



Common Council Meeting
September 21, 2021
City Hall
16 James Street
Middletown, New York 10940

P R E S E N T

Miguel Rodrigues, President of Common Council
Ald. Tom Burr
Ald. Gerald Kleiner
Ald. Paul Johnson
Ald. Kate Ramkissoon
Ald. Sparrow Tobin
Ald. Jude Jean-Francois
Ald. Joseph Masi

A B S E N T

Ald. Sparrow Tobin
Ald. Andrew Green

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1. Pledge of Allegiance

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Eileen, are we live?

UNKNOWN MALE SPEAKER: Not yet.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right. Roll.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call: Ramkissoo, Kleiner, Johnson, Jean-Francois, Burr, Masi, President Rodrigues.

3. Approval of Minutes.

(Nothing this evening.)

4. Correspondence, Communications and Reports

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Correspondence.

COUNCIL CLERK: Nothing this evening.

5. For the Good of the City

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: For the Good of the City, anyone who would like to address the Council, please step forward.

VINCENT CRESCENZO: Good evening. Vince Crescenzo, 30 Watkins Avenue, corner of Watkins and Jay.

I just want to give you a very brief update of on where we are with the superintendent and the superintendent search.

Let's see, I got to get the dates right.

October 7th will be Richard Del Moro's last day. He goes into retirement on that day. We've got to remember that he's done -- he's been with the district for 35 years. He's accomplished a lot and he rose to the superintendency.

And one of the -- some of the things that stick in my name were the -- was the pandemic. He really showed his grit during the pandemic. He got us through all those conflicting mandates from the State, from State Ed, from the Federal Government, from the County, and we got through it with a minimal amount of damage.

Then, just currently, now we have the -- the Twin Towers Project. That's going to start soon. Actually, this Thursday we're going to talk about where we are now. And that's going to be like a three -- a four or five-year project.

And now -- and then the media center will be dedicated soon. I don't know the exact date. And that's a state-of-the art television studio, probably the most advanced one in -- in New York State at this time.

So 35 years of service, we wish him well in his retirement.

So that opens up a superintendent

search. There's been a lot of rumors or what have you. So, I just want to give you a brief description of what's going to happen now.

The composition of the Board, we have three members that have never been part a superintendent search. We have another three that have done one and the last three have done two. And Dr. Johnson will tell you this is a very, very complicated procedure.

So we're going to start with New York State School Board's Association is going to sponsor a workshop for us, a superintendent's search workshop. All members are going to be required to attend this. It will be a four-hour workshop. And what -- one -- a lot of things are going to come from this. But one thing that is very important is that each Board member will come up with a list of what they feel a superintendent should have, the requirements, their -- their experience and what have you and what they can do for our very, very diverse, very unique district.

And we -- after that we'll hire a headhunter, a professional service that only specializes in superintendents. And we -- we have a list that we're going to look at and -- and vet them. And

then what happens from that point is that we will give him that list of what our expectations are and other things. We'll -- we'll have a long conversation with him. And then all applications nationwide, we're not just doing local, we're not doing New York State, nationwide search, all applications go to the headhunter, to this company.

And we'll -- our criteria will be maybe bring back three, maybe four candidates that fit what we're looking for and what he perceives as a perfect fit or as close to a perfect fit for our district.

That relieves the Board of looking at any applications. We will not see any of them until the very, very end. And they'll be no special recognition for -- for anybody. Everybody is equal, everybody will be part of the search.

And then, you know, obviously, as in previous searches, we'll have community, government. They'll be a lot of public involvement with this committee set up. And that will -- that's going to be down the road probably two or three months.

And, you know, we'll keep you updated. But that's where we are now. We'll have our interim

superintendent appointed October 7th at the -- not this meeting, but the next one and we'll move on from there.

So that's all we have at the moment. It's still in flux. We're in -- we're in good shape. We have good leadership coming up and we're going to move forward. There won't -- there will not be a hiccup. We'll just get this ready and it's going to take seven, eight months, it could take a year for this. But we hope to have -- we know we will have a new superintendent in place by the next school year. And that's it.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: I got -- I got one question. The high school, how many kids do they have up there?

VINCENT CRESCENZO: How many kids in the high school? About 2,300.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: I reached out to a couple of Board members and I asked about the COVID plan and none of them could provide me. Do you know what the COVID plan is for 2,200 kids?

VINCENT CRESCENZO: Well, we have to follow -- we don't make our own plan. Obviously, we make -- we follow the State regulations or State Ed, actually. You know what, it just

recently came out. I'll get it to you, but it's going to be mask required unless you have a doctor's excuse.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: I have -- I have two kids --

VINCENT CRESCENZO: Right.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: -- every time the bell rings, they're shoulder to shoulder --

VINCENT CRESCENZO: Yeah.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: -- in the hallways, in the stairwells. And I'm still not getting answers.

VINCENT CRESCENZO: I promise you, tomorrow I'll talk to the, you know, the proper people. And I'll have it in writing. I'll send you an email of what the current --

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Buses, Talk Oaks, there --

VINCENT CRESCENZO: Buses are out of our control.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: -- there are there -- no, no, no. They're not out of your control because you guys contract --

VINCENT CRESCENZO: Right.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: -- with the bus
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company.

VINCENT CRESCENZO: Right.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: There are three kids per seat. Tall Oaks, three kids per seat and some of them are standing.

VINCENT CRESCENZO: But again, we don't control -- they can't get drivers. They're limited in that way. So you have what should be five or six buses are now being serviced with four -- three or four or five.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Is the district receiving more funds from the Federal Government -
-

VINCENT CRESCENZO: Not at this time.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: -- and the State Government --

VINCENT CRESCENZO: No.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: -- to battle COVID and the pandemic?

VINCENT CRESCENZO: Oh, there's money coming in for COVID, but not for the busing.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: So the money for COVID, but not for busing. So it's okay to put three kids per bus --

VINCENT CRESCENZO: I didn't say that.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: -- and have them standing?

VINCENT CRESCENZO: I didn't say that.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: I welcome at 7 o'clock you can come to Tall Oaks and see the kids are getting on the bus.

VINCENT CRESCENZO: You're not telling something I don't know. And it is a concern and the Board is dealing with it. But there -- if there are 20 buses in the -- in the parking lot and only 17 drivers or less --

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: And the other thing. Last year or the year before they were doing bag checks almost daily and vaping in the school district. My kids are seeing it all the time.

VINCENT CRESCENZO: I'm not aware of that.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Well, just to take it back.

VINCENT CRESCENZO: I will. Okay. And I will get you that information about the --

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Do you have anything?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: I just had a
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quick -- you inferred that the interim appointment is not public information at this time; is that correct?

MR. CRESCENZO: No, it's a personnel issue right now. So, you'll know a week from this Thursday.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR. CRESCENZO: Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Gerry, you have anything?

ALD. KLEINER: No, I'm good.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Same question about, I think, interim.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Anyone else would like to address the counsel?

JOEL SIERRA, LEGISLATOR: Good evening, guys, Joel Sierra, Orange County Legislator, District 20, City of Middletown.

Thank you for having me tonight. The streets look great. Thank you for the streets and the new garbage programs going great.

I just want to remind everyone, I'm sure all of you know, October 23rd begins early voting through the 31st. I'm sure everyone here is aware

of that. You're all running for office. But it will service, not only the City -- City of Middletown residents, but portions of Wawayanda, Mount Hope, Otisville, and Wallkill.

So I just wanted to thank the Mayor's Office, the Clerk's Office, and the Senior Center for housing that and making that possible. And wishing everyone success this election season. And reminding all the residents in the City of Middletown to get out and express your early voting rights.

And that's all I have. I'll see you guys next month unless you have any questions for me. Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Thank you.

Anyone else would like to address the Council? Okay.

6. Remarks of the Mayor.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Okay. Remarks of the Mayor.

JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR: Good evening. And first I want to thank Mr. Crescenzo for -- for coming to the meeting and addressing the issue of the school superintendent.

I want to congratulate Mr. Del Moro on
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his retirement and 35 years here in the Middletown District. And based on that and based on the success of the district, especially the graduation rates and other -- others, I wrote a letter to the District. And now that we're here discussing it, I feel compelled that -- to at least read it into the record here also.

I sent it to President Williams and Members of the Board. It read: As you approach a very difficult decision regarding who will lead our district, I felt compelled to forward to you my thoughts.

When key positions open up in Government, there is, at times, a tendency to look outside the organization for new leadership. Of course, certain situations may require that. In our case here regarding the Middletown School District, I would hope that looking back at the success of the Middletown School District has had -- that the Middletown School District has had, this would be an indicator that the solution may lie right here in our backyard.

It is my understanding that there are several qualified candidates that are currently employed by the District. This group of

administrators played a huge part in the success story that we are experiencing here in the City of Middletown School District.

As we develop management teams to lead our respective agencies, the ability for one to advance within their profession has been central to maintaining qualified people who care not only about their job, but also about their community.

Community involvement, interaction with kids, families and agencies that make up our city are also contributing factors to a successful city and school district.

It is my hope that the Board gives special attention to those interested parties that are currently employed by the Middletown School District as you search for a new superintendent. There appears to be a large pool of local candidates with experience and leadership skills that we need here in our District.

I have taken the liberty to forward a letter of reference, but that's a separate issue on one of the employees. And I won't read that part into the record because I think that's more private. But I'm hopeful that you will consider looking within the District prior to a national

search.

Apparently, a decision has been made, but I think there will be some people within the district that might look at it a little bit differently. And, ultimately, the Board is going to have that decision. And, of course, we wish them the best of luck as they move forward with that.

But I think it's important -- I think using Mr. Del Moro as an example in his 35 years with the District. I think that speaks for itself that he wasn't 35 years at a district in California or in Ohio, he was 35 years here at the Middletown District, learning the district, knowing the people, and -- and getting accolades throughout his career here.

So, the -- just my opinion. I wanted to add it and put it on the record now that we had an update on it. I didn't plan on doing that. So I don't have a slide on that, otherwise, I would have. But my -- I felt that I should, at least, put it on the records after Mr. -- after Mr. Crescenzo spoke.

So, okay, let's get started, Maria.

Tonight, you'll be voting on the

official resolution renaming John Degnan -- Festival Square as John F. Degnan Square. We had a wonderful dedication. Some of you spoke about it at the last meeting. It was attended by almost every member of the Council who was in the city at the time. Mr. Masi was not in the city at the time, so he did miss it.

ALD. MASI: Thank you for acknowledging that.

JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR: But it was a well-deserved recognition for a guy who has put his heart and soul into this community. So, you know, he's been a teacher in the Middletown District for many, many years, coach. He worked for the County as purchasing, the purchasing manager. But, more importantly, when we formed the business improvement district, at least more importantly from my perspective, we were -- the Board brought John on. And they brought him on for his passion for this community, his knowledge of this community, and his commitment to making the downtown Middletown a success story.

And I think if we look around at what's happening here now, that it's -- it is appropriate for us to forever remember John Degnan here in

downtown Middletown.

One of the conditions of the recognition was that he not retire also. You know, sometimes when you give awards to people, some -- some people might think you're trying to force him out. That's not the case here. We wanted to recognize John for his hard work. And if he decides to retire in a short-period of time, I will be proposing a resolution that we strip his name off of that -- off of that wall, so. I'm sure he's watching and listening, so he -- he got the message.

So next is the garbage cans and dumpsters. The program is working. It's working well. The feedback from the neighborhoods are -- the neighborhoods are a lot cleaner, a lot less animals rummaging through the garbage.

We now have all the extra cans in the smaller cans and the 65 gallon and the 35 gallon. So anyone who is looking to downsize their can can and they need to call DPW to do so.

We are also doing, myself, Jacob, and Maria along with Ross Mastria today from DPW tour downtown again. And we're finalizing the Downtown Management Plan. And we're going to be coming

back to you, possibly, for an amendment or two to the DMU garbage pickup where we can, rather than have the property owner submit a plan, we're also going to ask that the property owner submit a plan in conjunction with our visit to them, so we can identify where the garbage has to be placed out.

We will also be adding at least two additional dumpster locations in the downtown, strictly for downtown business and residence use, not for people to pull into the parking lot from other parts of the City and use them. so that we can limit how much is going out onto the street at night and -- and try to get as many people using dumpsters as possible. It's not entirely possible, but we're going to do our best to make that happen.

So, we'll be meeting with the Bid District and we'll be meeting with building owners. We'll be contacting them. And we will be doing a -- a property-by-property search for them.

The next issue is the Federal Court Project of the former Federal Court building. The Barton & Loguidice is now, I believe, 65 percent completed plans. We hope to have this project out to bid by the end of the year. I know that that

might be cutting it short a little bit. I -- I think we can do it.

But it's an important project as you know. The original court mandate was about an 8 to 9 million dollar project. We fought that for many, many years. Assemblywoman Gunther was able to secure 2.7 million in State grant money for us for, both, the purchase of the Federal Court and the expansion or renovation of the existing court into both police and City Hall offices.

So this police -- the complex here will be strictly police and city hall. And the court will be moved over to South Street. And we will have two courtrooms there.

So the project is -- is moving in the right direction after many, many years. I want to thank the Office of Court Administration for, basically, working with us. It was a tough go, but we're probably going to be saving in the area of 4 to 5 million dollars on the project. And we will, as soon as the plans are ready, we will be reviewing them with the Common Council prior to sending it out to bid.

Next issue is the Heritage Trail. And the -- we touched on it a few weeks ago or a

couple of weeks ago regarding the -- the County and the right-of-ways as they come into the City and some of the railroad crossings. Jacob and the County Attorney and Alex are working on that where the City will be purchasing those right-of-ways.

And I spoke with the County Executive again today. They have mobilized or in the process of mobilizing the contractor. And work is back underway or will be or will be underway very shortly.

So I did ask for an update for the East Main Street through the downtown process or progress. And that should be forthcoming soon also.

Next is the skate park vandalism which has been taking over social media. A month or so ago we did have some vandalism at the park. And it wasn't stuff that was just easily taken care of. It was, both, vulgar and -- and racist graffiti and large paint on the surfaces throughout the park with some damage to the decorative M that's on the -- on the wall or on one of the skate walls. So we had to close the park immediately.

graffiti, but even with that, there's some damage surfaces cause. So we had the -- John Bianchi arrange for a company to come in to look at resurfacing and look at different options. Their recommendation is that we do the -- the repair and the resurfacing of the entire park.

The cost apportioned out to the vandalism is, I believe, in the area of \$13,000. That's due to the damage. The police department has made one arrest. The person I believe is from Bloomingburg. There were three people in the car, not local. They came from out of the city at 2 o'clock in the morning specifically to do damage to this recreational facility that is enjoyed by so many people here, not only in our city, but in the region.

So we're hoping and we'll be pushing for not only restitution, but the gentleman is charged with -- and he's 18 years old, so he's not a kid -- charged with a felony. And we would hope that the District Attorney will keep in mind the damage that these three people have done to, not only the park, but also to the mindset of some of these kids that utilize that park on a daily basis when they ride by it and see that they can't use it

because of -- because of vandalism.

We've also had quite a few people that have ignored the police tape and have ignored the fence. They've been charged with trespassing. They've had their skateboards confiscated also. The -- the fact that we're going to be doing this repair hopefully starting either the end of this week, early next week, it's even more important to stress that they cannot cross that fence and go skateboarding because we're going to be back into the same position where you're going to be damaging the surface of that property, so.

The one person who has been arrested has not given up the names of the other two people that were in the car with him. But that's up for the police and the prosecutors to handle. We do have one person in custody, was, obviously, released. But one person to prosecute and we hope the District Attorney prosecutes them to fullest extent of the law.

Next is the warming station. We're getting down to that time of year. The interior is complete except for the kitchen equipment which is not necessary to open. That's an added benefit that we've put into the process. The exterior

work will begin next week. That's the roof, retaining wall, sidewalk. A parking lot will be paved all by the end of October. The bidding was already been done.

Ended up being -- the total project cost ended up being 409,000 -- \$409,064. Of that we used the COVID funding of 309,064, entitlement funding from CDBG of 50, and the City of Middletown put in \$50,000 in order to move the project.

The project did take longer than expected because of materials and supplies that we were unable to get. Some of it we're still unable to get. But, I guess, it is now complete. We're able to -- to finish the project.

They can occupy it now. City DPW crews assisted the warming station, staff, and volunteers in relocating the -- all of the materials and items from the -- from the temple down to Mulberry House. And so the place is ready to go and is operational.

On a second note, Maria, I believe, this project is up for some type of congressional acknowledgment for the use of COVID funds. And I think it's one of the five projects nationwide

that Maria will be on on some type -- well, let her explain it. She knows more about it than I do. And very deservedly, the Community Development Office did a great job with it.

Yesterday there was a press conference in front of City Hall. Assemblywoman Gunther was there regarding a million-dollar grant for, primarily, mental health grant for Orange County. And, of course, it impacts our City. There were people from all over the county here, both, law enforcement and elected officials. And it's a good project for -- it will fund the -- I think it's called 988, Chief, is it 988, is that the new number they're talking about or --

UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Oh, that's the new state number.

JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR: State number, yeah, state number. But, locally, it's going to assist with mobile mental health and some mental health services.

And, you know, I've been meeting with the -- the ambulance folks, Mobile Life. And I met with other ambulance corps regarding the renewal of the contract. And -- and discussions with all of them, one of the biggest issues on

shortage -- the ambulance corps are having -- companies are having the same problems as bus -- as the busing. They have lack of people working, the EMTs, the reimbursements. But a lot of the calls that they get are mental health calls. And if we're able to dispatch a Mobile Mental Health Unit rather than a -- rather than an ambulance to certain calls, that leaves that ambulance in service and will shorten response times to the other people that need service.

So, it's a good program. There are many benefits to it. And I wanted to thank Assembly Gunther for -- for her efforts. She's chair of the Mental Health Committee and the Assembly. And she was able to deliver this for -- for Orange County. And Darcie Miller from the Orange County Mental Health was here also on behalf of the County.

We also had a ground breaking on Benton Avenue. The former OBS building which has been owned by Middletown Community Health and now Cornerstone, they're going to be doing a \$7.5 million project at this site. It is about 5,000 square feet, 5,200 square feet of additional space and a complete renovation of the building.

The -- it's going to be a family healthcare center. It's an exciting project for the City and for Cornerstone. It was made possible by a \$5 million grant from New York State and a \$2.5 commitment and donation from the Rally Foundation.

If you recall, the Rally Foundation has contributed to many projects in our City including Davidge Park pool, the YMCA pool. And so I wanted to publically thank Rich Rally and his family for all they do for our community. And probably one of the most important projects they're doing is this because it's going to have healthcare access as a right and as it's supposed to be.

And I'm not sure on the timetable for the renovation, but it's -- the -- the project will have many positive effects, not only on Middletown, but on the region.

And as for COVID, COVID is not over. We try to keep reminding people it's not over. The hospitalized confirmed, as you can see, are 65. We are now dropped down, I think, on the list. Where did we go here? So we're that low on the list that it didn't show up maybe or maybe we got cut off on the top, I don't know. But the --

we're still working very hard on the -- trying to get people to wear a mask when in large groups of people and, primarily, to urge people to get vaccinated.

So please keep that in mind. If you need rides to vaccinations, we can provide rides through the Senior Center. But please get vaccinated or consider it. And do it, it's good for our entire community?

Any questions?

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Any questions for the Mayor?

Alderman Johnson.

ALD. JOHNSON: Thanks. A comment and a question. You know, you know, you've been beating the drum on the mental health issue for quite a few years now. And I want to thank you for that. I think we all agree it is a county issue, not a municipal issue. And, hopefully, our point of view will prevail. But we're making slow and steady progress, I suppose.

With respect to the garbage cans, Alderman Ramkisson and I were kind of wandering, not aimlessly, but wandering around the Third Ward yesterday. We met a gentleman on Maryland and I

spoke with a woman later on West Conkling, older, older people, who are concerned about when you have snow removal and you have plowed snow, how are they going to put the garbage can where the garbage can needs to go? Have we thought about that?

JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR: Yes. Well, the garbage can should be going as close to the driveway as possible. So, assuming they have a driveway, they're going to be plowing their driveway. But even if it's -- even it snowed -- even if it's snowing as it -- before the, you know, before the plows get out, they still have to put it in the same spot.

The arm reaches over and reaches down. It doesn't go underneath, it reaches down. So they'll be able to get it. So tell them not -- not to worry about it. That it's our first rodeo here with -- with doing this type of stuff. But I'm sure we'll -- we'll be able to figure it out and make sure.

If, for example, if we have to put on extra crew, an extra crew member that day to help maneuver the can, we will be doing it.

ALD. JOHNSON: Okay.

JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR: And it's the same with downtown. We may be putting in, in certain parts of downtown or in certain streets, we talked about Ogden Street, it's so narrow, we may have to put an extra person on that truck at that -- for that route for that portion of the route to help maneuver the can.

ALD. JOHNSON: To position -- to position the can?

JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR: To position the can possibly. I don't -- I don't think so citywide. I absolutely don't have to do it citywide. But there will be areas that we may have to do some type of or, at times, like during snow.

You know, our DPW sanitation people, they pick up during blizzards and everything. So, they'll -- I'm sure they're -- they've got a plan in place to make sure it all happens.

ALD. JOHNSON: Good answer. Thank you.

JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR: Now, back on the mental issue, I just want to give you an example how the whole system is failing in mental health. And it's not just Mobile Mental Health, but it's, you know, the State when they close

these facilities including MPC made a commitment to adequately fund and take those savings and invest in mental health. They did not do it. And this goes back to Hugh Carey and every governor and administration since. And sometimes they're just throwing money out and it's not -- whatever they're doing is not working. So this Mobile Mental Health thing is a good thing.

But I believe it was last Saturday. We had a man at the intersection of Cottage and Route 211 and Albert. It's a five-corner intersection. And many of you probably have seen it on social media. Totally naked laying in the road from Yonkers. Don't know how he got here or why he's here, but from Yonkers. Now, obviously, the man is in a mental health crisis. He's having a problem. It's not something you do.

The police take him to for a mental health evaluation. Within two hours, that person was back out and engaged in a fight on Dolson Avenue and the police had to arrest him again, take him into custody again.

So it's not just the response. And that's what we're trying to get across to some of the advocates for, you know, defund police.

That's -- we've opposed that. But even the mental health people are saying, including at that press conference, that we don't want to defund. We don't want to go to a scene like that by ourselves. We need mental health to work in conjunction with the police department.

But then once the issue is addressed, we need them to keep people into a facility as long as they need it and as long as they need treatment. And to me, that's a perfect example of how the system is failing.

And if a doctor or whoever did the evaluation decided to release him did not see a problem with a man in the middle of the day laying naked in the street or sitting naked in the street of a busy highway, State Highway intersection, then what the hell else was going to trigger that doctor into say this guy needs to be in here for a while?

So that part of the system we're still working on. And it's going to take the public to make calls to our assembly people, our senators, and others to make sure we bring about the appropriate changes.

That's all I have.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right. Thank you, Mayor.

7. Remarks of Department Heads

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Okay. Remarks of the Department Heads. Economic Development.

MARI BRUNI, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Good evening. Just to follow up on what the Mayor was saying about the warming station. We -- this project has been chosen by HUDD to be highlighted for best practices of COVID funds for public facilities. So we will be presenting late in October. I want to thank my office for helping and working hard on this project. And, also, we're getting all the material together for the presentation. It will be sometimes towards the end of October. I'll -- I'll keep you informed and let you know.

But we're -- I believe we're four -- one of the four cities in the country that are going to be presenting. So we're looking forward to that and we're pretty excited.

The Paramount, we are -- we announced our concert series starting in December and to -- to the end of April, so we have nine major concerts that we're going to be presenting.

We have our COVID guidelines in place. And everything -- everything is on sale and moving forward.

We're looking to resume our movies as soon as the front doors are completed which we're looking at the first week of October. Hopefully, that will be all completed and then we can resume our movie schedule. So I know the staff down there, as well, is looking forward to getting things rolling. And, also, our audiences and our patrons are looking forward coming back. So we're pretty excited about that as well.

And I just want to say congrats to John. And looking forward to the resolution tonight. Everybody knows how he's been a strong advocate of downtown, you know, heart and soul of the city. He's been a teacher, a mentor, a friend. But really worked so hard for this community. And he's going to continue to work hard with us and keep teaching and -- and keep -- keep us moving.

That's all I have for tonight.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Any questions for Maria? Thank you, Maria.

MARI BRUNI, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Thank you, Maria.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: DWP Commissioner.

JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER: Good evening, all.

Start off with my traditional update on the reservoir level because Alderman Masi is back from well-deserved short vacation. Welcome back. All our reservoirs are full, 100 percent all -- all three of them.

Moving onto the Wastewater Treatment Plan project. We have these screw pumps. I have not updated you for a while on these pumps. But we have installed two pumps in there. And we tested them, commissioned them, make sure that they're running fine. And they have been running -- we worked out all the bugs out of them, so they are working fine. And now we're -- we would be mobilizing to install additional two screw pumps. One is primary and one is secondary. And then after that we will install the last primary one.

The reason why we are doing it in stages is because we are wastewater treatment plan performance and function is very much dependent on those screw pumps. And they require -- there are big tubes in there and they require a specialty crane to come in and install them and specialty

contractor to install them and so on. So it's quite complicated. So we're not taking chances. Once the old ones are ripped out, there is no going back, so we're doing it in stages, taking our time.

EFS from Albany, they came down because they are funding this project. They came down to inspect and take pictures and see where we are and everything like that. And I think everything went very smoothly with them with EFC.

Another project now at the other end of the water treatment plan which is the high-lift pump station, it replaces an old pump station that we had that was constructed in the late 1980s. It's way overdue to replace the pump station. And now the project is coming to almost completion where we might be ready very soon for commissioning the new pump station which is very exciting because all the time we're very anxious about keeping the old pump station going which served us very well. But it's time for it to retire and to put the new one on.

Water storage tank projects, again, I did not update you on that for -- for a while. We have three water storage tanks. One of them is

Highland Avenue. Water storage tank right now T-Mobile is trying to -- to sort out with us building a tower right on our site, so they can take their antennas off the tank. And then we can sandblast and we can repaint that one water storage tank.

The other -- the other one is purchasing property for the (inaudible) lights in order to build a new water storage tank for Mountain Avenue.

So all this is moving very slowly because we have so many parts, but we're getting there.

The water main, the high-pressure water main on Monhagen Avenue from the water treatment plant, we had some setbacks there with Orange and Rockland having their old abandoned underground pipe that possibly is contaminated causing us to find another route for our water main because they were going to charge us very high cost for removing it when it's outside the City. And, so, but now we're expecting delivery of a new pipe to the site hopefully by tomorrow it will be arriving. And then the contractor will resume the construction.

We still have some issues with the installed section of the pipe. There's about half a mile and we're working on resolving that issue.

New York Rising Projects, again, I have not updated you on these projects for months, so now I'm giving you the update because there is some movement.

For the Grand Street section of the project, the contractor has mobilized, and he's going to start deploying the shotcrete inside the section of the pipe that will be -- remain in place. So we have a culvert crossing Grand Street and that is part of the Draper Brook. And what they do is they send -- they send people inside the culvert to patch any holes and then do shotcrete. What shotcrete is it creates another concrete pipe inside the existing pipe.

After that, that will take about a couple of weeks. And after that we will be, hopefully, the box culverts that are being delayed because of the precast issue in there. Everybody is falling behind. Hopefully they'll be arriving at the site. And then we will be installing them shortly after the shotcrete. But we're waiting every day. They keep giving us update about when

we're going to be getting the box culverts.

So, certain section of the project will be replaced -- will be -- will be upgraded in place. The other section will be an open cut to replace the whole box culvert.

Another thing is Mark Pengel, he's -- he's our Deputy Commissioner for street and sanitation. He's been working for the City dedicated. He's really good, most of his life to the City of Middleton. He started from labor to skill labor to foreman to Deputy Commissioner. He did a great job for us. He'll be retiring and, I think, October 1st will be his last day. I'm sure the Mayor might -- might invite him over. But, unfortunately, it's going to happen before the next meeting. So he will be -- he'll be -- that will be his last day October 1st.

And he's going to be having, you know, big void in there. But we do have people that are ready to and willing to step up and take -- take his position. But he will be dearly missed. You know, I've known him for, what, I've been working with him for about 17 years. And, you know, and I trusted him and he's always been there for us. And he's done a great job. And I appreciate all -

- all your service, Mark.

And with that, I will conclude my comments. If you have any questions for me.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Any questions for -- Alderman Jean-Francois.

ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Commissioner, where do we stand with the traffic project? The last discussion we had it was supposed to be sent out for bid. Where do we stand as of now?

JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER: Yes. The traffic operations, it's a three-part project like I reported last time. It's -- part of is it a traffic operation which is about \$21 million construction. Another -- another part of it is the DRI funding which is, basically, to pick up the slack between different projects and fill -- fill curbs and sidewalks, whatever the other projects, the ADA curbs and sidewalks are not finished and whatever the traffic operation could not finish. So, that's about 3 million -- about \$2.2 million. And then we have an additional funding in there for another \$2.2 million.

We're trying to square -- we're trying to get the construction agreements signed with DOT before we do an official award of the bids to

Boyce Excavation. Right now Boyce Excavation he seems to be the low bidder on all three projects in the amount of \$26,100,000, very close to that number. So that's where we are right now.

So we need to sign something with the DOT and that will tell us how much money is really coming from DOT federal funding, how much is the State going to be contributing to it, and how much is the City going to be putting up some money for that whether it's 10 percent, 5 percent, whether it is 20 percent. All that is going to be worked out with the construction agreement we hope.

ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Thank you.

JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER: Yeah.

Electronic drop off, you were going to --

ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: That was Saturday.

Yeah, I actually drove by on Saturday and it seems like everybody was hard at work. How did that turn out?

JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER: Yeah.

So, we had the electronic drop off on -- on Saturday this time and it worked out very well. We only had like 22 -- 22 pallets. Usually we have much more. When we started we used to have on tractor trailers, two of them, getting loaded.

Now, we're down to 22 which is fine because people probably just finish with whatever old stuff they had.

ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Right.

JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER: And then hopefully now it will be steady, you know, annual -- annual operation. But it was very successful.

ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Televisions used to be a lot bigger back then.

JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER: Yeah.
Yes, absolutely.

ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Thank you,
Commissioner.

JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER: Yes,
sir.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Thank you.

Okay. Police Chief.

JOHN EWANCIW, POLICE CHIEF: Good evening, Council Members. Just want to follow up on a little bit that the Mayor said in regards to mental health. He gave you one example of many of the challenges that we deal with with the mental health system.

I think this grant is going to be,
definitely, a positive movement for us because the

money is focused for this specific area to provide additional resources to the outreach groups and an overnight person as well.

Just the quick numbers for us here in Middletown. We've handled just over 400 mental health calls thus far this year. It doesn't sound like an awful lot. However, most of those calls take three to four members of the department to -- to manage. And some of them take several hours to manage. So the more resources we could get on the mental health team, the better we are as a community.

Something else on the mental health agenda is today the Orange County Police Chief's Association in conjunction with Orange County Mental Health did a collaborative training at the Paramount. They hired a specialist, an attorney, out of Connecticut that specializes in mental health and policing to come in and present today. It was an outstanding training. Well, it came just in time in line with that grant money as well.

So, I'd like to thank the City for hosting that and thank the County and the police chiefs for sponsoring that -- that training.

Another item is this past week I lost one of my commanders to retirement. I've had several retirements this year. This past week, Lieutenant Frank Graziano retired after 22 years with the police department. He's retired to take on another role in the community, still kind of in the police field. He will be the Director of the Orange County or the Hudson Valley Intel Center. He'll sit in Goshen.

As I mentioned, Frank Graziano served for the Middletown Police Department for 22 years. His father, Frank Graziano, Sr., his late father, also served for 29 years. So, Frank Sr. and Frank Jr. served the City of Middletown in the role of police officers for more than 50 years. So I'd like to thank him and wish him well in his next chapter of life.

Lastly, this Saturday, September 25th, the Middletown Police Department will be hosting a community event. It will be a movie in John Degnan Park. It will be this Saturday, the 25th. As I said, the movie will start somewhere around 7:30. So it's open to the public. And we hope that we have several people come out and join us for that evening. Hopefully the weather stays

clear for us.

Other than that, I have nothing unless you have questions for me.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Questions for the Police Chief. Alderman Masi.

ALD. MASI: Chief, you just might want to mention that our candidates on Saturday morning that we've got somewhere between 72 and 78 police officer candidates doing the agility test. And I want to thank you because your department really helps out in that. In fact, you do most of the manpower work. Thank you.

JOHN EWANCIW, POLICE CHIEF: Thank you.

ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: I always wanted to ask you. How's Officer Barone? How's he doing? Is he back at work yet?

JOHN EWANCIW, POLICE CHIEF: Officer Barone is not back at work. I did see him last Wednesday in person and spoke with at length. He still has many challenges to overcome in his recovery. He's come a long way. His -- it was a one year on August 28th of the incident, so he's just over a year. Several of his doctors have indicated that it would be a possibly a two-year mark before they really know what his limitations

or his healing will be fully. So we still have a long way to go, but he's very positive. He still does his therapy. He's still trying everything he can to progress. But, unfortunately, he has not been able to come back yet.

ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Thank you. Wish him a speedy recovery.

JOHN EWANCIW, POLICE CHIEF: Excuse me?

ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: I wish him a speedy recovery.

JOHN EWANCIW, POLICE CHIEF: Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Anyone else?
Thank you, Chief.

JOHN EWANCIW, POLICE CHIEF: Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Superintendent of Recreation.

CHRISTINE BRINCKERHOFF, SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION: Good evening. Just to follow up a little bit with what the Mayor stated with the skate park. That price tag is actually \$18,000. The patch work is even being donated. With weather, he's hoping to start it this Friday and the sealing be the following week. So it is getting closer to being repaired where hopefully that skate park can get back open for the many,

many people that use it and respect it and appreciate it.

We have a couple of business items tonight. A couple of transfers in our budget. One that's important, we had brought on extra part timers in our Parks Department and keeping a few extra part timers on just because of the workload that we have in our -- the extra properties we have like the reservoir, the skate park, and in mowing. So that's where you'll see some transfers as well with all the extra equipment we have and gas prices going up we need that.

One that might be a little bit of a topic of conversation. We have a resolution there to increase the fees of our camps from \$90 a week to \$110 a week. That still breaks down to \$3 an hour for the childcare. It's the same price that Wallkill has. And we're much less than other daycares in the area -- other camps in the area. So if there's any questions on that, you can also ask me that.

Our fall programs are all up and running. To sit here and mention them all, I'd be here a long time, so I won't do that to Mr. Masi. I know he hates that. But you can get on our

website, on our registration site on social media and that will take you right to the many, many programs that are running. The program staff is doing an incredible job.

Lastly, this will be my last meeting as an employee with the City of Middletown for the last 39 years with the Recreation and Parks Department. The City -- thanks

UNKNOWN MALE SPEAKER: (Inaudible) 39 years.

CHRISTINE BRINCKERHOFF, SUPERINTENDENT OF

RECREATION: That's a big one. The big thing I wanted to do is have a public chance to thank the people that sit in this seat now and the people that have sat in the seat before you. They've always showed support to the Recreation and Parks Department. I've never been told except for my salary, that's the only time, otherwise, it's totally supported.

The pleasure I've had working with all the people from Mike Perkins and Ron Libolt and Debbie Sherman, the -- the initials, the originals. I'm the last of the originals. We're starting a whole second generation which is a

wonderful thing. And what I've learned from them and the people I've got to work with in the past and -- and now are incredible.

Also, thank the public. Thank you for trusting me and the staff with your kids. You've always been supportive. It's been an honor and a privilege. And as I keep telling everybody, I'm retiring from the desk, I'm not retiring from this wonderful community.

So, with that being said, I'm also going to follow up on one other thing the Mayor said. The school has got a big project finding a superintendent. And I agree it stays local. So you guys have a smaller project finding a superintendent. But you have a local person sitting right back here that's beyond qualified and has worked her way through the ranks and is well respected in this community, so I hope she's highly considered.

So, thank you. And it's been a privilege.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Thank you.

CHRISTINE BRINCKERHOFF, SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION: Yes, Jude.

ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Before you leave, I
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know we had an water issue at the water park. Has that been resolved yet? I want to make sure it's resolved before you leave.

CHRISTINE BRINCKERHOFF, SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION: The water park, the splash pad?

ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Yes.

CHRISTINE BRINCKERHOFF, SUPERINTENDENT OF

RECREATION: Fixed. Bianci's all over it.

ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Okay. All right, great.

CHRISTINE BRINCKERHOFF, SUPERINTENDENT OF

RECREATION: We have another problem, but we'll discuss that another time.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Anyone else?
Thank you, Chris.

CHRISTINE BRINCKERHOFF, SUPERINTENDENT OF RECREATION: Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Corporation Counsel is not here.

City Clerk.

JOHN NAUMCHIK, CITY CLERK: I know Joel had mentioned it, but I was -- I'll mention it again about the early voting. That starts

Saturday, October 23rd through October 31st. And that's at the Senior Center. We'll be putting the times on our website. And I'm sure the Board of Elections will be sending out mail on that too.

And I also wanted to congratulate John Degnan on his -- as a member of the Bid Board for a long time. And he's -- he's well deserved on that thing and I congratulate him very much.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Thank you. Any questions for John? Thank you, John.

8. Public Hearings and Grievances.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Public Hearings and Grievances.

COUNCIL CLERK: Tonight we have a public hearing for proposed revising of Chapter 475, Zoning that a bottle redemption centers be added to a use permitted in the Light Industrial Zone District.

I'll read the public hearing notice. Is hereby giving the City of Middletown will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 21st on or as near 8:00 p.m. as possible, Common Council Chamber, second floor, 16 James Street to hear any and all persons wishing to be heard under our

proposed revising of Chapter 475, Zoning, that bottle redemption centers be added as a use permitted in the Light Industrial Zoning District subject to the Planning Board approval.

And any all persons wishing to be heard will be given the opportunity to speak either for or against the proposed revising of the Zoning code. The complete revising proposed revising of the Zoning code is available in the Office of the Common Council Clerk, City Hall, 16 James Street, and also on the City website.

The public hearing will also be conducted via video teleconference and live on Channel 20 for viewing to. There was the link to register for the public hearing. Any person unable to participate the -- my email was published and I have no received any emails for any comments. And that's by the order of the Common Council.

This was published in the *Times Herald Record* on September 10th and September 11th and also on the City website.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Okay. At this -- the public hearing is now open. Anyone from the public?

Eileen, do we have anybody on line?

EILEEN: Not at this time.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Any member from the Council?

I got a motion to close the public hearing?

ALD. MASI: So moved.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Masi, second by Alderman Johnson. All in favor?

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: The public hearing is closed.

9. Petitions and Complaints

(Nothing this evening.)

10. Remarks of the Alderman.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Okay. Remarks of Alderman. Alderman Burr.

ALD. BURR: I'd just like to congratulate Bureau Commander Graziano, Mr. Pengel, and most of all Chris. It's been an honor and pleasure working for you for like 10 years being the Parks and Rec Chairperson. And I wish you the best. Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Jean-Francois.

ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Yes. Good evening.

I had the opportunity to join the Mayor and County Legislator Joe Sierra for the dedication ceremony for the American Legions regarding the pavilion. I have to say it was well attended. I want to thank everyone involved for the invite. Thank you.

And, Chris, you're definitely going to be missed. Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Kleiner.

ALD. KLEINER: Thank you. And congratulate Lieutenant Frank Graziano. He's going to be missed. He did so much for the City.

Mark Pengel, I didn't know he was retiring that soon. I know he's our go-to guy for almost everything. He will be missed. I wish him well.

And, Brinck, of course, congratulations. And I know you're retiring just from the desk, so we're going to count on that. And I'm -- I'm sure Raelynn is going to do a great job taking over. So we are in good hands.

I want to thank the Mayor for coming to our constituents meeting. We covered a lot of the issues that he covered tonight. And he gave us

update also on the psych center and what's going on and a whole lot of things. So, Mayor, thank you for that, it was much appreciated.

Maria, congratulations. It's nice that the project is recognized and at least one of four or five finalists.

And I also want to thank Temple Sinai for what they did last year for hosting the warming station. I think all the fears proved groundless. And it was quite successful even with COVID coming up so strong at the end. They really handled that well. So I thank Rabbi Rubenstein who is -- who is -- has since left and -- and the whole congregation for hosting it.

October 2nd, a week from Saturday is the fire parade. I just want to remind people of that. I believe it's at 3 o'clock. Is that -- is that right, Miquel?

MIQUEL: Yes.

ALD. KLEINER: It's at 3 o'clock and -- and the usually route down Highland Avenue, et cetera down to Thrall Park. So please come out and support that. I think it's the first one in four years. It's been a while.

And, finally, the County, I -- I hear
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that maybe the resolution has been pulled. But proposing a resolution to oppose mandates period because that takes away your freedom, you know, I haven't heard the County yet propose a resolution to condemn the insurrection and the attack on our Capital on January 6th. We haven't heard a peep out of the County about that trying to overthrow the whole democratic process.

But putting a mandate and making a public health issue, no one is saying you have to get vaccinated. But if you want to work in public health, if you want to work in certain jobs, then to protect your fellow citizens, yes, it is a requirement or get tested once a week.

So I hope it's true that they pulled the resolution. I usually don't comment on the County, but that was so egregious reading that today that I -- I can't help it. So that's it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman
Ramkisson.

ALD. RAMKISSOON: I'll be as brief as possible. For all of our retirees, I wish them all well in their next endeavors. Brinck, I don't know. You're kind of synonymous with the Rec

Department. You're the heart and soul, you have been for years. I don't -- I don't think you can just disappear anyway. You have to be present or we'll go into shock.

Council President Rodrigues spoke about some issues in the school. And with what went on in the skate park, as a mom, as someone who works in the school, as a resident of the City, super frustrated because in the schools, now we also have the issue with the vandalism of the bathrooms because TikTok told them to. And kids are destroying the property in the bathroom. And now are children are being restricted from using the restroom during their school day.

And I don't -- I'm kind of at a loss here. And I just feel like as a parent, all I can do is just beg other adults to just talk to your kids. We're -- we're failing somewhere because they do not understand the consequences -- there's consequences for your actions. You know, the -- the school district invests greatly in our kids. They give them beautiful facilities, top-of-the-line technology. And they should be raised to respect what they've been given, not destroy it and not create environments where the learning --

the whole day is disrupted because now children are being brought to the bathroom one at a time. That takes instructional time away from them.

Our skate park, the City invested in our kids. There's something that they were interested in. We didn't want them having to go to parking lots. We built them one of the best skate parks in this region. And then these other children from another town who are welcome to come and take advantage of that, came down here and destroyed it.

And it is just so frustrating to watch the actions of a few, you know, affect these people who do love and enjoy and respect the place that they live and what's been provided for them.

So I'm just frustrated. I'm frustrated as a parent. I'm frustrated as a citizen here that just goes on here in our community.

So I just -- I beg of you, parents, sit your kids down, talk to them, you know, because this is just -- there's just no other answer for that, but that we need to be doing a better job in the home that our children don't think that these actions are acceptable.

And that is all I have tonight. Thank
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you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Johnson.

ALD. JOHNSON: I concur, Alderman
Ramkisson.

Yes, congratulations to the retirees.
But it certainly bears repeating for one in
particular. If we calculate how many children and
families you positively impacted over your time in
the City of Middletown, it's thousands, thousands
of people have benefited from the efforts of your
department. So a thank you doesn't really cut it,
but I'll go for it anyway. So thank you.

As we said, Alderman Ramkisson and I
have been communicating with our constituents.
I've been trying to advocate Nixle. I've handed
out about 400 Nixle cards in the last couple of
months. And still going door to door. Most
people have not heard of it. If you are on Nixle,
you would know about the fireman's parade coming
up this week. And please pay attention to it, it
will give you a lot of good information.

I also want to join the Mayor in
thanking Vince for joining us this evening with an
update. Yes, I have a lot of experience in that
area. I was there for 17 years. I probably

served with six superintendents including an interim. It is a big undertaking. And it has significant consequences as you make your decision.

I was on the Board that hired -- we hired Robert Cadillac (phonetic) and Richard Del Moro. There was Richard and Robert. Which one is Richard, which one is Robert? So I've known Mr. Del Moro a long time. And I think, in particular, his contributions as Assistant for CNI have been very significant along with the leadership of Ken Easwood. So I think we all wish him well. And all of us on the Council wish the Board of Education, may the force be with you as you move forward.

Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Green.

ALD. MASI: Chris, congratulations.

Thank you for all your years of service and good luck in your retirement.

John Degnan, John, I'm sorry I wasn't around. I was on the other side of the country. But I'm really glad that we in Middletown and, obviously, it's under the direction of the Mayor, we do things, we honor people while they're still

around. So, John, you can enjoy your park for the next 30 years rather than waiting until someone passes. So I think that's great. And -- and John is the most deserving person there is.

Warming station, everybody, Gerry, and I know you've been a part of the warming station for years and years and years, everyone that's worked on that, thank you and congrats. Maria, you and your staff, this honor brings attention to Middletown. We thank you. If there's anything, obviously, that the Council can do, we're here for you.

And I just got in one last thing. It's humorous with me it is at least. Jacob, unfortunately, has left. But I was out in California for the last month. And the tap water is God off terrible. You have to put something in it. And I so much appreciate our tap water and what we've done, the Council, the Department, the Water Department. But I -- I just thought I'd share that with you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: I also want to congratulate all, everyone that is retiring. Chris is responsible for hiring me in 1989, 32 years ago. Parks and Rec was on the third floor.

And then we moved around. And I stayed on until '99 and I came back in 2004. So congratulations on your retirement.

I know with summer youth and how many kids everybody we worked with, it's definitely touching with -- with the community. So congratulations.

(PROCEEDING CONCLUDED)

CERTIFICATE

I, LISA KANE, certify the foregoing transcript of proceedings prior to New Business of the September 21, 2021 Middletown City Council meeting was prepared using the required electronic equipment and is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Signature: *LISA KANE*

Date: October 5, 2021

Agency: American Legal Transcription
11 Market Street, Suite 215
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

12. New Business.

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK

**COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

| THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED | NAMES | AYES | NOES | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|------|------|---------|--------|
| By Ald. Burr | Ald. Ramkissoon | X | | | |
| Sec'd by Ald. Masi | Ald. Tobin | | | | X |
| Date of Adoption 09-21-21 | Ald. Kleiner | X | | | |
| Index No: 188-21 | Ald. Johnson | X | | | |
| | Ald. Jean-Francois | X | | | |
| | Ald. Burr | X | | | |
| | Ald. Green | | | | X |
| | Ald. Masi | X | | | |
| | Pres. Rodrigues | X | | | |
| | TOTAL | 7 | | | |

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$23,400.00 within the 2021 operating budget of the Middletown Recreation & Parks Department to cover insufficient funds to account #A.7140.100 due to Reservoir upkeep and need to keep seasonal laborers on longer to assist with park maintenance in the following manner:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| FROM | AMOUNT | TO |
| A.7180.100 | \$23,400.00 | A.7140.100 |
| Pools: Personal Services | | Playgrounds: |
| Personal Services | | |

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

ABSENT

By Ald. Jean-Francois

 Sec'd by Ald. Kleiner

 Date of Adoption 09-21-21

 Index No: 189-21

NAMES AYES NOES ABSTAIN

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Ald. Ramkissoon | X | | | |
| Ald. Tobin | | | | X |
| Ald. Kleiner | X | | | |
| Ald. Johnson | X | | | |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X | | | |
| Ald. Burr | X | | | |
| Ald. Green | | | | X |
| Ald. Masi | X | | | |
| Pres. Rodrigues | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 7 | | | |

WHEREAS, the Common Council has received requests and recommendations that bottle redemption centers be added as a use permitted in the Light Industrial Zoning District, subject to Planning Board approval.

Resolved, and be it Ordained, by the Common Council of the City of Middletown, New York, as follows:

Section 1 - The Code of the City of Middletown, N.Y., Chapter 475, Zoning, be and is hereby amended by adding a Paragraph (30) to Subsection B of Section 475.23 (I-1 Light Industrial District) to read as follows:

(30) Bottle Redemption Centers which are defined as commercial establishments that accept empty beverage containers for redemption from the public and pay the refund value. Bottle Redemption Centers shall be open to any person offering to pay the refund value of an empty beverage container, or to any person who contracts with one or more dealers or distributors to collect, sort and obtain the refund value and handling fee of empty beverage containers for, or on behalf of, such dealer or distributor. Approval of such centers must be conditioned upon:

(a) the Applicant must obtain registration for such Center with New York State pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 367;

(b) the Center must post a “Redemption Warning” sign, pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law Section 27-1015(4), which states that there is a penalty for returning containers on which a deposit was never paid in New York State. The sign must be at least 8 inches by 10 inches, with print at least 1 inch in size; and

(c) the Center shall not, pursuant to Environmental Conservation Law Section 27-1007(10), knowingly redeem an empty beverage container on which a deposit was never paid in New York State.

Section 2 - This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Kleiner

 Sec'd by Ald. Burr

 Date of Adoption 09-21-21

 Index No: 190-21

ABSENT

NAMES AYES NOES ABSTAIN

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Ald. Ramkissoon | X | | | |
| Ald. Tobin | | | | X |
| Ald. Kleiner | X | | | |
| Ald. Johnson | X | | | |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X | | | |
| Ald. Burr | X | | | |
| Ald. Green | | | | X |
| Ald. Masi | X | | | |
| Pres. Rodrigues | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 7 | | | |

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to amend the Fee Schedule, Chapter A490-1 Section F. Parks and Recreation Fees to the following:

| <u>Programs/Facility Usage</u> | <u>Resident Fee</u> | <u>Non-Resident Fee</u> |
|---|--|-------------------------|
| All Camps | Change from \$90.00 to \$110.00 to \$130.00 | Change from \$110.00 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Camp • Cheerleading Camp • Adventure Program • Spring Break Camp • Winter Break Camp | | |

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

ABSENT

By Ald. Ramkissoon

Sec'd by Ald. Burr

Date of Adoption 09-21-21

Index No: 191-21

| NAMES | AYES | NOES | ABSTAIN |
|--------------------|------|------|---------|
| Ald. Ramkissoon | X | | |
| Ald. Tobin | | | X |
| Ald. Kleiner | X | | |
| Ald. Johnson | X | | |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X | | |
| Ald. Burr | X | | |
| Ald. Green | | | X |
| Ald. Masi | X | | |
| Pres. Rodrigues | X | | |
| TOTAL | 7 | | |

WHEREAS; The Middletown Recreation & Parks Department was given a donation in the amount of \$525.20 from the Middletown Little League; and,

WHEREAS; The Middletown Recreation & Parks Department is requesting that the Common Council accept this donation and authorize the Treasurer to deposit the donation into our Park Improvements Account (7110.478); and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Middletown, NY, does hereby authorize the Treasurer to accept the donation and deposit it into our Park Improvement account for the amount of \$525.20.

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

ABSENT

By Ald. Johnson

Sec'd by Ald. Jean-Francois

Date of Adoption 09-21-21

Index No: 192-21

NAMES AYES NOES ABSTAIN

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Ald. Ramkissoon | X | | | |
| Ald. Tobin | | | | X |
| Ald. Kleiner | X | | | |
| Ald. Johnson | X | | | |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X | | | |
| Ald. Burr | X | | | |
| Ald. Green | | | | X |
| Ald. Masi | X | | | |
| Pres. Rodrigues | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 7 | | | |

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$11,000.00 within the 2021 operating budget of the Middletown Recreation & Parks Department to cover insufficient funds to account #A.7110.417 due to increase in gas prices, additional motorized equipment in fleet and daily travel to additional properties we now maintain in the following manner:

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|----|
| FROM | AMOUNT | TO |
| A.7180.100 | \$11,000.00 | |
| A.7110.417 | | |
| Pools: Personal Services | | |
| Parks: Gas & Oil | | |

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

ABSENT

By Ald. Masi

 Sec'd by Ald. Kleiner

 Date of Adoption 09-21-21

 Index No: 193-21

NAMES AYES NOES ABSTAIN

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Ald. Ramkissoon | X | | | |
| Ald. Tobin | | | | X |
| Ald. Kleiner | X | | | |
| Ald. Johnson | X | | | |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X | | | |
| Ald. Burr | X | | | |
| Ald. Green | | | | X |
| Ald. Masi | X | | | |
| Pres. Rodrigues | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 7 | | | |

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$50,000.00 to cover the costs associated with the payout of the Deputy Treasurer at retirement, overlap during transition of the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer and consulting for the former Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer in the following manner:

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| From | Amount | To |
| A.9000.860 | \$50,000.00 | A.1325.100 |
| Health Insurance Services | | Treasurer: Personal |

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Johnson

 Sec'd by Ald. Masi

 Date of Adoption 09-21-21

 Index No: 194-21

ABSENT

NAMES AYES NOES ABSTAIN

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Ald. Ramkissoon | X | | | |
| Ald. Tobin | | | | X |
| Ald. Kleiner | X | | | |
| Ald. Johnson | X | | | |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X | | | |
| Ald. Burr | X | | | |
| Ald. Green | | | | X |
| Ald. Masi | X | | | |
| Pres. Rodrigues | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 7 | | | |

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to authorize the Treasurer to transfer \$176.00 in the 2021 budget to cover additional cost for Actuarial Study for the GASB #75 statement required for the Audited Financial Statements in the following manner:

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| From | Amount | To |
| A.1325.401 | \$176.00 | A.1325.400 |
| Treasurer. Travel Expense | | Treasurer Contractual Services |

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

ABSENT

By Ald. Masi _____
 Sec'd by Ald. Johnson _____
 Date of Adoption 09-21-21 _____
 Index No: 195-21 _____

NAMES AYES NOES ABSTAIN

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Ald. Ramkissoon | X | | | |
| Ald. Tobin | | | | X |
| Ald. Kleiner | X | | | |
| Ald. Johnson | X | | | |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X | | | |
| Ald. Burr | X | | | |
| Ald. Green | | | | X |
| Ald. Masi | X | | | |
| Pres. Rodrigues | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 7 | | | |

WHEREAS; John F. Degnan found time for public service as a City of Middletown Alderman for the 3rd Ward, and eventually ran for mayor in 1983. While he did not win his bid for mayor, he has certainly become the man most people think of when they talk about Middletown, and

WHEREAS; Currently, John is the Executive Director of the Downtown Middletown Business Improvement District (BID), a position he's held since 1997 and will continue to hold for the foreseeable future. He has been instrumental in attracting new businesses into the downtown and addressing any questions or concerns for current ones. For many, John is most recognizable for zipping around downtown in the BID cart, stopping to talk to residents, business owners, even visitors, and

WHEREAS; As a beloved citizen of the City of Middletown, renaming Festival Square in John's honor is just a small way to show the City's appreciation for all he has done for this community. He is truly the face of Downtown Middletown and has worked hard to make it what it is today.

SO LET IT BE RESOLVED; As John F. Degnan is affectionately referred to as "the heart and soul of Middletown" the Common Council of the City of Middletown hereby renames Festival Square, John F. Degnan Square.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED; the Common Council of the City of Middletown hereby amends the City Code to change Festival Square to John F. Degan Square in his honor.

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**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

13. Local Laws

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

ABSENT

By Ald. Jean-Francois

Sec'd by Ald. Kleiner

Date of Adoption 09-21-21

Index No: Local Law #2 of 2021

NAMES AYES NOES ABSTAIN

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|---|
| Ald. Ramkissoon | X | | | |
| Ald. Tobin | | | | X |
| Ald. Kleiner | X | | | |
| Ald. Johnson | X | | | |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X | | | |
| Ald. Burr | X | | | |
| Ald. Green | | | | X |
| Ald. Masi | X | | | |
| Pres. Rodrigues | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 7 | | | |

**A LOCAL LAW INCREASING THE TERMS OF THE DEPUTY
COMMISSIONERS OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
MIDDLETOWN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Purpose of this Enactment. The purpose of this enactment is to increase the terms of office for the Deputy Commissioners of Public Works from one (1) year to three (3) years.

Section 2. The first sentence of Section 11 of the Charter of the City of Middletown is hereby amended to read as follows:

§ 11. All officers elected or appointed under this Charter, except Mayor, Aldermen, City Judge, Chief of Police, Corporation Counsel, Commissioner of Public Works, Deputy Commissioners of Public Works, City Clerk, Registrar and Clerk of the Common Council, Treasurer, Members of the Board of Health and Civil Service employees, shall hold offices for one (1) year, and until their successors shall qualify.

Section 3. A new Section 68-D is added to the Charter of the City of Middletown to read in its entirety as follows:

68-D. The Deputy Commissioners of public works shall be full-time employees of the City of Middletown and shall serve three (3) year terms, commencing from the time of appointment.

Section 4. Severability.

If the provisions of any article, section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this Local Law shall be judged invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such order of judgment shall not affect or invalidate the remainder of any article, section, subsection, paragraph, subdivision or clause of this Local Law.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall be effective upon filing with the office of the Secretary of State

14. Audit

On motion of Ald. Masi seconded by Ald. Ramkissoon

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. Ramkissoon, Kleiner, Johnson, Jean-Francois, Burr, Masi, President Rodrigues

15. Adjournment

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM