



COMMON COUNCIL  
CITY OF MIDDLETOWN  
**March 15, 2022**  
City Hall  
16 James Street  
Middletown, New York 10940

P R E S E N T

Miguel Rodrigues, President of Common Council  
Ald. Gerald Kleiner  
Ald. Paul Johnson  
Ald. Kate Ramkissoo  
Ald. Sparrow Tobin  
Ald. Jude Jean-Francois  
Ald. Andrew Green  
Ald. Kevin Witt  
Ald. Joseph Masi

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1. Pledge of Allegiance

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Roll.

2. Roll Call

Roll Call: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Johnson, Ramkissoo, Kleiner, Green, Witt, Masi, President Rodrigues.

3. Approval of Minutes.

(None this evening.)

4. Correspondence, Communications and Reports

(None 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.

**MS. DEPEW:** Good evening. Susan Depew, 57 Prospect Street, Middletown also known as the litter lady. Thank you. Nice to see all of you.

On April 23rd we will again have the force of all of Middletown. We hope to have all of the families, students, and elected and unelected officials come. We will meet at the new, beautiful square, the John Degnan Square, which was also called Festival Square. It will run from 9 a.m. until noon. And we will outfit every one of you with a gorgeous shirt that you can wear afterwards.

Everyone will be able to see you. Nice. And I thank you all for being here and I'm really glad to be back. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Thank you. Anyone else?

**MR. CROSS:** Hey, everybody, Darren Cross from the Middletown Little League. And I just want to talk about the 2022 upcoming season. But before I talk about that, I want to talk about the last two years. I don't know if a lot of the City knows that we did have seasons, both, in 2020 and in 2021. When COVID happened, we shut the park down and we were like everybody else, we were scared, nervous, didn't know what to do, sent everybody home. At this point, we already ordered uniforms. We already had the season set up ready to go. But when the Governor started talking about allowing recreational sports in May, Debbie Allen Dogan, Sherry Soto, Roseanna and myself sat down at Roseanna's table, got on our laptops, called the Mayor, called Chris Brinkerhoff, called Nicki, and we filed for all the permits and protocols and safety plans and we made the season happen. And it was different, taking temperatures of parents and taking temperatures of kids and dealing with quarantining and quarantining coaches. But as a community, everybody came together. We had no pushback. And for that, you know, I want to say thank you to the,

especially to the Mayor and to Chris Brinkerhoff and Nicki and Rae Lynn. I was emailing and making phone calls and we were navigating websites. And we're just volunteers of a baseball league. We didn't even know what they hell we were doing. We just Googled this and Google that. We had all the paperwork done and we were successful in both seasons.

And I want to talk a little bit about fundraising. You know, as a league, we don't get any outside money. We do fundraising. We have some sponsors. I believe we have 26 sponsors this year and 26 teams. But as far as outside funding, we don't get any outside funding. And with the fundraising that we do every year, we try to take that money and put it back to registration costs to keep our registration costs down. I know a lot of our neighboring towns are over \$200 as a registration fee. We are \$75 for t-ballers and we are \$140 for our older kids. So that's something I'm very proud to say that we can continue to take that fundraising money and put it back into the league as far as equipment and keeping the costs down.

This year we are approaching 300 kids. You know, I've been on the board almost nine years now. And the number has climbed every single year. And I think one of

our proudest accomplishments for Roseanna and myself is we now have seven girls' softball teams which is amazing because when we first -- when I first got involved in the board there was a lot of 10 to 12 year old girls that were still playing baseball and they had to transition to softball when they went to school ball. And they were behind because it's a lot different hitting a baseball than a softball. And they were getting frustrated because the pitch was so slow versus a baseball pitch. And now we don't have to worry about that because they're starting at 6, 7, 8 years old in softball.

This year at between Watts Park and Davidge Park, we're going to have approximately 250 games played there throughout from April until October. And there, again, the parks department to the rescue. I don't know how they do it with what they have to do. John Bianchi and his entire crew between the amount of parks and reservoir trails and they still find time to fit in Watts Park and Davidge Park. They do an amazing job.

I just want to talk a little bit about the transition between Brink to Rae Lynn and Nicki. Well-oiled machine, didn't skip a beat. Everything has been beautiful as far as the permits and the communication, kudos, great job. Thank you.

I want to thank Coach Kate over there, Alderwoman Kate, mom Kate and whatever hat she has on today, you know, Kate has joined the -- the coaching squad and she is with us forever. I just told the coaches the other day once you coach a t-ball you are stuck for life. So and every time I talk to Kate about some of the things that are on a wish list for the park or for the league for the Town, Kate brings it back and talks about it to the people that can possibly make it happen or find funding to make it happen. So thank you, Kate, we appreciate everything you do.

And I just want to definitely say thank to the Board, the Board members, the volunteers. This is the first year I've been involved in Little League where I have not had to guilt a parent into coaching. We have enough volunteers for each team and we have assistant coaches for each team. So it's been an amazing process watching the community come together.

And our opening day is going to kick off April 2nd. That is going to be a 11:30 kickoff, 11:30 lineup. We will submit all the proper paperwork. We are going to do the same thing at Presidential Park. And we're going to up to Watkins Avenue, down to the park. And we're going to do our opening day ceremonies. We're hoping Mother Nature sticks to this plan right now and stays 60 degrees and we

can have some games.

The reason that we're opening April 2nd is because April 9th is spring break and the following Sunday is Easter Sunday, so that would push us back until April 23rd. And we feel like if we don't have to lose a whole month, we're going to try to go for April 2nd.

And just to touch base on our girls' softball, the last two years they've won banners for District 19. So congratulations to them. And, again, I just want to say thank you to the Mayor and thank you to the Parks Department and thank you to each one of you.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Thank you.

Anyone else? All right.

6. Remarks of the Mayor.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Remarks of the Mayor.

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** Good evening. I know some of you have been getting the same emails and maybe all of you regarding downtown parking. And I know some of the members, Kevin was not on the Board at the time, but when we went through the plan. But I just want to update the council and the public on the process that we went through because the emails that you're receiving are kind of insulting that no thought went into this -- this process and that we're sort of ignoring people.

First, this began back in 2017 when we were doing the DRI. And we had, if you recall, the study that was done by I think it's BIF or, Maria, was it BHF or -

**MARIA:** BFJ.

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** I knew it was some acronym like that in which they addressed the -- and their development of park and utilization and the management plan. So the process began back then and the public involvement began back then with us speaking to individual business owners and property owners of the downtown area and ultimately led to us developing a plan, but also putting together public hearings and having much community input from properties, as I said, to tenants, residential tenants, commercial tenants.

And, overall, we got a little late start on it for the winter in getting the signage up. As everyone else, the, you know, the COVID delayed things, but and us getting signs. But, first of all, we didn't -- no one claimed that this is a plan that's cast in stone. It's flexible. But the one thing from my perspective that is not flexible is what's being requested by the gentlemen that sent you all the email and -- and some of the other people, very few -- I think we have six complaints -- is that the fact that you buy an overnight parking pass for

\$10 a month does not give you the right to take up a parking lot -- space in one of the key high-turnover lots 24 hours a day otherwise we would have no parking, no business activity in our downtown. So with the gentleman that's reaching out to you folks is asking for, he's asking for I have a parking pass, him, that I paid \$10 a month for. I should be able to park my car in the lot. Let's say it's the James Street lot or West Main Street, whatever, for unlimited amounts of time because I bought a pass.

Well, number one, we didn't force him to buy a pass. The pass is optional in those lots for overnight parking. They actually can park from 8:00 at night to 11:00 in the morning and then have to move their car by 11:00 otherwise they're subject to the four-hour parking. So they also have maybe 150 to 200 feet away the ability to park for multi-day up to 72 hours and some lots up to 8 hours for free without getting a pass, so, without spending the money.

But the point is is that we're trying to get through and this is just standard, this is not City of Middletown creation. Any community you go to with a viable downtown is not going to allow merchants, tenants, landlords, employees to park in front of a business for

unlimited amounts of time otherwise we're back to, you know, 20 years ago and businesses will be closing.

So that's the genesis of it. His -- his comments were insulting and continue to be insulting. I responded to him again today. But the fact is that we -- we are looking at making adjustments, but those adjustments do not include letting him, as I said to him, you know, this is public parking, not your private parking or that when people want to go to Motor Vehicle, need to go Motor Vehicle they want to be able to park and then go in, do their business and leave. When people want to go to a restaurant, go to a restaurant spend two, three hours and leave, Paramount Theatre. All these activities that are going on down here, they need to have -- they focus around accessibility to parking.

On the reverse side, we're getting a lot of positive feedback from our business owners and from some customers who are calling us, one a former employee here who notified Maria and said she's -- I'm coming more frequently now downtown for lunch because I can find a parking spot much easier. I don't have to walk. You know, I have a lot of options where you're going to go for lunch. And if -- if it means me having to walk, you know, you know, 250, 300 feet versus pulling into a parking lot at

another place, I'm going to go pull in the other place.

So but now he sees the -- the opportunity is here. And so -- but the reason why I bring it up is because the emails continue. One of you, Alderman Johnson, I think, was mentioned that he's taking a lot of the air -- taking up a lot of the air.

**ALD. JOHNSON:** Yes.

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** And -- and is not taking no for an answer. But I've offered to meet with him and go through the history of it. I guess he has finally responded that he would like to meet. And I'll give him the history and I'll give him the fact that in 2017 this thing started. I'll give him the fact that we had public hearings and all the other goodies and our reasons for doing things. If you had some positive impact or input, we certainly will entertain it.

In regards to the 4th Ward, we have an issue with Delford Rubber as you know. I just wanted to update you because we have some customers, not customers, some residence in your area that we do have them in court. And I know that Alex is meeting and our code department is also -- it's been postponed a few times. So the delay is not on our side, but we are meeting with the attorney within the next day or so onsite, so the attorney can see firsthand,

not only the building problems, but the mess I think is the biggest concerns of -- of that neighborhood. So we have had them in court for quite a while. I will forward you the report from Theron, our fire inspector, that I asked for today. And the -- they're due back in court -- he has an appointment with them on March 16th at the site. So if one of you want to be there it's 1:00, but that will be your call.

On a positive note, we have to announce that we were selected as -- we applied for a program called the New York State Low Income Household Water Assistance Program. So that's people with low -- who qualify on a income basis. This is will help pay the cost of drinking water and wastewater services. The program can assist households who have past due bills for drinking and/or sewer services. Eligibility and benefits are based on income and household size and the amount owed for the services. Benefits is based on actual amount of the drinking water and wastewater arrears up to a maximum of \$5,000.

So for -- you should share it on your social media. Kelly has put it, I believe, on our social media and our Facebook. It's a New York State program. They would apply to New York State for the funding. There's -- they have to show identity, their residence, their

relationship with the vendor where the vendor is the City in this case and proof of income. And they'll determine eligibility. The City does not make that determination, that would be the state agency.

But for those who are behind on their water or sewer -- water and sewer bills and they qualify, it's a darn good program. And I know a lot of people are still hurting because of the COVID. And we'll do what we can. We were accepted as a vendor, so we are now in a position to accept -- they are in a position to pay us on behalf of qualified applicants.

I wanted to thank Darren and the Middletown Little League also for all you did during the -- during the past two years and keeping kids busy, busy as you can. Your kind words up here. Little League is an important part of our city and city activity. I think, Alderman Masi, were you on one of the first Little League teams in Middletown?

**ALD. MASI:** Since you mentioned that, I will mention one thing. My father along with four other gentlemen started the Little League back in 1954. It was initially at Hayes Field and then moved up to --

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** Well, I wasn't far off.

**ALD. MASI:** And I was on -- I was on the third

team.

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** Okay. Well, I wasn't far off. All right. Back in 1954, right. That's good.

O&W update, I think there's a resolution tonight with the Fusco Engineering and the firm out of Syracuse that we will be retaining. The project is on schedule. We will -- I believe I submitted in my State of the City a proposed schedule. And hopefully we'll -- Jacob will keep monitoring that and we'll stay on top of it. If it works, then you can say good job, Joe. If Jacob falls behind schedule, then you have to say bad job, Jacob, so.

Power Against the Backhoe, Raelynn sent out an email today to all department heads that there are signs available now about the no smoking, no marijuana, no vaping signage that we'll be putting up. All department heads will be directed to put in their orders. We'll be placing them in our city parks and in our areas that you pass saying no smoking of any type. So hopefully when those signs come in, we'll get them in very quickly.

And tonight we also at the last minute we're calling for a public hearing on some zoning issues. In our code we reference retail quite a bit. And, but under definitions we don't have a definition for retail. So we do have a convenience store, but no definition of retail.

So we're going to clarify that. We're going to clarify where certain types of retail like tobacco shops seem to be the big upcoming thing now where they can go in our zoning. We're also going to be looking to you for some additional changes in the law if we're able to that would allow the police to enforce the non-smoking in businesses also. Right now it's a health department offense. So if you're in a -- in a business and someone is smoking cigarettes, marijuana, whatever, the police are not able, at least as we understand it today, not able to do the enforcement part. So we will be able to give an appearance ticket if we make it a local code issue.

And it's the impetuous for this was our regional phone call for -- with the mayor in the Hudson Valley that they're -- which, by the way, none of them opted out, but they are now experiencing already the problems with the marijuana legislation with people just renting storefronts and having like little, I think they referred to as free joint Fridays where they purchase marijuana up in -- legally up in Massachusetts and every Friday they have people come into their business and I don't know what the business is, but they hang there and they smoke pot all day long. And so it's almost like a hookah lounge. So we need some enforcement tools, so this is how we're looking at as

an enforcement tool to prevent those types of things from happening and to guide tobacco shops and these types of proposed uses. We anticipate problems from giving our police and our local prosecutor Alex Smith the ability to enforce it.

So, you know, again, that's something that continues to move along. And as we identify problems, we'll try to come back with legislation that will help mitigate some of the issues that we see.

And I think that's it. If you have any questions, I'll be more than happy to address them.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Questions for the Mayor?

Alderman Kleiner.

**ALD. KLEINER:** Thank you. We did add at our constituents meeting we had a question on the psych center --

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** Yes.

**ALD. KLEINER:** -- and how that's moving along. We've heard complaints about a lot of graffiti --

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** Well, that's --

**ALD. KLEINER:** -- on the buildings and things like that and garbage dumping, graffiti on the building.

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** It's a good question.

**ALD. KLEINER:** And I know it's dark back there

so.

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** And I'll give you a good answer. You're going to be happy with the answer. As you know, the contract for the purchase of the psych center, the 34 acres plus the multiple buildings came -- was drafted four-and-a-half years ago. So it's been at the dormitory authority with the attorneys in Albany for four-and-a-half years. We had to do subdivisions. Not all of that was contract review. That was meeting their demands for subdividing certain properties. But a long time now, it's been -- at least a couple of years that the contracts actually been out.

I met with Senator Skoufis who will be representing Middletown hopefully starting in January. And he asked me to forward him the emails, the email chains dating back that time. He had a meeting scheduled for the -- with the dormitory authority that Thursday or Friday at 3:00. And, miraculously, the morning before the -- the morning of the meeting, the contracts came in. So the contract is here. Alex is meeting -- is working with the engineer to develop the meets and bounds on the properties. And they should go back to them hopefully within a week or so. And we will then close on the deal.

So I want to thank Senator Skoufis for his work

on that. It was immediate. It was before the meeting with the dormitory authority. So he's been very effective for us.

**ALD. KLEINER:** Excellent. And one other question they asked on the Heritage Trail where that stands through Middletown to East Main Street. From the bridges, I think they need railings on them or something.

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** They were putting railings on the bridges. Jacob could probably give you a better update on that.

**ALD. KLEINER:** Okay. I'll ask.

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** But I can tell you from East Main through the final design is not done yet.

**ALD. KLEINER:** Right.

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** And they're looking at alternatives. Mr. Sorenson, County Planner, has come up with two options or like a dual coming out of the transportation center, coming two different ways, all very favorable stuff to us. But we would like to move it quicker. Mr. Brooks from the Parks and Rec is onboard. The County Exec was working on it with me up until his deployment. So I'm anticipating we'll be dealing with email now and I probably won't get an update until he's back -- back in the country in two months I think he said.

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** (inaudible).

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** What's that?

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** You submitted --

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** I submitted a schedule in my -- but I don't know at what point the -- where we're going to go, but it's in my State of the City.

**ALD. KLEINER:** City, yes.

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** Yes.

**ALD. KLEINER:** Okay. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Anyone else?

Thank you, Mayor.

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** Thank you.

7. Remarks of Department Heads

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Okay. Remarks of Department Heads, Economic Development.

**MARIA BRUNI, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Good evening, everyone. Today we had an IDA meeting. It was all about preparing and submitting the audits and the reports to the state just like we did with the Community Development Agency a couple weeks ago. So now we're -- we're ready to submit everything to the state. And our audit also for IDA came out with no findings. So we're pretty happy about that.

Also, our annual performance report for Community

Development that gets submitted to HUD right now is under review. It's on our website and we have a public hearing for that next week.

Also, we're working with the bid district Run for Downtown Organization. And all -- all the good things are coming back, the summer concert series, the farmer's market, Run for Downtown. Also, with the market this year, we'll be doing some special programming with Parks and Rec to help drive up some foot traffic and also some activities during the market.

Next week we have another ribbon cutting, a coffee shop on Monhagen Avenue is going to be -- we're going to be doing our ribbon cutting, so I'll be sending all that out and watch our Facebook. The Paramount this Friday we're doing Oscar shorts. They're special releases, the Oscar live-action films. And these are the nominated short films for the Oscars. So, Eileen, I know she's behind the door. Good job on securing that. And also all our concerts and everything are moving forward there. That's all I have for this evening.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Any questions for Maria?

Thank you, Maria.

**MARIA BRUNI, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Thank you.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** DPW Commissioner

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** Good evening, all. Alderman Masi, the reservoir level 99.4 percent. They're almost full to capacity which is good for us.

The O&W, the Mayor spoke to you about it. Before you there's a resolution tonight. You've already authorized the hiring of Fusco Engineering and their subcontractor, C&S. So tonight will be just that amount of funding for his contract that was negotiated between the City and Fusco. And it is consistent with the standard, the industry standards including the State of New York OGS. So if you have any questions later on about the resolution I'll be happy to address them.

The water line project, we're working with the contractor. That's the water line coming from the water treatment plant down Monhagen Avenue, 211 State Road to Monhagen Avenue into the psychiatric center -- former psychiatric center site. We are working out some -- some issues with the contractor. We're hoping that he will be back -- they will be back within a couple of weeks. After that it will take about five weeks to finish the project to install the remaining pipe about 1,500 linear feet of 24-inch pipe and making the connections and the services to the houses on Monhagen Avenue.

From 211, from Pilgrim's Estate entrance back to

the water treatment plant, we're still having some issue with the water line which we are working to resolve with the contractor and the manufacturer. So that will not be resolved soon, but we're working on it.

Traffic operation, it's moving -- it's moving at the appropriate speed right now. The phasing plan for the traffic operation throughout the 28 intersections in the City of Middletown signalized intersection has been set. We're waiting for the contractor to issue an exact milestone and dates for each stage. Once that is done, then we will put that on our website, so all of the businesses are aware of it. The Mayor, he wanted to do some mailers too as well. But as we know, it's a construction. It's work in progress, so work will change. Whatever we send out it might change. However, we will keep our website up to date with the progress of the contractor, which intersection is going to be done, which one is going to be done afterwards and so on and so forth. So all the phasing will be done once it's -- once it's all agreed to and finalized. We will put that on our website plus the mailers that the Mayor wants to do for specific areas.

Now, the Mayor mentioned also and the DPW Committee about cars parked on the grass. And we did -- we

did have an effort in there to send our Code Enforcement officers 5:00 in the morning. And we started last week with that. And we've covered about just about 2/3 of the City. And we issued about 54 violations. So, you know, people, you know, when you see it, you think it's really a problem that is spreading throughout the City, parking on the grass which it is. But out of the 2/3 of the City, we only issued about 54 citation. So the problem, you know, because it's an eyesore. People will think that it is widespread and it's really a big, big deal. And it is a big deal, we're not minimizing it. So we sent a letter of violation. We're requesting that the homeowners or businesses that received it to get in touch with us or the Mayor. Some people they started calling the Mayor already and tell us what your plans are to address the situation whether it is widening your driveway, whether it is -- you need more time. But we need to know what the resolution is, how you're going to be able to deal with it. And the answer is not, you know, April 15th or whatever the date is we're going to be able to park on the street and then it's not going to be an issue because the winter is going to come back again and you will not be able to park on the street. So we would like you to have some kind of permanent resolution, but tell us about it. And if you

need time, like the Mayor stated, if it's reasonable, we can put the letter of violation on hold until such a date that you say give us 30 days, 60 days, whatever -- whatever number that is reasonable, number of days, then we can put it against the violation. And if that does not work out in a timely manner, then it will have to move over to the court unfortunately. But this is going to have to be, you know, we're going to have to be addressing that.

Another thing Code Enforcement is doing is numbering on the houses and the buildings. That has not been pursued lately, but you will start getting letters about each and every property in Middletown must have letter there to identify -- numbering to identify the number of that house or the building. So that's for -- for multiple reasons some of which is 911, the ambulance, the fire, the police, DPW when we go and respond to anything. It will be very helpful to know, okay, that's the number in there and there's a specific size that will be issued in the letter to tell you what size the numbering would have to be on your -- on your house or on your property.

Another -- another thing I want to get people's attention to which is the Council President, he's going to start jumping up and down very soon is spraying where the grass starts growing fast all at once, that's the growing

season throughout the City it happens. So we would like you to please vigilant about it, to try to take care of your own yard, your own grass, cut it, keep it up to the 6 inch there as much as you can. We know at the beginning of the season, the growing season everything is going to grow very fast. And you can't -- you can't even catch up with it, but we urge you to do catch up with it because otherwise you will get letters of warning and then violation and then penalties and we don't want to do that.

So with that being said, I will conclude my remarks. Any questions for me?

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Any questions for Jacob? Jacob, can we start yard waste pickup earlier?

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** We have it already. I'm sorry, I apologize, I don't have the date. We have it set already.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Okay.

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** What is it?

**FEMALE SPEAKER:** It's usually the first Monday --

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** Yeah, we -- we have it -- we should have the -- we may have -- we'll have the ad in the paper. What date do you have in mind?

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** I see a lot of tree

branches from the storms and they're all over (Inaudible) Estates, Vincent Drive, everybody has them. I have neighbors with garbage cans very full of tree branches.

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** Well, yeah, I mean, we can if you want us to. You tell us what date you want us to start. I mean, we're going to have the spring cleanup coming up soon. Right now we're doing -- we're focusing on potholes as well in there. So we can -- if you guys feel it's appropriate to start earlier we will. Just give us what date you will like us to start. I'm sorry, I don't remember the date. I just went over the ad and it should be in the paper very soon, but I just don't remember it. I should have brought it with me.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Kleiner.

**ALD. KLEINER:** One other thing I forgot. At our constituents meeting again, people were asking about the automatic arm trucks. Are they working well? Are we using them because they see the old trucks out a lot, so.

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** Yeah, they're absolute --

**ALD. KLEINER:** I said I was ask about them.

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** Yeah, yeah. Thank you. Yes, absolutely. They're working tremendously in there. We have sent -- the Mayor spoke about them in

the State of the City. I issued pictures in there in my report and DPW report in there showing you just advantage. If you look at our report, DPW report, I -- I drew a contrast between the old way of picking it up, picking up the garbage with the new way, the new way meaning the armed truck is going down the road and they're picking it up, nobody is around it. The old way in there, you got people in there bending down, picking up garbage, Shop Rite bags from all over the place, putting them in the back of the truck. Just look at my report, it should be on our website as well. It will really show the contrast. But they are extremely successful. You see the back loaders in there going. It's especially happening on Friday for the recyclables or if we have an arm truck down. And the reason -- the reason is after we distributed the recycling carts in there, I mean, citywide, everybody, every household almost is recycling every week. So before we used to do a couple of runs in there, pick up, you know, just look down the road there's hardly out there putting out the recyclables, the truck will keep going. Now we have almost every household is recycling which is tremendous and it's great, but it's taking more time. So now instead of finishing the routes with three trucks in eight hours, we're finishing the city now, citywide it

takes us around 12 hours sometimes with overtime with the five trucks running. So not only the three trucks with the arms, five other -- two trucks reloaders and they're running as well.

**ALD. KLEINER:** Good. That's basically what I said --

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** Yes.

**ALD. KLEINER:** With everyone recycling now. And that's all done on one day.

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** Yeah, exactly, it's all on Friday so.

**ALD. KLEINER:** You did it by ward so.

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** It's all Friday and now, you know, citywide now. Everybody is doing it. And you can see it. We put the numbers in our DPW, again, the residents they go on our website and look at DPW report in there. We show exactly how much our town has jumped from 600 to average to, I think, 1,500 tons, the pickups. So it's a huge amount. But check my numbers when you go to our report. I'm just talking from memory.

**ALD. KLEINER:** Okay. Thank you.

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** But we're very happy with it. What's remaining is the bid area where we are working to finalize with the Mayor. We're working to

finalize this. And then everything will be with the mechanical arm and to be supplemented with the rear loaders.

**ALD. KLEINER:** Thank you.

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** Yes, sir.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Tobin.

**ALD. TOBIN:** Speaking of recycling, how well are people following the rules. Like I saw something on TV they call the dream cycling. A lot of people throw stuff in the bins they think might be recyclable but they aren't like pizza boxes and plastic film some times that isn't recyclable. Is that really a problem because I know it makes the whole batch dirty, right?

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** Okay. Well, it's not -- it's not a problem right now for us in there because what happens is we take it over to the county and we dispose of it. And, unfortunately, it costs us more to get rid of recyclables then it costs us to get rid of the municipal household waste which is trucked over to Pennsylvania. This one we take it to the county in there and they are charging because the market condition. I don't know when the market condition is going to change. To answer your question, we have the pamphlet in there. It's on our website. And it specifies exactly what you can put on,

what you don't have to put in. And it's all right there. But please try to stick to what you can put in recycling.

**ALD. TOBIN:** But do you feel like -- are people following the list that's my question.

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** Well, yeah, as far as we know.

**ALD. TOBIN:** Okay.

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** We never -- we don't really investigate it right now because I said we just take it to the county is taking it. They never brought it to our attention that they -- that there's a lot of stuff is not there. But we urge residents to follow the brochure that we have on our website.

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** You got -- you got the camera in the car -- when they're dumping recycling in the truck, the driver is looking for -- following what I'm saying?

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** The Mayor is saying we have an option to inspect what kind of --

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** The driver told me they're doing it.

**JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** Yeah, but we're not inspecting every recycling bag.

**JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR:** There is a camera in

the cab of the truck. So when the recycling is dumped, if they see household garbage, the driver will do a report on that, has the ability to do that. I know I've spoken to a few of them. And that's something that we should be enforcing even more because if someone is using their -- their recyclable bin for garbage, we don't want them, you know, just because there's market for it, we don't want that to become a habit. So the driver's should be making a report if someone is doing that. Now, pizza boxes is one thing. You know, you can misunderstand. It's cardboard and that's one thing. But if people are actually putting household garbage, bags of garbage in and the driver's see it, they might not know it that that the driver -- as it's being tipped in is watching on a screen what's going into that -- what's going into that hopper. So if -- if it does happen, they should at least be -- if it becomes a routine for that house, then the driver should be making us aware of it and we should be violating them.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Okay. Police Chief.

**JOHN EWANCIW, POLICE CHIEF:** Good evening. I actually have nothing this evening unless you have something for me.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Any question for the police chief? Alderman Kleiner.

**ALD. KLEINER:** I asked this question at our constituents meeting too and Officer Berman told us, but I asked how many applications were taken out for the police exam? I know the last day for applying to get applications. Do we know how many were --

**ALD. MASI:** And I wonder why you wouldn't ask me that --

**ALD. KLEINER:** -- issues?

**ALD. MASI:** -- since I'm the one that takes in the applications. 454.

**ALD. KLEINER:** Okay.

**JOHN EWANCIW, POLICE CHIEF:** Thank you.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Anyone else have any question of the police chief?

**JOHN EWANCIW, POLICE CHIEF:**

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Thank you, Chief.  
Superintendent of Recreation.

**RAELYNN BERTHOLF, SUPERINTENDENT RECREATION:**  
Good evening, everyone. I'd like a big thank you to Kevin Witt and the Recreation Commission for getting going the transportation issue that we were having getting the kids in Middletown, the youth, the teens to our facility on our teen open gym nights. Like happy to report that tomorrow

will be the first night that we're starting that. Dan Highbee, Mid-City Transit was amazing with settling up a schedule to have four centralized pick up locations in Middletown, to get them to our facility to play basketball for three hours and then back home to those four allocated spots.

We have a lot of spring activities on our best registration site that's up, some special events. Thank you to Leilani Lockett from Power Against Tobacco. April 1st is Chalk the Wock (phonetic) in their advertising that's blatantly in kids' eyes. So we're having a event at our facility to chalk all over our parking lot and just different ways to use their hashtag that they have to prevent and expose the tobacco industries.

We also have our Easter egg hunt is back this year. It's going to be a little different. It's going to actually be held at our facility. We had three different age groups ranging from toddlers and infants all the way up to age 12. We are requiring everyone to preregister on our site just so we can have the proper amount of eggs and make sure we have enough parking and space for everyone in attendance that day.

Spring Break, when the kids have no school, we are running our Spring Break camp for that week. It's

April 11 to 15, grades K through 8 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We do have that registration also up on our website. And we are happy to report our lifeguarding class that we are offering -- we offered and put out for free for anyone from a high school kid up to an adult who would be interested in becoming a certified lifeguard. Ideally, we do want to have both pools open this summer and we want to have them fully staffed to keep them safe. So we have 10 kids enrolled in the class. We were supposed to start last weekend, but with the weather it got postponed, so we will have our first class this Saturday at Middletown High School. We're definitely looking forward to getting these kids trained. They are all teenage kids. And also we are looking for very strong managers and assistant managers, adults, ideally for our pools for the summer. So if anyone knows anyone interested in the aquatic field looking for a summer job, we are hiring for that position.

And last but not least, special thank you to the school district. They've been amazing with the permits getting into their building especially the lifeguarding class. We asked and by the end of the day they had dates for us to use the facility. And also for our summer's sports camp last summer, it did work out in the park, but

it's not ideal especially when you have 100 kids and thunderstorms rolling in and you have three different camps going on in Davidge trying to find them shelter was -- got a little hectic, but we managed. So, ideally, we do love to have sport camp in the high school. And they've been amazing. We've been approved for Monhagen Middle School for our sports camp. So once the permits are back and approved by everyone in the school district that has to approve them, we will have registration out for our summer -- for our summer camps.

Any questions?

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Questions. Thank you.

City Clerk.

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:** Good evening, everybody. The City Clerk's Office, you might recall a few meetings ago, you guys approved the resolution authorizing us to start issuing hunting and fishing and trapping licenses on behalf of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. We got the equipment into the office this weekend, it's installed. And stay tuned for the website. Hopefully by the beginning of next week we'll be able to start issuing those to the City residences.

8. Public Hearings and Grievances.

(None this evening.)

9. Petitions and Complaints

(None this evening.)

10. Remarks of the Alderman.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** All right. Thank you.

Remarks of the Alderman. Alderman Tobin.

**ALD. TOBIN:** I would just comment on the lovely weather today. It was nice seeing people out in the parks, using the swings, going down the slides. Hope it sticks around.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Jean-Francois.

**ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS:** Yes, good evening. The Public Works Committee met this evening. We approved of the Z-3 Consultants to be added to our list authorized the City of Middletown electrical underwriter. Our next meeting -- resolution will follow.

And, also, I'd like to mention I know the snow has been a little hectic, but our street crew has been doing a wonderful job, so kudos them. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Johnson.

**ALD. JOHNSON:** Thank you very much. With respect to Senator Skoufis, I was able to attend that meeting when he was here in Middletown. And I share the Mayor's enthusiasm. I think he's going to be a really strong advocate for our City. And, hopefully, we'll be able to

return the favor in whatever manifestation that means to anybody listening to that statement.

I did attend the Paramount. I'll call it the Main Voyage for 2022. So Bag Pipes, I tend to think about Amazing Grace and the St. Patrick's Day Parade, but you can actually have a rock band and you can feature bag pipes as the major performers. It was amazing. I mostly went to look at the venue, not necessarily the performance, but they were amazing. The venue, the front door, the lighting, the sound, listening to people exiting the theatre it does not really get any better. So thank you to any and all that have spent the last two years making the Paramount what it is today. And kudos to bagpipes.

With respect to parking, I think we have a council in collaboration with the administration exhibited due diligence in the plan. We had a town meeting. We went over every single parking lot in the enter city and what it might be when it grow up. I guess it's human nature that sometimes when you want an outcome, you will continue to restate your position until somebody gives you the outcome that you desire. That doesn't always work out. But I certainly appreciate the Mayor's perseverance in continuing to explain to this particular resident that his particular expectation really can't be met, but that we do feel he has

viable alternatives to have a good quality of life. So thank you, Mayor, on behalf of the rest of us. Thanks.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Ramkissoo.

**ALD. RAMKISSOON:** Good evening. I won't repeat anybody else, but as for Little League thank you for coming tonight. I'm actually excited about our season getting rolling a little sooner. The growth of softball has been really cool. As a mom of three girls, they are all really excited about it. And it's just such a great program. And I know that our shack is brand new this year which is great because I eat there literally every night between April and June, so it's fantastic for us. But you've been a good part in the community and it's definitely grown ever since we've been involved and it's always fun to be down at the fields. And I'm always excited about this time of year, so I'm looking forward to that.

And just an extension, all of our programming here and the activities you provide for kids and families, it's -- you can't beat it. You can look far and wide, but I will take the Pepsi challenge any day. That's all I have.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Kleiner.

**ALD. KLEINER:** Thank you. I've been hearing all day long beware of the Eyes of March and a lot of jokes

about it. So far it's going okay.

Thank you, Sue, for coming by. Citywide pride cleanup, this flyer should be out all over the place. But the main thing is April 23rd, save the date. And we'll see if we can really get that back going again with a bang and outdo our record of last time, two years ago.

On the way in to the Common Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, one of our Historical Society members, Jack McMann, has finally -- we finally have that glass case filled. So if you're in City Hall take a look. It's got a lot of the books and the literature and past yearbooks and things we have at the historical society that are available for people.

March -- April 11th will be our next constituents meeting. And I mention it tonight because the Mayor has gracefully agreed to attend that meeting. And he can hear all of it in person that we usually hear every month. So and we do get some good suggestions.

I think I'll wait to we get to the -- Ruthie, do you know Resolutions to explain about that.

Mr. Masi, thank you for your report. If we had a report of department heads from Civil Service, I would have thought to ask you then, but I went through the Chief, so but I'm -- I'm happy to hear 245. And I hope they --

people -- they follow through on their applications.

We've had about since our last meeting another 1,500 COVID deaths in this country. And I think New York has had another 300. So it's a lot less, but if New York had 300 deaths from any other cause in -- in two weeks, we'd be pretty concerned about it, so we hope that keeps going down and we can get back to doing what we like to do.

And keep in mind Ukraine and what is going on there. I cannot mention it because it is so horrendous and the human rights' abuses are so horrendous and we really haven't seen anything like it since Germany decided that Czechoslovakia and Poland were free for the taking. And that's -- we have people in this country who are cheerleaders for Mr. Putin and that's pretty sad. That's it. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Green.

**ALD. GREEN:** Thank you very much. It is always great to hear about Little League and thank you for all you do. I thought that might be the only baseball we saw for a little while this year, but things did turn around there, so. But I did enjoy my -- I did do one season growing up in Little League and the best position I played was in the dugout. I'll leave it to the better players. Certainly, they put on a good show and the kids always have fun, so it

was great though. I do have fond memories and good friends there.

I did want to bring up -- while we're in the volunteering spirit on April 23rd cleaning up downtown, the -- it is the recruit NY weekend for the fire departments across New York, so there will be an open house on April 23rd at Central Firehouse on East Main from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. And just a quite note, I did learn recently that 75 percent of the State of New York's firefighters are volunteer and it does save taxpayers in the state overall an average of \$2.9 billion a year. So, you know, something to think about while you're cleaning up the city, stop down, see what goes on around the fire house. And it's always fun to see the big trucks. I know my son will enjoy it.

Other than that, thank you everyone who came out for our constituents meeting last night. It always is a good conversation. We went about two hours last night, so definitely kept talking for a while and -- and had a good list to bring to the table.

And Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone. Enjoy safe and be merry, wear green. Thanks.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Witt.

**ALD. WITT:** Thank you very much. Raelynn, thanks

to you regarding that transportation also with the Rec Center and all the work your staff did to put that together. And also I'd like to just acknowledge the Recreation Commission that really jumped on this and enthusiastically and there was some good discussion. Shawna Strenfel, Wayne Hawkins, no, he's not back there tonight, Anthony Williams, Dan Higby, Lynette Williams and also Alderman Kleiner was involved in this as well. So I'm excited to see how this all plays out, so thank you for getting this going.

Regarding the City wide clean up, Susan nice to see you again. Thank you for coming out. And, Jerry, for your work also to getting this rolling. I can just say from my day job working with the school district, we already have committed the NJROTC and all six honor societies, so that could be easily a hundred plus there alone. That's not even counting sports, so I think we're off to a really good start on that. So whatever your record is I think -- I think we have a shot this year because I know so many of the kids are just looking to do community service, whether they're involved in the honor societies or not, a lot of different groups that we have here are always looking to try to help. So I hope we -- I hope we get a really good crowd there.

And our ward meeting, our 1st Ward meeting, we tried to get it rolling, but the weather was bad on March 9th, so we had to make the call there. And we postponed it. So we are going to try again on April 13th at 6:00 here. So we'd love to see you if you are interested in coming out and speaking with Mr. Masi and myself. So thank you very much.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Masi.

**ALD. MASI:** Baron, thanks for coming tonight. I'm hoping that I can make the parade. I'm giving a test that day and hopefully I'll be able to -- I always have. I did want to because I did mention my father's name, George Masi, and I said that there were five people. Out of respect for the other four, I do want to mention their names who actually started the little league. And it was Dr. Costco, Dr. Empholtz (phonetic), Father Forster, and Mike Helper.

Kiwanis Pancake breakfast obviously was postponed last Saturday. I want to thank Maria for taking care of a sign. And I'm hoping that once we get another date, we'll be able to get a sign up again. And I appreciate those people that were interested in it. And I'm hoping that when we have the second -- when we have the reschedule for it, people will be able to come.

There's a motion tonight, a Resolution, a second Resolution on the salary schedule which I obviously have to abstain because my name appears on the list of 15 or 16.

John Dino served on this Council, sat where Miguel does. Charlie Dino was a respected police department lieutenant who retired. Both have passed on. They're both pretty good friends of mine. Ruthie Dino is the daughter. We've had the run of 25 consecutive years. Now, normally, I would give preference to the alderman in the ward of which this takes place. And I understand Mr. Kleiner would like to table this motion for reasons that he mentioned to me at least I don't know if he mentioned to anyone else that he and Alderman Green have some questions. They've had all year. I would like to know, let's say they don't get the answers that they want, would they even consider not closing down the streets? Would you consider not having a fundraiser for Ruthie Dino Marshall? You've had all this time. The police are involved in this. It's a planning issue. If you want, you talk to the Chief of Police he's right there. I don't know why we would put this off, but if you want to put it off, put it off. But that kind of bothers me because I get the idea that if they don't like what they hear, that they would even consider not going along with this. It absolutely just doesn't make

any sense. It's a great fundraiser. It's been for 25 years. And those -- that family is a very well-respected family. The YMCA could use the money. I guess I'm just a little -- I don't understand it.

Oh, and by the way, Gerry, you asked the chief prior to whether I was going to give a report or not, so don't give your wise cracks.

11. Unfinished Business.

(None this evening.)

12. New Business.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** New Business.

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, COUNCIL CLERK:** We have a Resolution sponsored by Alderman Masi authorizing a budget transfer for \$7,044.82 from ARPA funds to cover related -- COVID-related expenses.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Masi, seconded by Alderman Tobin. Any discussion?

Roll Call: Ayes: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Johnson, Ramkissoo, Kleiner, Green, Witt, Masi, President Rodrigues. Carries.

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, COUNCIL CLERK:** A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Witt authorizing the salary schedule for non-union employees for 2022.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** A Resolution sponsored by

Alderman Witt, seconded by Alderman Green. Any discussion?  
Roll.

Roll Call: Ayes: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Johnson,  
Ramkissoo, Kleiner, Green, Witt, President Rodrigues;  
Abstain: Masi. Motion Carries.

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, COUNCIL CLERK:** Resolution  
sponsored by Alderman Tobin authorizing an agreement with  
Orange County -- Orange County for the stop DWI enforcement  
program.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** A resolution sponsored by  
Alderman Tobin, seconded by Alderman Johnson. Any  
discussion? Roll.

Roll Call: Ayes: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Johnson,  
Ramkissoo, Kleiner, Green, Witt, Masi, President  
Rodrigues. Carries.

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, COUNCIL CLERK:** A  
Resolution sponsored by Alderman Green authorizing  
agreement with Pitney Bowes for a mailing machine.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** A resolution sponsored by  
Alderman Green, seconded by Alderman Jean-Francois. Any  
discussion? Roll.

Roll Call: Ayes: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Johnson,  
Ramkissoo, Kleiner, Green, Witt, Masi, President  
Rodrigues. Carries.

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, COUNCIL CLERK:** Resolution sponsored by Alderman Kleiner authorizing an agreement with Fusco Engineering.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** A resolution sponsored by Alderman Kleiner, seconded by Alderman Green. Any discussion? Roll.

Roll Call: Ayes: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Johnson, Ramkissoo, Kleiner, Green, Witt, Masi, President Rodrigues. Carries.

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, COUNCIL CLERK:** A resolution sponsored by Alderman Ramkissoo authorizing agreement to retain legal counsel for a bankruptcy proceeding.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** A resolution sponsored by Alderman Ramkissoo, seconded by Alderman Johnson. Any discussion?

Roll Call: Ayes: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Johnson, Ramkissoo, Kleiner, Green, Witt, Masi, President Rodrigues. Carries.

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, COUNCIL CLERK:** A resolution sponsored by Alderman Johnson authorizing a contractor sale to purchase property at 54 Kohler Road and Highway 24.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** A resolution sponsored by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Tobin. Any discussion?

Roll Call: Ayes: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Johnson, Ramkissoo, Kleiner, Green, Witt, Masi, President Rodrigues. Motion carries.

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, COUNCIL CLERK:** A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Johnson amending the city code updating the penalty provisions of Article 1 of Chapter 416.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** A resolution sponsored by Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Masi. Any discussion? Roll.

Roll Call: Ayes: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Johnson, Ramkissoo, Kleiner, Green, Witt, Masi, President Rodrigues. Motion Carries.

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, COUNCIL CLERK:** Resolution sponsored by Alderman Jean-Francois authorizing road closures for the YMCA Annual Ruthie Dino Marshall Run.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** A resolution sponsored by Alderman Jean-Francois, seconded by Alderman Johnson. Any discussion? Alderman Kleiner.

**ALD. KLEINER:** Thank you. I -- I would like to move that we postpone this Resolution until the next meeting. I don't want to table it, I want to postpone it to a date definite which would be the next meeting. Reason for that is we -- last year the route was altered to try

and limit the amount of time people would be closed in in the 2nd Ward. And there was discussion about that and discussion with the police chief. And they were very accommodating. And it went very well. This year because it's the 25th anniversary, they want to go back to the original map. And since the original map is part of the letter and the original route is part of the letter, so it's part of this Resolution and I would like Alderman Green and I simply to have a chance to sit down and talk to them about the route. And we may end up with the same route and we could end up with exactly the same thing and the police telling us exactly how they're going to move along to expedite it. I know Sergeant Welch has been excellent. They've been very good about how they do it. But last year it was helpful. I mean, part of it was the pandemic problem. And they were going to stagger it, but they didn't stagger it. So we'd just like the chance to sit down and speak with them. They're certainly going to have their race, but before we memorialize this particular route and they asked for at 7 a.m., a Resolution says 8 a.m., they're just some things we'd like to be able to work out with them. So that's -- that's my motion is a motion to postpone until -- and I guess it would be the first Tuesday in March.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** All right. So you have a motion by Alderman Kleiner to postpone this Resolution until next meeting. Do we have a second?

**ALD. GREEN:** I'll second.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Green. Any discussion? Alderman Witt.

**ALD. WITT:** I just have a question.

**ALD. KLEINER:** Yeah.

**ALD. WITT:** So like there was a problem when we did this years ago, but I thought it was tightened up. I mean, this was back when we had the classic right before that. And I remember one year, it might have been two, that the Elks Club tried to start a race also too. So doesn't the City -- isn't it like everything -- there used to be these wide ranges of area that it was open, so if you lived up by you or like I was or wherever, that it was -- it was open for longer periods of time. Then I thought didn't the police, like, follow literally through and open up the streets as soon as like the last person come by? Isn't that, I mean, what is -- is that a problem now or is that --

**ALD. KLEINER:** It's -- it's gone back to the original route and that's certainly part of the discussion we just simply like to have. We like to be able to speak

with them about it. It -- it is. It does close down the 2nd Ward for a Sunday and a Sunday morning. And, you know, people can't leave. And that's -- that's a sacrifice people have made, but we have had people talk to us about it and ask us about adjusting it and whether any provisions can be made to open the route as quickly as possible. So we're listening to some of our constituents with concerns. And I'm simply asking since this wasn't put on the -- I didn't see this motion until it was put on the agenda Friday. And we didn't know. I mean, they're not going to have a Orange Classic this year. Well, I didn't know that either. So we're -- we're learning as we go along. A lot of the Orange Classic has shifted to supporting the Run for Downtown. And we'd like to keep the Ruthie Dino Run going, but the route is an issue and it's a question. And I'd just like for the next meeting to have time to discuss it with them and for them to show us what their plan is and -- and talk with the chief and said he would be willing to facilitate a meeting with us.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Masi.

**ALD. MASI:** Well, we had the chief of police here. I don't know if you want to ask him anything. I guess my other question is let's say they don't change it and you don't like what you hear, would you even consider

not voting to have the Ruthie Dino Marshall?

**ALD. KLEINER:** That's not really a question for right now.

**ALD. MASI:** Of course it's a question. That's what this who thing is about --

**ALD. KLEINER:** No, it's about --

**ALD. MASI:** -- whether to have it or not have it.

**ALD. KLEINER:** It's about putting it off for three weeks or two weeks or three weeks I guess because of the extra week in March. But it's putting it off until the next meeting because we haven't had time to really look at the change in the route going back to the original route and to discuss it with them. The Chief said he'd be willing to facilitate a meeting with us and the race organizers. So I knew the Dinos myself for many years. I grew up in Middletown as you know. I've been here a year longer than you have.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Ramkisson.

**ALD. RAMKISSOON:** I -- I understand like your concerns that you've brought up, but this is something that's been going on for a very long time. And as a 3rd Ward Alderman, we have the Run for Downtown which shuts down half the 3rd Ward every, you know, whatever Saturday that is in August and we get through it. It's a great

thing for the City when we do it, so we get through the few hours. The police are very good about making sure that there are ways around the route. And they open everything back up as it ends. But I feel like if this is, I mean, I did the Ruthie twice. It's not -- it's not a really obstructive route. I don't think it really closes off the City in a bad way. The Run for Downtown does it way more and we do it every year. It's just one day. It's a couple of hours. And I just don't know why we need to reinvent the wheel on it when it's really a couple of hours once a year. I mean, I understand that the residence have their issue, but it's the same thing for Run for Downtown and that section of the City. The Classic is much longer, but we -- we do it because we know that it's good for what we're doing the event for. So I don't -- I don't -- I don't really feel like supportive of the fact. That's just my opinion.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Green.

**ALD. GREEN:** Yeah, I'm not going to, you know, for lack of a better term beat a dead horse with this. But, you know, basically, this is just giving us the opportunity. This was put on the agenda. It says to authorize the closing of the roads. That's all we want to discuss is, you know, the road closures, the times that

things are going to start. As Alderman Kleiner said, the letter says I believe 7 a.m. The Resolution says we're going to start at 8 a.m. There's just certain things we want to be able to bring to the constituents who have expressed concern. After last year's race actually went very well and we heard positive feedback on it from that route that, you know, we do our due diligence and say, look, we -- we took the time, we contacted the parties that we needed to contact. We certainly have reached out in year's past, have not had great success speaking with past administrations at the YMCA. I understand they are new this year. So it would just be nice to not have had this -- not -- I'm not saying it was done secretly or anything. You know, it comes on the agenda. We saw it came on the agenda on Friday. We spoke. And we would just like to move this to the next meeting. We're not saying we're not going to vote for it or anything. It has nothing to do with the families or its' a great event. It's simply to be able to say to our constituents we did our due diligence just like we would defer to any of you. That's all I'm saying Thank you.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Just to clear that, back when John started in 2000, I think, '11, we put a calendar. It's in the Clerk's Office. The Clerk knows that we have

Night Out Against Crime, we have all these events and he's authorized by me to put it on the agenda every time. So we don't list it. We were putting resolutions after the fact. So now we -- every year we have the calendar set for the whole year. If there's more events that are approved by the City, we put them on our calendar. And then I say make sure you get these resolutions in. And everybody can go in Rick's office and ask for a copy of the schedule, it's there.

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, COUNCIL CLERK:** On a motion by Mr. Kleiner, seconded by Mr. Green to postpone. Correct?

**ALD. GREEN:** Yes.

**ALD. KLEINER:** Until next meeting.

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, COUNCIL CLERK:** Roll. Ayes: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Kleiner, Green. No: Johnson, Ramkissoon, Witt, Masi, President Rodrigues. Motion does not carry.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Okay. So we have a Resolution sponsored by Alderman Jean-Francois, seconded by Alderman Johnson. Any more discussion? Roll.

Roll Call: Ayes: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Johnson, Ramkissoon, Kleiner, Green, Witt, Masi, President Rodrigues. Carries.

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, COUNCIL CLERK:** A Resolution

sponsored by Alderman Green authorizing declaring the City as Lead Agency in the SEQR review with respect to a rezoning request.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Green, seconded by Alderman Johnson. Any discussion? Roll.

Roll Call: Ayes: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Johnson, Ramkissoo, Kleiner, Green, Witt, Masi, President Rodrigues. Carries.

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, COUNCIL CLERK:** A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Green authorizing a public hearing changing the definition of retail business in the downtown DMU, excuse me.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Green, seconded by Alderman Johnson. Any discussion? Roll.

Roll Call: Ayes: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Johnson, Ramkissoo, Kleiner, Green, Witt, Masi, President Rodrigues. Carries.

13. Local Laws

**RICHARD MCCORMACK, COUNCIL CLERK:** Local Law Number 3, a law updating the Notice of Provisions in the enforcement of delinquent property taxes sponsored by Alderman Masi.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Do I have a second?

Alderman Johnson. Any discussion? Roll.

Roll Call: Ayes: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Johnson, Ramkissoo, Kleiner, Green, Witt, Masi, President Rodrigues. Carries.

14. Audit of Claims and Accounts

**ALD. MASI:** Mr. President, I move the accounts be audited, the claims be adjusted and the City Treasurer be authorized to issue warrants for their payment.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Resolution sponsored by Alderman Masi, seconded by Alderman Green. Roll.

Roll Call: Ayes: Tobin, Jean-Francois, Johnson, Ramkissoo, Kleiner, Green, Witt, Masi, President Rodrigues. Motion Carries.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Kleiner.

**ALD. KLEINER:** Yeah. I'd like to move that we go into Executive Session to discuss a contract.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Resolution sponsored by Alderman Kleiner, seconded by Alderman Johnson. All in favor?

**ALDERMANS:** Aye.

**PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** We're now in Executive Session.

(PROCEEDING CONCLUDED)

CERTIFICATE

I, LISA KANE, certify the foregoing transcript of proceedings of the March 15, 2022 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: April 4, 2022

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

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Masi

Sec'd by Ald. Tobin

Date of Adoption 03.15.22

Index No: 54-22

| NAMES              | AYES | NOES | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--------------------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Ald. Tobin         | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Johnson       | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Ramkissoon    | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Kleiner       | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Green         | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Witt          | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Masi          | X    |      |         |        |
| Pres. Rodrigues    | X    |      |         |        |
| TOTAL              | 9    |      |         |        |

RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and authorizes the Treasurer to transfer 7,044.82 of ARPA funds in the following manner to pay for additional COVID related supply expenses in 2021.

**FROM**  
A.4785

**AMOUNT**  
\$7,044.82

**TO**  
A.1900.907

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Witt

Sec'd by Ald. Green

Date of Adoption 03.15.22

Index No: 55-22

NAMES                      AYES              NOES              ABSTAIN              ABSENT

|                    |   |  |   |  |
|--------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Ald. Tobin         | X |  |   |  |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X |  |   |  |
| Ald. Johnson       | X |  |   |  |
| Ald. Ramkissoon    | X |  |   |  |
| Ald. Kleiner       | X |  |   |  |
| Ald. Green         | X |  |   |  |
| Ald. Witt          | X |  |   |  |
| Ald. Masi          |   |  | X |  |
| Pres. Rodrigues    | X |  |   |  |
| TOTAL              | 8 |  | 1 |  |

RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and authorizes the attached salary schedule for non-union employees for 2022.

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Tobin

Sec'd by Ald. Johnson

Date of Adoption 03.15.22

Index No: 56-22

NAMES                      AYES              NOES              ABSTAIN              ABSENT

|                    |   |  |  |  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Ald. Tobin         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Johnson       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Ramkissoon    | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Kleiner       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Green         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Witt          | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Masi          | X |  |  |  |
| Pres. Rodrigues    | X |  |  |  |
| TOTAL              | 9 |  |  |  |

RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and authorizes the Mayor to sign a contract with the County for our STOP-DWI enforcement period of March 12, 2022 through January 1, 2023.

The total amount of the 1<sup>st</sup> period award is for 70 hours of service or a dollar amount not to exceed \$4678. We will be notified at a later date of subsequent payments to cover the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> periods of the year.

These funds are to be paid to the City of Middletown and not to be reimbursed to the Police Department budget.

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Green

Sec'd by Ald. Jean-Francois

Date of Adoption 03.15.22

Index No: 57-22

NAMES                      AYES              NOES              ABSTAIN              ABSENT

|                    |   |  |  |  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Ald. Tobin         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Johnson       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Ramkissoon    | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Kleiner       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Green         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Witt          | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Masi          | X |  |  |  |
| Pres. Rodrigues    | X |  |  |  |
| TOTAL              | 9 |  |  |  |

RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and authorizes the Mayor to execute a renewal contract for our Pitney Bowes Mailing Machine. This renewal is again for 60 months (\$181.89/qtr.) with a savings of \$21.03 per quarter compared to the previous contract.

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Kleiner

Sec'd by Ald. Green

Date of Adoption 03.15.22

Index No: 58-22

| NAMES              | AYES | NOES | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--------------------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Ald. Tobin         | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Johnson       | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Ramkissoon    | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Kleiner       | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Green         | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Witt          | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Masi          | X    |      |         |        |
| Pres. Rodrigues    | X    |      |         |        |
| TOTAL              | 9    |      |         |        |

RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and authorizes the Mayor to execute the attached contract with Fusco Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C. in the amount of \$2,166,840.00 per the attached January 26, 2022 proposal letter and attached fee summary schedule.

Fees for these services will be funded through the project's available budget.

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Ramkissoon

Sec'd by Ald. Johnson

Date of Adoption 03.15.22

Index No: 59-22

NAMES                      AYES              NOES              ABSTAIN              ABSENT

|                    |   |  |  |  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Ald. Tobin         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Johnson       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Ramkissoon    | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Kleiner       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Green         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Witt          | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Masi          | X |  |  |  |
| Pres. Rodrigues    | X |  |  |  |
| TOTAL              | 9 |  |  |  |

WHEREAS, Carmine Amelio has filed a bankruptcy petition in the State of Florida which involves several Middletown properties, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to immediately hire Florida bankruptcy counsel to litigate this matter on behalf of the City in the Florida bankruptcy court.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and authorizes the Mayor and Corporation Counsel to sign a retainer and other documents necessary to retain counsel and litigate this bankruptcy proceeding in the State of Florida.

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Johnson

Sec'd by Ald. Tobin

Date of Adoption 03.15.22

Index No: 60-22

NAMES                      AYES              NOES              ABSTAIN              ABSENT

|                    |   |  |  |  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Ald. Tobin         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Johnson       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Ramkissoon    | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Kleiner       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Green         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Witt          | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Masi          | X |  |  |  |
| Pres. Rodrigues    | X |  |  |  |
| TOTAL              | 9 |  |  |  |

RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and authorizes the Mayor to sign a Contract of Sale and any other pertinent documents for the purchase of a property located at 54 Kohler Road and Highway 24 in the amount of \$608,000.

Funding for this purchase is from the Watershed Protection Grant Funds.

**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 03.15.22

Index No: 61-22

NAMES AYES NOES ABSTAIN ABSENT

|                    |   |  |  |  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Ald. Tobin         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Johnson       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Ramkissoon    | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Kleiner       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Green         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Witt          | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Masi          | X |  |  |  |
| Pres. Rodrigues    | X |  |  |  |
| TOTAL              | 9 |  |  |  |

WHEREAS, the Corporation Counsel has recommended an updating of the penalty provisions of Article I of Chapter 416.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT 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 416, Streets and Sidewalks, be and is hereby amended by replacing Article I (General Regulations) to read as follows:

**Article I. General Regulations.**

**§ 416-1. Vehicles on sidewalks.**

No person shall drive, back or in any manner place any motorized vehicle and/or trailer and dumpster upon any of the sidewalks of said City, except to cross the same to enter a yard or lot.

**§ 416-2. Obstructing and encumbering streets.**

No person or persons shall encumber or obstruct any street, road or highway in said City with any motor vehicles, sleigh, sled, wagon, cart, carriage, timber, boards, plank, lumber, bones, barrels, hogsheds, firewood, staves, manure, rubbish, lime, brick or any other material or things, except as provided in **Sections 416-3 and 416-4.**

**§ 416-2.1. Repair, maintenance or cleaning of motor vehicles in City streets prohibited.**

The repair, maintenance or cleaning of motor vehicles in City streets is prohibited, unless specifically authorized by the Commissioner of Public Works.

**§ 416-3. Building materials in streets.**

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Works may, in his or her sole discretion, grant to any person permission to place any building materials in any of the streets of the City; such permission, however, shall not be for a longer period than six months nor authorize the obstruction of any of the sidewalks or crosswalks or gutters nor more than 1/3 of the carriageway of the street opposite the lot or place where such building is proposed to be erected. Any such permission may be revoked by the Commissioner at any time.

**§ 416-4. Removal of building materials from streets.**

Every person to whom permission may be granted, pursuant to Section 416.3, shall cause all the timber, building materials or rubbish arising therefrom to be removed from the street by the expiration of the time limited in such permission, or the revocation thereof.

**§ 416-5. Cellarways to be guarded.**

The owner of every building having a stairway or cellarway projecting into any street in the City shall guard the same at all times with good and sufficient railing.

**§ 416-6. Fences, buildings, permanent structures not to encroach.**

No person may erect or cause to be erected any fence, building or other permanent structure on his/her premises in the City which shall in any manner encroach upon the boundaries of any street thereof.

**§ 416-7. Structures prohibited on sidewalks.**

No awning, shed or structure of any kind, nor any awning frame or post, shall be erected over any of the sidewalks of the City.

**§ 416-8. Penalties.**

Any person who violates any of the provision of this Article or any person who owns or controls property upon which such violation occurs shall, upon conviction, be guilty of an offense punishable by a fine of not less than \$150 nor more than \$1,000 or by imprisonment for a period not exceeding 15 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. Each day that a violation is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offense. The term "person," as used in this Article, shall include the owner, property manager as defined in Chapter 296 of the City Code, occupant, mortgagee, vendee in possession, assignee of rents, receiver, executor, trustee, lessee, agent, or any other person, firm or corporation directly or indirectly in control of a premises or part thereof.

Section 2 - This resolution and ordinance shall take effect immediately

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Jean-Francois

Sec'd by Ald. Joohnson

Date of Adoption 03.15.22

Index No: 62-22

NAMES                      AYES              NOES              ABSTAIN              ABSENT

|                    |   |  |  |  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Ald. Tobin         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Johnson       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Ramkissoon    | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Kleiner       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Green         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Witt          | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Masi          | X |  |  |  |
| Pres. Rodrigues    | X |  |  |  |
| TOTAL              | 9 |  |  |  |

RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Middletown hereby authorizes the Commissioner of Public Works, and/or his designee, and the Chief of Police, and/or his designee, to close any and all streets and intersections as per the attached route necessary and at their discretion, for the YMCA Annual Ruthie Dino Marshall Run on Sunday, June 12, 2022, beginning at 8:00 a.m. and lasting until such time as it is no longer needed.

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Green

Sec'd by Ald. Johnson

Date of Adoption 03.15.22

Index No: 63-22

NAMES                      AYES              NOES              ABSTAIN              ABSENT

|                    |   |  |  |  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Ald. Tobin         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Johnson       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Ramkissoon    | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Kleiner       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Green         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Witt          | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Masi          | X |  |  |  |
| Pres. Rodrigues    | X |  |  |  |
| TOTAL              | 9 |  |  |  |

WHEREAS, the Common Council has been presented with a proposal to rezone 1 lot at 44-48 East Avenue from DMU Downtown Mixed Use district to the R-2 two family residential district, and

WHEREAS, the lot is described on the City of Middletown Tax Map as Section 35, Block 5, Lot 24, and

WHEREAS, this lot is presently in the DMU district, but is contiguous to the R-2 zoning district, and

WHEREAS, the proposed rezoning constitutes an Unlisted Action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") regulations, and

WHEREAS, the Common Council is the only involved agency under SEQRA for this rezoning request, and therefore would be the Lead Agency for the SEQRA review of this action.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council hereby declares itself Lead Agency with respect to this rezoning request pursuant to 6 NYCRR § 617.6(b)(1), and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Common Council authorizes the Clerk of the Council to schedule a public hearing on this application in accordance with the provisions of Section 475-51(B)-(D) of the Zoning Code.

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Green

Sec'd by Ald. Johnson

Date of Adoption 03.15.22

Index No: 64-22

NAMES                      AYES              NOES              ABSTAIN              ABSENT

|                    |   |  |  |  |
|--------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Ald. Tobin         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Johnson       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Ramkissoon    | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Kleiner       | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Green         | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Witt          | X |  |  |  |
| Ald. Masi          | X |  |  |  |
| Pres. Rodrigues    | X |  |  |  |
| TOTAL              | 9 |  |  |  |

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Corporation Counsel are proposing changes to the definition of retail business in the DMU Downtown Mixed Use district.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council authorizes the Clerk of the Council to schedule a public hearing on this proposal in accordance with the provisions of Section 475-51(B)–(D) of the Zoning Code.

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Masi

Sec'd by Ald. Johnson

Date of Adoption 03.01.22

Index No: Local Law # 3 of 2022

| NAMES              | AYES | NOES | ABSTAIN | ABSENT |
|--------------------|------|------|---------|--------|
| Ald. Tobin         | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Jean-Francois | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Johnson       | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Ramkissoon    | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Kleiner       | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Green         | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Witt          | X    |      |         |        |
| Ald. Masi          | X    |      |         |        |
| Pres. Rodrigues    | X    |      |         |        |
| TOTAL              | 9    |      |         |        |

**LOCAL LAW #3 OF 2022**

**A LOCAL LAW UPDATING THE NOTICE PROVISIONS IN THE ENFORCEMENT  
OF DELINQUENT PROPERTY TAXES**

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 update the notice provisions in the City Charter provisions for enforcement of delinquent property taxes.

**Section 2.** Section 81 of the Charter of the City of Middletown, Sale of unpaid tax liens, is hereby amended to replace Paragraph 2 thereof, to read in its entirety as follows:

2. **Notice of sale.** A printed notice of the time and place of the sale containing a description of the property encumbered by the lien to be sold shall be posted in

Middletown City Hall at least thirty (30) days before the date fixed for the sale. A copy of the notice shall be served at least thirty (30) days before the date fixed for the sale by personal delivery or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail upon the property owner and any mortgagee, lessee, lienholder or assignee of either whose mortgage, lease, lien or assignment shall have been previously recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Orange. A copy of the notice shall be published once per week for three (3) successive weeks in the official newspaper of the City, the last such notice being published at least seven (7) days prior to the date fixed for the sale. An omission to give any notice required herein, or the defacing or removal of a posted notice, does not affect the title of a purchaser without notice of the omission or offense.

Section 3. Section 81-a of the Charter of the City of Middletown, Bulk sales for unpaid tax liens, is hereby amended to replace Paragraph 8 thereof, to read in its entirety as follows:

8. Notice of bulk sale. A printed notice of the time and place of the sale containing a description of the property to be sold shall be posted in Middletown City Hall at least thirty (30) days before the date fixed for the sale. A copy of the notice shall be served at least thirty (30) days before the date fixed for the sale by personal delivery or by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, and by regular mail upon the property owner and any mortgagee, lessee, lienholder or assignee of either whose mortgage, lease, lien or assignment shall have been previously recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Orange. A copy of the notice shall be published once per week for three (3) successive weeks in the official newspaper of the City, the last such notice being published at least seven (7) days prior to the date fixed for the sale. An omission to give any notice required herein, or the defacing or removal of a posted notice, does not affect the title of a purchaser without notice of the omission or offense.

Section 4. Section 83 of the Charter of the City of Middletown, Redemption, is hereby amended to replace Paragraph 2 thereof, to read in its entirety as follows:

2. Real property subject to a delinquent tax lien may be redeemed by payment to the Treasurer, on or before the expiration of the redemption period, of the amount paid by the purchaser of the lien or liens, and all other sums which the purchaser may have paid for taxes or assessments on said real estate; together with the interest thereon from the time such payments were made, at the rate of fifteen per centum a year, and the actual and necessary expenses the purchaser or City may have incurred in the service of the notices provided for in this title; and on such payments being made the title acquired by such sale shall cease. Any person having any right, title or interest in, or lien upon, any such property may redeem such property in the manner provided herein. In case such payment is made by the owner of said real estate, then, and in that event, all mortgages, judgments, decrees or claims which were a lien on said real estate at the time the tax or

assessment for which the sale has been made, became a lien thereon, shall be and remain liens upon said real estate, anything hereinbefore contained to the contrary notwithstanding. Upon such payment being made by any such person so entitled to redeem any real estate, the sale of the lien so redeemed, and the certificates of such sale shall be null and void, and the person so redeeming shall be entitled to have such certificate canceled of record.

Section 5. Section 93 of the Charter of the City of Middletown, Conveyance of title, is hereby amended to read in its entirety as follows:

**§ 93. Conveyance of title.**

1. No owner whose deed, or in case he or she holds such property by descent or device, the deed of his or her ancestor or devisor, shall have been duly recorded in the office of the clerk of the County of Orange, before the sale of any lien for any tax or assessment, and no mortgagee, lessee, lienholder or assignee of either, whose mortgage, lease, lien or assignment shall have been so recorded, shall be divested of all rights in such property, by reason of an unpaid lien or tax sale conducted pursuant to this title, unless ninety (90) days notice in writing of such conveyance, shall have been given by the City or the purchaser of the lien or those claiming under him or her, to such owner, mortgagee, lessee or assignee, by depositing such notice in the post office of said City, by certified mail return receipt requested and by regular mail, directed to the owner, mortgagee, or lessee or assignee at his or her place of residence as stated in the deed, lease, mortgage or assignment of such mortgage or lease, and, in the case of an owner, directed to any address of such owner on file in the Office of the Assessor.

2. In addition to the written notice provided for herein, any property to be conveyed pursuant to this title must be posted with notice of such conveyance no later than thirty (30) days prior to such conveyance.

3. In the event that notice as required herein is not sent to any of the persons herein mentioned entitled to such notice, in such event the time within which any such person or those claiming under him or her may redeem such property is extended to within three (3) years from the lien date. In case of failure to redeem within said three years from the lien date, the sale and conveyance thereof shall become absolute and all persons barred forever.

4. Upon expiration of the redemption period and completion of the procedures required herein, and upon execution by the City of a deed to a tax-delinquent parcel to the City or to a qualifying purchaser of an unpaid tax lien, the City or qualified purchaser shall be seized of an estate in fee simple absolute in such parcel and all persons, including the State, infants, incompetents, absentees and non-residents, except as specifically exempted by law, who may otherwise have had any right, title, interest, claim, lien, or

equity of redemption in or upon such parcel shall be barred and forever foreclosed of any such right, title, interest, claim, lien or equity of redemption, and the City or qualified purchaser may hold such parcel for itself or sell or release such parcel as provided by law.

5. Sale to previous owner. After conveyance of title as provided herein, the City or qualified purchaser may convey the subject parcel to the previous owner. Such a conveyance shall restore all parties, including owners, mortgagees and any and all lienors, receivers and administrators and encumbrancers, to the status they held at the time the City or qualified purchaser acquired title to the subject parcel, as if the title had never been conveyed, and shall render the subject parcel liable for all taxes, deficiencies, management fees and liens, penalties, interest, and other charges which had accrued prior to the conveyance of title and which continued to accrue after the conveyance of title.

6. Conveyance prohibited to certain City officials, officers and employees. No City of Middletown elected official, nor any officer or employee in the Offices of the Assessor, Corporation Counsel, or Treasurer may bid for or acquire or purchase any parcel of real property which is offered for sale by the City in any manner as a result of the tax delinquency of such parcel. This prohibition shall include a prohibition against such City officials, officers or employees bidding upon or acquiring or purchasing such properties directly or through an agent, representative, attorney or other third party, including but not limited to a spouse or child. It shall be presumptive proof of a violation of this Section if such City official, officer or employee shall have acquired any interest whatsoever, including but not limited to the holding of a mortgage, lien or other financial interest, in any such property, howsoever acquired, either directly or through any third parties, within two (2) years of the date upon which such property was sold or conveyed by the City of Middletown. This provision may be enforced by disciplinary action or by an appropriate action at law or in equity in the Supreme Court of the State of New York.

#### Section 6. 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 7. Effective Date.

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