



Town of Middletown
653 Locust Street
Middletown, IN 47356
office: (765) 354 2268
fax: (765) 354 3068

MIDDLETOWN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 2, 2008

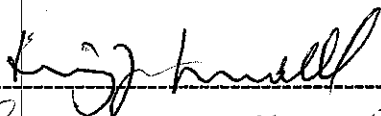
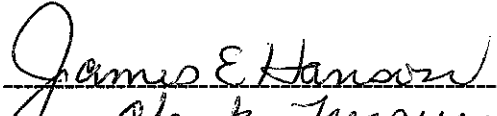
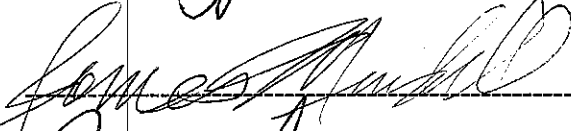
The Middletown Town Council met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 7:00 P.M. in the council meeting room. The meeting was called to order by council president, Jim Mundell. Clerk-Treasurer, Jim Hanson, noted that council members, Dan Fountain, Jake Smith, Lisa Hicks-Smith and Tim Mundell were also present. Following the pledge to the flag, President Jim Mundell called for any new business to come before the council.

1. Mary Hanna asked the town cable liaison, Ron Koons, about the number of channels being removed from the line-up on the cable system without any decrease in the monthly charge. Ron reported that some of the missing channels are now found in the upper tiers of the system. The control of the channel line-up is out of our local control. The FCC has mandated new regulations. Ron recommended that subscribers who are not satisfied with their service or their channel line-up should call the IURC for a complaint form. If enough people complain, maybe they could get some action. Additionally, Mary wanted to know why Middletown can not get a cellular tower. Council member Lisa Hicks-Smith stated that she had contacted various cellular companies and they all agreed that the population here was not high enough to warrant a tower.
2. Next, Lavonna Robbins, Dispatch Supervisor, questioned council in reference to dispatcher wage rates. Due to the economic restraints, none of the new members have moved up on the wage scale this year. In the past, an employee automatically advanced up the scale after each three month interval of employment. Lavonna requested council consider making all dispatchers 2nd Class after one year of employment. Council member, Dan Fountain, recommended this issue be tabled until council considers the 2009 Salary Ordinance. The rest of the council concurred. The issue was tabled.
3. Tracy Harrison, utility department employee, informed council that Dave Schwartz would be in to discuss the requirements for the town to participate in a training program for a new lineman for the electric department. Also, she informed the council of problems created by newspaper advertising fliers being thrown curbside all over town. The fliers and their plastic wrappers end up in the sewage system causing problems in the treatment plant. Clerk-Treasurer, Jim Hanson, stated that he had contacted The Herald-Bulletin about this problem and that they had done nothing about it as of this date. The matter is to be turned over to the Middletown Police Department. The next Water Board meeting will be at 9:30 AM tomorrow, December 2, 2008, in the council meeting room at the Town Hall.
4. David Real, Utility Superintendent, asked council about planting a live evergreen tree, either at Gazebo Park site or in the strip between the Town Hall and Harvest Market, to be used as the town Christmas tree each year. In addition, this tree could be dedicated in memory of Rick Westrater. This would eliminate the town depending on someone donating a tree each year. Tracy said that a tree about 7 feet tall could be purchased for \$100 or so. Dan Fountain moved that the street department be allowed to proceed with this project and that they be allowed to spend up to \$100 for the tree. Also, he recommended that they be allowed to decide where the best location for the tree would be and that they obtain a plaque designating the tree in memory of Rick Westrater. Jake Smith seconded the motion. All council members voted YES. Motion carried. In another issue, David referenced a tree on 5th Street that was in danger of falling into the street. Consensus was for the street department to remove the tree from the edge of the street.



Town of Middletown
653 Locust Street
Middletown, IN 47356
office: (765) 354 2268
fax: (765) 354 3068

5. Ron Koons, cable liaison, reported that digital tv will happen on February 1, 2009, as advertised on television. He warned that rates will probably go up by about 8-9% after February 1, 2009. We do not know what channels will be available after the change to digital service.
6. Dave Copenhaver, Town Attorney, informed the council that the lot at 530 Columbia Ave. had not sold in the allotted 60 day time period. He recommended council allow Clerk-Treasurer, Jim Hanson, to continue offering the lot on a day to day basis until a satisfactory bid is received. Jake Smith made a motion for the sale process to continue. Lisa Hicks-Smith seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried. Dave reported that the ownership of Beechwood Ave. on the North side of SR 236 was still in question. Every avenue he pursued led to a different opinion concerning ownership. Hopefully, by next meeting he will have this issue resolved.
7. Clerk-Treasurer, Jim Hanson, said that Kenny Norfleet had called asking about income from the Norfleet TIF District and when it would be distributed. Dave Copenhaver said that this was a matter that was to be handled by the Redevelopment Committee. He will call Martha Minnick and set a meeting of the committee.
8. Dan Fountain requested council set an executive session to evaluate job performances immediately after the January 6, 2009 meeting. It was agreed to have Dave Copenhaver prepare the advertisement for this meeting.
9. Tim Mundell addressed council about naming Scott Emswiler of Scott's Computer Service as the town's computer specialist. Police Chief, Randy Wray also agreed that the town needed a contracted specialist to service our computers and to insure that all records remain secure. Dan Fountain made a motion to engage Scott as the computer specialist for the town. Lisa seconded. All voted YES. Motion carried.
10. Dan Justice announced that the final meeting of the Christmas parade committee would be held on Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 7:00 PM at the Civic Center. The parade will be at 4:00 PM on Saturday, December 13, 2008.
11. After approving the minutes of the previous meeting and there being no further business to come before the council, the meeting was adjourned by the president.

	
	Clerk-Treasurer
