



MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 12, 2019



PENDING APPROVAL

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

STAFF: Danny Davis, Town Administrator
Martin Crim, Town Attorney
Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk
William M. Moore, Deputy Town Administrator
A.J. Panebianco, Chief of Police
Jamie Gaucher, Business & Economic Development Director
Estee Laclare, Planning & Project Associate

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held their regular monthly meeting, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2019 in the Town Hall Council Chambers located at 10 W. Marshall Street. Emmett Leachman, who was serving as Mayor for the Day, led Council and those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Town Branding Logo

Mayor Littleton read aloud the Information Sheet related to the Town's branding project and noted that it would be posted on the Town's website. The Information Sheet explained that the Town has been working with a branding and graphic design firm to develop a new marketing logo and brand for the Town. It further explained that this logo would not replace the official seal, but rather would complement it by providing a logo and materials to attract more visitors and business to the Town. The Information Sheet provided a history of the project and identified the next steps, which were for the Council to approve the final concept in January or February of 2020, after which a comprehensive roll-out of the marketing project would occur.

Mayor Littleton encouraged the public to reach out with any questions they may have. He opined that it was wonderful when the citizenry reached out to comment on a Town project and noted that this made the Town's work better. Mr. Littleton reminded the public of the need to be respectful, professional and to speak to the subject at hand; and, noted that some of the comments that were posted on social media about this project attacked the staff and members of the Council. He advised that this was not in keeping with Middleburg's character and asked that the community keep their comments at a professional level.

Public Comment

Martha Cotter, President of Middleburg FISH, appeared before the Council in support of their application for Health Center grant funds. She noted the poverty that existed in the community and reported that Middleburg FISH had been providing assistance in the form of payment of rent and utilities and the purchase of medication for fifty years. Ms. Cotter advised that they were a volunteer organization that operated through the financial support of donors and reported that last year, Middleburg FISH helped over four hundred neighbors in the Middleburg area. She expressed appreciation for the Town's past support and requested their continued support this year.

Chase Turner, 106 N. Jay Street, advised Council that she was a student at Foxcroft School, where she was a competitive shooter. She further advised that she was starting a youth action team in Middleburg. Miss Turner expressed concern that her sport was under attack by legislation that would be proposed in the upcoming session of the Virginia General Assembly and asked that the Council support becoming a Second Amendment Sanctuary City. She asked that the Council not use any Town resources to enforce unconstitutional gun laws in Virginia. Miss Turner reported that seventy-two percent (72%) of Virginia's localities have become sanctuary cities. She presented a summary of her proposal and a sample resolution to the Council for their consideration.

Bob Dale, Executive Director of the Windy Hill Foundation, appeared before Council to express appreciation for the Health Center Advisory Board's recommendation that the Foundation be awarded grant funding. He asked for the Council's support as well.

Public Hearing & Action Item

Town Charter Amendments

Town Administrator Davis explained that the purpose of the public hearing was to consider potential charter amendments that were proposed by the Council that would clarify the Mayor and Town Administrator's roles, would change the name of the Town Administrator position and would change the appointment authority of some of the Town's employees. He noted that the document contained a typo in that the header for Section 3.4 was repeated twice and advised that this would be corrected.

Town Administrator Davis opined that the State Code was unclear about when the certified meeting minutes associated with the public hearing needed to be presented to the General Assembly. He noted that the minutes could not be certified until approved. Mr. Davis suggested the Council consider holding a special meeting next week, once the draft minutes were available, so they could be submitted with the charter amendment.

No one else spoke and the public hearing was closed.

Vice Mayor Kirk moved, seconded by Councilmember Miller, that the Town Council of Middleburg approve the proposed amendments to the Town Charter and direct staff to proceed with forwarding these amendments to the Town's state delegation for introduction as legislation in the 2020 General Assembly session.

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

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

Action Items (non-public hearing related)

Health Center Fund Donations

Town Administrator Davis reported that the Health Center Advisory Board (HCAB) met twice to review the applications for grant funding submitted by non-profit organizations who provided services to Middleburg residents,

which totaled \$76,000. He reminded Council that the FY '20 Budget contained \$20,000 in the General Fund for these purposes, with any additional funding coming from the Health Center Fund. Mr. Davis reported that the HCAB recommended the Middleburg Community Charter School and the Middleburg Museum Foundation's funding requests be submitted to the Council separately and that the Council award \$42,500 in grant funds to various organizations. He explained that those organizations who were recommended to receive funding consisted of those that provided support to underprivileged individuals. Mr. Davis noted that the Town could not provide funding to secular organizations and advised while the Middleburg Backpack Buddies program was operated through a church, the grant would run through Backpack Buddies of Loudoun County, which was a 501(C)(3) organization, who would then funnel the funding to Middleburg.

Vice Mayor Kirk, Chair of the HCAB, reported that the Committee recommended the grant to fund mulching at the Middleburg Community Center be removed from the donation list for now so the Committee could look at the request further. She noted that the mulching would not occur until the spring; therefore, there was time to consider it further.

The Council held some discussion of the recommended grant awards.

Councilmember Leonard-Morgan moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that the Town Council of Middleburg adopt the recommendation of the Health Center Advisory Board to fund the organizations in the amounts shown in Attachment 1, minus the Middleburg Community Center recommendation which will be carried forward for a future date, to the staff report dated December 12, 2019.

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

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

Mayor Littleton thanked Mayor for the Day Leachman for participating in the meeting. He presented him with a Middleburg paper weight for his service.

Request for Donation – Middleburg Community Charter School

Stephen Robinson, Principal of the Middleburg Community Charter School, advised Council that the school received a challenge grant in the amount of \$200,000. He explained that it was a matching grant and advised that the school had until December 31st to raise the match. Mr. Robinson reminded Council that the charter school was unique in that while the building was owned by and the teachers employed by the Loudoun County Public School System, the school was not operated by them. He noted that parts of the building were approximately one hundred years old and in need of repair and updating. Mr. Robinson presented information to the Council regarding the future, heritage and mission of the school, as well as facts about it. He asked that the Council approve a \$20,000 donation to be used toward the grant match. He reported that he created both a short- and a long-term plan for the building's improvement.

Councilmember Daly moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Kirk, that the Town Council of Middleburg approve a contribution of \$20,000 to the Middleburg Community Charter School to support their capital needs and as part of their challenge grant. Councilmember Daly further moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Kirk, that the Town Council authorize a budget amendment to move funds from Contingency to the Charitable Contributions line item in the Administration budget.

Council inquired as to how much money had been raised thus far toward the \$200,000 match. They questioned what would happen if the charter school did not reach \$200,000.

Mr. Robinson reported that they had raised \$30-35,000 to date. He noted that the scholars worked over the weekend and raised \$800 all on their own. Mr. Robinson advised that the school would receive the grant match based upon whatever amount they raised, up to \$200,000.

The Council held considerable discussion on what was the right amount of money the Town should donate, as well as on the needs of the school. They noted that this was a unique situation in that whatever they provided would be matched dollar for dollar. The Council noted the importance of the charter school to the community. They agreed to provide a \$50,000 donation; however, they advised that if the money was not spent within three years, which was the deadline for spending the grant money, the unused portion of the Town's donation must be returned.

Councilmember Bernard offered a friendly amendment to the motion to increase the donation to \$50,000 with the condition that if the funds were not expended within the three-year time period for the matching grant, the money would be returned to the Town. Councilmember Daly and Vice Mayor Kirk agreed to accept the friendly amendment to their motion.

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie) (on motion as amended)

Staff Reports

Stuart Will, of IES, reported that the pump was installed at Well L; water samples were collected; and, assuming they were accepted, the well would be brought back on line later this week. He advised that once that occurred, he could return to working on the Well 4 Water Treatment Plant.

Business & Economic Development Director Gaucher reported that Camoin Associates conducted interviews with eleven people earlier in the week and attended the Biz Buzz to gather information for the development of the Town's long-term economic development plan. He further reported that he and the Town Administrator were working with Go Green and the Cultural & Community Events Committee to improve the Farmer's Market. Mr. Gaucher advised that Visit Loudoun provided him with social and digital marketing statistics that were specific to Middleburg and noted that one example was that there were over 645,000 impressions over a three-month period for Girlfriends' Getaways. He advised that these statistics would be compared to the Town's website statistics to determine what the Town could do better. Mr. Gaucher reported that there were several articles in magazines recently on Middleburg.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Business & Economic Development Director Gaucher reported that he was working with a Washington, DC based restaurant that wanted to purchase the former Southern States building in order to create their first non-DC based restaurant. He advised that this was the most promising lead at the moment for that building.

Town Clerk North reported that the committee that was drafting a Request For Proposals (RFP) for regional solid waste collection services met earlier in the week to review the latest version. She advised that the members were sending it to their respective town attorneys for their review prior to issuing the RFP and noted that they were being asked to forward their comments to her no later than December 31st. Ms. North reported that Town Attorney Crim was reviewing it on Middleburg's behalf. She advised that the goal was to issue the RFP in January if possible.

Mayor Littleton advised that he received a request from Mayor Fraser of Purcellville seeking Middleburg's sludge removal costs. He asked that the staff forward that information to him.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Clerk North reported that those members of Council who were required to complete their Conflicts of Interest Act (COIA) training by December 31st had done so.

Deputy Town Administrator Moore reported that progress was being made on addressing a dangerous structure on Federal Street and explained that building plans had been submitted. He opined that adopting the dangerous structures ordinance helped.

Deputy Town Administrator Moore recognized Estee Laclare, the Town's Planning & Project Associate, for her completion of the Certified Planning Commissioner's Training Program. He also recognized Tim Cole, the Town's Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor, who recently received the Resilience Award from the Middleburg Business & Professional Association for his work for the Town and at the Middleburg Community Center.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Deputy Town Administrator Moore confirmed that no progress had been made on the dangerous structure located on Jay Street. He advised that he was continuing to pursue it; however, it was difficult to deal with absentee landlords.

Mayor Littleton announced that Eric Combs, the Chair of the Middleburg Planning Commission, was going to be appointed to the Loudoun County Planning Commission by the Supervisor of the Ashburn District to represent his district. He noted that this spoke volumes as to the quality of the Town's Planning Commission.

Police Chief Panebianco reported that the Christmas in Middleburg parades went well. He advised that other than one minor traffic accident, there were few noticeable flaws that day. Chief Panebianco reminded Council that the parades continued to be tweaked each year to make them better. He estimated the total attendees for both parades combined to be 10,000. Chief Panebianco opined that the Christmas in Middleburg Committee sold over nine hundred (900) parking passes for the day.

Chief Panebianco reported that the Town was once again experiencing problems with vultures and advised that he was working with the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries to move them out of the area.

Mayor Littleton commended the Police Department, including the volunteer officers, on the great job they did in manning the Christmas in Middleburg events. Vice Mayor Kirk noted that the volunteer officers were personable and made the visitors feel welcome.

Chief Panebianco thanked Facilities & Maintenance Supervisor Cole for his assisting in installing and removing the no parking signs for the event.

Town Attorney Crim reported that he was reviewing the draft RFP for regional solid waste collection as previously reported by the Town Clerk. He expressed hope to have his comments to her by the end of the month.

Consent Agenda

- (a) Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 14, 2019 Regular Council Meeting; November 25, 2019 Special Council Meeting
- (b) Transfer of Funds from General Fund to Utility Fund

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

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

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

Information Items

Mayor Littleton thanked Jim Herbert, the Christmas in Middleburg Committee, the volunteers, the Police Officers and the Town Staff for putting on a fantastic Christmas in Middleburg event. He recognized Mark Metzger and the Middleburg businesses who contributed money for new lights for the Pink Box tree.

Closed Session – Appointment to Town Boards/Commissions/Committees; Disposition of Public Property; Property Acquisition

Councilmember Miller moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council go into closed session as authorized under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, for the following items: (a) For the discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for the appointment of specific public officers, appointees and employees of the public body as allowed under Subsection (A)(1) for the purpose of discussing annual appointments to various Town boards, commissions and committees; and (b) for the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of property or the disposition of public property, for the purpose of discussing (1) the disposition of the Asbury Church and (2) the acquisition of property for a Town Administration Building and for a Maintenance Shed, as allowed under Subsection (A)(3). Councilmember Miller further moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that the Council thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

(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 the members so did. He reminded those present for the closed session that any discussion that occurred within it should be treated as confidential.

Appointment of Town Boards, Commissions & Committees

Councilmember Leonard-Morgan moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council re-appoint Don Woodruff and Mimi Stein to the Middleburg Planning Commission for four-year terms, said terms to expire December 31, 2023. Councilmember Leonard-Morgan further moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council re-appoint Bill Turnure, Punkin Lee and Linda Wright to the Historic District Review Committee for three-year terms, said terms to expire December 31, 2022. Councilmember Leonard-Morgan further moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council reappoint Emily Miller, Jim Herbert, Reggie Cooper and Michelle Myers to two-year terms on the Cultural & Community Events Committee, said terms to expire December 31, 2021. Councilmember Leonard-Morgan further moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council reappoint Sid Abrams and Will Heron to two-year terms on the Middleburg Strategic Finance Committee, said terms to expire December 31, 2021. Councilmember Leonard-Morgan further moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council reappoint Prem Devadas, Sean Martin, Vicki Bendure, Dev Roszel, Duane Ellis and David Greenhill to the Economic Development Advisory Committee for one-year terms, said terms to expire December 31, 2020. Councilmember Leonard-Morgan further moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council recommend to the Judge of the Loudoun County Circuit Court the re-appointment of Catherine “Bundles” Murdock to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five-year term, said term to expire December 31, 2024.

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

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

There being no further business, Mayor Littleton declared the meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

APPROVED:

Trowbridge M. Littleton, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk

December 12, 2019 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)

Emmett Leachman: [off mic] We will now call the December meeting to order. We will now go. Join the Pledge of Allegiance.

Everyone: [Pledge of Allegiance]

Emmett Leachman: Roll call.

Chris Bernard: Chris Bernard.

Bud Jacobs: Bud Jacobs.

Philip Miller: Philip Miller.

Darlene Kirk: Darlene Kirk.

Emmett Leachman: Emmett Leachman.

Bridge Littleton: Bridge Littleton.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Peter Leonard Morgan.

Cindy Pearson: Cindy Pearson.

John Kevin Daly: John Kevin Daly.

Rhonda North: Rhonda North Town Clerk.

Martin Crim: Martin Crim town attorney.

Danny Davis: Danny Davis, town administrator.

Bridge Littleton: Ok. In a minute, we're gonna go to public comment. But before we go to public comment, there is one item and information, I guess an information item that we wanted to read. And it's in relation to a lot of town questions around the branding project and the marketing project that the towns were working on. We're gonna make this available on the Web site. But we did want to read it, you know, to the town and in the public setting first and then after that. And it will open up for public comment. So real quickly, I'll just read through this. Town logo and branding information sheet summary. The town of Middleburg has been working with a branding and graphic design firm to develop a new marketing logo and brand for the town. This logo will not replace the official seal, but will complement it by providing a logo and materials to attract more visitors and businesses to town. That's just the brief summary here. The background. The details for the background. The current town seal for the. The current town seal from Middleburg was developed in 1984 to reflect the history and tradition of the town and has been used since for all town business. Early in 2017, the town's economic development advisory committee, also known as EDAQ, comprised of nine town business owners, along with the Middleburg Futures Group, which was made up of members of the NBPA, EDAQ and Town Council provided input and a recommendation to the Town Council that embarking upon a robust and directed marketing initiative was needed and would support the town's business

community. At the time, the town had over a dozen vacant storefronts on Main Street alone and was still recovering from the recessionary trends. EDAQ recommended a branding effort that would lead to better marketing and attract both visitors and businesses. While at the same time creating an emotional draw for people to visit, Middleburg an experience its authentic community. Soon thereafter, the branding project became one of the town council's top twelve strategic initiatives. Since that time, the town council has substantially discussed the branding project at over 16 public council meetings to include several specific work sessions solely focused on the branding project. Public engagement and input. In April 2018, the council awarded a contract to native collaboration to develop a brand audit for Middleburg and create marketing collateral and promotional logo content. This process involved initial outreach to dozens of local business owners and residents over 20 social media influencers and target audience members from the surrounding region and to over fifteen hundred people in the D.C. region. Native's results reiterated that the need for the town to do a better job of marketing the town's history assets, retail, dining and shopping opportunities. The results also indicated two key themes that the town and stakeholders connected with aspirational equestrian and a modern fox draft logos were then market tested with approximately 30 local residences and business owners, as well as over 1000 people in the D.C. region. The aspirational equestrian was clearly preferred to the modern fox by those groups. This further emphasizes the input received from respondents to the Futures Group survey that strongly embodied horse and equestrian in their description of Middleburg's reputation and public appeal. And we actually have that if anybody wants to see it. It was a question what characteristics do you most identify with in Middleburg and Equestrian and Horse were were key elements. Design. After multiple reviews of the draft concept by native, the town council decided to move in a different direction for the graphic design stage. The town solicited proposals from local, regional and national firms and shortlisted six firms for interview. Out of that process, the town council issued a contract to read thinking a firm in Ashburn. Their team visited Middleburg multiple times prior to submitting the proposal and their team continued to visit Middleburg for inspiration and clarity during the design phase. Many innovations and concepts were presented for review, which led to the two final concepts for the council's consideration after discussion in public. The council decided from the referenced inputs above to go with the concept featuring a horse jumping over a stone wall. It is important to note that the concept is not final and is continuing to be developed. This is merely the initial direction the council provided key input on the design that will help the logo more clearly represent Middleburg's history and class. Cost. The town originally budgeted sixty five thousand dollars for the entire brand audit, which was the research, graphic design, content creation and implementation of the project. Approximately twenty six thousand dollars was expended in the contract with native, which gathered the community and customer input on Middleburg again, which I previously referenced the concept. The contract with read thinking is for \$40000. Of that amount only eight thousand dollars has been spent on the actual design of this draft logo. The remainder is allocated for a branding positioning style guide applications on various media such as print, web site and other materials, content creation, custom social media, graphics and more of the final and more once the final logo is selected. The town is also the recipient of a sixty thousand dollar grant from Loudoun County to use the new marketing materials to promote overnight stays in Middleburg. This may take the form of print and digital ads, along with other promotional materials to further spread the word about Middleburg. Application. The town is not replacing the town seal, featuring the Fox in any way and has never had any intention to do so. This marketing material will complement, not replace, our use of our seal and emblem. The goal of the new logo and brand is for tourism and economic development, marketing, wayfinding, digital and print media and other means of outreach to position Middleburg as the ideal place to shop. Visit open a business in escape from the city. It is also intended to be used widely by businesses and groups in the town who wish to create their own merchandise with the new logo. The next steps, the town council intends to review the final concepts once they're available, including typography, secondary markets at a meeting in a January February 2020 timeframe. After that time, the design team will continue with the next phase of the project to include a comprehensive rollout across multiple platforms. The public is welcome and encouraged to reach out to the town with any questions and also to provide any input. So as I said, that is what we're going to post on our town Web site and make available to anybody. One thing I just wanted to add is the vice mayor and I spoke earlier today. It is absolutely a wonderful thing when people reach out and provide input and comment and suggestions and help to the council. It makes our work better. It makes it something that we can all embrace. But I think we both I will take a leap and speak for council. Those comments and inputs always need to be respectful, professional and be about the subject at hand and not go into personal attacks or something like that. I've seen some recent things on social media where specific individuals in the town office and the town council have been specifically called out and attacked. And you know, whether it's a fox or a horse that's Middleburg's character, that type of stuff is certainly not Middleburg's character.

So, you know, honest, open, free discussion is exactly what we want, but we want to keep it at a very high and professional level. So like I said, from a council's perspective, that's where we are on this and we're going to make it available on our Web site through social media. Stuff like that. If anybody wants to continue reading this with that, Emmett, it's back to you to open the public comment.

Emmett Leachman: We will now open public comment. They get three minutes. They need to state your name, address. And do not expect the council to talk back to you. [laughing]

Bridge Littleton: It's great. So absolutely right. So if they want to come up and address the council this time and Emmett will hear you.

Martha Cotter: Good evening, everyone. My name is Martha Cotter. I live at 23500 Dover Road, Middleburg, and I am here to comment on our application to the health center grant request. I am the president of Middleburg Fish. I am also known as the big fish. [laughing] I took over from Nancy Minear, who was one of the founders of the organization. And at first I was hesitant to take on her title Big Fish, but I now embrace it anyway. We're blessed to live in such a beautiful part of our country. As we drive the roads and lanes, there are beautiful vistas in every direction and our lovely community. However, one element that is ever present but rarely visible is poverty in our wonderful landscapes. It is often just below the surface. Unfortunately, despite the strong economy, many in our community still continue to struggle. For nearly 50 years, Middleburg Fish has been providing help to our neighbors who are struggling. Fish is an all-volunteer organization. We help people with rent, utilities and medicine. Each day Monday through Friday, a fish operator answers calls from folks who are out of work and or who are in desperate need of financial assistance, thanks to the generous financial support we received from our donors. We are able to help these individuals when they need it most. We help them to keep their electricity and water from being turned off, help them make rent payments to avoid eviction and homelessness, and help pay for medications which they otherwise could not afford. Last year we helped over 400 of our neighbors and the need continues. As I said, fish is run by volunteers, so 100 percent of the money we raise goes directly to those in need. We are deeply grateful to the Health Center Advisory Board for your prior support of Fish, and we appreciate your consideration of our request this year. Thank you very much.

Emmett Leachman: tyranny Thank you. Any other?

Chase Turner: My name is Chase Turner and my address is 106 North Jay Street, Middleburg, Virginia. Okay, so I'm a junior at Foxcroft School, which is right down the road. And I've been born and raised in Middleburg ever since I was small, born and raised. And I like a little fun fact about me is I'm a competitive shooter. I shoot with my local Loudoun counties for shooting team and I shoot air rifle and air pistol with them. And I also shoot action through with regular guns. At the last competition I shot at I actually place Top Woman. I'm actually starting a youth action team in Middleburg and Loudoun County already has one. But since it's such a growing sport and appeals to all the youth, the waitlist is so long that it could fill multiple teams. So we're hoping to take from their waitlist. This is my chosen sport that I'm very passionate about. However, it is under attack. I am here to discuss the pending anti-Second Amendment legislation coming from Richmond, SB16, SB64 and others. These bills are going to make me a felon if I continue to compete in my chosen sport, turn law abiding citizens into felons for defending themselves from the real criminals and participating in shooting sports. And will deprive this generation and the next from being able to defend themselves. I'm asking the town council to defend the United States and Virginia Constitution, as you were to do, and protect its citizens from the coming from Richmond by becoming a Second Amendment sanctuary, Second Amendment sanctuary's believe every elected official must defend the Constitution or they violate their oath of office and every state official pledges to defend the Constitution. This is not. This includes not using any town resources to implement or enforce any unconstitutional gun laws coming from Richmond. As of yesterday, 68 out of ninety five of Virginia's counties have 10 cities in Virginia and nine towns of Virginia have all become Second Amendment sanctuaries. This is seventy two percent of the state. Only two counties have declined. If these laws coming from Richmond are implemented, they will affect all Middleburg residents, and businesses, including gun store, store owners, shooting clubs and the sport I love. These laws infringe upon the people's rights God given right to keep and bear arms. I am asking the board to please consider becoming a Second Amendment sanctuary. I also

have some behind's with a summary of my proposal and the resolution that has been ratified in the majority of Virginia. Thank you.

Emmett Leachman: Thank you. Any others?

Bob Dale: I am Bob Dale, executive director of the Windy Hill Foundation. I currently live in Winchester, although I feel like I live in Middleburg, but so. Yeah, right. So yeah, exactly. So, you know, like Martha, you know, representing Windy Hill. We're certainly appreciative of the recommendation from the Health Center Advisory Board. And, you know, ask the council for your support. I think everyone's familiar with what we do. So I'm not going to, you know, reiterate that. But I just want to be here in person and ask for your support. Thank you.

Emmett Leachman: Thank you. Any others? We will now close the public comment and open the public hearing and related action items. Ok. Danny, do you want to give an overview?

Danny Davis: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, and council members appreciate that this public hearing tonight is discussing potential charter amendments that were directed to be proposed and drafted by council. Your last meeting in November. Specifically, the purpose of the charter amendments are to clarify some of the language regarding the mayor, the town administrator's position and title name, as well as appointment authority for some of the employees or officers of the town. We have drafted this language, had it reviewed by Mr. Crim the mayor, full time mayor and vice mayor. And I worked on this draft language together and trying to accomplish the council's direction there. I will note one slight typo on page C4 of the charter section 3.4. The header is repeated twice, 3.4, 3.4. So we'll just fix the numbering in the final version there. But happy to answer any questions about the proposed amendments. And then it is a public hearing. So we would solicit any input from the public on that. I would also note that by state statute it's a little unclear about when we forward this to the General Assembly. It says to include certified minutes of the town council. But you cannot certify your minutes until you go to have another meeting after this meeting. So if at your pleasure. But we would recommend perhaps holding a very quick special meeting in a week or two. Once the minutes are complete and you can take a vote, certify it, and then we're complete. That is the benefit of you all living within five minutes of town hall and not being a county seat in a large county. So we can talk about that later.

Emmett Leachman: I will now open the public hearing. Would anyone like to speak? I will now close the public hearing. Any discussion from council?

Darlene Kirk: I'll be glad to make a motion. I move that the Town Council of Middleburg approve the proposed amendments to the town charter and direct staff to proceed with forwarding these amendments to the town state delegation for introduction as legislation in the 2020 General Assembly session.

Philip Miller: Second.

Emmett Leachman: Any further discussion?

Cindy Pearson: Do we need to add to that motion with the corrections as noted? Or is it OK?

Danny Davis: I think it is I mean, that was part of your discussion and it is a minor administrative detail.

Emmett Leachman: We will now have a roll call vote.

Chris Bernard: Chris Bernard. Aye.

Bud Jacobs: Bud Jacobs aye.

Philip Miller: Philip Miller aye.

Darlene Kirk: Darlene Kirk aye.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Peter Leonard Morgan aye.

Cindy Pearson: Cindy Pearson aye.

John Kevin Daly: John Kevin Daly aye.

Emmett Leachman: We'll now open the action items. The first one is the health care fund donations. Danny, you want to give us an overview?

Danny Davis: Absolutely happy to. Thank you. That's why I'm here. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. And council members, the Health Center Advisory Board did meet twice over the past couple of months to review requests from non-profit charitable organizations within and around the town who provide these services to town residents and those around Middleburg. As a reminder, the council did put twenty thousand dollars into the general fund towards this with the expectation that the remainder of the funding for this fiscal year would come out of the Health Center Fund and then eventually would come from the nonprofit that the town is setting up and we'll distribute the funds into. We received a request for seventy six thousand dollars. All told, when looking at all of the requests together and there were a few discussions about the requests. And then a review of how to bring it down closer to the level that the town in the Health Center Advisory Board had funded in prior years. Specifically a recommendation about the charter school that they approached the town directly outside of this fund, which is the next item on the agenda. Similar recommendation as well for the Middleburg Museum. If they're seeking after potentially capital funding or otherwise that they come to the town separate from the health center funds as proposed, you'll see the recommendations in your packet here from the Health Center Advisory Board. The total amount is forty two thousand five hundred dollars in support. Again, a lot of the focus of this was going to organizations that provide support and services to the underprivileged, the needy, to the disabled and the such. I will just very quickly mention. It's a kind of behind the scenes issue, but for the health center advisory board members who are part of this backpack buddies. Technically isn't its own organization and was being funded kind of through passed through the church, which gets a little challenging in terms of the town being able to give money directly to a sectarian organization. So they have worked with the backpack buddies of Loudoun County, where the funds can be sent to the overall kind of county organization and then sent to the group that actually does the work here in Middleburg. So I think that satisfies the need of being able to pass send it to a 5A1C3 organization. So one did pass that information along to you as well. Happy to answer any questions about the recommendations. And of course, we have the vice mayor Kirk and Councilmember Miller, who are on that advisory board.

Darlene Kirk: I just want to add that we do have recommended forty two thousand five hundred, but we'd like to take the Middleburg Community Center off of this list right now. They are looking at doing some, I guess, mulching and that's more of a spring event. So we're gonna revisit that a little later. So it'd be all of these except for the community center.

Bridge Littleton: Health centers request? [inaudible]

Darlene Kirk: With this request before we feel we can bring it back. But we but their request is for, as I said, mulching and that sort of thing so we can do it a little later.

Bridge Littleton: [inaudible] I forgot to tell you we have a decorum that members of council that raised their hand. [inaudible] [laughing]

Peter Leonard Morgan: Vice-mayor may I ask you a question about the suggestion for the \$5000 for the community center, if we're gonna waive that or postpone that, can we spread that amongst the recipients now?

Darlene Kirk: If there is something here that you think needs more than we'll certainly. We're trying to do is to keep it in the 40-42000 dollar range. So when we bring we come back with the community center request, it may use all of the rest. and.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Still be in this council?

Darlene Kirk: Yes, it will.

Cindy Pearson: Thank you. On the Middleburg Library Board, I see that they didn't request any funds, but yet you're giving them funds. Did someone speak to their board to see if they really need it? Or is this just a gesture? [inaudible] for funds is that?

Danny Davis: Correct. They did send a letter in but without a specific dollar amount. We did not reach out to them about any particular amount. But we did look at the history of what had been given to the library board and in prior years going back I think to FY 17 16 and prior to that. So there were a couple of years that they didn't make the request and so the town stopped sending them letters actually asking. But this year it came unsolicited. So the board recommended essentially matching what the last record funding to them was from, I think fiscal year 16 or 17.

Cindy Pearson: Thank you.

Emmett Leachman: Does anyone else have any comments? Is there a motion?

Peter Leonard Morgan: I'll make a motion. I move the Town Council of Middleburg, adopt the recommendation of the Health Center Advisory Board to fund the organizations and the amounts shown in Attachment 1, minus the Middleburg Community Center recommendation, which will be carried forward for a further date to the staff report dated December 12th, 2019.

John Kevin Daly: Second.

Emmett Leachman: Any discussion?

Chris Bernard: Just to clarify, so you said it will be carried forward. We're not committing to that five grand we're going to vote on it or something in the future to amend it or not.

Darlene Kirk: The community center actually came and asked for two different amounts. And that's why we're going back to them to find out what they want and what they really need. So since we feel like we have until spring to do it, we're not guaranteeing them 5000. Yes.

Chris Bernard: The review of their request is being carried forward.

John Kevin Daly: [inaudible] [laughing] Was I not loud enough?

Emmett Leachman: All in favor, say aye.

Everyone: Aye.

Emmett Leachman: All, opposed, say nay. Abstentions. Motion carries.

Bridge Littleton: Emmett I think you're unfortunately, your term has expired. [laughing] It is now 6:30. But seriously, thank you for doing this. I hope it was fun for you. I know it's fun for us and we're not gonna leave you here empty-handed. Now I asked A.J. if he'd give you his taser, but he said no. [laughing] Maybe after the police academy, you know, you join the force. You can get one. But what we did want to do is we wanted to present you with it's a pretty heavy paperweight or a desk ornament, but it is the seal for the town of Middleburg. Yeah, right. Exactly. And it's not changing. [inaudible] So this is for you.

Emmett Leachman: Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you very much. [applause] So whenever I'm out, Darlene wants you to take her place. Now he's up for election in May. [laughing] [inaudible] [applause] Now we're reconvene the meeting. Okay, so next item up is the request for donation from the Middleburg Community Charter School. Steven, please. Yeah. Exactly.

Stephen Robinson: [off mic].

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. And if you just wanna say your name.

Stephen Robinson: Sure. Steven Robinson, principal over Middleburg Community Charter School. So thank you so much for having me here tonight to present a proposal for our charter school and first say that's my first year here in Middleburg. I've enjoyed it extremely well. Coming from D.C. and working in D.C. the past 13 years has been a adjustment, but a fantastic adjustment. Tremendous town. Love the individual people and a great event last Saturday. And so it's great to be part of that community event. And so we had a great time. And I'm definitely learning the nuances and the things that in the community that make this town very special. And so definitely delighted to be here as well. So part of the challenge or I guess part of the puzzle tonight is that our school received a challenge from a donor for two hundred thousand dollars for our school. Now, they would match up to that money for our school. And so we've done a lot of things as far as grassroots initiatives in the town and locally in Loudoun County and beyond to reach that amount. And part of that is going through our school and our connections or whatnot. And basically our school, which is a staple in the community and definitely a staple Middleburg is a separate has kind of a unique situation where we are not a Loudoun county school per say. We are a charter school, which, you know, for those who do not know what that actually means, it is that we are kind of a separate entity from Loudoun County, although we do have Loudoun County teachers. The building is owned by Loudoun County. However, we have kind of more autonomy as that as a board to make decisions both with our funds and to make improvements as needed. We do know the school is about, you know, close to over 100 years old in some parts of the building and some parts are within a 60s when the additions were added to our school. And so there are things that in our school current placement that need to be updated, repaired to kind of show our vision for our school community. When I came on back in July, I made it as my initiative to kind of go ahead and make sure our school has streamlined some documentations and visions for our school community and for our staff. And we are well on our way to making it happen moving forward. So in your folder, you might see there's two documents there on the right side. One for our future as well as our heritage kind of states as far as what our mission is, our vision for our school in the left side. Also, we have some facts about what our school is currently doing as well. And so definitely as we move towards our future, ensuring that our school has top quality education for citizens and scholars in the Loudoun County, but definitely also Middleburg, our goal is to be innovative and definitely engaging for all of our scholars. So I'm here to ask the council for \$20000 to kind of help us reach our goal for our matching grants, to help us go ahead and be able to put some money into our school community, to our building, and to ensure that we can make the added adjustments for our school and make a truly amazing place where our schools can truly enjoy. So with that turn over to.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you, Steve. I appreciate it. So I'll just say something really quickly, you know, as you all know, I'm on the board of the charter school. Now a little over a year, I think, yeah, it's been over a year. What's more like 30 years for life. [laughing] But it's an amazing thing what those guys do. And, you know, the council was so helpful when they were actually searching to find Stephen, that made all the difference in the world. I mean, Stephen's an amazing principal for the school, really brings a huge dynamic leadership that was desperately needed. I don't know if any of you've been over to the charter school, walked around recently, but it needs a lot of work. And I mean, you know as Stephen said, some of the building is over 100 parts, the building over a hundred years old. And it's you know, Loudoun County gives the the charter school a fixed amount of money every year, regardless of things that happen that need to be done. So and there's also some areas in capital improvements that, you know, it's not about and I won't get into the school board stuff, but it's a challenge, you know. I mean, the sagging floors and and the you know, the radiators and all the cost. So it's a great part of our community. And, you know, I really appreciate you coming and providing perspective and stuff. So it's not like coloring books and things like that. I mean, it's for real fixing the buildings and stuff like that.

Stephen Robinson: So also add basically, you know, definitely part of that money when it goes into that foundation, we're definitely going to look to definitely do those improvements. And part of our I've created a short term, long term plan for our school building. And so that includes structural things as well and improvements. And so that's once we kind of get through this phase. And definitely my goal is to get this up and running as soon as possible to ensure that we can attract the best teachers and across the area make sure we maintain our scholars as well, which we definitely see now that moving forward and consistently. So thank you so much.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. And I actually think one thing actually too kids aren't assigned to the charter school. They choose to go to it. Right. So it's you know, it's also recruiting thing. Right. The school will only be as successful as the students. They keep coming, have it coming in. That's how the funding is determined. So having a good school is what you know, it's a self-reinforcing thing. So with that. Please anybody. Yeah Kevin.

John Kevin Daly: I'm sold. [laughing] I think having a local school is important. And it's tremendous heritage I mean, the history. I'm all for it. Therefore, I move that the Town Council of Middleburg approve and a contribution of \$20000 to the Middleburg Community Charter School to support their capital needs. And as part of their challenge grant, I further move that the town council authorize a budget amendment to move funds from contingency to the charitable contributions line item and the administration budget.

Bridge Littleton: And now any other discussion? [laughing]

Bud Jacobs: [off mic]

Stephen Robinson: Fantastic. So as of I want to say, this past week were around 30-35000 dollars is kind of where we are right now. Currently at as well. And so definitely as things keep coming in as well. And that pretty much has been from a different, you know, local individuals in our school community from even on past Saturday, we had smart scholars who legitimately on their own without any staff members or parents. They said, let's go ahead and go ahead and try to raise more money for a school. So it's a hundred percent effort from all stakeholders. And so they actually raise about 800 bucks. One day pretty much where people walking in for breakfast Santa and they were a little bit walking around and people were just who were not part of our school community. They were just visitors in the town. You know, just go ahead and give them money has been fantastic. So I would say 31000 dollars or so. We still have much more coming in.

Bud Jacobs: Thank you.

Chris Bernard: So forgetting about what the town contributes what do you expect? And do you think you guys are going to get there?

Stephen Robinson: I hope so. I mean, that's the anticipated goal. And so I definitely think that we're on our way where we're definitely trying to reach out to people and individuals and organizations that can help us meet that goal. So my hope is we can get them if we get there, because definitely every, you know, dollar counts and as far as making sure our school gets to where it needs to be at risk.

Bridge Littleton: And one thing I'll add is so like myself and Betsy, a few others we're actually engaging with some significant large donors and working that path. So to Stephen's point here, everybody is trying to get as much in by the end of the year. Every dollar counts, too.

Chris Bernard: Exactly. So and I was going to say, I think Kevin may have jumped the gun. I was going to ask, do we want to cap ourselves at 20? I mean, this is a one-time opportunity to get matching funds, right? And. Instead of giving them ten thousand dollars next year and ten thousand dollars a year after that, maybe we give them extra now and it gets matched and kind of pay it forward or that. And we just look at it. It's an investment in the community. It's not a charitable donation. [inaudible] Well, I think we need to talk about.

Bridge Littleton: Well, yeah. So let's everybody have input before we jump on that. Good question.

Peter Leonard Morgan: So, Steven, thanks so much for coming along. The other angle is as well for us as a town. I think that, you know, we've seen the risk to the school in the past where the possibility of Loudoun county public schools actually, I forget the correct word goes. Thank you. Surplus and then all sorts of other issues then that we have to think about. First of all, being the school closing and losing this amazing asset. And then what do we do with the building? What do we do with them? And so I do think it's incumbent upon us to support you. Was there a reason for December the 31st?

Stephen Robinson: That was just the challenge that was given from the anonymous donor that.

Bridge Littleton: I can tell you why. All taxes. [laughing] So it's a family trust. That's making this match to the end of the year for I mean, you know, it's totally out of the goodness in their heart but it's also you know there's tax reasons.

Stephen Robinson: I would say to your previous point of discussion about our school and the future as well. And I definitely think, you know, even coming last night from a charter school meeting over in Loudoun County and we had them monthly in some part of those meetings. And it just we have two charter schools in Loudoun County, one over up in Hillsboro as well as ours here in Middleburg. And definitely as long as the school is productive and definitely it's showing its legitimacy in a community. It will stay. I think that's very clear. And being from the charter school in D.C., definitely. Lot of times they look towards are they performing. And, you know, based on our fact sheet and what we're doing, we're outperforming other schools in Loudoun County on the average, both in the SOL data. And so definitely as we get that name to our school where we can showcase what gradings we're doing for our our scholars, definitely I would see us, you know, being here for a long time and and know a lot and kind of speaking to those who were in Loudoun County. They are supportive of our school and definitely the recent election. The people who are on that board right now, who are moving on there, who are definitely supportive of charter schools and really want to ensure that we are successful. And so I do know those motions pass last night that they were in the charter school community. To actually, you know, there's a cap for the schools in Loudoun county. So if one comes along, a possible future middle school for charter schools, which again was one of my goals, as well as to have another place where we can definitely bring our scholars to. We have the opportunity and they're willing to hear that as well. So I think our success will be our future is our success right now, which I think we're seeing right now.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Thank you very much.

Philip Miller: I think maybe this was a couple of years ago. Do you have a wait list of students to try and get in?

Stephen Robinson: So we have in the past right now, we're kind of from past transitions and wanted to be very transparent. We actually now do have a few grade levels who do have now a wait list. And so before this in July, there was no wait list in classes. But now that word has got out and we're showing success and we're back on track, we're constantly getting calls every week from parents wanting to transfer kids from other schools in Loudoun county we're now we have first grade as a wait list. We have five additional people want to get in, to where they can't get it right now. In others, classes are right there as well. So I think by next year, we'll be back to where it should be.

Philip Miller: And are you approaching the county for the funding request like this?

Stephen Robinson: That's kind of tricky. And I would say. We tried to find other ways to produce some better revenue with the county. And that's I think, you know, with a charter school committee, you kind of. We had different people from the school board, and come see our school and try to find ways and to be very discreet. What are some things to battle to not battle with them and kind of pick your objective with moving forward. And so I think there is I won't say with this challenge, I think there are other ways to going to help, you know, with our same initiative that we're doing, but not through this challenge.

Bridge Littleton: I think the best way to say it is we're trying to use our political capital to actually get them to do what we feel they should be doing. Not a one off charitable thing, but hey, you should be funding this every year. We're all county taxpayers. Any other Cindy you good? Yes, sir.

Peter Leonard Morgan: The question I have is. Hopefully we'll get up to 200000 or close to. What happens if you don't? Are there risk involved with not achieving a substantial goal?

Stephen Robinson: Only risks that you don't have that additional amount. However, if it's a hundred thousand, we'll certainly get [inaudible]. So and that can go a long way for our school. And those kind of fixtures. So I think just the only risk is just not pto put more money into that our projects in a faster pace. But hopefully we can see that. And hopefully by next month if after I come back and do report out maybe with you guys and just kind of share where we were and what happened from our grand challenge.

Bridge Littleton: So Peter to let you know, I mean, the moment January 1st comes, there's no letting up in fundraising. I mean, everybody is. It's a constant like every, you know, sort of nonprofit. Not that the charter was a non-profit. Philip sorry.

Philip Miller: So you said you have a short term, long term plan for improvements for the school. What's the cost on that short term?

Stephen Robinson: Yeah. You know, I haven't yet even solicited far as, you know, what they would cost to do that. I can always estimate it. And so like preparing, you know, for instance, in the older part of the building. [inaudible] yesterday went down below the school kind of pretty crazy. And actually I saw snake skin like [laughing] I'm out here. I'm gone. But I was talking to one of the engineers who actually put in a brand new furnace for our school, I think a year or two ago. And there are parts of the school where you were saying it sinks in the floor and the radiator's falling. I guess the question is that a hazard? He said, well, you know [inaudible] but he didn't want to say yes or no. But, you know, it would take probably looking beneath the school and seeing how they had to crawl in the crawl space to repair the floors. It's because of the old part of the building. I really can't even estimate how much things would cost to repair a floor. I know if my previous school how much things cost, but just simple tear up and put down new tiles. But, you know, a new floor make sure that all of the choices are correct. It could be fifteen thousand in one classroom. Maybe. Once we get this through this part of the process, I will start to look to maybe solicit some feedback, what things could cost and go from there. I mean, from updating the bathrooms to, you know, doing things. You know, I mean, just those kind of things that, you know, I think would make our school more attractive. We do have a very robust and amazing PTO connections to different kind of industries. Maybe make those costs that are very substantial, not so substantial, where we kind of find ways to cut costs in a way that's not going to cost cut the quality of that work. OK. So I would love to definitely once things kind of go slow down and kind of go in and start giving you a numbers and definitely I think it would be beneficial for us.

Philip Miller: Thank you.

Darlene Kirk: Chris, did you have a number in mind?

Chris Bernard: So they. Sorry, if I'm not mistaken. They asked for 10 from the health center originally. Is that right? [inaudible] because we were planning on giving them the 20 out of here. So why don't we make it 30? And then the school gets 60.

Bridge Littleton: So I'm not saying anything. On the board, I feel, you know [inaudible]

Chris Bernard: [inaudible] we're in a financial position to do it. And assuming that we're just going to, you know, next year they're going to come back and ask for ten thousand dollars we'll give ten thousand dollars. I'd rather given ten that's gonna be matched with someone else. That's all. [off mic].

Philip Miller: How many classrooms have warped floors?

Stephen Robinson: So you have two major classrooms, but then you have, you know, all the [inaudible] the music room has different warped floors, the cafeteria stage. So those areas of the building, the newer parts. I say newer I meant 1960s [inaudible] That's a little more of, you know, more level. [multiple speakers] half the building has floors that are and tiles consistently just pop up [inaudible]

Bridge Littleton: It's great for shooting marbles.

Philip Miller: I would suggest because we're in a financial position and we have long debated and discussed the importance of the school to our community that we consider a number more like fifty thousand.

Bud Jacobs: I agree with the larger number 50.

Chris Bernard: I think to Philip's point, there's gonna be larger capital projects that come up even beyond what you guys have already identified and it's a one-time position to be able to do it. So I think it's great. And we could maybe get creative. I mean, maybe some of that can come from the health center fund if you guys want to put 10 in from there. I mean, it doesn't all have to come from the same place. But I think, you know, again, this is a great gift being given to the school. And I think we should take advantage of every dollar we can.

Philip Miller: I mean, I just look at it and that's one hundred thousand dollars right off the bat to start combating the problems before they get worse and more expensive.

Cindy Pearson: I don't know if this is. Just my thoughts for the moment. If for some reason, God forbid, that the school didn't have who knows with the county what goes on. If it didn't get used, though, in this fiscal year, is there a way to give it that it comes back to the town if it's not used?

Bridge Littleton: You know what? So it's remember the way this is happening. There's a foundation that the money is going to that then goes to the charter school. So this independent entity exists. Martin from a legal perspective. We could tie the money, right, that if the school goes under for whatever reason and they haven't spent let's say it's three years from now, they still haven't spent whatever, you know, ten thousand of it. We want them to account it. Right. Account of the money spent that it has to be returned to the town. [inaudible]

Danny Davis: Could I ask a clarifying question? If I remember from the press release your match or your group challenge grant was for funds committed by December 31st, but there was a three year period to actually contribute the funds.

Stephen Robinson: Yes. So I think I can check it out as well. But it's a certain timeframe where you can the commitment. [multiple speakers].

Bridge Littleton: [inaudible] Commitments are great, but you can't fix things until [inaudible]

Philip Miller: But I mean, we could theoretically then commit more. We could save twenty five this year. Twenty five next year.

Bridge Littleton: [multiple speakers] So what I'll do is I'll make up a number. You could literally say we will give. Yeah, I see you're saying. Yes, you could do that.

Martin Crim: Except Mayor, you can only contribute. You can only make decisions [multiple speakers]

Bridge Littleton: We can't bind a future council fiscal. [inaudible] No, it's a great idea. Good point. Does anybody else have any other input or questions. Cindy. Or Darlene. [laughing] I got it right. [inaudible]

Cindy Pearson: Danny, do we have the money to donate 50000 thousand in contingency?

Danny Davis: Yes.

Cindy Pearson: Or do we have to pull out. Okay. We don't need to pull it from somewhere else.

Danny Davis: There is sufficient funding from the town available. [inaudible] depends on if you're talking about the overall unassigned fund balance, which is here, six point eight million or something like that, again there are uses down the line. But you have built into this current year's budget FY20, about three hundred thousand of uncommitted funds. Yes.

Cindy Pearson: We haven't used any of those funds?

Danny Davis: [inaudible] we've used just a very minor amount of that. Yeah, there was. But in terms of we also have the additional revenue that was received from fiscal 19 at the closing of the fiscal year from last year that we've discussed, you know, certain projects for and kind of have that as a set aside, if you will. But a lot of that's not been expended either.

Cindy Pearson: And the utility that's coming later, is that coming from the same contingency fund utility later?

Danny Davis: [inaudible] Correct. I mean, not really, because it was already budgeted last year in a capital account. So, I mean, theoretically, because it wasn't dollars spent in fiscal 19 it shows up in that unassigned fund balance. But it's going to go right back to the general fund. So it doesn't wipe out any line item, if you will.

Bridge Littleton: Any other inputs or thoughts? And I'll just ask the question is that the friendly amendment you guys want to go with it? Then I would make a friendly amendment. We'll vote on that.

Chris Bernard: I offer a friendly amendment that we increase the amount to \$50000.

Bridge Littleton: Any other discussion on the friendly amendment? No you got to vote on it. Any other discussion? Peter.

Peter Leonard Morgan: I just want to say I'm supportive of it and I'm supportive of it because it's such an important part of our town and the education of our children is such an important issue. And the fact that we could lose it without fully supporting it is a major consideration. So and also, I'd ask you to commit to helping with the go green wellness [laughing]

Stephen Robinson: You have my full support.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Thank you very much.

Bridge Littleton: So the one thing we do need to make sure that we add in there something needs to is about the element that if this charter school ceases to operate, whatever funds they need to have that tie and Martin will help out with the legal language.

Martin Crim: But so Mayor, I thought that we wanted to wrap this all in together to make the motion that it would be fifty thousand dollars committed to the Middleburg Community Charter School in this fiscal year, with the caveat with the condition that if the funds are not expended within the three year time period for this matching grant, that they would come back to the town.

Bridge Littleton: Perfect. Yeah, everything that Martin just said is exactly what the motion is. Everybody agree with that?

John Kevin Daly: I accept the friendly amendment.

Bridge Littleton: [multiple speakers] All those in favor say aye.

Everyone: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: All those opposed. Abstentions. It carries. Stephen, thank you very much.

Stephen Robinson: Thank you so much.

Bridge Littleton: Okay, next item is staff reports. Stuart. How's [inaudible]? [laughing] Whoa, what is that? Bottled water? OK, good. Just checking. All right.

Stuart Will: Well, we got one of the pieces of the puzzle rolling this week on [inaudible]. That would be [inaudible] it was installed day before yesterday. We had it started up in Flushing. We have collected both bacteriological samples and I will be bringing [inaudible] back online tomorrow provided both of the bacteriological samples are acceptable. That being said, that's the first piece of the puzzle. After that's done, we can proceed with line flushing to adequately clean out our lines and then we can get back to working at [inaudible]. With due diligence and we'll know more in January.

Bridge Littleton: Awesome. Any other questions for Stuart? Stuart thanks so much. Have a great weekend. Next, Jamie. Oh, that's right. [inaudible] Jamie.

Jamie Gaucher: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Members of council. A highlight for me that I want to bring to your attention from my regular monthly report. If you weren't aware I was able to host representatives from Camoin Associates. They are the consultants developing a long term economic development strategy for the town. They were here all day on Tuesday and Wednesday. They interviewed ten or eleven people and they also attended The Bizz Buzz on Tuesday evening. That was a dramatic step forward. That was the second time that they've been here thus far. I also wanted to let you know that Mr. Davis and I are working with the Go Green Committee and with the Cultural and Community Events Committee to put together a think tank to see how we can improve the Middleburg farmer's market. We're going to have a group of people get around the table and come up with an idea or two some strategies that should enable us to improve the market going forward. I'm excited about that. And I also want to take this opportunity to bring to your attention some of the work that Visit Loudoun has been doing on behalf of the town. So if you remember the most recent agreement that we have it Visit Loudoun provides it down with a list of social media and digital marketing statistics. And I've highlighted some of them here that are specific to Middleburg. So if you look at the memo, you'll notice that. The total impressions with regard to girlfriend's getaways here in Middleburg is over six hundred forty five thousand. And this is from a three month period, right? These are statistics connected to July, August and September. We will receive the October, November, December statistics probably in a week or two, maybe two, maybe in January. And we will at that point have something to compare it to. Exactly. If I remember correctly, we were intending to develop a set of baselines. So we have some appreciation for what works, what doesn't work, and then taking some of these statistics and bouncing them off of our own website so we can see what we can do better. How, when, why. Additionally, at the bottom of that memo, I wanted to bring to your attention. Loudoun had several articles in places like The Washington Post. The Richmond Times Dispatch. Forbes, the Travel Channel. And something that was new for me. Boomer magazine. I was not familiar with Boomer magazine. Had two articles talking about visiting and traveling to Middleburg. Outside of that, I'd be happy to answer any questions you might have at this time.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Jamie? Yes, sir.

Peter Leonard Morgan: One question about the old southern states building. Any developments on that you can speak of?

Jamie Gaucher: I'm working very closely with Washington, D.C. based restaurant that has an interest in purchasing the building and turning it into their first outside D.C. location. There are some local people involved in the potential

financing of that. And I think that's the most promising lead or project that I have at this time connected to that building.

Bridge Littleton: Any other questions for Jamie? Jamie, thank you. Rhonda.

Rhonda North: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Just really one item that like to report on the regional solid waste contract. The committee met again earlier this week. We've continued to fine tune the draft RFP and we're now sending it out to our respective town attorneys for their review. So Martin has it with a request that we have their comments by the end of this month. Our hope is to have it on the street in January.

Bridge Littleton: That is awesome. Which towns are participating? Everyone but Leesburg? That's great. So just so you know, I don't know why I got the e-mail. I got an email yesterday afternoon from [inaudible] from Mayor Frazier and Percival asking for the price we pay for sludge removal. And so I emailed him back saying, I think everybody's working on all that together.

Danny Davis: Little different topic.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. All right.

Danny Davis: I can talk about briefly now [multiple speakers].

Bridge Littleton: I just want to make you guys aware that he was asking all the other mayors, if you just want to circle back with those town managers that would be great.

Martin Crim: May I also add that the town of Haymarket in Prince William County is also part of this consortium? And they're also my client. Haymarket in Prince William County [inaudible]. All Loudoun except for Leesburg.

Bridge Littleton: Got it. Okay. All right. Well, if there's any associated fees or anything non-Loudoun can pay for it. [laughing] What I'll do I'll just forward both email from [inaudible] and you can reach out to what he was asking for. Okay. Anyway, anybody have questions for Rhonda? Don't forget your training. 55 minutes, 48 seconds for that video.

Rhonda North: Actually, everyone who is required to have it by the end of this month has taken it.

Bridge Littleton: Excellent. Next is. Where is. Will?

Will Moore: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Members of council. Just a couple of quick things to highlight. One is that we have some real tangible progress on a dangerous structure on these federal streets. Has been a longstanding issue in the towns. I'm happy to report that some at least an initial building plans have been submitted and we're going through a process. Thank you to this body for adopting the Dangerous Structures Enforcement Ordinance, which helped to spur that along, as well as thanks to Loudoun County building and development for stepping in on a building code side. The other.

Bridge Littleton: Will, I will tell you real quickly the town of Warrington reached out and had heard about that. Said we want something like that. Can you send us theirs? So to send us ours. So I sent it over to the mayor and to a couple of council members, and they might be giving you a call.

Will Moore: Excellent. The other two are personnel related, one of which is including my report, and that is that Estee has just completed the Virginia Certified Planning Commissioner Training. It's a very intensive kind of thing to onsite sessions three months apart with a load of reading and homework in between. So kudos to Estee for completion of that. And the other didn't have that this information in time for my report. But for those of you who wanted the Biz Buzz. Tim was honored with an award by MBPA for I think they called it the Resilience Award for

his long standing service to the community, both in his role, longtime role and the community center and now with the town. So very proud of him for that honor. Other than that, be happy to answer any questions. [inaudible]

John Kevin Daly: On other dangerous structures, such as those on [laughing] Jay Street.

Will Moore: No progress to report to this point, but we are continuing to pursue which is a lengthy process, especially when we have somebody that's absent. So I assure you we will continue.

Bridge Littleton: Any other questions for Will? So one comment I want to make and Will, I think this is partly due to all of your help and assistance, but I'm not sure everybody saw it. The incoming supervisor for the Ashburn district. So we're talking Ashburn right. His name is Mike Turner. He has selected our planning commission chair, Eric Combs, to be his planning commissioner for Loudoun County. So I think that goes volumes to speak about. I mean, it speaks volumes about Eric, but also speaks about the professionalism of our planning commission. Will in all his hard work and the relationship we have with the county. So, I mean, think about the Ashburn district choosing somebody from the Blue Ridge District to represent. I mean, it's you know, it's pretty awesome. [laughing] So will you know we'll be looking for I guess you guys put out a notification once that formalizes for a new member of the planning commission but.

Will Moore: Not received notice of his resignation. [laughing] Certainly a great gain for the Loudoun commission regardless.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, Will and thanks for all you've done to help and the whole commissioners as a team. OK. A.J.

A.J. Panebianco: Just a couple updates. [inaudible] So good the first we had to. [laughing] So it went pretty well. There was one traffic accident and it was minor. [laughing] No it was minor. And aside from that, it really had very few flaws that were noticeable. We noticed some and we tried to tweak it every year and every year we think we had it down pat. And every year we say, dang we forgot that. So we keep tweaking it. And we will have a debrief sometime next week, I think, with Danny myself, and maybe Will or Tim just to go over the set up and to tear down what went well, [inaudible] We always try to do that. So that was good. I used the Jacob's formula. I know you like math. You might know what that is. Not look it up. It's not that hard. I can do it. [laughing] Basically, what I do is I look at the photos that are available, try to estimate the depth that they are. And it's a square footage calculation of people. And roughly and it's about 20 percent plus or minus with this, but roughly about ten thousand people for the day is about forty five hundred or so for the first parade and about thirty five hundred for the second parade. Maybe a little bit more or less on both. Jim said they printed out sold nine hundred I believe, parking spaces. Might have been more than that. He sent me an email, but it was I can't remember what it was. And there were some people parked where they shouldn't park in town, but we really couldn't get to those folks. But aside from that, it went well. And we had a great crowd. And I think that the businesses profited because at the end of the day, when they were getting on the bus, there were three hours of people waiting in line and three hours. People with bags. So that's always a positive. Aside from that, the only other thing outside of that that I'll mention is that we had a complaint on Vulture's and we've been working with [inaudible] Fisheries to get options to try and alleviate this situation. We have been working in that area for several months, making sure that the trash is picked up, that there's nobody feeding them. We don't see signs of that anymore, but they've just taken a roost up there. So we're trying to get them to relocate to Leesburg [laughing] Which is why they don't want to be part of the trash project because [inaudible] So aside from that, if there's any questions, I'll be certainly happy to address them.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for A.J.? Just gonna say real quickly. Your guys did a great job and all the volunteers and all the other officers came in, did a great job. The state trooper who was at Pickney. I saw him first thing in the morning. I just thanked them. And, you know, it was great. Some guy came and says, hey, I always park back back there. He said, not this year, [laughing] keep on going.

A.J. Panebianco: I have written letters to every agency or the agencies that provided them for us at no cost. And the Virginia State Police were one of them. But a little word about that trooper. He was fabulous. He was released

probably two hours before he left. [inaudible] He was amazing. He was really good. All the people that are coming now are really into getting Middleburg sprayed off without a hitch.

Darlene Kirk: I was going to say and most of the months that at least were on the main street there was so personable to the people that were here chatting about the dogs or asking them different questions about where they were from. So I think that went a long way to make people feel really welcome.

A.J. Panebianco: Which is really good, because those are the folks that we tend to get year after year. And we found that they have the personality to be out there. When we take solicit, say, when we solicit these folks to come from other departments, we choose small departments that have a similar mindset as to what the policing style we do. So we tend to get good people. So and they are there. They're all amazing. They do a really good job. And I would be remiss if I didn't say, you know, thanks to Tim and his crew because there's a lot of hammering that goes on to put up no parking signs up. [inaudible] And Tim has helped improve them because he's working to where he wants to create stops. He goes he's picking up on one end and it's sped up that process quite a bit. [inaudible]

Bridge Littleton: Thank you. Martin.

Martin Crim: Thank you, Mayor You have my report. I would add, as Ms. North indicated. I did receive today the regional contract for the solid waste room, reviewing that and expect to be able to turn that around, get my comments back by the end of the month.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Martin? OK. Next is the consent agenda. Does anybody have anything on the consent agenda they would like to have removed? What's that? Oh, hang on a sec. [inaudible] What we're going to do, we're going to hold that till after the public hearing. If you don't mind covering it. Or the closed session. I'm sorry. And that way I mean I have to leave at 8 that way if you guys want to cover it, great. If not, we can move it to January, but we'll put it at the end. [inaudible] So the next item is the consent agenda. Does anybody want anything removed the consent agenda? OK. Is there a motion?

Darlene Kirk: [off mic]

Danny Davis: The consent motion will capture the motion of that item.

Philip Miller: I move that we accept the consent agenda as proposed.

John Kevin Daly: Second.

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

Everyone: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Opposed abstentions? OK. Any discussion items? [laughing] Any additional information items? I want to say real quickly to is just for everyone in general, the businesses, Jim Herbert, all the Christmas in Middleburg volunteers. Members of council members of town staff who worked so hard to make the Christmas in Middleburg you know, an absolutely fantastic event this year, I've not had one person have one bad thing to say about how everything went off without a hitch. And so and then a special recognition as well, too. I want to, you know, Mark Metzger and then all the businesses and all the individuals that contributed for the new tree lights at the paint box. It is absolutely fantastic. It is gorgeous. It really is. [inaudible] Oh, Reggie said you can see it from Salamander. And it was funny when we lighted it up on Friday night. I had not yet seen it turned on. And when it went on, I mean, it was unbelievable. That's why I made that comment NASA called and said, turn it down. But anyway, so it was just, you know, absolutely fantastic. I just want to make sure we appropriately thank everybody who was involved. And then with that, we will go to the closed session. Okay, who wants to? Philip [laughing]

Philip Miller: I move that counts go into closed session as authorized under section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the following items for the discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for the appointment of specific public officers, appointees and employees of the public body is allowed under subsection A 1 for the purpose of discussing annual appointments to various town boards, commissions and committees for the discussion or consideration, the acquisition of property or the disposition of public property for the purpose of discussing one. The disposition of the Asbury Church to the acquisition of property it for a town administration building and for a maintenance as allowed under subsection A3. I further move that council thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

John Kevin Daly: Second.

Bridge Littleton: All those in favor say aye.

Everyone: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: OK. We're in closed session. All right. Seriously, if you need to have a biohazard break. But two minutes. All right. I ask that council certify to the best of its members knowledge, one only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and to only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting. I would like to remind those present for the closed session that any discussion that occurred within it should be treated as confidential.

Chris Bernard: Yes.

Bud Jacobs: Yes.

Philip Miller: Aye.

Darlene Kirk: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Yes.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Yes.

Cindy Pearson: Yes.

John Kevin Daly: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: And with that is there a motion regarding. [inaudible]

Peter Leonard Morgan: I move that council reappoint Don Woodroof and Mimi Stein to the Middleburg Planning Commission for four year terms set to expire December 31st, 2023. I further move the council re-appoint Bill Turnure Punkin Lee and Linda Wright to the historic District Review Committee for three year terms said terms to expire December 31st, 2022. I further move that council, reappoint Emily Miller, Jim Herbert, Reggie Cooper and Michelle Myers to two year terms on the Cultural and Community Events Committee said terms to expire December 31st 2021. I further move that council reappoint Syd Abrams and Will Herron to two year terms on the Middleburg Strategic Finance Committee said terms to expire December 31st, 2021. I further move that council re-appoint [inaudible] Sean Martin, Vicky [inaudible] Dwayne Ellis and David Greenhill to the Economic Development Advisory Committee for one year terms said terms to expire December 31st, 2020. I further move the council recommend to the judge of the Loudoun County Circuit Court the reappointment of Katherine Bundles Murdock to the Board of Zoning appeals for a five year terms said term to expire December 31st, 2024.

John Kevin Daly: Second.

Bridge Littleton: Any discussion. Want to say thank all these people for continuing to serve. All those in favor say aye.

Everyone: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Oppose abstentions. Okay. We'll do the building review in the storage [inaudible] closed item, I guess, in January. Any objection there? Okay. Any other last minute items? [inaudible] That was one we didn't do. The projects. Yeah. And that was an unbelievable two hours. Thank you guys very much. Have a great Christmas to everybody. Meeting adjourned.