



COMMON COUNCIL Meeting
CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
September 20, 2022
City Hall
16 James Street
Middletown, New York 10940

P R E S E N T

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

Digitally Recorded Proceeding, transcribed by:
Lisa Kane

AMERICAN LEGAL TRANSCRIPTION
11 Market Street, Suite 215
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
Tel: (845) 452-3090 - FAX (845) 452-6099
amlegaltrans@aol.com

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1. Pledge of Allegiance

(Pledge of Allegiance)

2. Roll Call

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Roll.

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

3. Approval of Minutes.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Approval of minutes.

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK: We have the minutes from the August 16, 2022.

ALD. MASI: So moved.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Motion by Alderman Masi, seconded by Alderman Witt. All in favor?

ALDERMANS: Aye.

4. Correspondence, Communications and Reports

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Correspondence.

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK: We have a letter from the Otisville County Fair.

"Dear Mayor DeStefano, as we close out the 32nd Annual Otisville County Fair, we count our blessing for community members like yourself. Thanks for your continued support, we were able to provide the community with another successful fair. On behalf of the Otisville Fair

Committee, Otisville Lions Club, and other volunteers thank you.

During the four-day fair, many local organizations were able to raise funds that aid citizens in our area. Those funds improve the quality of life for our residents and make our community a better place to live. Your help every year provides the community spirit that can thrive in today's hectic world. Again, thank you for supporting this wonderful community event.

We sincerely appreciate it. Thank you for the use of your light towers for the parking area during the event. These lights help to ensure the safety of all fairgoers. We look forward to working together again next year for the 33rd Otisville County Fair. Sincerely, Jim Jennings and Sue Marshall, co-chairman."

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Received and filed.

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK: I also have a service award letter from Penflex.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Received and filed.

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK: And a letter from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the annual comprehensive inspection.

"An inspection referenced today, the facility was performed on August 25th, 2022 for the purpose of

evaluating compliance with the state pollution discharge elimination system, SPDES permit in Article 17 of the Environmental Conservation Law. The facility inspection was given a satisfactory rating. Please refer to the attached copy of the inspection report."

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Received and filed.

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK: That concludes communications.

5. For the Good of the City

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Okay. For the Good of the City. Anyone would like to address the counsel please step forward.

KEVIN GOMEZ: Good evening, everyone, Mayor DeStefano, President Rodrigues, distinguished members of the Common Council, and all present.

I'm here, Kevin Gomez, on behalf of the Middletown School Board as a board member or trustee of the community. I think the events we've had the last two weeks demonstrate the importance of having a strong working partnership with -- with our municipal partners, Middletown and Town of Wallkill.

To start, The Takes a Village Back-to-School Barbeque was a great successful, and the turnout was larger than expected. And we're grateful for all the members of

our community, different distinguished civil leaders, our police department how they helped make this a wonderful success for our children and testament that we are a strong and united community. We are one Middletown.

Also, our school buildings have been having their back-to-school open houses giving the opportunities for parents to meet with teachers, to meet with administrators.

And we're also very grateful, last week, as you know, there was a public safety scare, but the (indiscernible) that followed, the support we have from the administration of our Mayor and Police Chief Ewanciw, we had a very strong police presence. And it's my understanding that it was the -- one of the most smoothest entry days and exit days for kids to go to school, feeling safe and sound.

I'm also pleased to report that our Fair Funding Committee did pass our resolution and it was passed by -- not only by the school board calling on the New York State Legislature to adopt independent budget line to fund public safety. We believe that this burden should not bore alone by school districts or local municipalities. And never we should be back in the place where we have to choose when it comes to dollars and cents between academics and public safety. They both go hand and hand.

We'll be getting a resolution sended [sic] over to our different elected officials and I will see to it that we get copies over to the Mayor and our members of the Common Council.

That's all I have to say today. Have a great evening.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Thank you.

Anyone else to address the Council?

6. REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Okay. Remarks of the Mayor.

JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR: Yes, good evening.

And it has been an exciting couple of weeks. We opened it with the Stylistics. We had a great turnout at the Paramount Theater. And we ended it with the Wall that Heals. Hopefully, a good portion of the Middletown residents, Middletown area residents were able to attend it. It was at the Mount Carmel School in the rear between the church and the school. And it was a wonderful presentation. The tours that were given and the -- the emotions at the wall itself were -- were heartfelt.

And I want to thank the committees that organized it and brought it into the Middletown/Wallkill area. I'd also thank the Town of Wallkill and their cooperation with

the City in assisting the wall there.

We also participated in the 250 year celebration of the Town of Wallkill. As you know, we were part of the Town of Wallkill until 1888. I was unable to make the parade, but the -- we did attend the press conference at Town of Wallkill Hall. A lot of pride in Wallkill. And I've always stated for the past 20 years that we should be looking at being one again. So I'll make that pitch back out there that we would be one hell of an economic force, reduce costs for our taxpayers, follow the -- the model that many southern cities and townships followed to reduce cost of government. And hopefully at some point at least the Township will -- now that they're 250 years old will decide that we will take that state money that is being offered for communities to discuss mergers or at the very least to discuss merging of services, sharing of services.

So there is -- there is state money available for that. And some communities in New York State have actually done this. And there's been significant savings to taxpayers at the same time to improve services.

But that's just my pitch to Supervisor Serrano who's new and has been very cooperative and we do work fine together. But I just -- as I congratulate them, I'd like to just throw that there once again.

As mentioned by Board Member Gomez, the back-to-school event was a great event, a great turnout. I want to thank the chief and his grill team. They had the Middletown Police Department cooking all day long.

The fire department was present. Amy Creedon, the school superintendent was seen doing a double dutch I think it's called.

ALD. KLEINER: Yes.

Is that what it's called? You witnessed it, Gerry?

ALD. KLEINER: Yeah, I saw it.

JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR: Oh, you did. Okay. Maybe you can provide video at some point too to us. We may play it.

And -- and others, the band, the music, the kids, the families, just all enjoyed themselves. I know there was fishing, other activities, football activities. So we estimated about 2,500 people I think attended. And Kevin was there taking pictures for the school district and doing the promotions there. And it was just a wonderful, wonderful event. And next year we'll be a little bit more prepared in anticipating this much, much larger crowd.

On a sad note, we did lose to Port Jervis on Friday night. We did lead 19 to 6 going into the third

quarter, I mean, early in the third quarter. But congratulations to Port Jervis.

I usually have a hot dog bet with the Mayor of Port Jervis, but he must not have been too confident this year because he didn't call to make the bet. So I saved a couple hot dogs. So we'll get them back next year though.

The Otisville Fair, we do participate with other governments and share services, so thank them for the kind acknowledgement. But we -- we also borrow from Township's too and Town of Wallkill and Otisville. We borrow trucks. But it was nice to hear the kind words, not to me, it's primarily to Jacob and the City, so that's great.

And I want to touch on one point with Mr. Gomez. I'm so glad you -- you touched on the public safety aspect because I proposed this to the school district four or five years ago when this whole -- the issue started with Dr. Reese wanted to take the SROs out of the school and -- and talking about budget issues. And I asked that the school district join us in going to Albany. And I did go to Albany and lobby and advocate on behalf of getting a separate budget line into school budgets where people can vote on security separately.

So I don't know if it's the same thing, but it's important that school budgets not get voted down based on

school security. And in some cases that's what's going to happen as the escalation in cost happen. You're going to start seeing this.

And I think most people may disagree or agree with the budget itself, but certainly will not disagree with the fact that we need to have police SROs in our schools. That burden cannot fall solely on a city like us. We're only or maybe less than 50 percent of the Middletown School District. So it's important that we probably should look at that fair funding resolution that was passed by the district, see if it's something that we can also support as a body because I strongly believe that we need to maintain the integrity of the SRO system moving forward and that includes an obligation on our side too because when we create a position of SROs in the schools, we're hiring an additional police officer.

We're getting partial reimbursement from the school district, not 100 percent reimbursement. But, you know, there is downtime that we don't get reimbursed for. Maybe it's 80 percent, 90 percent, whatever the number is. It's still an obligation and there is still legacy costs to having that position later on. So having that separate position and having that security of the confidence that the public will maintain school security I think is

important.

So I want to welcome the Fair Funding Committee on Board. A couple years late, but it's important that we -- we all get there together.

So that's all I have if you have any questions.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Any questions for the Mayor?

JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR: Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right. Thank you.

7. REMARKS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Remarks of Department Heads. Economic Development.

MARIA BRUNI, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Good evening, everyone.

Just a few things happening this weekend. On Saturday at Erie Way Park, of course, the Middletown Farmers Market continues from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. And then from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. the Middletown Community Barbecue and Resource Fair which is hosted by Senator Scoufis and TD Bank.

And then starting at 5:30, the police -- the Middletown PD will have festivities and activities starting with a special concert featuring Inside Brag. They were a favorite this summer downtown. And then they will conclude

the evening with the movie *Bad Guys*. And I understand some folks are going to be dressed in character, correct, Chief? So this is all happening this Saturday, Erie Way Park where the skate park is.

Also, Pattern for Progress, you've heard me talk about them in the past, has chosen downtown to hold their Main Street conference. And because we were such a success with our DRI, they chose us to have a Hudson Valley Main Street conference. And that's going to be October 6th. You can go on our Facebook and -- and sign up for -- for the conference.

And then also there's a couple resolutions on the agenda tonight that I look for your support.

And 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: Police Chief.

JOHN EWANCIW, POLICE CHIEF: Good evening.

I actually have nothing else unless you have questions for me?

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Any questions for the police chief? All right. Thank you, chief.

DPW Commissioner.

JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER: Good evening, Council President, members of the Common Council, the Mayor. Thank you, Chief, for leaving your time for me. The \$20 are there. The 20 bucks are there.

So we'll start off for the -- I'm sorry, I'm not dressed for the occasion because I've been all day with -- for code enforcement, today, tomorrow, and the day after.

But we'll start off with the reservoir report for Alderman Masi and everybody in the public.

Although we had almost six inches of rain the last couple of weeks and this month, because the previous months we did not hardly have any rain, like inch-and-a-half for the previous months before that, the ground was so dry, not much of the water made it to our reservoirs. However, we started before this heavier rain, recent rain, at 81 -- 80 -- 83.1 percent. Now we're 83.9 percent as off today the reading. So we moved up a little. At least we stabilize, not continue to drop because we're using the water. And it's hot and warm and there's evaporation and we're losing water anyway. So at least we stabilize and we move back up again. So it's -- it's very optimistic. Hopefully we're going to be having more rain coming, but I'm not -- I'm not very disturbed about it.

However, conservation is the key. Water

conservation, please. I don't want to keep -- keep repeating that. It's good for the environment. It's good for your pocketbook, it's good overall.

The council president for milling and paving for -- on 211 and Monhagen Avenue, I started copying the Mayor and the Council President on my emails with the contractor and the engineers because we're extremely unhappy as much as the Council President, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Ramkisson, they're complaining about that situation, so am I. It's not acceptable. But that's -- that's where we are.

We're going -- we're going to end up, unfortunately, for another reason going to court possibly with the contractor. And the contractor is one of the best contractors I ever worked with to be honest with you except he dropped the ball on this road. After they fixed it, they ripped it up again. And now it's in a very, very stressing situation where it's at the shape of the road.

So make a long story short, again, I copied everybody on my emails. We applied pressure. Even on DOT was not responding to them unfortunately to have a meeting because we cannot pave 211 without DOT's blessing. So finally we did apply pressure and they responded, DOT. They had a meeting together.

So the final schedule is October 3rd and 4th. That would be -- there will be milling and October 5th will be paving. And that's -- the DOT is on board, inspector is on board, and engineer is on board, the contractor is on board. Allstate -- All County Paving is on board as well.

After that, the contractor is planning -- the asphalt contractor he works for Orange -- Orange and Rockland as well. He continue -- he wants to keep going repaving everything that Orange and Rockland has disturbed and it's been sitting there for about -- about at least one season, so that we would have achieved the settlement. So they're going to continue going down West Main.

So 3rd and 4th is the milling of that depressing disgraceful section of Monhagen and 211. After that they're going to be paving it on the 5th. And then after that they're going to continue to take care of whatever Orange and Rockland owes us.

So before the thing was they don't have to pave Monhagen -- the intersection of Monhagen and West Main -- West Main because we're going to be doing it anyway under our traffic operations, but we're not going to stay for a year, another year like this because of the phasing and the schedule, so they're going to be fixing it. So that's the plan so far. And -- and we're going to hold them to it as

much as we can.

Another -- another issue I want to bring up and I want to request the Council President to put it on the agenda for DPW. The Mayor -- the Mayor and I have been discussing the advantage of the new sanitation trucks and the mechanical arm and how we're really have success with them. And we are picking up the municipal solid waste or the garbage much faster than what it used to be with least amount of damage. Now our men are not allowed to touch the garbage cans except for yard waste pickup. They are -- they are under directive not to touch them. Everything has to be done with the mechanical arm this way isolating and minimizing any potential for workman's comp.

So before now we had one driver and one loader in there just to adjust the location of the cans or the carts because they're have, so that the truck, our mechanical arm will come and pick it up.

Make a long story short, the proposal would like to -- the Mayor and I would like to -- would like to make before you and the DPW Committee if the Council President approves is to have pick up the entire city in three days instead of four days. So municipal solid waste we're very successful with it. So instead of four days we pick it up in three days. And then the last Thursday and Friday we'd

pick up recyclables because right now recyclables are too much. We give cans -- carts to everyone. Now everybody is recycling.

We're going to do an indication campaign soon in order to advise people and educate them what kind of recyclables are good and what kind is not. So don't be overly consciousness about dumping everything, maybe they'll use it for recyclables. That will hurt us. Our recyclables become really worthless. And -- and so we have to stick to that, but we'll get into that later on.

So now we pick up the entire city in three days, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and then Thursday, Friday we'll pick up the recyclables. In the future once we have a vacation day, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, we will pick up the entire recyclables on Friday then. So that will save on overtime. So that's when you're going to start seeing the savings in 13 or 14, whatever number of vacations we have per year or holidays, we're not going -- we're not going to work that Saturday for picking up the recyclables. So 13, 14 days, whatever the number of holidays are, we'll present all that before you when we -- when we do the presentation, the Mayor and I.

But that's where we're going. That's -- you're going to start seeing the advantage of -- of the mechanical

trucks. And hopefully it will support us to purchase more in the future because right now we have three of them and we use them every day. And now we're going to be using them five days a week because we'll pick up all the recyclables using them five days a week because we'll pick up all the recyclables using the mechanical arms.

With us when we come and make the presentation, some members of our team and the sanitation department, they'll be here and they will be assistant -- assisting to answer any questions or any concerns that you may have that the Mayor and I may not be able to address it.

And another project you see the success and the progress of the traffic operations. And we're very excited about it. You can see the results in there. It's a major facelift for the city and we haven't even started doing the intersections. We're just doing in between the intersections. And we're very excited about it. And you can see the fruits of the labor of years and years to try to bring this project together to come up with the \$30 million that we have to spend on it.

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

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Any questions for Jacob?

Alderman Johnson.

ALD. JOHNSON: Just a quick one. So if I have a Monday holiday, garbage will be Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, recyclables will be all day Friday? Is that how that would work?

JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER: Yes, yes.

ALD. JOHNSON: Thank you.

JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER: Whichever day off, so three days -- right now we pick up the entire city in four days for municipal solid waste for garbage, each ward in one day. So we're going to keep -- we're going to divide the 1st Ward only which happens to be picked up on Thursday. We're going to divide it in subsections among the three other Wards. So and this way entire city will be picked up in -- in three days. But we'll -- the Mayor and I will get into that much more details when we -- when you allow us to.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Kleiner.

ALD. KLEINER: Thank you. Jacob, I just wanted to commend your department on dealing with the water main breaks. I know we've had some major ones. And they've been so good at getting out there and getting it fixed and getting everything up to normal, so it's always nice to see that second Nixle report that everything's okay and you're moving on. So congratulations to them and thanks.

JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

ALD. KLEINER: The other question I have is I've seen people already with the leaf blowers blowing leaves out into the street.

JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER: Yeah.

ALD. KLEINER: Do we know when leaf pickup will begin? And could we tell people again don't do that yet?

JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER: Yeah, absolutely. Thank you very much. I mean, it's -- it's going to be sometime in November and we will provide you with the Council Resolution. You know, you'll have an official Council Resolution.

But, absolutely, by -- by no means, everything has to be within the receptacles and follow our -- our code. It's -- it's right there. The size -- if you have branches, they have to be 30 inch in there. They have to be in bundles in there, wrapped and all that stuff. Please bear with us.

And thank you, Alderman, for bringing this. Otherwise the city will look terrible for -- and we will not be able to put the sweeper into locations where we have the leaves on the -- on the street. The sweeper cannot go and pick it up. It will bind it and it cannot function. So we're going to have to drive around it and your

neighborhood, unfortunately, is not going to be that good. So please keep everything within the receptacles and work with us.

And -- and, by the way, thank you for bringing up to my attention about yesterday's water main break. It was a mistake of a contractor working on demolition. And you could just see the screens -- screams rather and the complaints from everyone from Touro College to the schools to Orange County Community College, everybody, to all the (indiscernible), everybody. You know, without water, you know, life stops honestly. You know, everybody is going to order tankers. Where do we get tankers from? And we're going to shut down -- we've got to shut the school and shut down the Orange Community College, Touro College and so on and so forth. So that's the important of -- of water.

And I'm sure everybody appreciates it, so that's why just please continue to conserve. Use as much as you need, don't waste. And -- and we'll continue to invest with the support of the Mayor and the Council President and the council members have we have been very seriously more than ever in improving our water and sewer infrastructure.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Anyone else?

Thank you, Jacob.

JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: City Treasurer.

LEONORA LIZ, CITY TREASURER: Hi. Good evening, everyone. Am I talking loud enough? I know I talk a little bit low sometimes.

So I just have one thing or two things to report on. We just had our bulk lien sale on September 15th. We sold about 101 properties. And I just wanted to make it clear, like, to the public that a bulk lien sale is not the same as a private lien sale. This is more to give families the opportunity to pay back their delinquent taxes versus us selling their properties to a private investors.

So just in comparison to 2001 and 2020 which is sort of the -- the year we're comparing it to. 2020 was 369 properties, so we're down to 101 which is great. And that is because we are planning to relevy the water and sewer bills, so that does help tremendously.

Segueing into that, I just wanted to remind the public that bills will be -- they have up -- up until October 31st to pay their water/sewer bills for anything past 2021. Anything past October 31st will be relevied to their property taxes.

Other than that, do you have any questions?

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Questions for treasurer?

LEONORA LIZ, CITY TREASURER: All right.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Thank you.

LEONORA LIZ, CITY TREASURER: Have a good night.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Superintendent of Recreation.

RAELYNN BERTHOLF, SUPERINTENDENT RECREATION:

Good evening. I have nothing to report, but for 20 bucks I'm willing to give more time.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: You're fired.

RAELYNN BERTHOLF, SUPERINTENDENT RECREATION: All right. Any questions?

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: I have two.

RAELYNN BERTHOLF, SUPERINTENDENT RECREATION: Yes.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Wolslayer Field, we're going to have to play games there in November.

RAELYNN BERTHOLF, SUPERINTENDENT RECREATION: Okay.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: The school is going to be tied up. We need to get some stuff, you know, wrapped up to get it there. I don't know where we're at. I don't know, it seems like it's slowing down over there.

RAELYNN BERTHOLF, SUPERINTENDENT RECREATION: The sinking issue was fixed. There we got -- cement got into the water line from installing that last sink. That was

cleared out. And Truex (phonetic) is finishing up the last little bit that he needs to do.

Our maintenance guy -- a few of our guys that was finishing up work has completed it. John Bianchi did let Rotolo know because he was waiting for that before he can go in and wrap up what he needed to do as well.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: And then the next thing is Maple Hill Park, the pool. We need to work on it what we're going to do, Council, Mayor. It was hot this year. We -- we have a huge population --

JOSEPH DESTEFANO, MAYOR: Yeah. We've been discussing that pool. And I want to be perfectly honest and blunt with you. I -- I have reached out to the Alderman in the 3rd Ward to discuss it. You know, the Sproat Street Pool is very much underutilized. Maple Hill Pool will probably run us in excess of a million-and-a-half dollars to replace. We're looking at different options for -- up at Davidge of possibly a splash pad which seem to be more popular or not a wading pool, but something -- something different to expand possibly the facility. Also the shortage of lifeguards and the shortage of staffing has made it shortened hours at some of the other pools.

So we're planning on having a meeting with the people of California Avenue in that area to discuss what

they would like to see there. But me, personally, I'm not prepared to move forward with a replacement of a -- of a pool that where we already have two pools and one is significantly underutilized.

So that's where we're at. And then, you know, at some point in the future, Sproat is also getting old. How old is Sproat? Yeah, Sproat was there when I was a kid, so it's well over 50 years old itself. It was there when Masi was a kid, so it's 80 or 90 years old. So maybe at that time when Sproat seems to fade away, it might be a time to look at something different. But I don't know if we're in a position to spend a million-and-a-half, two million dollars, you know, maybe more, maybe less.

Newburgh just spent \$11 million. I know it's a much larger facility. But when Davidge is not at capacity every day, so they do have -- they do have opportunities for swimming and Sproat is significantly underutilized. So that's where we're at from -- from the administrative side. But if you folks want to look -- take a look at it yourselves, feel free. You're happy to do that.

RAELYNN BERTHOLF, SUPERINTENDENT RECREATION:

And we are just getting estimates for not a big pool because lifeguarding is an issue. I don't see that going away any time soon. So having a big pool and needing the

lifeguard is an issue, so we are also looking into spray pad options and zero depth because, technically, you don't need a lifeguard when you have it, so we could have other rec leaders there.

And, also, Davidge Park, this summer we -- as busy as it looked, there wasn't one day we hit capacity there. We came very close to it on two of those hot heatwave days, but we haven't hit capacity at all this summer.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Okay. Any questions for Raelynn? All right. Thank you.

City Clerk.

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK: Nothing this evening.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Any questions for the City Clerk? All right.

8. Public Hearing and Grievances:

(None this evening)

9. Petitions and Complaints

(None this evening)

10. Remarks of the Alderman.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Remarks of Alderman.
Alderman Masi.

ALD. MASI: Thank you, President Rodrigues.

I just have -- I just have a little quick thing. I had the honor of representing the Mayor on Saturday at the Wall that Heals' ceremony. And I wrote some remarks down and I just want to touch on a couple of them in case you people weren't there or haven't seen any literature on it.

I want to thank the American Legion Post 151 of which I happen to be a proud member to the Knights of Columbus, Orange and Rockland, Con Edison, the Town of Wallkill and, certainly, the City of Middletown. They were the sponsors.

And I have one other thing that I ended with. And it said to the 58,281 names on the wall, the 1,500 plus service members unaccounted for from the Vietnam War, their families and all who served in Vietnam I honor you and thank you for your sacrifices. May we always remember them and in whatever religion we practice may we say prayers for them. And I ended with God bless America and thank you. Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Thank you.

Alderman Witt.

ALD. WITT: Thank you very much.

We had our 1st Ward meeting last Wednesday. And we had some folks who showed up and we had a good time, and

it was very informative. It was really good conversation and we hope it's the start of some bigger things.

I'd like to thank Officer Berman for coming by and helping out. That's always nice to have a police officer there to answer some questions for us.

And our next meeting is going to be on Wednesday, October 12th right here from 6 to 7 p.m., so we'd love to see you.

And just to quickly follow up on the community barbeque, it was a wonderful time. And it was so nice to see the collaboration between the City and the school district. And Mitch Williams and Freddie Williams did a great job as the organizers of this event. So I look forward to it next year. Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Thank you.

Alderman Green.

ALD. GREEN: Thank you very much.

Yeah, I'll just echo that quickly. That barbeque was fantastic. It was amazing to see everyone out there, you know, having a great time. And the local businesses and organizations and the school district and the City and the police and fire and everyone just coming together, it's always amazing to see. And what a fantastic event. You would have thought there was -- there was some royalty here

or the President in town because you couldn't find parking easily and, you know, the walk for the lot was -- was pretty interesting to do. So I'm just glad that everyone had a good time and that -- that it seemed to go off without a hitch so.

Other than that, we are having our constituents meeting here at City Hall Monday October 10th. That will be at 7 p.m. And we hope to see you here. Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Kleiner.

ALD. KLEINER: Thank you.

I'm going to join the course. It was amazing at -- at Davidge Park. The line of traffic was absolutely non-stop going in and coming out. So I thank everyone involved in doing the It Takes a Village Event. I don't think anyone -- I know they ran out of everything, you know, like halfway through. I think the food lasted for most of the day, but the police were on the barbeque as people have said. So, you know, who expected two to three thousand people. And it's wonderful to see the community turn out like that.

I, too, want to thank the veterans and everyone involved for the Wall that Heals. I couldn't get out there until Sunday, but I did go out Sunday. And it's quite an experience. And I recognize Maya Lin was a Yale graduate

student when she had the idea for that wall. And what an amazing concept it's become.

I congratulate the Town of Wallkill on their 250th anniversary. We had our reunion, our 60th class reunion going on at the same time, so I couldn't make it out there. But I -- I do congratulate them and I heard it was very successful.

I also want to wish a good holiday to our Jewish community. Rosh Hashanah is September 25th to the 27th. And it be the year 5783 on their calendar. And Yom Kippur is October 4th and 5th. We're going to move our meeting to October 3rd, so that we don't have the meeting on Yom Kippur.

Autumn also is Thursday. So we're ready for it. I think Parks and Rec is just loaded in the programs and the things that are going to go on. So I wish them success.

And at our next constituents meeting, we'll be talking to the people who now live on Brink Avenue North. And in case you haven't heard, the name has been changed because it conflicted with that little bit of Brink Avenue on the other side of Lake Avenue that wasn't there for many, many years. But now that's Brink Avenue and the 2nd Ward side is going to be Bring Avenue North so you'll know

what you're looking for. Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Ramkissoo.

ALD. RAMKISSOON: Good evening.

My allergies are killing me, so I'm talking funny, so I'll keep it short tonight.

Next Tuesday will be the 3rd Ward meeting and we'll be holding it in Maple Hill Park. Another month I think we can make it maybe through October. But it will be at 6:30 p.m.

As for the pool, just really quickly. I know maybe we talked about the possibility of putting out an online survey too to the community, and I'm sure we'll still probably do something like that. That feedback always helps. But you are correct, there wasn't a lot of activity at the pool. My daughter worked Sproat, some days two people all day. So we do need to kind of explore what options our community actually wants and will use.

That's all I have today.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Johnson.

ALD. JOHNSON: Nothing this evening.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Jean-Francois.

ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Yes. I'd like to thank Maria for her and her staff for putting a great show this past week. And everyone is talking about the Stylistics.

And it was -- it was well -- well showed. And people at work that's older than I am and they were excited by the Stylistics. It's a great show. And thank you for you and your staff for putting up a great show.

And I can't stop thanking DPW and street department. And, you know, like the Commissioner mentioned, they had stopped paving two weeks ago. But these guys pave over 100 roads in Middletown and they did an excellent job especially working with this hot summer. And I want to thank them very much for the beautiful job that they did.

Also, the sanitation department, I want to thank these guys for keeping our city real clean. They're doing a wonderful job. Thank you.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Thank you.

Alderman Tobin.

ALD. TOBIN: Nothing this evening.

11. Unfinished Business.

(Nothing this evening)

12. New Business.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: New Business.

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK: Good evening. We have a Resolution sponsored by Alderman Witt authorizing a \$18,000 budget transfer from within the Parks and Rec's

Department budget to cover unexpected costs.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Witt, seconded by Alderman Masi. Any discussion? Roll.

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

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK: A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Witt authorizing a \$628.60 budget transfer from within the Parks and Rec budget to cover Thursday evening transportation.

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, Masi, President Rodrigues. Carries.

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK: Resolution sponsored by Alderman Masi authorizing budget transfers to cover overdrafts.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Sorry. I don't know what happened with my phone. All right. Sorry about that. Start that again.

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK: A Resolution

sponsored by Alderman Masi authorizing budget transfers to cover overdrafts.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right. A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Masi, seconded by Alderman Witt. Roll.

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

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK: Resolution sponsored by Alderman Masi authorizing a proposal from Orange Bank and Trust Company for Integrated Receivable Systems and Printing Services for water and sewer bill.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Resolution sponsored by Alderman Masi, seconded by Alderman Kleiner. Any discussion? Roll.

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

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK: Resolution sponsored by Alderman Kleiner authorizing a \$70,000 transfer from within the Paramount Theatre budget to cover upcoming shows.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Kleiner, seconded by Alderman Tobin. Any

discussion? Roll.

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

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK: Resolution sponsored by Alderwoman Ramkissoo authorizing the purchase of 18 Hoover Drive from the City's Bulk Lien Provider for transfer to the Community Development Agency.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Resolution sponsored by Alderwoman Ramkissoo, seconded by Alderman Kleiner. Any discussion? Roll.

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

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK: Resolution sponsored by Alderman Johnson authorizing a proposal from Clark Patterson Lee for grant assistance with the Raw Water Improvement Project.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Johnson, 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, CITY CLERK: Resolution sponsored by Alderman Kleiner moving a Common Council meeting date from Tuesday, October 4th to Monday, October 3rd, 2022.

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, CITY CLERK: That concludes New Business.

13. Local Laws

(None this evening)

14. Audit of Claims and Accounts

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Okay. Audi.

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: All right. Resolution by Alderman Masi, seconded by Alderman Green. Roll.

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

15. Adjournment

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Move for adjournment.

ALD. MASI: So moved.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Masi.

(PROCEEDING CONCLUDED)

CERTIFICATE

I, LISA KANE, certify the foregoing transcript of proceedings of the September 20, 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: October 10, 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. Witt

Sec'd by Ald. Masi

Date of Adoption 09.20.22

Index No: 213-22

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			

Resolution authorizing an \$18,000 transfer from within the Parks and Recreation Department Budget to cover Unexpected Costs

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment authorizing the Treasurer to transfer \$18,000 from A.7200.100 Day Camp, in the following manner to cover unexpected repair costs, fuels costs and overdrafts.

FROM	AMOUNT	TO
A.7200.100	\$6,000	A.7020.440
Day Camp Personal Services		Gen Rec. Repair to Equipment
• To cover the cost of unexpected repair costs		
 A.7200.100	 \$1,855.37	 A.7110.417
Day Camp Personal Services		Parks – Gas & Oil
• To cover over drafts to account		
 A.7200.100	 \$10,144.63	 A.7020.417
Day Camp Personal Services		Gen. Rec. Gas & Oil
• To cover unexpected cost of gas		

**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 09.20.22

Index No: 214-22

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			

**Resolution authorizing a \$628.60 transfer from within the Parks and Recreation
Department Budget to cover Thursday Evening Transportation**

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment authorizing the Treasurer to transfer \$628.60 from within the Parks And Recreation Department budget in the following manner, to cover Thursday evening transportation to the Parks and Recreation Facility.

FROM	AMOUNT	TO
A.7140.401	\$317.50	A.7321.401
Playground – Travel Expenses		Special Programs
 A.7180.103	 \$311.35	 A.7321.401
Pool Personal -Overtime		Special Programs

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Masi

Sec'd by Ald. Witt

Date of Adoption 09.20.22

Index No: 215-22

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			

Resolution Authorizing Budget Transfers to Cover Overdrafts

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment authorizing the Treasurer to transfer funds in the following manner to cover overdrafts:

<u>FROM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TO</u>
G.9730 .600 Principal on Indebtness	\$30.01	G.9785.701 Interest on Indebtness
G.9730.600 Principal on Indebtness	\$3,166.67	G.9710.900 General Expense
GA.9000.830 Social Security Payments	\$1,359 \$74.80	GA.9000.830 GA.900.893
GA.9000.850 Unemployment Insurance	\$177.41	GA.9000.889 Dental/Optic Ins – CSEA
A.1430.401 Travel Expense To cover unforeseen office expenses within the Civil Services Dept.	\$320	A.1430.480 Office Expense

General Fund Balance \$25,997.43 A.1620.474
 To cover the cost for 2021 Hoffman lodge Parking Permit

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Masi

Sec'd by Ald. Kleiner

Date of Adoption 09.20.22

Index No: 216-22

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			

Resolution Authorizing a Proposal from Orange Bank and Trust Company for Integrated Receivable Systems and Printing Services for Water and Sewer Billing

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and authorizes a proposal from Orange Bank and Trust Company to implement the integrated receivable systems and printing services for Water and Sewer billing.

FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and authorizes the mayor to sign the proposal and new cash management agreement. Orange Bank will not charge us a services fee.

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Kleiner

Sec'd by Ald. Tobin

Date of Adoption 09.20.22

Index No: 217-22

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			

**Resolution authorizing a \$70,000 transfer from within the Paramount Theatre Budget
to Cover Upcoming Shows**

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment authorizing the Treasurer to transfer \$70,000 from within the Paramount Theatre Budget, in the following manner, to cover the cost of upcoming shows.

From	Amount	To
A.7010.440 Repairs to Equipment	\$5,000.00	A.7010.200 Equipment
A.7010.448 Promoters & Sponsors	\$65,000.00	A.7010.800 City Sponsored Events

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Ramkissoon

Sec'd by Ald. Kleiner

Date of Adoption 09.20.22

Index No: 218-22

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			

**Resolution authorizing the Purchase of 18 Hoover Drive from the City' Bulk Lien Provider
for Transfer to the Community Development Agency**

WHEREAS; the City wants to purchase/take a property located at 18 Hoover Drive, for transfer into the CDA from Cheswold, the City's bulk lien provider, which is a quality house in good neighborhood which the following purchase price is the amount that the owners owe Cheswold to release their lien:

18 Hoover Drive \$23,233.73

WHEREAS; this transaction will need a temporary General Fund balance transfer of \$23,233.73 and when the houses pass to CDA they will reimburse the City for the payment restoring the General Fund Balance.

SO LET IT BE RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment to approve the purchase/take of a property at 18 Hoover Drive, for transfer into the CDA, authorize the temporary budget transfer in the following manner and for the Mayor to be able to sign documents related to the purchase/take back.

From Amount To

General Fund Balance

\$23,233.73

A.1940.900

Purchase of Land

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

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Johnson

Sec'd by Ald. Jean-Francois

Date of Adoption 09.20.22

Index No: 219-22

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			

**Resolution authorizing a Proposal from Clark Patterson Lee for Grant Assistance with the
Raw Water Improvement Project**

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and approve a proposal from Clark Patterson Lee (CPL) for grant assistance with the Raw Water Improvement project.

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and authorizes the Treasurer to transfer \$10,000, in the following manner, to cover the cost.

FROM	AMOUNT	TO
Water Fund Balance	\$10,000	F.8340.400
		Contractual Services

**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 09.20.22

Index No: 220-22

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			

**Resolution Moving a Common Council Meeting Date from
Tuesday, October 4th to Monday, October 3rd, 2022**

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown hereby moves the Common Council Meeting of Tuesday, October 4, 2022 to Monday, October 3, 2022 in Observance of Yom Kippur.