



**Town of Middletown**  
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MIDDLETOWN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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September 21, 2010

The Middletown Town Council met for its regularly scheduled meeting on September 21, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. in the council meeting room in the municipal building at 653 Locust Street, Middletown, Indiana. Clerk-Treasurer Jim Hanson recorded that Council President Jake Smith and Council members Lisa Hicks, Dan Fountain, Jim Mundell and Tim Mundell were all present.. Dave Copenhaver was present as legal counsel for the town. After the pledge to the flag, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Jake then asked for good news announcements.

1. Troy and Cheryl McFarland were present to express concerns about the way the Police Department dealt with issues they had with one of their neighbors. Mrs. McFarland and her husband each filed complaints and they felt their complaints were not being properly handled. Jake will investigate the matter further and get back with the McFarlands.

2. Bill Harrison asked for clarification of the vehicle take-home policy for the police officers and the reserves. He was informed that the officers could use the vehicles as defined, in town and in the tri-county area. The policies governing the vehicle take-home are available in the police chief's office.

3. Chief Dispatcher Lavonna Robbins was present to recommend hiring Valerie Boggs as a part time dispatcher. Dan made a motion to hire Boggs. Jim seconded. The motion carried. Lavonna then asked permission to go ahead and hire an additional part time dispatcher if a suitable applicant applied. Dan informed that it would be against policy for council to allow her to hire without their approval.

4. Council Member Jim Mundell questioned Council President Jake Smith about a letter from David Real inquiring about back pay due to him. Jake informed he had not received any letter from Mr. Real, nor had he been asked for anything. Jake reported that he had been sent a copy of a newspaper article and nothing else.

5. Utility Superintendent Rick Hines reported that the yard at 229 High Street had been cleaned up as requested by council. Hines also reported that the fire hydrants in town would be flushed on October 11 & 12. In another matter, Hines stated that there are a number of properties where it is not possible to read meters due to locked gates, trash obstructing meter, dogs etc. When this occurs the utility office must estimate the bill. The utility department needs a policy to deal with this situation. The clerk-treasurer will gather policies from other towns for council perusal.

6. Council Member Jim Mundell asked Rick Hines to have his department remove the fallen limbs from a property on North 10<sup>th</sup> Street that is between 335 and 347 N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street. Mundell stated that he would mow the property if the town would pick up the limbs. It was agreed that the town would clean up the property and bill the owner. If no response is received from the owner the town will start the condemnation process. Jim made a motion to this end. Dan seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

7. Clerk-Treasurer Jim Hanson brought to the table the contract between the Town of Middletown and IMPA for the Federal Streetlight Grant Program. Dan made a motion to approve the contract. Lisa seconded. All voted in favor. The contract was signed by the council president and attested to by the clerk-treasurer.

8. Council Member Tim Mundell mentioned a copy of the minutes from the Henry County/New Castle Development Commission which stated that the Town of Middletown had identified their top 10 projects to be addressed. Tim questioned





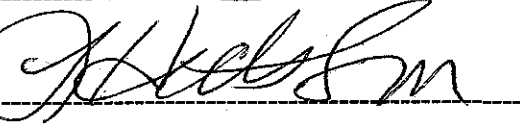
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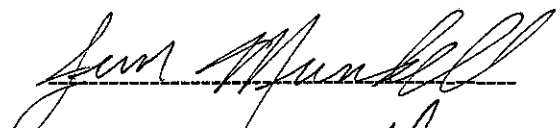

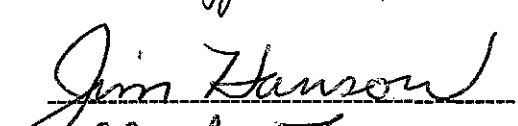
who had identified the projects and when had they done this. He was informed that the projects were identified in LTCP developed a number of years ago. Next Mundell addressed the budget issue. He made a motion to shift \$30,000 from the park to the General Fund for the 2011 budget. Jim Mundell seconded. Jim and Tim voted yea. Lisa, Jake and Dan voted no. The motion died.

9. Council Member Jim Mundell questioned why the Civic Center Board did not discuss the repairs at the center with the council in public before proceeding with the project. Jake stated that if the repairs were not made immediately the floor could collapse. He also stated that grant money had been applied for from the Henry County Community Foundation. At this time Jim Mundell made a motion to cut \$50,000 from the general fund budget for 2011. Tim seconded. The vote: Tim and Jim yea, Lisa, Dan and Jake nay. Motion died. After this, the council agreed to conduct another budget meeting on September 28, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. in the council meeting room.

10. In the matter of a wage increase for Ryan Brown, Jake tabled the issue until the budget was finalized. In another matter, Jake informed that the water board at its last meeting had discussed the idea of making itself the Utility Advisory Board and serve as an advisory capacity to all the utilities instead of just as to the water utility. The idea was favored by most of the council but no action was taken on the matter.

11. There being nothing further to come before council, the meeting was adjourned.

  
  
  
Clerk - Treasurer