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COMMON COUNCIL

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN

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December 6, 2022 - Transcript
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. Jude Jean-Francois
Ald. Andrew Green
Ald. Joseph Masi
Ald. Sparrow Tobin

Digitally Recorded Proceeding,
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1 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

2 (Pledge of Allegiance)

3 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Please remain
4 standing as I ask for a moment of silence for
5 former police officer, Frank Perillo. Thank
6 you.

7 **2. Roll Call**

8 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Roll.

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

12 **3. Approval of Minutes**

13 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Approval of
14 minutes.

15 **RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:**

16 Motion by Alderman Masi. Seconded by
17 Alderman Witt. All in favor?

18 **ALDERMANS:** Aye.

19 **4. Correspondence, Communications and**
20 **Reports**

21 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Correspondence.

22 **RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:** Nothing
23 this evening.

24 **5. For the good of the City**

25 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Today we have the

1 recreation department coming up for a special
2 presentation.

3 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Good evening,
4 everyone. On Wednesday, November 17th, we had
5 two representatives from our youth program,
6 Jayden Messerton (ph) and Severia Bertholf (ph).
7 They represented our department at the 12th
8 Annual Youth and Adult Submit. Also in
9 attendance was some of our adult advisors,
10 Nicole Psarakis, assistant to the
11 superintendent; Contessa Beckford, who is the
12 program coordinator; and Sasha Bertholf, who is
13 a recreation specialist/parent of one of our
14 youth representatives that were there that
15 night.

16 At this summit, youth and adults who
17 participate and get funding from the Orange
18 County Youth Bureau from all over Orange County
19 were there just to celebrate all the successes
20 that all the various programs had in 2022.
21 Chairman and Severia went up at the dinner,
22 spoke about our programs, gave some amazing
23 testimonies to the program and how it helped
24 inspire them to become leaders within our
25 community.

1 And without further ado, I would like
2 to bring up Jayden Messerton and Severia
3 Bertholf to share their speeches that they gave
4 that night at the dinner.

5 **JAYDEN MESSERTON:** Good evening. For
6 me, the Middletown Rec has provided me with a
7 community that has truly helped me to grow as a
8 person. During the summer, I readily attended
9 the Rec's park program where they would hand out
10 lunches and provide cool things for us to do
11 while there.

12 And while I was there, I met a lot of
13 nice families. And engaging with them helped me
14 see a different range of perspectives. I mean,
15 most importantly, it helped me to become more
16 familiar with my community. And being there at
17 all those different parks really personalized
18 Middletown for me. And it's because of those
19 experiences that I seem to not see things now at
20 face value but rather learn about people and try
21 to find the humanity in them.

22 And secondly, participating in the
23 Rec's youth basketball program helped me to grow
24 in how I treat others. Participating in the
25 program and getting to know the people in it

1 helped me to relate to others from different
2 backgrounds. And playing basketball with them,
3 engaging in a common love, built a sense of
4 camaraderie and mutual respect between us. Even
5 though me and the people there all have our own
6 separate lives and different problems that we
7 face, we all come together and enjoy one similar
8 thing and leave all of that behind us. And that
9 type of bond and respect I think we can learn
10 from as we look to further our communities in
11 our cities, and in our state, and in our country
12 as well.

13 **SEVERIA BERTHOLF:** Good evening. My
14 name is Severia Bertholf. I'm 13 years old and
15 I attend Twin Towers Middle School. And yes,
16 you heard it right, it's another Bertholf.

17 Being born into this family in
18 Middletown, serving my community has become
19 second nature. I have taken part in so many
20 activities and functions with the Recreation
21 Department. And growing up, my mom and grammy,
22 who worked there part time, would always bring
23 me with them when they would work their events.
24 My aunt, who is Raelynn Bertholf, the
25 superintendent for the Parks and Rec, has been

1 working for them longer than I have been alive.
2 So I guess you could say it runs in the family.

3 Now that I am 13 and my mom allows me
4 to choose what activities I would like to take
5 part in, I still turn to the Recreation
6 Department for their programs along with all the
7 extra activities I'm involved in. Like 845
8 Elite basketball and Old School Spots. I still
9 continue to show up and show out for our
10 community.

11 I have been through a lot in my short
12 life and some things harder than others. I have
13 overcome loss at an early age. And being
14 involved with the Recreation Department and my
15 community has allowed me to see that I am not
16 alone. We have a community filled with youth
17 just like me. Some go through worse, and some
18 have it even harder. I continue to be active in
19 my community as an outlet, a fun, different part
20 of life. I continue to reach out to other kids
21 in their time of need so they can see how much
22 the Rec has to offer.

23 The Recreation Department gives us, the
24 youth, a chance to thrive and explore in
25 different ways. From boxing, to book clubs,

1 cooking classes, soccer clinics, and basketball
2 camps, with many more, they have it all. For
3 this reason, and not this reason alone, I
4 believe that the Recreation Department has
5 inspired me to be more active in my community.
6 It is a positive change of life and a great
7 support system and I low-key can't wait to work
8 for them. Thank you.

9 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Great job.

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** As you can see,
11 what we do makes a huge impact on our youth.
12 So, I would like to thank everybody here for
13 continually supporting us and all of our
14 programs, and the amazing staff that we have,
15 all of the adult advisors that are there leading
16 and guiding our youth to better them and inspire
17 them to become active members of our community.
18 So, again, thank you all.

19 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Thank you. Great
20 job.

21 Anyone else who would like to address
22 the Council?

23 **CATHERINE MCMENAMY:** Good evening. My
24 name is Catherine McMenamy. I live at 19 Low
25 Place in the City of Middletown. Several months

1 ago I was here with a suggestion that perhaps
2 the City of Middletown could find its way to an
3 ice rink. I had thought something small. I
4 thought the suggestion was well received. When
5 I came back several months later to see how we
6 had progressed, the Mayor informed me that he
7 had gone above and beyond --- and beyond my
8 certainly wildest expectations, and proposed
9 this ice rink that is now in the backyard here
10 for the community here, our children and our
11 families to enjoy. I just want to say thank you
12 to all of you for your support. Thank you to
13 the Mayor, who did a great job. He said it
14 would be up and running by the winter, and here
15 it is. Thank you for Jacob and his crew. Thank
16 you to Raelynn and her department. I can't
17 thank you enough. I think Middletown has done a
18 great thing here. And I'm so proud to be part
19 of this. You really did. You did a great job.
20 Thank you.

21 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Thank you.

22 Anyone else?

23 **AMY SHIN:** My name is Amy Shin. I am a
24 resident of Middletown. I'm here to let -- to
25 announce a very important seminar which is going

1 to be held by Mount Hope of Chinese Association
2 in the Middletown Senior Center December the
3 8th. The title of this seminar is to Wake Up to
4 the CCP Threat. The CCP indicates the Chinese
5 Communist Party.

6 The Chinese Communist Party has
7 infiltrated the United States to an alarming
8 degree. Not just to steal economic and military
9 secrets, but also to expand divisions and to
10 sway Americans' opinions. The CCP --- as I
11 indicated, the Chinese Communist Party. The CCP
12 aims to bring down America in a way --- in a
13 very comprehensive (unintelligible) warfare.

14 Following a dark feeling of
15 unrestricted warfare, the CCP regime uses in the
16 area of human actions a battlefield. Economic
17 warfare seeks to destroy U.S. industrial base
18 and create supply chain dependency. Financial
19 warfare seeks to control Wall Street into
20 shifting investments into China. Political
21 warfare seeks to (unintelligible) the American
22 system over constitutional and public. And a
23 few more theories in the United States.

24 If our enemy is waging an
25 unconventional war against us, if we still think

1 the CCP is just a competitor or a collaborator,
2 we will lose the war. So it is very important
3 for us to be aware what's going on now in the
4 world and in our country. So many Americans
5 began to worry about our country and worry about
6 our kids. So they are eager to know what they
7 can do to protect our community and to stop the
8 threat from the CCP.

9 So this event and the CCP's on August
10 the 8th evening will start at 7:00 at the
11 Middletown Senior Center. So it will provide
12 the deep insight into the activities of the CCP
13 in the United States and the discussion of the
14 unparalleled human suffering communism has
15 brought into the world over the last century.

16 The panel --- there are three panels.
17 They are all Chinese experts. One is called ---
18 his name is Chris Chapel (ph). He hosts China
19 Unsensored, YouTuber. He has about a two
20 million people follower. Also, another panel is
21 called --- whose name is Kay Rubacek. She also
22 has a --- she is author of China's Walking
23 Death. A prisoner journey into the strange
24 world of communist culture. And both sides of
25 Kay's family had escaped communist regime, which

1 put her in the unique position of being able to
2 offer an educated and personal perspective of
3 the ways in which totalitarian communists
4 operate against their own citizens.

5 We have had two seminars like this.
6 One at Mount Hope. One at Port Jervis. And we
7 received a lot of good feedback. And the
8 American people really care about our community,
9 our area, and they wanted to help us to do more
10 of this seminar. That's why the Mount Hope
11 community decided to do one in Middletown. So I
12 would like to invite everyone to go there to
13 support this event. Because if you don't do
14 this, our country is going to be in danger, and
15 in our community, we also, we will suffer.

16 I also want to thank the Middletown
17 government, the Mayor, and every council that
18 you're helping --- doing a great job. I have
19 been here for six years. I find that this town
20 is the town that upholds justice and care about
21 our residents. That's why I volunteer to do
22 this. Thank you very much.

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

25 **7. Remarks of department heads.**

1 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Remarks of
2 department heads, Economic Development.

3 **MARIA BRUNI, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

4 Good evening, everyone. I just want to say we
5 had an outstanding tree lighting celebration.
6 Probably the largest we've had. I want to thank
7 everybody that --- I'll try to thank everybody,
8 but there was truly a community parade, a
9 community lighting. The Boat Team, Joseph,
10 Aiden; the Paramount Team, Stephania and Eileen
11 did a tremendous job with the organization of
12 the parade and the lighting. City departments,
13 Jacob, DPW; his deputy, Ross Mastria; Chief
14 Ewanciw and the police department; Chief Varga
15 (ph) for securing Santa's ride. That's the hit
16 of the night. And the Parks and Rec Department,
17 Raelynn and her entire staff. And of course
18 thanks to Our Lady of Mount Carmel School and
19 Parish this year for donating the tree. And
20 just everybody.

21 The parade had about 500 participants.
22 Floats, City departments. I hear there is a
23 little competition going on with floats for next
24 year. Buddy the Elf was --- I don't know. So,
25 a great night kicked off our Small Business

1 Saturday weekend and all that stuff, Holiday
2 season.

3 The Menorah lighting is coming up
4 Monday, December 19th, at 4:30, at Run 4
5 Downtown Park. We're working with Temple Sinai
6 and the Rabbi. So, that's December 19th at
7 4:30.

8 And also, tonight there is a resolution
9 on the agenda approving some temporary borrowing
10 for the infill (ph) development project that
11 we've been working on to establish an account
12 minding the capital fund. As you know, we
13 secured a grant through Senator Skoufis. You
14 voted on the grant in November.

15 And also, we secured, and the council
16 approved, Rand Commercial to serve as our
17 broker, because this infill project requires
18 some acquisitions of property. And the Mayor
19 also has briefed you all along, and also over
20 the weekend he sent out an update, an email to
21 everyone. So, with that said, if you have any
22 questions.

23 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Kleiner.

24 **ALDERMAN KLEINER:** Thank you. I just
25 wanted to mention that a couple people mentioned

1 to me, who weren't able to attend the tree
2 lighting but watched it on TV, and they said
3 what an excellent job everybody did. Really
4 good. They felt like they didn't miss a thing.

5 **MARIA BRUNI, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

6 Thank you. Shout out to Eileen, who is behind
7 that door, for Facebook and all that.

8 **ALDERMAN KLEINER:** Very good.

9 **MARIA BRUNI, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

10 Streaming. Thank you.

11 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Anyone else?

12 DPW commissioner.

13 **JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** Good

14 evening all. I'll start off with the reporting
15 to the public, and the council has been
16 appraised, the council is aware about the taste
17 issues that we have on our finished water.

18 Water, as much as it looks like it's easy to
19 treat and to handle, it is until something goes
20 wrong. And there are several things that could
21 be going wrong. And it's very hard to put your
22 hands on what is going on, and it takes time to
23 get to it.

24 So, we regret --- we regret these
25 issues. I take it personally because I spend my

1 life in the waste water industry.

2 It is something that could not be
3 helped, unfortunately. There was an algae boom
4 in the reservoir that required treatment. What
5 happens is when you kill the algae, you have
6 these other issues in the water because that's
7 what the algae gives out.

8 There was an alternate process in the
9 treatment. I don't want to get into the weeds
10 of things that deserve filtration, which is a
11 different process. But unfortunately, we don't
12 have that process. And the water treatment
13 plant performed excellent --- produced excellent
14 first-quality water for years since it was built
15 back in 2010. And now we just got smacked in
16 the head, you know. I see that you guys don't
17 take things for granted, keep eyes wide open and
18 explore all the time and find different
19 technologies, and so on and so forth.

20 So, with that being said, I think we
21 did find a solution for this problem right now,
22 which is basically diverting all our water
23 intake to Highland. Today we finished the last
24 water --- the last piping adjustment to enable
25 us to take water from Highland only. There is

1 still some mix coming in from Monhagen. It's
2 not 100 percent. But we feel confident that we
3 got it. We got the issue. I'm there all the
4 time now. We're tasting the water and it's
5 getting better, but it is going to take a while
6 for it to go throughout the water distribution
7 system. Because as you know, we have water in
8 the pipe. It is going to take a while for it to
9 dissipate. We have water storage tanks that are
10 holding water right now with that musty earthy
11 taste to it. And you know, it is going to take
12 some time. But we're working on it.

13 Tomorrow we are going to be testing new
14 chemicals in there that possibly could help with
15 the situation. Covid did direct us as well.
16 The proven technology that will help with the
17 taste and odor is granular activated carbon,
18 which we do have in all filters. Each year we
19 put fresh and replace original media and one of
20 the filters. Each year we do one filter. So,
21 one out of three.

22 This year, because of Covid and the
23 supply chain, and so on and so forth, it was not
24 regenerating the granular activated carbon, it
25 was replacing it completely. So, Calgon, which

1 is one of the biggest companies in the world,
2 indeed in this country, that handles granular
3 activated carbon, they pushed us back from April
4 until --- now we're targeted to the middle of
5 this month to replace it. So, if that would
6 have been there, that would have helped a little
7 bit. But that's one filter out of three. So
8 that's another contributing factor to the issue.
9 So it was communicable factors, including the
10 algae.

11 Again, I don't want to keep going back
12 and forth about it, but that's the reason why we
13 are purchasing the watershed and the properties
14 around the watershed in order to preserve it,
15 make sure there is no industrial waste, there is
16 no phosphorus, there is no nitrogen product in
17 the air which promotes the algae growth in our
18 reservoirs.

19 So that's where we are. Again, my
20 deepest apology. I take this matter personally.
21 I've been there, spending all my time up there
22 with the guys, with the operators. It is the
23 same operating firm that ran the plant for the
24 past 12 years. They are still the same firm.
25 The founder of the firm is still involved in

1 this trying to figure things out. But
2 unfortunately, our hands are tied. But we were
3 able to find another source that's not impacted,
4 which is Highland reservoir. And hopefully, you
5 will see the results very soon in your water
6 faucets. Again, it is with our deepest regrets
7 that this happened as we take pride in this
8 operation.

9 Anybody has any comments about this
10 before I go to a different point? Yes.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Quick question.
12 So, the water is completely safe and everything,
13 just to reiterate, it's just the taste?

14 **JACOB TAWIL, DPW COMMISSIONER:** Yes,
15 the Department of Health was doing the annual
16 inspection and they went through the whole thing
17 with us. I was there for their inspection. I'm
18 usually there for their annual inspection. The
19 water is perfectly in compliance with the New
20 York State Department of Health and EPA, yes.
21 You're welcome.

22 So, the next item before --- we open
23 the bids today for upgrading our dams at
24 Shawangunk Reservoir, which is three dams in
25 there. They would be upgraded in order to

1 comply with the DEC requirements. The bids came
2 in. One is about --- the lowest one was about
3 \$700,000 more than the engineer's price, but
4 we'll go with the engineer's estimate. And
5 another one was almost in line. So, we are
6 going to go through this and we'll come back and
7 make a recommendation to you guys about which
8 way to go.

9 DEC is after us to submit another
10 schedule within 45 days. That was like a month
11 ago. By the end of this year, end of this
12 month, to tell them when we are going to be
13 upgrading the Monhagen dams, Monhagen Reservoir
14 dams, and when are we going to be upgrading the
15 Highland Reservoir dams, which is a great
16 expense obviously to us, great expense to the
17 users of the City of Middletown water basically.

18 We are hoping that the Federal
19 Government --- they are spending money on
20 infrastructure and so on and so forth.
21 Unfortunately, dams are not part of it.
22 Hopefully it will be part of it. Hopefully our
23 Federal elected officials will help out to point
24 that one of the oldest structures in the country
25 are dams. They are under different regulations.

1 The new regulations are different. They require
2 different configuration, different spillway
3 length, and so on and so forth. And all the
4 dams have to be upgraded, so hopefully the
5 Federal Government will step in and start
6 providing some grants and some funding for this
7 important --- extreme important. Most of the
8 dams in this country were built like 100 plus
9 years ago. New dams have not been built since I
10 think the '30s or '40s. So, they are old
11 structures.

12 They need funding from the Federal
13 Government. The local taxpayers cannot handle
14 all this expenditure and they are required to
15 upgrade the dams. So hopefully --- although I'm
16 sure the Mayor will be reaching out to our
17 Federal elected officials to see if we can do
18 something with that.

19 Traffic operations. Our capital
20 projects right now, traffic operations are
21 winding down. You can see the excavation, they
22 are closing up sites right now before the winter
23 hits us. Thank God the snow has been delayed a
24 little bit and will not be impacted with our
25 budget with the salt and everything like that.

1 We are just closing up all open sites right now
2 and then we are going to call it a day. And
3 then hopefully in February or March, we will
4 start construction again with that three-year
5 traffic operation project.

6 Leaf pickups. Some Aldermen here, they
7 mentioned it to me, tomorrow they will be
8 finishing the City. Ward 1 will be done. And
9 then we will go quickly to find any hot spots in
10 there and we will pick them up. Please don't
11 put any other more leaves in there because we
12 have other things to attend to, and that will
13 conclude that.

14 Before the meeting tonight, there was a
15 council celebration for the contract with
16 Interstate Waste Management. We have been
17 negotiating with them, so we are trying to get
18 this position filled as soon as possible. And
19 we are working within the confines of civil
20 service to get it done ASAP. Otherwise, by the
21 end of this year, we will be without a principal
22 clerk.

23 Any questions?

24 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Any questions for
25 Jacob? Thank you, Jacob.

1 Fire chief.

2 **NICK BARBER, FIRE CHIEF:** Good evening,
3 everybody. Maria, I just want to say it was a
4 great parade. And game on when it comes to the
5 float. You can tell everybody we had the best
6 float out there.

7 Other than that, we have a resolution
8 for you tonight. And I'm hoping for everybody
9 supporting it. It's very big for the fire
10 department. Other than that, I have nothing.
11 Any questions?

12 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Any questions for
13 the fire chief? Thank you, Chief.

14 Police chief.

15 **JOHN EWANCIW, POLICE CHIEF:** Good
16 evening all. I have nothing this evening unless
17 you have something for me.

18 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Questions for the
19 police chief? Thank you, Chief.

20 Recreation.

21 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER, RECREATION:** Good
22 evening. I just want to update on the ice
23 skating rink. The night of the parade, parade
24 streets were busy. I think the ice skating rink
25 was jam packed. We couldn't even take a head

1 count with the people that were in and out. We
2 limited it to 20-minute sessions. We went
3 through every pair of skates that night on a
4 continuous 20-minute rollover. At one point,
5 the line was all the way to the road, from the
6 shed to the road filled with people.

7 A big thank you to the police
8 department. Some of their officers are very big
9 into ice skating and hockey and they were an
10 extreme help not only that night but continuing
11 with advice and lending their knowledge of ice
12 skating so that we could continue advancing the
13 ice skating rink.

14 Right now we're averaging --- Friday
15 nights we're getting --- we have the family
16 Fridays. It's definitely bringing in some
17 families. We are seeing a lot of Touro kids,
18 college students coming out ice skating. Also a
19 lot of couples also on Fridays for the ice
20 skating. We are also seeing a lot of teams
21 coming and trying it out. Every now and then,
22 you hear that big bang against the boards, and
23 then you know someone is down.

24 Going ahead, we are looking into having
25 some specialized theme nights there. Like going

1 over the music player that we have there, like a
2 disco night, '80s night, '90s night, a glow
3 night. We're also working with the big district
4 on doing a candy cane event. The flyer just
5 went out today on Facebook for it. Kind of like
6 an Easter egg hunt but with candy canes. It had
7 a lot of shares, so we have to get a lot of
8 candy canes.

9 Any questions?

10 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Great job.
11 Corporation counsel.

12 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I don't have
13 anything else tonight unless anybody has any
14 questions.

15 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Questions for the
16 corporation counsel?

17 City clerk.

18 **RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:** Nothing
19 this evening.

20 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Questions for the
21 City clerk?

22 **8. Petitions. Public hearing and petitions.**

23 **RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:** Good
24 evening. Notice is hereby given that the City
25 of Middletown will hold a public hearing on

1 Tuesday, December 6th, 2022, on or as near to
2 7:30 p.m. as possible in the Common Council
3 Chambers, Second Floor, 16 James Street, to hear
4 any and all persons wishing to be heard on the
5 proposed zoning amendment to Section 475-20 C-2,
6 Limited Business District, Subsection B, uses
7 requiring issuance of both a special use permit
8 and site plan approval by the planning board.

9 Paragraph 11. Offices of the
10 following. It is hereby further amended, by
11 adding a new subparagraph, Paragraph 11, to read
12 as follows: Offsite commercial cleaning
13 services, but only in that C-2 Zoning District
14 bounded by Sprague Avenue, Sterling Street,
15 Academy Avenue, and Genung Street, and further
16 provided that all services must be provided off
17 site, and all large equipment must be stored
18 inside the structure, as per the direction of
19 the planning board.

20 Persons wishing to be heard will be
21 given an opportunity to speak either for or
22 against the proposed zoning amendment. The
23 proposed zoning amendment is available in the
24 office of the Common Council clerk, and the
25 public hearing shall be conducted in person, via

1 video teleconference, and live on Channel 20.

2 By order of the Common Council, Richard
3 McCormack. Published 11/29 and 11/30 of 2022.

4 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** At this time, the
5 public hearing is now open. Anyone from the
6 public?

7 **JOANNE IVES CUDNEY:** Good evening. I'm
8 Joanne Ives Cudney. This is my husband, George
9 Cudney. In reference to that, we're a cleaning
10 company. We're wondering what kind of chemicals
11 are going to be stored in there. Like are they
12 hazardous, or what is exactly going to be stored
13 in there?

14 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** They are a
15 property management company. They have several
16 --- I don't think they have chemicals. They
17 manage properties.

18 **JOANNE IVES CUDNEY:** So no chemicals?

19 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** No.

20 **JOANNE IVES CUDNEY:** Are there going to
21 be offices?

22 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** There is offices
23 there now.

24 **JOANNE IVES CUDNEY:** And how many
25 trucks are we talking?

1 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** They said two to
2 three trucks that will be there. And there are
3 zoning --- when we talked to Alex, everything
4 has to be enclosed to stay inside.

5 **JOANNE IVES CUDNEY:** And parking. I'm
6 assuming they have employees?

7 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Correct.

8 **JOANNE IVES CUDNEY:** So where would the
9 employees park?

10 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** They'll park in
11 the parking lot.

12 **JOANNE IVES CUDNEY:** Okay. Anything
13 else?

14 **GEORGE CUDNEY:** I just wanted to know
15 if there was chemicals.

16 **JOANNE IVES CUDNEY:** Okay. Thank you.

17 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Any time.
18 Anyone else?

19 **MAY LA (ph):** Good evening, everyone.
20 My name is May La. I am from Mount Hope Chinese
21 Association.

22 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** This is only for
23 a public hearing, not for public comment.

24 **MAY LA:** Not public speech. Oh, sorry.

25 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Sorry.

1 **MAY LA:** That's okay.

2 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Anyone from the
3 public on the public hearing? Any councilmen or
4 aldermen have any issues or concerns?

5 Motion to close?

6 **ALDERMAN MASI:** Motion.

7 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Motion by
8 Alderman Masi. Seconded by Alderman Green. All
9 in favor.

10 **ALDERMANS:** Aye.

11 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** The public
12 hearing is now closed.

13 **10. Remarks of the Alderman.**

14 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Remarks of
15 Alderman. Alderman Masi.

16 **ALDERMAN MASI:** You and your entire
17 group and all the other departments that
18 collaborated on the tree lighting, thank you
19 very much. Everyone did a fantastic job. I'm
20 sorry I wasn't able to be there. I was down and
21 out. But I did watch it. And all the comments
22 that I've heard throughout the community have
23 been nothing but positive. Along with the ice
24 skating. That's a home run.

25 And then finally, if my math is

1 correct, tomorrow is the 81st anniversary of
2 Pearl Harbor Day, so please give remembrance to
3 that. Thank you.

4 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Thank you.
5 Alderman Witt.

6 **ALDERMAN WITT:** Thank you.

7 Just a reminder, there will be no first
8 board meeting on December 14th. Neither
9 Alderman Masi or myself are available on that
10 day. So we will see you in January, I hope.

11 I also want to echo my congratulations
12 on a great job on the parade and the tree
13 lighting. It just seems to just get bigger and
14 bigger. And I heard nothing --- and I also saw
15 the Facebook Live stream. That was really a
16 cool thing, a cool element.

17 I happen to be on the staff for the
18 school district hosting the state semi-finals in
19 football. That was a two-day event. And two
20 weeks earlier there was soccer semi-finals and
21 championship games that were there. These are
22 things that have been going on for a while.
23 Soccer since 2010, and the football since 2019.
24 And just a reminder that like what this brings
25 into our community and the area, I mean,

1 according to the folks at the --- with Orange
2 County Tourism, they've estimated each of these
3 events at \$750,000 a weekend. So, 1.5 million
4 is just --- it's nice to see. And it's going to
5 be two more years for each of those. Just
6 something to consider. So, thank you very much
7 everybody.

8 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Green.

9 **ALDERMAN GREEN:** Thank you. Alderman
10 Kleiner and I will be having the Second Ward
11 constituents meeting here on Monday the 12th at
12 7:00 p.m. We'll have a couple of little
13 refreshments, holiday things. So we hope to see
14 you here for that.

15 I will quickly echo just how amazing
16 our tree lighting and parade was. The entire
17 weekend really. It is wintertime in the City
18 and there is so much to do. And then I just
19 want to give kudos again to the Recreation
20 Department. To hear from the young about the
21 wonderful things about --- the opportunities
22 they're given are really enhancing theirs lives
23 in more ways than just providing a place to go
24 and an activity to do. It's really putting
25 civic-minded thoughts in their heads and really

1 helping them grow. So, kudos to the Rec
2 Department for everything you do and all the
3 activities you provide everyone. So, thank you
4 again.

5 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Kleiner.

6 **ALDERMAN KLEINER:** Thank you. I just
7 want to send my condolences out to begin with to
8 Officer Frank Perillo. Frank was a great
9 Middletown Police Officer. He also went on to
10 be a pilot, and a commercial pilot, and then a
11 pilot instructor. He had several different
12 careers. Plus he was my classmate and was a big
13 part of our reunion this year. So, we will miss
14 him.

15 I want to thank the people who turned
16 out for the tree lighting. I thank everyone who
17 put it together. But I have never seen the
18 streets so packed. And the whole downtown was
19 just filled with Middletown residents and well
20 wishers. So that's what really made it a great
21 celebration. So thank you to everyone who
22 turned out.

23 Something to think about --- our Second
24 Ward constituents meeting, we are thinking that
25 we will not try and have a January or February

1 constituents meeting. So, I know the weather
2 can get a little dicy, so if anyone has any real
3 issues, or any real concerns, we can have it.
4 But we will be here next Monday, hopefully, with
5 some cider and donuts or something like that in
6 the holiday spirit.

7 I know the American Legion Post 151 is
8 doing a commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day. They
9 do one every year. And that will be tomorrow.
10 I'm not sure of the time, 10 or 11.

11 The warming station had 17 people stay
12 overnight on their opening night. And that's
13 the lowest number they've had so far. The
14 people staying there had been in the mid 20s,
15 the number of people staying, so they are
16 definitely going through the meals, and going
17 through the food, and going through the
18 supplies. So, again, it's Middletown-
19 warmingstation.com. And you can go to put in
20 the --- take them a meal. And go to the part
21 where it says you put in warming station. And
22 then you put in password meal. And you can sign
23 up to feed hungry people any night. You could
24 go down the list and see what nights are
25 available. Let me give you the number. If you

1 really have a question about it, they are giving
2 out cards with the number. The number is
3 (845)604-1402. And you could get answers to any
4 of your questions about it.

5 Sorry, I couldn't find it. I knew I
6 had one other thing to say for people to think
7 about. Our citywide cleanup next year, we are
8 hoping to do it on Earth Day, which is
9 April 22nd. So I want to get that date out
10 there and get people --- people in the City
11 Hall, and people in the community, and the
12 school system, et cetera, to look at Saturday,
13 Earth Day, April 22nd, and make sure there are
14 no conflicts with that day. And if there
15 aren't, we can start talking about it right at
16 the beginning of the year. So I think that
17 would be a good thing.

18 Hopefully Georgia comes through for us
19 on election night tonight. We're here, so we
20 don't have the results. I don't have a
21 smartphone to check it, but --- I've never seen
22 a choice quite like that one. So, we do take an
23 oath to defend the Constitution. We're not
24 considering suspending it.

25 And I think --- just hope everyone

1 shows up for the Menorah lighting. That's the
2 Run 4 Downtown Park. That's December 19th at
3 4:30.

4 And we'll see you in a couple weeks.
5 Thank you.

6 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman
7 Ramkissoo.

8 **ALDERWOMAN RAMKISSOON:** Good evening.
9 I want to say, when it comes to that ice skating
10 rink, you need to take a little credit as well.
11 Because you came in here and brought us this
12 great idea. And while the City departments and
13 Rec took it and ran with it, I mean, we might
14 not have had it all if you hadn't come in and
15 shared your idea with us. So thank you to you.
16 You should take a little bit of ownership for
17 that. It's been wonderful.

18 That being said, the tree lighting is,
19 by far, my favorite night in Middletown. Just
20 being out --- I mean, it's a perfect example of
21 a cross section of our community. Everybody is
22 out. Everybody is having a good time together.
23 We've got music on. I love every piece of it.
24 The parade, seeing all the kids and families.
25 It was just wonderful.

1 Obviously, the weather did us a huge
2 favor. After last year when we were like sub
3 zero freezing, this was a nice treat. It was
4 just an amazing night, as usual. It's always
5 amazing. My thanks to everyone involved and the
6 people who came. I love being a part of this
7 community. It's awesome.

8 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Johnson.

9 **ALDERMAN JOHNSON:** I'll go with the
10 flow. I think success is taking something
11 complicated and making it look easy. And I
12 think the parade was an example of that. So
13 congratulations.

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

16 **ALDERMAN JEAN-FRANCOIS:** Good evening.
17 Kudos to Maria and her staff and everyone who
18 was involved with the tree lighting.
19 Unfortunately, I wasn't able to attend, but I
20 did watch it online. You did an excellent job.

21 Also, DPW, this is the first year after
22 the holidays our residents get to use both bins,
23 recycle bins and the garbage bin to get rid of
24 actual garbage after Thanksgiving, and these
25 gentlemen did a excellent job picking up. They

1 did a wonderful job. I'm glad we get to see
2 that working. So, look forward to it next year.
3 Thank you very much.

4 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Alderman Tobin.

5 **ALDERMAN TOBIN:** Thank you.

6 Let's start out with a little bit of
7 gray. Next time we talk about plumbing, while
8 it's fresh in my head, I have a leak in my
9 radiator and I'm trying to get a pipe replaced.
10 We have 13 plumbers on the list. I went through
11 six of them before I finally got in touch with
12 someone. The people I've used before, no one
13 would call me back. It was definitely
14 frustrating trying to get someone over there. I
15 still have a bucket in my basement trying to
16 catch the water until I get someone over.
17 Definitely could use a few more plumbers on the
18 list. Just while it's fresh in my head.

19 The CCP thing, thanks for --- I didn't
20 know what that stood for, so thanks for letting
21 us know. I appreciate that. I know they're
22 having protests over there for freedom of speech
23 and other things, so we'll see. Definitely
24 involved. I know there was somebody running for
25 congress, somebody in Long Island, that they

1 totally were trying to make up stuff against the
2 person, so definitely involved the United
3 States.

4 The parade was great. I loved being a
5 part of it. My son was in the marching band.
6 We were up in the front. Definitely a youth
7 event. The youth were out there to make the
8 parade. To the football guys, I swear they were
9 going to lose their voices behind me screaming.
10 To all the different participants. It was great
11 to see the youth involved in all of our events.
12 The community cleanup. The strong connection
13 with the school, which I think has gotten
14 stronger. It's a great community event.

15 And thanks for also getting out there.
16 I saw like advertisements and people mentioning
17 on the radio and TV. So, we definitely got a
18 good splash. And everybody was involved and
19 dressed up. So, thank you guys passing out
20 candy canes and whatnot. I think it was a great
21 event.

22 The ice skating I'm excited about. The
23 one thing about downtown like in Middletown is
24 we need to get people down here on the weekends.
25 They might work here, but we need to get people

1 to come down here and actually have a reason.
2 So they might go shopping, get a meal.
3 Recreational activities like the karate, ice
4 skating, skate park all bring people down to our
5 city, which is definitely what's going to help
6 us move forward, and it's great. I'm not going
7 to ice skate. I'm afraid to fall. When I was
8 younger, I didn't mind. But now it's 250 pounds
9 going down. I'm not going to do that.

10 **11. Unfinished Business.**

11 (None this evening)

12 **12. New business.**

13 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** New business.

14 **RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:** Good
15 evening. We have a resolution sponsored by
16 Alderman Tobin authorizing a proposal from
17 Granicus for Electronic Meeting Agenda
18 Management.

19 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Resolution
20 sponsored by Alderman Tobin, seconded by
21 Alderman Jean-Francois. Any discussion? Roll.

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

1 **RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:**

2 Resolution sponsored by Alderman Masi
3 authorizing an agreement with the Port Jervis
4 Humane Society.

5 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Sponsored by
6 Alderman Masi, seconded by Alderman Witt. Any
7 discussion? Roll.

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

12 **RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:**

13 Resolution sponsored by Alderman Witt
14 authorizing an agreement with the Middletown
15 Humane Society.

16 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Resolution
17 sponsored by Alderman Witt, seconded by Alderman
18 Kleiner. Any discussion? Alderman Johnson.

19 **ALDERMAN JOHNSON:** Time for my annual
20 disclosure statement. I do rounds at the
21 shelter twice a week. I do much pro bono, some
22 for pay work. I feel qualified to vote. I
23 wanted everybody to know that. For better or
24 worse, next month will represent my 40th-year
25 anniversary of my affiliation with the Humane

1 Society. I enjoy the ride. I will keep going.
2 Thank you.

3 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Anyone else?
4 Roll.

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

9 **RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:**
10 Resolution sponsored by Alderman Green
11 authorizing a \$4,000 budget transfer with a
12 Goldenarea Budget to cover fuel for the shuttle
13 bus.

14 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Resolution
15 sponsored by Alderman Green, seconded by
16 Alderman Masi. Any discussion? Roll.

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

21 **RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:**
22 Resolution sponsored by Alderman Kleiner,
23 authorizing the temporary borrowing of
24 \$1,970,000 from the General Fund Balance by the
25 Department of Economic and Community

1 Development.

2 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Resolution
3 sponsored by Alderman Kleiner, seconded by
4 Alderman Ramkissoo. Any discussion? Roll.

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

9 **RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:**
10 Resolution sponsored by Alderman Ramkissoo
11 authorizing Bonnie Masci to work as a temporary
12 part-time clerk in the Department of Public
13 Works.

14 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Resolution
15 sponsored by Alderman Ramkissoo, seconded by
16 Alderman Jean-Francois.

17 Alderman Masi.

18 **ALDERMAN MASI:** I just want people to
19 know there is no relationship there whatsoever.

20 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Different
21 spelling.

22 **ALDERMAN MASI:** Different spelling,
23 exactly. Thank you.

24 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Anyone else?
25 Roll.

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

5 **RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:**

6 Resolution sponsored by Alderman Johnson
7 authorizing a rate increase for Interstate Waste
8 Services for solid waste disposal for 2023.

9 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Resolution

10 sponsored by Alderman Johnson, seconded by
11 Alderman Kleiner. Any discussion? Roll.

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

16 **RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:**

17 Resolution sponsored by Alderman Jean-Francois
18 authorizing \$35,613.57 budget transfer from the
19 General Fund to cover college programs for the
20 police department.

21 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Resolution

22 sponsored by Alderman Jean-Francois, seconded by
23 Alderman Witt. Any discussion? Roll.

24 Roll Call: Ayes: Tobin,
25 Jean-Francois, Johnson, Ramkissoo, Kleiner,

1 Green, Witt, Masi, President Rodrigues. Motion
2 carries.

3 **RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:**

4 Resolution sponsored by Alderman Tobin
5 authorizing a \$75,000 budge transfer from the
6 general fund to establish a temporary borrowing
7 for the fire department's burn simulator.

8 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Resolution
9 sponsored by Alderman Tobin, seconded by
10 Alderman Jean-Francois. Any discussion? Roll.

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

15 **RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:**

16 Resolution sponsored by Alderman Johnson
17 authorizing a type of use addition to the C-2
18 Zoning District.

19 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Resolution
20 Sponsored by Alderman Johnson, seconded by
21 Alderman Green. Any discussion? Roll.

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

RICHARD MCCORMACK, CITY CLERK:

Resolution sponsored by Alderman Witt accepting the resignation of Dean Coleman from the Middletown Housing Authority and Appointing Reggie Steed to serve the balance of the term.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: 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:

Resolution sponsored by Alderman Green authorizing release of covenants and restrictions for 25 Mill Street.

PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: 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.

(Nothing this evening)

1 **14. Audit of Claims and Accounts.**

2 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Audit.

3 **ALDERMAN MASI:** Mr. President, I move
4 the accounts to be audited, the claims be
5 adjusted, and the City Treasurer be authorized
6 to issue warrant for their payment.

7 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Motion by
8 Alderman Masi, seconded by Alderman Johnson.
9 Roll.

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

14 **15. Adjournment.**

15 **PRESIDENT RODRIGUES:** Move for
16 adjournment.

17
18 (Continued on next page to include
19 certification)
20
21
22
23
24
25

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second.

(PROCEEDING CONCLUDED)

CERTIFICATE

I, MARIANNE GLUM, certify the foregoing
transcription of proceedings of the December
6, 2022 Middletown City Council is true and
accurate, to the best of my ability.



MARIANNE GLUM