it was very important that council understand that, that's really the takeaway from this, is that what if you endorse and adopt this amendment, what will likely come back to you in the coming months will be some sort of amendment that treats those different neighborhoods in different manners. As far as how frequently the use could occur, potentially, if there are spacing requirements, they might be greater spacing requirements in the R-2 district, for example, might be new spacing requirements or much smaller spacing requirements, than say, in the other neighborhoods. So happy to answer any questions. And of course, Mr. Jacobs was involved in this as well. He could certainly chime in with anything additional.

Bridge Littleton: So I guess first, Bud, your input through this whole process and then we'll go to questions.

Bud Jacobs: Well, Will summarized it really well. I think the main takeaway for your consideration is that the draft language provides the commission with a foundation or a basis upon which to proceed in whatever direction we're going to go and with whatever recommendations we're going to bring back to you for your consideration. And it's pretty

standard stuff, I think. I don't think there's too much controversy in it, which is not to say that we did not have some fairly complex discussions about it.

Bridge Littleton: Robust.

Bud Jacobs: Robust discussion. Yeah.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody have any questions for Bud or for Will? Yeah, go ahead.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: A comment, really. Initially when I read this, I felt that it wasn't sort of strong enough. But then I realize from what you said, Will, that really this is just a guiding document to help allow us to look at the actual ordinance and work on that. So it's nuanced. I would say. So thank you for that.

Bridge Littleton: Martin.

Martin Crim: If I could just contribute something? Thank you. So the way this would work is if somebody came in for a conditional use permit application for a short term rental, we would look at the language in the Comprehensive Plan and evaluate that application on the basis of the principles laid out in the Comprehensive Plan, so that's where the primary functionality of this language would occur.

Bridge Littleton: So well, first, I just want to say, I mean, I want to thank Will and the Planning Commission and Bud as well for taking this to heart and really working on it. And I get it. This is a multistep process. It's the first big step. The next step is then what do we look at in zoning and stuff like that? But I'll tell you, you know, I don't know. Did anybody watch that 60 Minutes or a little snippet they had about three or four weeks ago on affordable housing in the US? And one of the things that's really driving the problem. I've got the link I meant to send it to everybody before the meeting tonight and say, Hey, take a while, it's only 60 minutes. It's like, you know, each one's 15 minutes. It was. Did you see it?

Will Moore: I did not.

Bridge Littleton: It was fantastic. I mean, if there's anything that's sort of highlighting one of the issues and what they. One of the things, and Rebecca, is nodding her head. One of the things they pointed out was that you now have all these investment groups that are basically corporate groups going out and buying all these houses because the Airbnb and VRBO and all these now create these ready-made platforms for them to turn them into overnight being, you know, quasi B&Bs and they're making a killing. Well, the reverse impact now is it's reducing housing stock for people to actually live. So everything else is it's driving the price up. You know, and to Will's point, and I guess the commission's question at the very beginning of this whole process was, well, we haven't had any applications. It's like, well, yeah, but now we're at the front end of this type of with Salamander, the new 49 homes going in and every one of those wanting to be rentals. You know, let's get ahead of the wave before that starts to happen. And, you know, we already see people buying some places in Middleburg as second homes. Right. Not primary secondary homes and as investment property and all that's fine. But, you know, we want town to be maintained as a place that's 75% of it is people who live here. And it's not a weekend. It's not a Vail or not Vail, which one am I thinking of?

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Aspen.

Bridge Littleton: Aspen, you know, who was I talking to at Biz Buzz, the guy with you were talking to? With white hair and [off mic] blue eyes? [laughter]

Bud Jacobs: Narrows it down.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, no, no. He's a Salamander Employee. He said.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Doug.

Bridge Littleton: Doug Camp. And he was saying that their property in Florida, I think it's called the Henderson. They had the Aspen Group there and there was a guy there who was in local government at Aspen and said, you know, God, we did this thing 30 years ago because of everybody buying vacation houses, requiring that if it was a vacation house, you had to rent it out for a certain amount of time every year because otherwise it was just, you know, wealthy people are buying these homes and then there was no place for people to stay year round. And it was so the reaction was force everybody who has a vacation home to rent it out for at least like a third of the year. Well, then the flip side's happened now all these companies have gone in and bought them as investment properties and exploded the price and the value on them. And now no one can actually live there. So it was really, you know, on this 60 minutes thing, it was really kind of a wow, this is and you know, from a national perspective, what are we doing? You know, I mean, this is if 60 Minutes is reporting on, it is becoming a problem. So, yeah, no, thank yeah. Thank you guys for really taking the lead on this. So what's next, Will, on this? We need to have a public hearing.

Will Moore: Correct? So that's advertised for your April 28 meeting, at which time you could choose to adopt this. And once it's adopted, the Commission will begin work next month on a first draft of the text amendment.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. Anybody have any concerns with after the public hearing going ahead and having the vote? I mean, unless there's huge, you know, citizen outrage or whatever, but.

Chris Bernard: [off mic] Outrage.

Bridge Littleton: Right. Yeah. Okay. Well, we'll plan on that then. All right. Awesome. Any other questions for Will? Thank you, Will. Any other information items? I'm looking. I'm looking. Danny, Martin, Rhonda, Tina, AJ, Ali? All right.

Bud Jacobs: Oh, jeez.

Bridge Littleton: Going once. Going twice. Meeting adjourned.

Bud Jacobs: Yay. Well done.