



**Town of Middletown**  
653 Locust Street  
Middletown, IN 47356  
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MIDDLETOWN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

January 04, 2011

The Middletown Town Council met for its first scheduled meeting of the New Year on January 04, 2011 at 7:00 P.M. in the training room in the municipal building at 653 Locust Street, Middletown, Indiana. Clerk-Treasurer Jim Hanson opened the meeting and immediately opened the floor for nominations for council president. Newly elected member Bill Harrison nominated Tim Mundell. Betty Riley, the other newly elected member seconded the motion. There being no further nominations, the vote was taken. Four yeas, one nay. The clerk-treasurer then turned the meeting over to President Tim Mundell. In addition to the aforementioned, Jim Mundell and Lisa Hicks were also present. After leading those present in the Pledge to the flag, President Mundell welcomed the new members to the council. Betty Riley called Lavonna Robbins to the podium to recognize and thank her for 30 years of loyal, dedicated service to the town in the capacity of dispatcher. She presented Lavonna with a picture plaque from the council commemorating the occasion.

1. After announcing some housekeeping rules concerning powering down or muting cell phones and communication devices during meetings, Mundell presented a proposal for a contract for legal services from the firm Hayes, Copenhaver and Crider. The proposal calls for a \$600 per month retainer fee with additional services charged at the same rate as in the prior year. Greg L. Crider will serve as primary council. Joel Harvey and Greg J. Crider will attend most of the meetings for Greg L. Jim Mundell made a motion to accept the contract. Bill Harrison seconded. The vote was 4 in favor and 1 against the motion. Motion carried.

2. Chip Etchison from Etchison Security Services was present to present information on upgrading and repairing the security video system. The cost for the proposal was projected to be \$6570 for installation. A maintenance agreement is available for an additional cost per month if desired. No action was taken on the proposal at this time.

3. President Mundell brought the issue concerning the fire protection contract with Fall Creek Township back to the table. The original contract was signed in 2005. It renews automatically each year unless either party gives notice 180 days prior to the anniversary date of the contract. At the last meeting council made a proposal to the township to extend the contract for four years. Since no response has been received from the township, does council wish to leave the four year proposal on the table or do they want to rescind the proposal? Mundell made a motion to rescind the proposal. Jim Mundell seconded the motion. Jim, Tim and Bill voted to rescind the proposal. Betty and Lisa voted not to rescind the proposal. Proposal rescinded.

4. The next item brought to council was Ordinance No. 11-02-2010. Tim made a motion to suspend the implementation of the fire protection surcharge until further study of the rate structure can be made. Jim seconded the motion. Betty, Bill, Jim and Tim voted yea. Lisa voted nay. Motion carried.

5. Citizen Elaine Masters approached council concerning a leaking water line in the vicinity of 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Columbia Avenue on the West side of town. It is not clearly established who is responsible for the line. After much discussion councilmember Jim Mundell moved that the town adopt the line and make the necessary repairs. Tim seconded the motion. All five council members voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

6. Citizen Larry Walters came next to complain that his car had driven over an uncovered manhole on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. His tire and wheel were damaged. He



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presented council with pictures and a bill for his tire repair. Since there was no legal counsel present the council voted unanimously to table this issue until next meeting.

7. Utility Superintendent Rick Hines informed council that the old rodding machine used by the sewage department to unplug clogged sewers was worn out. When an outside firm is called to do the clean out the charge is \$360 per trip for this service. One estimate for the purchase of a new machine for the town is \$16,000. Rick will seek further estimates and report back to council.

8. EMS Chief Phil Chandler reported that there had been some billing errors on his cell phone contract. These are being cleared up and a refund of the incorrect charges is on the way to the town.

9. Clerk-Treasurer Jim Hanson submitted the minutes from the previous meeting for approval. There being no additions or corrections, the minutes were approved as written. Hanson then asked if council wished to proceed with the second reading of Ordinance 12-14-2010 an ordinance creating a handicap parking space. This was tabled until next meeting. Next, Hanson asked council to set the meeting dates for the rest of 2011. Tim made a motion to continue meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Betty Riley seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. A proposed contract from H J Umbaugh was tabled until council has time to review the contents of the proposal.

10. Council President Tim Mundell read a letter of resignation from Police Chief Randy Wray. The letter stated that Wray would be on terminal leave until January 14, 2011 at which time his resignation will be final. Tim made a motion to accept the resignation. Betty seconded. All voted to accept the resignation.

11. Councilmember Jim Mundell made a motion that council reinstate Robert A. Robbins, recognize his seniority and name him Chief of Police. Councilmember Betty Riley seconded the motion. Jim, Betty, Tim and Bill voted yea. Lisa voted nay. Motion carried.

12. Council President Tim Mundell then recommended that due to budget constraints, the town should reduce the police force by placing one officer on indefinite layoff. Jim Mundell seconded the motion. Tim, Betty, Bill and Jim all voted in favor. Lisa voted against the motion. Motion carried.

13. In another cost saving measure, Jim moved to discontinue the K-9 program for Middletown Police Department. After discussion, Officer Mike Vaccaro offered to pay for the expense of the dog if council would allow the dog to remain on the force. Jim withdrew the motion and Chief Robbins will look into the matter.

14. Councilmember Jim Mundell made a motion to reassign Rick Hines back to lineman/utility labor status and to promote Tracy Harrison to Superintendent of Utilities. Councilmember Tim Mundell seconded. Jim, Tim and Betty voted yea. Lisa voted nay. Bill abstained. The motion carried.

15. Councilmember Betty Riley made a motion to name Lavonna Robbins as Department Head over Dispatchers. Bill Harrison seconded the motion. Bill, Jim, Tim and Betty voted yea. Lisa voted nay. Motion carried.

16. Councilmember Jim Mundell made a motion to have Ron Koons, cable liaison, train Tim Mundell to access the local access channel on the cable system. Bill Harrison seconded the motion. Betty, Bill, Jim and Tim all voted yea. Lisa voted no. Motion carried.

17. Councilmember Bill Harrison addressed some issues with cell phone contracts. All cell phone contracts will be reviewed. In the meantime, Harrison moved that users of town cell phones will be personally charged for any charges over the base contract amount. After further discussion Harrison withdrew his motion from the



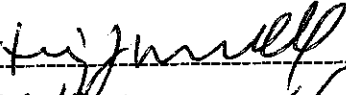

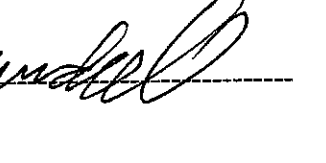
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table. Also, Bill would request that all department heads attend all regular meetings of the council.

18. Utility Board President Dick Schwalm reminded that the utility board would meet for its first meeting of the year on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 at 12:15 P.M. in the council meeting room at the Municipal Building. The public is as always invited to attend the meeting. Dick informed that local businessman Pete Kemerly has joined the board as a member.

19. Fall Creek Township Advisory Board member Gregg Goff announced that they would be meeting on Thursday, January 6, 2011 in the Trustee's Office at 9:00 A.M.

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

  
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Clerk-Treasurer