

**Common Council
City of Middletown
March 16, 2021**

Pledge - Pres. Rodrigues asked all to stand for the pledge.

Roll Call: Ald. Ramkisson, Tobin, Kleiner, Johnson, Jean-Francois, Burr, Green, Masi, Pres. Rodrigues - 9

Approval of Minutes: Nothing this evening

Correspondence: Nothing this evening

For the Good of the City

Pres. Rodrigues: Anyone like to address the Council?

OK, Remarks of the Mayor?

Mayor DeStefano:

Good evening. You notice we - we're in green tonight, for Saint Patrick's Day. Well happy Saint Patrick's Day for everyone or to everyone.

First, I'd like to address is the recent news for the passage of the American Recovery Act. And the - what it means to the City of Middletown and the impact on our community. And, basically a lot of communities - most communities throughout the country.

As you know, if you've read, Middletown will be receiving about twelve million dollars of the funding. There are restrictions and guidelines on it. I believe I emailed you folks a report that's prepared by an accounting firm, not our accounting firm, but, uh, but from what I've been able to gather, the money has to be spent by December 31st, 2024. You can use for making up lost revenues, expenses related to COVID, certain capital improvement, certain infrastructure improvements. We're trying to get more definitive guidelines from them, but it is not an account that can be just monies that we just spend any which way that we want or cannot be used to just reduce taxes or things of that nature. So - so there are guidelines on it. We'll be able to make specific recommendations to the council and how we will spend it. As you know we do have a lot of infrastructure work ongoing, that is bonded and - and as we continue with water and sewer main

repairs, uh, we'll certainly evaluate that as one of the - one of the main options of the - of the American Recovery Act.

Keep in mind that, we're trying not to be partisan here, but this passed with zero republican support. Although it was well received locally by republican leaders in New York State, including the County Executives and many of the assembly members and local (inaudible). So it was a bipartisan act that passed in that sense, with strong support in the American public. And I wanted to thank President Biden and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and our congressman, Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, for the hard work they did.

One point and questions that have been raised is, why does Newburgh, Poughkeepsie and Kingston get so much more money than Middletown. And, uh, you know, that's normally true on the community development program that those cities do get more money from us on an annual basis. And there is a formula that, uh, that is put in place, and it appears that this Recovery Act used all or part of that formula. I have asked for an accounting of what data went into that formula, so that we can see if we actually, you know, - uh, one person when I suggested this, sort of implied, we'll, geez, if you're getting twelve million dollars, you're not happy. No, uh, I'm very happy, but what we'd like to do is just verify that twelve million is the correct number and should it be more, I don't know. But we're going to - we've asked for the calculations and that data is population - there's a formula, regarding poverty rates and, uh, and overcrowding of units and - and so there is a pretty intense formula that they go through. It's in the Act itself, but, uh, my question was, what went into it. And, uh, on a positive side, it's nice to know that we don't have the poverty of Newburgh, Kingston and Poughkeepsie, and some of the overcrowding that they may have. I don't know specifically about their communities. That's on the positive side, but I hate to think, uh, not hate, I - I - I - almost hard to believe for me, that, uh, it's almost to the point of where we're, um, you know, almost fifty percent or maybe forty percent to the good in regard to those statistics. So when I get the numbers, we'll run them, uh, both - I've contacted both Senator Schumer, speaking to their staff, and Congressman Maloney's staff, and hopefully, we'll be able to - to get some sound answers, but if it's twelve million, we'll certainly welcome the twelve million.

Uh, the next issue is the, uh - we're gonna reopen City Hall to the public, uh, starting April 1st and we're, uh, as you know, we've closed for several months to the public. We've been doing business at the door with, uh, people coming, paying their taxes. Uh, but this is an opportunity, uh, we took this opportunity to look at City Hall operations also, and as we move forward, we're going to be looking at other ways and methods of payment, kiosk payment, but, uh, but the key right now is to reopen the building. As you know, and accounts members know and the public may not know, is that we had many cases of COVID in the building, especially within the past month. So, uh, also, many of the people in the building are now getting their COVID vaccines, the ones who have not had COVID, and even those who had COVID previous, and, that are eligible for it now. So we feel it's time to reopen our buildings, uh, so that we'll be doing so on April 1st. I think that's the beginning of Masi's birthday month.

Mr. Masi: It is.

Mayor DeStefano:

An appropriate year, it begins on April 1st, which we also know is, April Fools Day, right? So, uh, so we'll be opening the building then, and our - our senior programs will still be on hold. We are not ready to bring those programs back into operation, primarily, because a lot of spring breakers don't want to wear their masks down in Florida and other parts of the country, so we need to keep those on hold for now. Uh, the Paramount Theater, although we have nothing booked at this time - well we did have things booked, but we put them off towards the end of the year. We don't know if we're going to have them this year or not, but we will be starting movies soon, which is the good sign, because we have an eleven hundred seat theater. The maximum for a movie I think is fifty people at this point, so we have the ability to do appropriate spacing in the theater. And we're also talking to the state about a testing facility, which will do testing for people. For example, if you're going on an airplane and you need a three-day test, to have one located in the downtown area, and, uh, which will make it easier for people to - to move around also. So the theater, although not - we won't be holding shows, we will be opening movies in the near future and we'll have a testing facility in the downtown area.

The Parks and Rec building will be open to the public. You can do your pavilion rentals. The other activities, renting, you know, of - making arrangements for tennis, because we'll be opening up our tennis courts this week. Our skate - our skate park was reopened over the weekend. Uh, it's been very busy. Our reservoir trails are still open, and will remain open. And the Parks Department will start doing the work on them for the spring cleanup of the trails. Uh, we get a lot of inquiries about swimming pools and what we will do this summer. We are planning on opening all three pools, if we can get adequate staff for all three pools.

So, uh, we're going to have - some restrictions will be placed on it. Uh, there'll be no free swim, because of the difficulty in controlling it. And also, there'll be no lesson because of the hand-on contact that is required for swimming lessons. But we will be offering swimming at all three pools. Sports camp will be held a little bit differently this year, and a couple - a couple of reasons. One is the schools are under construction, so we're not able to do a big camp anyway. Uh, but we will be doing, uh, Superintendent Brinkerhoff, and her staff, have put together a series of one week camps with small groups. It will be the same group, uh, one on Maple Hills, same one, at Davidge Park, and what they'll do, that will give us the ability to control smaller groups of people, small groups of ten or twelve people. And God forbid there is, uh, you know, a breakout of COVID, then we'll be able to isolate it within those groups. So a person can't move from Group A to Group B on a, you know, on a daily basis. They'll be with the same group for the whole week. So, uh, we're, uh, they'll be offering that - they believe - I believe they may have already started offering that as a summer camp option for parents. We also have, uh, is probably the most requested one is the basketball camps. And, uh, or basketball courts. The basketball courts are the, uh, one thing that we're not going to be putting up yet. And the reason being, and some parents are very angry when they call, and some young people are very angry when they call, is that the - we have no way to control it. We're, uh, we try to focus on programs like instructional soccer, they're not competitive games or something where we can have a controlled environment where we enforce the regulations that we have with, you know, large groups of young people getting together. And I'm not comfortable, at this point,

with putting up the basketball hoops yet. And as - we'll evaluate on a week-by-week basis. We'll look for more state guidelines, but I'm just not comfortable with doing it at this point.

Our playgrounds will be open and continue to be open. We did shut them down for a brief period of time, but under the Cares Act Funding, we were able to purchase some very expensive steam equipment. You see the picture here. Uh, the playgrounds will continue to be sanitized on a daily basis. Um, that is, uh, you know that's not a outright guarantee that nothing will be there, but you be assured that each morning, each piece of equipment in each of our playgrounds, will be sanitized. We're hoping that the meal drop off plan with the school district will continue. It hasn't been confirmed yet, but that's my understanding it probably will be continuing with a meal drop off into the parks. So it makes sense for us to have some recreational opportunities there also.

Uh, mentioned pavillion rentals will be available at the Parks Department or through online. Clinics and instructional programs will take place. And I mentioned the basketball hoops, but we're trying to open it up to other sports and to other sports activities where the instructional people can have control of the situation.

Uh, the water system flushing. We're going to be doing flushing the system again. I believe this letter either went out or we're doing a lot of social media push with it. It's two things. One, uh, each neighborhood will be getting either lines flushed. The hydrants will be running. But what that does is it churns up the water and - and you'll get the brown water. It's safe to drink, but it is not safe to do white laundry. So, uh, when - we'll have a schedule up. Uh, if you see that your - your neighborhood or your area is going to be - hydrants are going to be flushing, then you need to please, uh, don't plan on doing laundry for a couple of days, or at least white laundry for a couple of days. If in a, uh, in an apartment complex, uh, the city offers a service or some private development of flushing the hydrants on behalf of the association that owns it. Say like Sterling Park or Southgate, those are privately owned hydrants, so there's a letter that's also included in that mailing, but that's not directed to- it mentions a fee of fifty dollars per hydrant, that's not directed to home owner, that's directed towards the apartment complexes or the private developments.

We do plan on having some outdoor entertainment. As you know, we do the Thursday and Friday nights in downtown, and the Something Sweet Park or the Run for Downtown Park appears to be too small for us to use this year because of the social distancing requirements. So we're not a hundred percent positive that we're not going to use it, but it's not looking like we would be able to use it. Too few people would be able to get into the - into the area. We are looking to give an update in May and where we will be with the Festival Square activities. But as you know, the President is talking about July - you know the 4th of July weekend as a target weekend for people being able to get back together, but again, it changes on a weekly basis. Just to - so you know that our numbers back in Middletown are we're back to number one in the county on positivity, which is not a good thing. And we don't know what to attribute that to, but the, uh, we, uh, continue to do the enforcement, the mask mandate and the business enforcement, but, uh, we have had some, uh, you know, people close to our hearts, who passed away this past week, Lou Arden, former Chief of the City of Middletown Police Department, uh, who, uh, was chief here for eight or nine years, passed

away from COVID. He was also a current city employee, working part time in the commissioner - under the Commissioner of Public Works. And there's been others that I - I'm familiar with, uh, who also passed away within the past week or two from COVID. So COVID is not gone. It's still here and some - we had mentioned earlier that we had several people within City Hall who came down with COVID. Some of them are seriously ill, and, uh, so the, uh, the idea that this thing is behind us is - is not true. So we're going to be very cautious as we approach outdoor entertainment, as we approach basketball courts, and at the same time, we're going to use, you know, a measured approach to providing the other facilities. So we'll be looking for updates in May.

We will have Farmers Market that will be opening June 5th at the new location, right back here behind the Equilibrium Brewery One, um, it's located and the official address is 1-31 Union Street. We're excited about the new location. Maria and her crew will be faced with a new challenge and hopefully, an opportunity to expand the farm market. We'll have plenty of parking and we'll be able to do the requirements under the state (inaudible) forward safety guidelines for protecting the public that does attend. We were - they were familiar with it last year, and were, uh, going to probably be doing - operating under the same guidelines, single entry point and certain types of bagging requirements that the farmer has to abide by.

Next is the Warming Station update. I love every - every meeting night, we get a update from the - at least one person on the second ward who's not happy with out, uh, what we're doing, but I guess we can't make everybody happy. Uh, I try to tell, uh, at our last meeting, the people who live up in that neighborhood and the people who are impacted, that, uh, that we did our best to meet the guidelines that we had put out. And we are very confident that we could meet those guidelines and, uh, just because I need to be repeating because the lies keep getting repeated, so I have to repeat the process again.

So on November 9th we engaged the architect. The environmental inspection was done immediately on November 11th. The report was prepared on November 23rd. The HVAC and plumbing and electrical inspections were done November 23rd. The architect submission was done on December 28th. We met with the architect to review plans and specs on January 5th. A legal notice was put in the paper on January 8th. The bid opening was January 28th, and the one bidder we had - and those things are behind schedule, the bidding is behind schedule because we had some difficulties in, uh, with the property, but we did only get one bid and that bid was for eight hundred and eighty-five thousand, seven hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars, and, so - yeah, eight, eight, five, seven, seven, five. We went back out to bid and we received - we changed the process this time, where we brought a lot of the work and we had already started some of the work after we rejected that bid, uh, we moved the, uh, the project into the community development office. Um, we did the HVAC, plumbing and electrical under our city contract. And we added fifty thousand dollars from the (inaudible) council to the two hundred and fifty thousand that was part of our grant from the federal government and we were able to get a bid from - bid award to ENA Contracting in the amount of eighty-nine thousand, eight hundred and sixty dollars on the ceilings, flooring and doors. And that's the HVAC, if you look at the ceiling in the picture, you'll see the HVAC system that's hanging down. Once the ceiling is permanently installed, the, uh, then they'll just hook up the vents. But

the new HVAC system, HVAC system is in place. And that was the delay, is this system was, uh, was destroyed, it was gone, and had to be totally replaced and we could not start the plumbing and electrical until HVAC system was in place, so it's complete. The plumber is working, the electrical work is being done and ENA Contracting began construction work. The flooring is in the building. It's been delivered. We had a delay on that also. And they'll begin work tomorrow, on Saint Patrick's Day, uh, to do the floor installation. It's all been torn up. It's been, uh, the - the demo work has been done. The patch work and walls have been constructed. They were required to be constructed. As you can see in the picture, priming and painting is underway. The ceiling tiles are - we're waiting for them to come in, and the doors and windows are on order, waiting for a delivery date. So, uh, whether we meet the deadlines that, uh - we did not meet the deadlines that we had set, but that's no fault of yours, that's, uh, those were deadlines set by my office and unfortunately, due to the circumstances, we are not able to meet them. But, as you can see, and as the public can see, we are moving very quickly now on this, and it will be absolutely ready and the Warming Center will not be returning to Temple Sinai and I think that's a relief to some of the neighbors, and does address the biggest concerns, where is that facility going to end up being for the future years.

So, the, uh, the offer show extends to any of the neighbors who - or anyone in the city who would like to take a tour of the facility, to make sure it's real. We're not making these pictures up. It does exist. Call my office and we'd been more than happy to give you a - to give you a tour.

The construction at Wolslayer Field is also restarting. As you can see in this picture, the snow, obviously, delayed things, but the test holes were done. Jacob is waiting for the report, and we will be restoring - resuming construction as soon as Jacob reviews the report on the test borings that were - I don't know if they're called borings or test holes, whatever, that are put in place for the track.

Uh, the waterline construction for Monhagen, uh, for the water plants for Monhagen Avenue has also resumed. And construction around the city - you'll be seeing a lot of sidewalk and street construction starting - uh, resuming in end of April. So, you'll see a lot of activity. They'll be more sidewalk replacement in and around the downtown area and some of the neighborhoods that are adjacent to the downtown, all grant eligible. And, we'll, uh, make sure we focus on the - the ADA compliance with the sidewalk program. One thing we are looking at in regard to the sidewalks, because we do get a lot of requests, is whether any of that twelve million dollars can be used in a sidewalk program for neighborhoods, whether it would be an eligible item to do. So that might be - we have talked about a grant program with - rather than, uh, if - whole neighborhoods can't be done, whether matching grants or whatever, so we're going to look at the eligibility of using that - some of that twelve million dollars into a sidewalk program. And, of course, all these things will be presented to you.

We also purchased the, uh, - I don't know if I get into that later on. I'm going to go to the garbage thing first. The, uh, - starting April 12th, the new garbage cans will be distributed to each home owner and garbage will be required to be placed in these containers in order for pick up. Now we know it's going to be an educational process, but it's going to be a requirement, because the -

eventually, there will be only one person on the garbage truck. We have three on a truck now, and as you can see, the mechanical arm will be just reaching out just like they do in a township where many cities across the United States, picking up the can, dumping it and placing the can back. They'll be a whole bunch of rules that go with this and we'll be passing those rules and educating the public, uh, we'll designating areas where you can place the cans, and the different sizes of the cans. One issue during the public hearings was the size of the can. And Jacob was able to get some thirty five gallon cans also. So it's almost like a - a large kitchen can, so that will be good for apartment houses, especially in downtown, that have multiple day pickup, so there's going to be three size cans, 35, 65 or 95. So, but keep your eyes open, the council should be adopting new legislation. We're going to give people an opportunity, obviously, to get used to it. The, uh, - how many cans a person can have. We're looking at different rules and regs about if you have an overflow, you can use your recycling can for regular garbage also. That's at the suggestion of the commissioner. And as long as you continue to recycle also. So we'll have everything in place, but the cans will be coming in on the 12th. There will be a distribution process that you have to follow. The cans are all registered. There are numbers on there that are specific to specific addresses, and, uh, but we'll be going through that with the public starting April 12th. And as you can see, the days of this will be very limited and you'll probably see this on holidays like Christmas and Mother's Day and things of that nature, but you won't be seeing it on a - on a regular basis where crews are out there picking up.

Yes, (inaudible)

Ald. Johnson:

I have a question. There's gonna be a lot of garbage cans like that, that people won't be using anymore, do you have any suggestions as to what we will do with those? Can they be brought to the recycling center in Monhagen or -

Mayor DeStefano:

I would use them for leaves and shrubs, depends on where you live, I guess, and what you do. But, uh, you can leave them out for garbage pick up, you know, if you wanted to, but why get rid of it, it's a perfectly good can.

Ald. Johnson:

I have like five - use anymore so -

Mayor DeStefano:

I just thought you could put the leaves in it. Well you can - you can rake your neighbor's yard too if you want.

Mayor DeStefano :

But the, uh - I touched on the citywide sidewalk construction, uh, it's resuming. We're also - some of the sidewalks that you seen torn up are Orange and Rockland, we're coordinating with them to get those sidewalks replaced also, it will be less under the grant program.

And lastly, the - it was already announced that SUNY Orange - the Diana Physical Education Center will be the site of a New York vaccine site. We're hoping that it will be announced this week. The county executive said it should be announced on Wednesday, uh, the registration I don't know, uh, we haven't heard officially from the state when they're going to start accepting. But this has a pretty long COVID vaccine.health.ny.gov. The short one is go to ny.gov and look for - uh, go to COVID and look for Middletown on the - on the eligibility list, and where vaccines will be available. My understanding at this time, it's going to go on for several months at this location. So it's not a one-time and out deal, not a one week and out deal, but it's going to be extended. That's what we're being told at this time, and we will have Middletown police officers in the area helping with traffic control because this is a large site, and there will be people coming from all over. So, uh, just like some of us, - you know, my wife went to White Plains for her shot. You know, people can't get on a list in Westchester, wait coming up here for their shots. So it's - these are New York State designated sites. There are no zip code regulations on it, but there are, uh, questions you have to do when you make your appointment. One recommendation, when you go online is, have your insurance card ready, because they do ask for your insurance card. There's no charge, but they do want your insurance information, if you have insurance. If you don't have insurance, obviously, you just answer, no, and you can move on to the next question.

So, we look forward to - once we get official confirmation of when the website will be open, and the - the vaccine site will be open, we'll be sharing it with the public immediately. So there'll be no - you know, everyone gets notified at once, so there's no quote insider trading on these things. So that's all I have. If you have any questions, I'd be more than happy to address them.

Ald. Kleiner.

Ald. Kleiner:

Uh, thank you. I had a couple of people ask me about updates on both the bus station and the Heritage Trail. I don't know if you have anything new.

Mayor DeStefano:

Our last meeting was canceled. The county parks - Jim Brooks had a conflict at the last minute. So we're still in the - the new commissioner or parks planning - planning commissioner, he has come up with another concept for when we come into the coach terminal, to come out two ways. So they're doing a redesign, and it's much more acceptable to me. I'm sure it will be - the original design is there and there's an additional branch coming off. So we're going to cover more of downtown with a bike trail and also some amenities at the Coach USA Terminal. And there's some legal stuff that coach and the county are working out, some legal language on the property. And we're also a party to that contract. So it's moving. The trail should be the East Main Street soon.

Jacob, when are we - when do they expect us to get it out? Do you remember the - for bid, did they say?

Jacob:
Short Line?

President Rodrigues:
Yeah.

Jacob:
Short Line is still under design.

President Rodrigues:
Under design.

Jacob:
They're working out the legal agreement.

Mayor DeStefano:
Yeah, the final thing is the legal agreements with Coach USA and Short Line on the transfer of properties - that hasn't occurred yet, so, uh, but, uh, we - we do have meetings scheduled for like every two weeks. So as soon as we have our next update, I'll give it to you.

Anyone else? Thank you Mayor.

Jacob:
Thank you.

President Rodrigues:
Bulk pick up

Jacob:
Oh, wait a minute. I didn't do bulk pick up? Did I miss it?

Speaker:
(Inaudible)

Jacob:
Oh, I can't see it, it's so small. Bulk pickup. It's on the screen and I can't read it, but it's there. And looks like it starts third ward, April 12th, uh, set out on Sunday. The second ward, April 19th, first ward, April 26 and fourth ward, April - April 3rd - and - on May 3rd, I'm sorry. So as you know, we don't go - we rotate, so next year the fourth ward will be first. And we rotate for a reason, so, uh, make it fair to everyone to have a little extra time. It will be posted on all of our social media. All of you alderman will have that information. If you like to send an email request, we'll send you the

email with all the limitations, but they will be posted on Channel 20 and on all social media. All right.

Speaker:

Thank you.

President Rodrigues:

Okay. Remarks from department heads. Economic Development.

Maria Bruni:

Good evening everyone. Just to update you today we had an IDA meeting and a CDA meeting. These are our public authority agencies that we run. We did the audits, the annual reports and the public authority report. Both boards had a presentation by our auditors and are advancing everything to the state that's due March 31st.

And that's all I have for this evening.

President Rodrigues:

Any question. Thank you, Maria.

Maria Bruni:

Thank you.

President Rodrigues:

Commissioner of DPW.

Jacob Tawil:

Good evening all. I'm going to start off with Ald. Masi, report for the reservoir water level, since we have not had any significant rain or any kind of rain for over a couple of weeks. As you hear on the news, it's almost - it's very, very dry and there's concern of fire - brush fire and so on. Fortunately, our reservoirs, right now, for Ald. Masi again, is ninety-nine percent full. So we - you know, we're in good shape. And we're expecting then quite a bit of rain Thursday night into Friday. Uh, but keep an eye - keep your eyes open for any brush fire, because things are very dry. And, uh, and that's really, you know, makes us think more about our water shed and our reservoirs and how important water is. And the Mayor - it wasn't his, uh, higher point, but, uh, he chose not to cover it. Yesterday we did another purchase for, uh, another - about forty - that's forty-seven acres in Mount Hope, which is basically where the (inaudible) runs through that property. That property was targeted for about forty-two single homes subdivision, which will require building septic system and wells and so on and so forth. So with this purchase, with the help of Governor Cuomo and the DEC, and the ceiling and (inaudible) grant, we were able to purchase this property, that will forever remain green, for the City of Middletown water shed protection, uh, for generations to come. And, uh, it's, uh, the purchase price was five hundred thousand dollars. And there's going to be a press conference or a press release, rather, between the Mayor, the Governor and the DEC, to govern the two properties that were purchased, which is the horse farm and this property adjacent to it and all of them, they are upstream (inaudible) Camps Reservoir and Camps Reservoir is a major supply of water for the City of Middletown water system.

And with that, also the Mayor, he was going to talk about the traffic operations. We did the final sub- that's the twenty-one million dollar project, most of this grant funding from the state and, uh, the plan were submitted, final plans were submitted again for the (inaudible) for final review. We're hoping to be able to go out for bid in April. Uh, near April this year, so that's about twenty-one million dollars worth of work, over and above what the twelve million dollars we're getting, the Mayor was talking about. And, uh, curbs and sidewalks, he also spoke about them, hopefully they will start in April. The project will get restarted in April and, uh, with that, I will, uh - water (inaudible) projects about twelve and a half million dollars also it's being designed was submitted to Department of Health. We got some - we got some review, some comments yesterday. We will be addressing them and responding back to Department of Health. Again, that's five and a half million dollars, two point six million dollars is a grant from the state, the remainder of it is funded through, uh, low interest loan from (inaudible) urban fund. And, uh, that should do it. If you have any questions for me.

President Rodrigues:
Ald. Kleiner.

Ald. Kleiner:
Commissioner, do you know - I know it's O&R but do you have any idea how long O&R is going to be on Monhagen Avenue, because they really do keep tearing that up. They seem to be on the other side now. Is that - is there a lot left to go on that?

Jacob Tawil:
Yeah, honesty, I don't know - Orange and Rockland, to be honest with you, we asked them to do this work, especially with them at the intersections, within two hundred and fifty feet minimum of each intersection. The reason behind it is because of the (Inaudible) Operation Project, the twenty-one million dollar project. Because we're going to be ripping out all these signalized intersections. So you see Orange and Rockland and they did accommodate us and I do thank you - you know, since (inaudible) thank them, Orange and Rockland for doing this work and accommodating us, they're jumping all over the place to hit all these signalized intersections, update all the gas mains, the electric underground, anything like that, so that when we come and do our project, they're not going to come back the following year until - because of gas leak or they have to change it from cast iron main to plastic main to comply with the code. So it's all organized and we've been working with them for a couple of years to try to get this thing done. But I don't know the extent how far we're going to go with the - with the - on Monhagen Avenue, but I'll be happy to find out.

Ald. Kleiner:
Okay, thank you.

President Rodrigues:
Anyone else? Thank you, Jacob.

Jacob:
Thank you.

President Rodrigues:
Okay. Public Hearings and Grievances.

Karen Sisco:

We have one public hearing. Notice is hereby given that the City of Middletown will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, March 16th, 2021, on or as near 8:00 p.m. as possible, Common Council Chambers, 16 James Street, to hear any and all persons wishing to be heard on the proposed revision or revising to Chapter 475 zoning. And is hereby amended by (a) in paragraph 29 to subsection b of section 475.23 light industrial district. Any and all persons wishing to be heard will be given an opportunity to speak either for or against the proposed revising on the zoning code. A complete proposed revising of the zoning code is available in the office of the common council clerk, City Hall, 16 James Street, Room 12 and on the city website. The public hearing shall be conducted via video teleconference in live on Channel 20 for viewing. In order to insure the health, safety and welfare of the city residents, the council will not have the public at this meeting - public hearing, but will be televised live on Channel 20. Members of the public may also access the meeting to give comments by clicking on the link below and register for the meeting.

Please take further notice that the public hearing is being held in accordance with the New York State Public Office Law, for an executive order 202.1, issued on March 12, 2020 by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, which suspended Article 7 of the Public Office's Law to the extent necessary to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in public, in person access to meeting and authorizing such meeting to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and late, transcribed.

For any person unable to participate at the public - at the time of the public hearing, email comments may be submitted in advance to John Naumchik. According to - no in person attendance is permitted for the meeting. Public comment shall be permitted and shall - and all persons participating shall be entitled to be heard. Please note that all meetings will be recorded by the order of the common council, John C. Naumchik, Clerk of the Common Council, published March 4th and March 5th and also on the city website.

President Rodrigues:

At this time, the public hearing is open. We have no one from the public. Any member from the council? Ald. Johnson.

Ald. Johnson:

Thank you. As the legislative chair, I just wanted to comment that a lot of these public hearings come to my committee, I tried in the past, not to have the resolution the same night as the public hearing for some amount of (inaudible) privacy. Most of these decisions are not really challenged

by the community. We don't have a lot input. Tonight is an exception, I was asked by administration to move this forward. We have an applicant waiting for this, so we're trying to expedite that letter, so that's why it's on the agenda tonight. Thank you.

President Rodrigues:

Anyone else? I motion to close the public hearing.

Ald. Masi:

So moved.

President Rodrigues:

Ald. Masi, seconded by Ald. Tobin. All in favor?

Multiple Speakers:

Aye.

President Rodrigues:

Public hearing is now closed.

Remarks of Alderman: Ald. Burr.

Ald. Burr:

(Inaudible).

President Rodrigues:

Ald. Jean Francois.

Ald. Jean Francois:

Yes, good evening. I was kind glad - Mayor touch up on vaccine - COVID vaccine situation. Uh, going around talking to a few friends and family members. There's folks out there are eligible to take the vaccine but they choose not to for some reason, I don't why. I mean I could understand, people are (inaudible) back in the past what (inaudible) occur. But we - we have to realize we have access to a lot of information nowadays, so the faster we could move on with the vaccine and the faster we get out of this mess that we in right now. So I would encourage anyone, if you are eligible to take the vaccine, please go ahead and do so. Thank you. That's all I have.

President Rodrigues:

Ald. Kleiner.

Ald. Kleiner:

Thank you. I agree with that, it can save your life, and why you wouldn't do it, is just beyond me.

As far as the twelve million dollars, that's great news. And all I can say is thank you Georgia, cause that's why we have it.

April 12th, we're getting the garbage cans. I see also on - on, uh, on the, uh, city's school website that I think it's basically full in person school learning is going to resume on April 12th, so that's a good thing. Keep in mind traffic wise and other wise. And I also want to thank the people at the Warming Station, they've managed to do tests of everybody there, they've managed almost everybody vaccinated. Any one who wants it, has been able to get vaccinated. And they've been doing an unbelievable job. So I thank them so much.

And lastly, I just wanted to mention, Barbara and I were at Hannaford and we were checking out and we got to the checkout and the woman says, well I'm going to deduct twenty-five dollars from your order, cause the woman in front of us had bought us a twenty-five dollar gift card. I have no idea who she was, she had a child with her, but it was, I guess, a random act of kindness. And so I have no idea but - but I - I really do thank her. It just was an amazing moment. Thank you.

President Rodrigues:
Ald. Ramkissoon.

Ald. Ramkissoon:
Good evening. I don't really have anything this evening. I just wanted to take a moment to extend my deepest sympathies to the Ogden family tonight. The service that the city held outside of PD and City Hall to say goodbye, was a touching tribute to a really great man, and in the absence of being able to personally pay our respects to that family, I think it was done beautifully and my thanks go to the police department and everyone who was involved in getting that done. And, again, my thoughts are with that family right now.

President Rodrigues:
Ald. Johnson.

Ald. Johnson:
Thank you. Yeah, we concur with Ald. Ramkissoon. I don't think I was on the council, obviously, when he was chief, but interacted with him over the years, and he was a guy that always had a smile and a kind word and it was always much appreciated. Thank you.

President Rodrigues:
Ald. Green.

Ald. Green:
Thank you very much. You took the words out - I'm sorry, Ald. Ramkissoon, you took the words right out of my mouth. Uh, you know, it was an amazing tribute and, uh, certainly a beautiful - a beautiful day to honor someone so important to our city.
Just, you know, everyone, the - the vaccines are coming, and we know we're getting the location here, but, you know, at the same time, still gotta be masked up. It's still a pandemic, still a very big issue, making many people very sick, you know, so we just hope that everyone still thinks of their neighbor, if not for themselves, and, uh, and, and keeps distant, keep safe and, uh, that's it for

tonight. Thank you.

President Rodrigues:
Ald. Tobin.

Ald. Tobin:

I'm happy to hear about the garbage cans, especially last week. It was like the Wizard of Oz in my neighborhood, my cans went right down the street. And, uh, cause no one seems to have the lids anymore. So I'm glad that these lids will be attached and hopefully that will help with some of the flying garbage.

Also, walking around the city, the plastic band, whether they like it or dislike it, uh, yeah, I haven't seen plastic bags hanging in trees or in bushes, so I think that's a good thing.

And I saw something in the news that - it's in the state senate. They're thinking about, uh - I know in Europe they do this, taxing the companies for their products as far as recycling if - they'll ten - you know, if they make something that's very easy to recycle, they pay less of a tax. If they make a product that is hard to recycle and not recyclable, they get tax. Because as it is now, the - you know, we, the consumer, pay for the product and then through your taxes, we pay to get rid of the recycling or to recycle it, so we're paying twice. And, so, uh, I hope this, uh, - I hope this means through the legislature. I think that's a good idea, you know if the company doesn't make a product that's very recyclable, then they should have to pay the brunt of the cost, not the taxpayers.

And Happy Saint Patrick's Day.

President Rodrigues:
Ald. Masi.

Ald. Masi:
Nothing this evening.

President Rodrigues:
New business.

Karen Sisco:

We have a resolution sponsored by Ald. Masi. Resolution to authorize the treasure to transfer one thousand dollars within the police department 2021 budget.

57-21 RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment authorizes the Treasurer to transfer \$1,000.00 within the Police Department 2021 budget in the following manner:

From	Amount	To
A.3120.208	\$1,000.00	A.3120.200
Equip-Drug Enforcement		Equipment

President Rodrigues:

Resolution sponsored by Ald. Masi, seconded by Ald. Green. Any discussion?

Karen Sisco:

Ramkissoon - aye, Tobin - aye, Kleiner - aye, Johnson - aye, Jean Francois - aye,

Burr - aye, Green - aye, Masi - aye, President Rodrigues - aye.

Resolution passes.

We have the resolution sponsored by Ald. Tobin. Resolution to authorize the treasure to transfer forty-five thousand, nine hundred seventy-one dollars within the police department 2021 budget to cover the cost of the negative balance in the account from officers out of work on 207c.

58-21 RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment authorizes the Treasurer to transfer \$45,971.00 00 within the Police Department 2021 budget to cover the cost of the negative balance in the account from Officers out of work on 207C through July 2021 in the following manner:

From	Amount	To
A.3120.100	\$45,971.00	A.3120.108
Personal Services		207C Police

President Rodrigues:

Resolution sponsored by Ald. Tobin, seconded by Ald. Jean Francois. Any discussion?

Roll:

Karen Sisco:

Ramkissoon - aye, Tobin - aye, Kleiner - aye, Johnson - aye, Jean Francois - aye,

Burr - aye, Green - aye, Masi - aye, President Rodrigues - aye.

Resolution passes.

Karen Sisco:

We have a resolution sponsored by Jean Francois. Resolution to authorize to approve the 2021 spring cleanup week.

59-21 RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown approves the following 2021 Spring Clean Up Week:

2021 CITY OF MIDDLETOWN SPRING ANNUAL CLEAN UP WEEK

Bulk Trash Pick-up for all single and two family homes
We will pick up no more than 12 items.

Once trash is picked up on your street, trucks **WILL NOT** return.

ONLY 12 ITEMS will be picked up.

The City will remove additional items and a bill will be issued for the work required.

Only 4 tires off-rims per house will be picked up.

NO ADDITIONAL NOTIFICATION WILL BE GIVEN PRIOR TO PICKUP.

An item is a single large item, couch, chair, etc., or box of smaller items. The material must be placed on the curb and separate from the household garbage since different crews pick up garbage.

We **will not pick up** stone, dirt, car parts, construction debris, or hazardous waste including **TVs, computer monitors, computer towers, and batteries**. New York State law prohibits any resident from placing any electronic device on the curb or sidewalk for pickup.

Please visit www.middletown-ny.com for locations where you can dispose of your electronics.

Appliances must have the doors removed to protect the City's children. Refrigerators shall be freon free prior to placement on the curb for pickup.

VIOLATORS OF THESE DIRECTIVES MAY BE PROSECUTED IN CITY COURT.

CLEAN UP SCHEDULE

Third Ward – April 12, 2021

(Set out Sunday evening, April 11, 2021)

Second Ward – April 19, 2021

(Set out Sunday evening, April 18, 2021)

First Ward – April 26, 2021

(Set out Sunday evening, April 25, 2021)

Fourth Ward – May 3, 2021

(Set out Sunday evening, May 2, 2021)

If you are unsure as to which Ward you reside you can check the map on our website or call DPW at 343-3169 for determination.

Resolution sponsored by Ald. Jean Francois, seconded by Ald. Ramkissoon. Any discussion?

Roll:

Karen Sisco:

Ramkissoon - aye, Tobin - aye, Kleiner - aye, Johnson - aye, Jean Francois - aye,

Burr - aye, Green - aye, Masi - aye, President Rodrigues - aye.

Resolution sponsored by Ald. Green. Resolution to authorize the treasure to transfer five hundred and eighty-four dollars, sixty-eight cents, within the 2020 DPW budget.

60-21 WHEREAS; DPW is requesting a transfer of funds, between 2020 lines, to cover the cost of repairs to Sanitation Truck 16. As of December 31, 2020, the Sanitation funds for vehicle repairs is \$234.12. The requested transfer is needed to pay a repair invoice to Regional Truck Services, Inc. in the amount of \$818.80

SO LET IT BE RESOLVED: that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment authorizes the Treasurer to transfer \$584.68 with in the 2020 DPW Budget in the following manner:

From	Amount	To
A.5142.440	\$584.68	A.8160.440
Snow & Ice		Repairs to Vehicles

President Rodrigues:

Resolution sponsored by Ald. Green, seconded by Ald. Kleiner. Any discussion.

Ald. Kleiner:

I just want to say you know spring is coming; we are transferring this money from snow and ice.

President Rodrigues:

Roll:

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

Resolution passes.

We have a resolution sponsored by Ald. Johnson. Resolution to hereby authorize the Mayor to submit an application to the County of Orange Resolutions Funding, and following approval to sign any and all necessary contracts on behalf of the City of Middletown.

61-21 RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Middletown, NY, does hereby authorize the Mayor to submit an application to the County of Orange for "Solutions" funding, and, following approval, to sign any and all necessary contracts on behalf of the City of Middletown.

President Rodrigues:

Resolution sponsored by Ald. Johnson, seconded by Ald. Tobin. Any discussion?

Roll:

Karen Sisco:

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

Resolution passes.

We have a resolution sponsored by Ald. Burr. Resolution to concur with the Mayor's reappointment of Dan Higbie, the recreation commission term expires 2026.

President Rodrigues:

Resolution sponsored by Ald. Burr, seconded by Ald. Kleiner. Any discussion?

62-21 RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Mayor's re-appointment of Daniel Higbie to the Recreation Commission term expiring in 2026.

Roll:

Karen Sisco:

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

Resolution passes.

We have a resolution sponsored by Ald. Kleiner. Resolution to concur with the Mayor's reappointment of Ron Lybolt to the recreation commission, term expiring 2025.

President Rodrigues:

Resolution sponsored by Ald. Kleiner, seconded by Ald. Burr. Any discussion?
Ald. Kleiner.

Ald. Kleiner:

I just want to thank Dan Higbie and Ronald Lybolt for being willing to serve on the recreation commission, uh, it wouldn't seem right without Ronald Lybolt. Thank you.

63-21 RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Mayor's re-appointment of Rollin Lybolt's to the Recreation Commission term expiring in 2025.

Roll:

Karen Sisco:

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

Resolution passes.

We have a resolution sponsored by Ald. Ramkissoon. Resolution to add bakeries as a use permitted in the light industrial zoning district, subject to planning board approval.

64-21 WHEREAS, the Mayor and Economic Development Director have requested that bakeries be added as a use permitted in the Light Industrial Zoning District, subject to Planning Board approval.

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

Section 1 - The Code of the City of Middletown, N.Y., Chapter 475, Zoning, be and is hereby amended by adding a Paragraph (29) to Subsection B of Section 475.23 (Light Industrial District) to read as follows:

(29) Bakery whose primary business is retail on the premises but which may also sell and deliver its products wholesale to stores, hotels, restaurants or similar businesses.

Section 2 - This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

President Rodrigues:

Resolution sponsored by Ald. Ramkissoon, seconded by Ald. Johnson. Any discussion?

Roll:

Karen Sisco:

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

Resolution passes.

We have a resolution sponsored by Ald. Masi. Resolution to authorize the Mayor to sign an agreement with the county to operate the (inaudible) DWI for the period of March 2nd, 2021 through January 1st, 2022. The terms and conditions are the same as the prior agreement.

President Rodrigues:

Resolution sponsored by Ald. Masi, seconded by Ald. Burr. Any discussion?

65-21 RESOLVED: that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment authorizes the Mayor to sign the attached agreement with the County to operate the STOP-DWI for the period of March 2, 2021 through Jan 1, 2022. The terms and conditions are the same as the prior agreement.

Roll:

Karen Sisco:

Ramkissoo - aye, Tobin - aye, Kleiner - aye, Johnson - aye, Jean Francois - aye, Burr - aye, Green - aye, Masi - aye, President Rodrigues - aye.

Resolution passes. That's it for new

business.

President Rodrigues:

Audit.

Ald. Masi:

Mr. President, I move the accounts be audited and the claims be adjusted and the City Treasury be authorized to issue warrant for the payment.

President Rodrigues:

Resolution sponsored by Ald. Masi, seconded by Ald. Green.

Roll:

Karen Sisco:

Ramkissoo - aye, Tobin - aye, Kleiner - aye, Johnson - aye, Jean Francois - aye, Burr - aye, Green - aye, Masi - aye, President Rodrigues - aye.

President Rodrigues:

Move for adjournment.

Alderman

Masi:

So moved.

Meeting

Adjourned at

8:50 PM