



**Common Council
Meeting
City of Middletown
April 2, 2019**

1. Pledge of Allegiance- Pres. Rodrigues asked all to rise for the pledge.
2. Roll Call: Present: Ald. Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Jean-Francois, Burr, Green, Masi, Pres. Rodrigues-9
3. Approval of Minutes
John Naumchik- Nothing this evening.
4. Correspondence
Alex Smith addition to dangerous dog ordinance-Legislation
5. For the Good of the City

Carol Reed I am resident of Middletown for my whole. I am a representative of the Waalkill Fire Dept. Engine #6 and we are going to be presenting a check to the Middletown Little League. We had a St. Patrick's Day dinner 3 weeks ago, the Mayor attended, thank you Mayor, Ald. Masi thank you for your support. It was a wonderful day and night, Mr. Burr did all the cooking, thank you Tom. We had a large area of businesses donated to us which was really important. They support us and we talked at the dinner us supporting them as well.

Carol introduced Nelson Reed who presented a check to Darrin Cross.

Carol who is our chairperson for our committee, as she mentioned we had a good turnout, we raised some money to help out another community service here in the City of Middletown. As we did in our first annual one we helped St. Margaret's Soup kitchen, last year we were able to send some children to Park & Rec. summer camp. Along with that this year we decided to help out some more youth activities who better to start with than Middletown Little League. We had 120 some people came to the dinner, like Carol said Tom Burr great job on the meal and Ald. Masi and the Mayor we appreciate your coming. Hopefully next year Pres. Rodrigues will reserve a table and we can have him there also.

Besides our fund raiser check that I am going to present we also had one of our raffle winners Anna Aguirre one of our City Hall employees she won the Yankee tickets and along with the Yankee tickets was \$130 spending money; so Anna would like to donate back the \$130 to the Middletown Little League. With me we have Roseanne Citrini and Darrin Cross I would like to present them with a check for \$1573.20 with the cash of \$130 for a grand total for \$1703.20.

Darrin Cross-I would like to take a minute and say thank you to the Waalkills. I attended the dinner Roseanne and I and a few other people from the Little League. It was a lot of fun, food was great, we are forever grateful. That money we have a few ideas and it looks like that probably can happen now.

Thank you.

6. Remarks of Dept. Heads

Maria Bruni/Economy Development-Tonight we had a meeting of our Community Development Agency. Moving forward with our homeownership program and rehab. Anyone would like to know more about that please contact the Office at 346-4170 we will tell you more about our homeownership and all our rehab, small business loan programs.

Also we are going to be releasing our summer concert series schedule. Everybody is anxiously awaiting for that. At the theatre Almost Queen show is almost sold out, some tickets available. We have a great comedy show coming May 31st, Anthony Rodia.

We have a lineup of summer/spring events happening and coming forward. Looking forward to a good season.

Jacob Tawil/DPW Commissioner- Ald. Green asked me to report to you about O&R activities and the start of the new work that they will be doing. It is going to be happening on Highland Ave. Wisner Ave., Rockwell Ave., Chappell Parkway and Royce Ave. There was an e-mail from O&R sent to the Mayor and to advise him of these activities, the permit was signed this week and next week we will be walking

around with O&R to locate the gas main to make sure there is no conflict between O&R proposed gas main and the city utilities underground; sewer/water/storm sewer.

O&R is finishing their work on Amchir Ave. replacing gas mains there, all over the place in Amchir. They will be done in a month from this date.

The Mayor has spoken to me about cleaning up some of the parking area in there and they will be doing it O&R, they told the contractor to start moving some of the machines out so that Amchir Park can be used.

Reminder to keep an eye on illegal dumping. Some people from outside the city come in and they put their junk on our sidewalks. If you see anything like that please call the Police Dept. immediately because that is costing us a lot of money. We finished the 1st Ward now we are doing the 4th Ward this week, next week will be 3rd and following 2nd Ward.

Water system flushing will start next week April 8th. Visit our website. Watch out for colored water before you do any laundry.

Talking about cost of municipal solid waste/spring cleanup week I have sent a detailed e-mail with an explanation almost like a small report to the Council, Mayor showing how our cost is going to be increasing dramatically for municipal solid waste and for sludge disposal. We are trying our best to try to find the most suitable hauler that will work with us; our hauler for about 15 yrs. has decided he no longer is interested in pursuing this municipal solid waste trucking, so he is shutting down that operation. We are trying to do whatever we can do right now to ...to move the garbage out as well as the junk. This week has been a trying week for us in DPW. We contacted a trucker and hopefully he will be able to help us starting next week with very attractive pricing. We will see how that is going to work out, we will engage him for one month on an emergency basis and beyond that we will see.

We did public bid the municipal solid waste and sludge hauling from the WWTP and the prices were not attractive. Before you tonight you will have a resolution to hire CDM Smith to explore ways to dewater the sludge more than what we are currently doing by exploring newer technologies or different technologies. It centers around reducing the amount of liquid in the sludge cake. Right now our sludge cake only has 20% solids so imagine how much we can cut the cost if we raise the solid in the sludge cake up to 90% as an example. You are only hauling 10% by weight liquid versus 80% which is what we are doing right now. So before you is that resolution.

Ald. Masi-On the bulk pickup I know the 1st Ward was the first one and both Tommy and I got calls that it wasn't advertised as long as we would like with that being said we do appreciate the fact that once we contacted you, you sent them back through were able to pick up the spots that put it out a little later. We appreciate that.

Ald. Burr- I also like to thank you Jacob. Mark was very gracious in coming back as long as they have it out by Wednesday or Thursday.

Commissioner Tawil- At the end of the week we try to go back and clean up everything. The idea is not to punish people but at the same time we don't want to keep going back and forth. We appreciate peoples help.

Don Paris/Finance- It has been 4-5 months now finally the State Controller auditors have just left, they finished their field work. Yet to have result but not expecting anything bad.

In 2 weeks the financial auditors are coming in RBT and they will be starting that audit.

Chief Ewanciw/Police Chief-Nothing this evening.

Chris Brinkerhoff/Superintendent Rec. - You will see on your resolution tonight to approve the appointment of Dave Bechtle to another 5 yrs. term in our Rec. Commission. Valuable member of our commission for many years and we are glad he will be with us again for 5 yrs.

Spring is here I wish we had a magic wand to get everything done immediately as the public needs it. A lot is happening out there. We do have the tennis nets up, pickle ball nets up. We have gotten all the ball fields ready, we are getting more topsoil in tomorrow to finish off some of the fields, they are looking pretty good. Mother Nature is cooperating with us, we already have had games at Davidge. We have had games on the Babe Ruth field, our JV boys' baseball teams' uses that facility and Little League has their parade and opening day this Sunday weather permitting. All the fields will be playable and ready to go, usually this time of the year they are not all ready to go.

The parking lot to expand the War Memorial Pool that is finishing up. We are going to be grinding the stumps. Also signage going in for disc golf course up at Davidge. We are going to have a ribbon cutting for that on Saturday, May 4th at 10am. That is going to bring a lot of traffic into Middletown. Disc golf has gotten really big. There are already people up there every Saturday and we don't even have the signage up yet.

Saturday the 20th is our Easter Egg hunt. There is a time change. Traditionally been at 1pm we are finding a lot of egg hunts in the area are 10 am then coming up to ours and safety is becoming a concern. We are getting 600-700 people up there and parents aren't always cooperative, we too are going to move it 10 am. What this will do is keep all folks in their own area so instead of traveling all over. Also going to be in the back of Davidge, we will be having a little more space and safety. Unfortunately cars just fly through there even with the help of the police. It is harder to control the amount of people we have there. Younger kids at 10 am that is 5-

under, ages 6-10 at 11am. It is just to cut the crowd down, make it safer and more fun for the kids.

Sue Depuy is not here just to mention the City Pride Cleanup is the 27th. Saturday the 27th, 9 am at Festival Square we have ordered the gloves, pickers and we have the t-shirts, garbage bags. Waiting to hear back from ShopRite and we will be ready to rock and roll with that. I know we will see a lot of the aldermen and helping us.

Registration is going on now for our spring programs. Families looking for spring break we do have camp that week, at Middletown High School runs from 9-4. Register now that is the 15th-19th. Soccer and cheerleading is filling up that starts on May 4th, summer registration is up and running, to the public we have started our online registration. One of the things we would like the public to know is when they fill out their profile page, the very first page is the parent. It is the account holder, not the child and after they save it they go up and add member and that is where you add all the children in. Anybody in the public can give us a call and we will help you navigate that system. It is a little confusing there and after that it is very user friendly. A lot of people are using it, it has cut down on counter space, pros and cons as we go through the hiccups the company has been very supportive in helping us. The majority of the public really likes the convenience of doing it from their phone or computer. So please call with anything that you have.

The last thing we are doing we started Monday night, Kids Marathon. We are doing it along with the 10K Classic. On Mondays and Wednesdays we have 43 kids registered right now, they show up and they run or walk a mile and half every night which will lead up to the Kids Classic. The Saturday before the 10K Classic and their final mile, every 5 miles they get a bracelet this program will market itself. At the end they get a t-shirt and medals and Orange Runners Club and the 10K all chipped in on this. Since we know it is going well what we are going to do in the summer since we are not having Twilight Track & Field because the track and the turf at the High School is getting resurfaced we are going to use the Twin Towers track and do another kids marathon and the last mile will be Run4Downtown. Mid-City will be donating a bus, we will be taking them to that very last mile and the kids will cross the finish line to a crowd and again get the same awards. Some of our kids can do 52 miles from the spring to August, the idea is to get them out there and moving.

It is spring time we are in summer mode.

Ald. Masi-Would you remind everyone that this weekend is the Little League Parade.

Chris Brinkerhoff-Little League Parade is this Sunday. I think lineup is 10:30 at Presidential Park. The parade will kick off at 11:00 and the kids would be marching from Presidential Park Elementary School over to Watts Park.

Ald. Johnson-Asked about the Dog Park for this spring.

Chris Brinkerhoff-Once we get the ball fields up and going we just ordered all the piping and all that. We will be taking care of the drainage issue up there. We have pea stone as well as the donation we got from the Knox Foundation. You are going to see some of the elements up there for the dogs as well as a pathway in and tree growth. We will be working with the Shade Tree Committee and sprucing up that park. As soon as the drainage is totally fixed, which is our next project once the Little League fields are up and running.

John Naumchik/City Clerk- Spring is here we are starting to start with yard sales. You have to have a permit for a yard sale. Again no signs allowed on telephone poles. Application is on our website.

Also we are getting applications for sidewalk sales and also outdoor café permits those are also on our website. Also in our office.

7. Public Hearings & Grievances
John Naumchik-Nothing this evening.
8. Petitions & Complaints
John Naumchik-Nothing this evening.
9. Remarks of the Mayor

Mayor DeStefano-I want to thank the Waalkills for their generous donation to the Little League and to suggest next year they have a Columbus Day. Spaghetti and meatball dinner rather than a St. Patrick's Day. The Beairsto's putting on corn beef and cabbage every year doesn't seem to... Mary you work on it tomorrow.

Since you folks addressed the sanitation/pick up couple of things. We have had some negative feedback from people which we usually get every year. This year may have been a little more justified than previous. The first week is always the toughest week. There needs to be an explanation also to what happens with the first week. I know one of the Facebook comments I think was referring to me, I am in the 2nd Ward and this year the 2nd Ward is last. We do a rotation. Every year the first week is a different ward, it is by rotation. We don't pick and choose which ward is going to go first, we are not trying to short change anybody on their pick up. We are getting calls and we are returning calls and we will go back into the 1st Ward since we had a very short notice to them.

The April 27th clean up I did send out an e-mail. As you know Sue is preoccupied with some family issues and we are asking for your input on high areas where litter does collect. Certain railroad beds, Webb Road, I think it will make a much more organized day and address some of the chronic areas within the city.

Jacob touched on the parks where some of the parks are being used for some O&R staging for the new installation of gas lines. He has spoken with O&R and their

contractor today they will be removing some of the equipment and there will be more parking available at the Amchir Park and also I believe it is in 3 weeks they will be out of there totally and then they will offset that with some work that they are going to be doing for us.

The other part of Maple Hill is Maple Hill is almost complete. The delay there was we also wanted to dredge the pond. The pond we had to wait for the funding. We could have funded it ourselves at about \$250,000 or we could wait for the application that Jacob submitted through our engineering company to make it eligible for the HUD monies. We choose the route to delay in finishing the project in order to get the additional \$250,000 in funding or \$230,000 or whatever it was. We are happy to announce the documents I signed the documents today and so the dredging should start in the very near future. That park will be put back together again totally with the equipment being put back up and the project completed; hopefully in a very short period. The dredging was necessary because the pond is very shallow now, probably 5 ft. mud and a foot or two of water. Not only is it dangerous but it is also killed all the fish in it, it was a necessary part of what we need to do. The contracts are signed, the contractor assured us he would be back on the job very quickly and we saved a quarter of million dollars. I know Ald. Johnson, Ald. Ramkissoon has been on this for quite a bit and we appreciate your patience, we appreciate your neighbors who live by the park their patience. We felt we made the right decision for our taxpayers.

He also touched on O&R digging. They are digging all over the place throughout the city; most people aren't happy. In order to replace those lines even though we have had problems in the past we are working with them as Jacob mentioned. But we are also encouraging people to go on our social media to go onto Nixel all these things are posted as soon as we get notified. Today we were notified by Ald. Green first before O&R that they were working, soon as I got the e-mail from O&R I forwarded it to you I asked that it be put up on social media to let people know what is coming down the road. As soon as we hear we try to let the public know what they can expect in their neighborhood. We recommend they go on Nixel, sign up for it and receive those notifications for any type of city work. Water mains, sewer breaks and other type of work that will inconvenience them.

10. Remarks of Aldermen

Ald. Masi- As you know there is a resolution for a Stop sign making it a 4 way on Beattie Ave. and Rowan St. we need to make that a 4 way hoping the rest of the Council will agree. Unfortunately last month we have had 2 serious accidents there.

This week we had a meeting with the post office representatives. I know I have gotten some calls and I am sure the other aldermen were getting calls for the delivery service or lack of delivery service with the post office. Hopefully we will be able to straighten some of that out. I was explaining to the Mayor I guess it was 2 weeks ago Thursday, Friday and Saturday I received absolutely zero mail and when I came back

from church on Sunday afternoon there was the mailman delivering all the mail. So hopefully we will be able to rectify that problem.

Birthday card 100th birthday. The other day I was reading in the paper Congressman Maloney met with a gentleman who is going to be 100 yrs. old on April 22nd and he is a WWII veteran and served in the Pacific I believe. His request was he would like on his 100th birthday to receive as many birthday cards as possibly. I went out and got it, I know the Council all signed and I am hoping other people will sign it. His name Emil Valentine, PO Box 1001 Rock Hill, NY 12775.

Last Thursday I had the pleasure and opportunity along with the Mayor and Council President to go to the Yankee's Opening Day and one of Middletown's own Aaron Tveit who has been on tv, movies and Broadway got to sing the National Anthem. I know his parents Stan and Posie are very proud and he is from Middletown.

Ald. Tobin-Nothing this evening.

Ald. Green- Monday the 8th we will have a constituents meeting 2nd Ward here in the Chambers at 7pm.

Clean up week the 2nd Ward we are scheduled for pickup on April 15th. Put it out on the 14th. I see a lot of stuff already out and a lot of big items that are just getting rained soaked or blowing in the neighbor's yards. There is some repercussions that can come from that. Please follow the schedule.

Ald. Johnson- I had the opportunity this past weekend I also happened to serve on the Board of Directors Cornell Cooperative Extension. We are housed on Seward Ave. in the 3rd Ward, we had an event this past Sunday called March Dog Madness; our first one ever. We had participants from 4 counties coming to Middletown to that location and we had 10 presenters and I wanted to thank the Chief and Officer McDonald and his dog Gambit. We had a lot of kids from 4H. It was a good moment for me because it puts Middletown's best foot forward but more importantly law enforcement best foot forward. I have a day job with dogs and it was about dogs with 4H it was a great day. I want to thank Middletown Law Enforcement for representing us so well.

Ald. Ramkisson-I just wanted to thank Engine 6 for what you guys do every year and throughout the year for our community. Our Little League kids hoping to have good weather on Sunday for the parade and a great opening day.

Next week Neighborhood Watch will met in these chambers next Tuesday.

Ald. Kleiner- Thank you to the Waalkills. Once again to Darrin and anyone involved in Little League I hope to see everybody Sunday.

I will mention again I am sure people will show up at 12:30, 1:00 at Davidge thinking the Easter Egg Hunt is, as much as we can let people know Eggstravaganza this year; April 20th it is going to be 10am for the little guys and 11am so we really need to get that word out so that people aren't disappointed.

April 27th for Sue we hope everybody in this community comes out to help clean it up. We have lots of litter and garbage out there.

Mr. Masi brought this up we have met with the postal inspector and security people from the post office. There is a new postmaster in Middletown. If you notice when you go into the main office now when you are leaving there is a little box there and it has a green smiley face or red scowl how was your wait time? There are issues that he is trying to address. I know they did plan on repaving that parking lot. We have had a couple of days where we haven't had any mail sometimes you don't get any. When I did see someone out delivering on Sunday. Absolutely I know they are trying to get that straightened out; the one thing the post office tells you it takes time to get it straightened out.

I want to say once again, kudos to John Naumchik, Karen and Lori Wednesday and Thursday we will be issuing ids. They have done a heck of a job and there have been a lot of happy people leaving Middletown. I encourage everyone in Middletown to show your Middie pride and get your id card.

Ald. Jean-Francois-I just want to remind everybody that O&R will be replacing sidewalks on Academy Ave. within the next couple of weeks so just keep that in mind.

Ald. Burr-Thanked the Waalkills, Reed Family, their generosity to the community is very nice and all our youth will benefit.

Pres. Rodrigues-I also want to thank the Waalkills. I hope to make it next year.

11. Unfinished Business

John Naumchik-Nothing this evening.

12. New Business

64.19 Resolution to authorize the treasurer to transfer \$8,000.00 within the Police Department 2019 budget to cover the purchase of a replacement 2019 Police Interceptor vehicle.

On motion of Ald. Tobin seconded by Ald. Green

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to authorize the treasurer to transfer \$8,000.00 within the Police Department 2019 budget to cover the purchase of a replacement

2019 Police Interceptor vehicle in place of a police interceptor, which was declared totaled in a motor vehicle accident in February 2019 in the following manner:

From	Amount	To
A.3120.417 Gas & Oil	\$8,000.00	A.3120.201 Vehicles

Roll Call: Ayes Ald. Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Jean-Francois, Burr, Green, Masi, Pres. Rodrigues-9

65.19 Resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign a contract with Young Explosives Fireworks Exhibition for the 2019 fireworks display as part of our annual Stars & Stripes Celebration.

On motion of Ald. Masi seconded by Ald. Burr

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to authorize the Mayor to sign the attached contract with Young Explosives Fireworks Exhibition for the 2019 fireworks display that will be held on Saturday, June 29, 2019 as part of our annual Stars & Stripes Celebration.

Roll Call: Ayes Ald. Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Jean-Francois, Burr, Green, Masi, Pres. Rodrigues-9

66.19 Resolution to concur with the Mayor's appointment of Dave Bechtle to the Recreation Commission term to expire on 03/24/2024.

On motion of Ald. Burr seconded by Ald. Kleiner

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Mayor's appointment of Dave Bechtle to the Recreation Commission term to expire on 03/24/2024.

Roll Call: Ayes Ald. Ramkissoon, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Jean-Francois, Burr, Green, Masi, Pres. Rodrigues-9

67.19 Resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign a revised proposal with CDM Smith for Professional Engineering Support Services for Water Resource Recovery Facility.

On motion of Ald. Jean-Francois seconded by Ald. Kleiner

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to authorize the Mayor to sign the attached revised proposal with CDM Smith for Professional Engineering Support Services for Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) – Biosolids Feasibility Study.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to authorize the Treasurer to transfer

from the Sewer Fund Balance at total of \$144,000.00 as per the cost of disposing of bio solids will be rising in May 2019 to \$133.00 per ton from \$89.00 (50%) and this engineering is planned to reduce the disposal costs by 75% by changing the water solids relationship in the sludge in the following manner:

From	Amount	To
Sewer Fund	\$144,000.00	G.8130.400 Sewer Contractual

Roll Call: Ayes Ald. Ramkissoo, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Jean-Francois, Burr, Green, Masi, Pres. Rodrigues-9

68.19 Resolution to amend the City Code Chapter 460 Vehicles & Traffic to add a four-way stop sign at Beattie Avenue and Rowan Street.

On motion of Ald. Masi seconded by Ald. Burr

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown hereby amends the City Code Chapter 460 Vehicles & Traffic, Section 460-11, Through street; stop streets; yield intersections to add the following:

Beattie Avenue and Rowan Street intersection will be a four-way stop street

Roll Call: Ayes Ald. Ramkissoo, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Jean-Francois, Burr, Green, Masi, Pres. Rodrigues-9

13. Local Laws
John Naumchik-Nothing this evening

14. Audit

On motion of Ald. Masi seconded by Ald. Tobin

I move that the accounts be audited the claims be adjusted and the Treasurer be authorized to issue warrants for their payment.

Roll Call: Ayes Ald. Ramkissoo, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Jean-Francois, Burr, Green, Masi, Pres. Rodrigues-9

15. Adjournment

There being no further business meeting adjourned 8:37pm

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sisco

