



**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA
MARCH 16, 2026 - 6:30 PM**

1. ROLL CALL
2. NEW BUSINESS
 - 2.1. Resolution Amending Chapter 161 Of The Code Of The City Of Middletown To Permit Dogs In Designated Downtown Parks

WHEREAS, the Middletown Business Improvement District Board of Directors suggests that dogs be allowed in certain downtown municipal parks.

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

Section 1. Section 161-7, City Parks, of Article I, Dogs, of Chapter 161, Animals, of the Code of the City of Middletown, is hereby amended by modifying Section 161-7A, to read in its entirety as follows:

Section 161-7A. No dogs shall be permitted in any park owned by the City of Middletown, except in areas specifically designated for such use by the Department of Recreation and Parks, or as otherwise set forth in § 161-7B, or as permitted in § 161-7D.

Section 2. Section 161-7, City Parks, is hereby further amended by adding a new subsection D, to read in its entirety as follows:

Section 161-7D. Dogs shall be permitted in the following downtown parks:

Erie Way Park – 1-31 Union Street
Jerry's Park – 44-46 North Street
John F. Degnan Square – 29-37 West Main Street
Run 4 Downtown Park – 9-15 North Street
North Street Park – 118 North Street

subject to the following conditions and restrictions:

- (1) All dogs must be leashed at all times;
- (2) All dogs must be licensed by the City of Middletown or another municipality, up-to-date with vaccinations, and a current license tag must be visible on each dog's collar;
- (3) All dogs must be under the control of the owner or responsible party in compliance with Section 161-2;
- (4) Owners/responsible parties must clean up after their dogs and dispose of dog waste in compliance with Section 161-5;
- (5) Dogs are prohibited from digging. Any holes created must be filled in by the owner or responsible party before leaving the park.
- (6) No dog treats or dog food are permitted in the parks;
- (7) Dogs are not permitted on benches;
- (8) Aggressive and/or threatening dogs are not permitted in the parks; and
- (9) Aggressive behavior, dog bites to persons or dogs and/or other such incidents must be reported to the Middletown Police Department at 845-343-3151.

Section 3. Section 161-7, City Parks, is hereby further amended by modifying Subsection C, to read in its entirety as follows:

Section 161-7C. A violation of any provision of this section shall, upon conviction, constitute an offense, and shall be punishable as provided in § 161-8C.

Section 4. Severability.

The sections, paragraphs, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Ordinance are severable, and if any phrase, clause, sentence, paragraph, or section of this Ordinance shall be declared unconstitutional or illegal by the valid judgment or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or illegality shall not affect any of the remaining phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, and sections of this Ordinance.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Resolution and Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

2.2. Amending Chapter 156 of the Code of the City of Middletown to Clarify Restrictions on Possession of Open Containers of Alcoholic Beverages

WHEREAS, the Corporation Counsel is recommending the addition of a requirement of intent to consume alcohol to the City's prohibition of possession of an open container of alcohol in certain public places in the City of Middletown.

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

Section 1. Article I of Chapter 156, Alcoholic Beverages, of the Code of the City

of Middletown, is hereby amended by modifying Section 156-1-1, Restrictions on possession of open containers, to read in its entirety as follows:

§156-1-1. Restrictions on possession of open containers.

No person shall possess an open container of liquor, beer, wine or other alcoholic beverage while such person is on any public highway, public street, public parking area, any City-owned property or in or on any vehicle in a public place, with the intent to consume such alcoholic beverage in such public place, excepting those premises duly licensed for on-premises consumption of alcoholic beverages in the City of Middletown.

Section 2. Effective Date.

This Resolution and Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

3. ADJOURNMENT



**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL: LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By: None
Seconded by: None
Date of Adoption: March 16, 2026

Names	Ayes	Noes	Abstain	Absent
Ald. Johnson, Chairman				
Ald. Masi, Vice Chairman				
Ald. Green				
Ald. Rodriguez				
Ald. Wray				
Total				

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Prepared by:
Rick McCormack, City Clerk

Attachments:

1.	City Code Dog Amendment
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business improvement district

Downtown Middletown Business Improvement District

Board of Directors

19 South Street Middletown, NY 10940

Date: March 12, 2026

Council President Rodrigues &
Middletown Common Council Members
City Hall
16 James Street
Middletown, New York 10940

Re: Request to Amend City Code to Permit Dogs in Downtown Parks

Dear President Rodrigues & Members of the Common Council,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Downtown Middletown Business Improvement District, we respectfully request that the City amend its current regulations prohibiting dogs in certain downtown municipal parks and create a pet-friendly downtown.

Downtown Middletown has experienced significant revitalization in recent years, with the attraction of new restaurants, retail establishments, numerous residential units and community events that have increased activity and foot traffic throughout the district. Public spaces play a critical role in supporting this continued growth by providing welcoming gathering places for residents, visitors, and patrons of downtown businesses.

Allowing dogs in downtown parks, public spaces, when properly leashed, licensed and accompanied by responsible owners, would further enhance the vibrancy and accessibility of these public spaces. Many cities have adopted similar policies recognizing that pet-friendly environments encourage people to spend more time downtown, support local businesses, and contribute to a lively and inclusive community atmosphere.

The Business Improvement District Board believes that this amendment can be implemented with reasonable safeguards, including proper licensing, leash requirements, waste removal obligations, and continued restrictions around playgrounds or other sensitive areas where appropriate.

The Board respectfully requests that the amendment apply to the following downtown parks:

- Erie Way Park – 1-31 Union Street
- Jerry's Park – 44-46 North Street
- John F. Degnan Square – 29-37 West Main Street
- Run 4 Downtown Park – 9-15 North Street
- North Street Park – 118 North Street

As representatives of the downtown business community, we believe this change would further strengthen the appeal of downtown as a welcoming destination for residents and visitors while supporting the continued economic vitality of our district.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to working collaboratively with the City to advance policies that support the ongoing success of downtown Middletown.

Respectfully submitted,



Maria Bruni, President

Board of Directors

Downtown Middletown Business Improvement District

Cc; Mayor Joseph M. DeStefano