

MIDDLETOWN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 19, 2019

The Middletown Town Council met in the Public Meeting Room at 653 Locust Street, Middletown, Indiana at 7:00 P.M. Council Members Dan Fountain, Dick Schwalm, Jake Smith, Donita Chambless, and Gary Kendall were present. Clerk-Treasurer Drew Cooper was present. Town Attorney Joel Harvey was present.

1. Dan Fountain reported that the Middletown Environmental Committee (MEC) held their first meeting last week. He requested that a roll-call vote be recorded of the Town Council showing their support for the MEC and the Police Department in cleaning up Middletown. The vote was as follows: Dan Fountain – yes, Donita Chambless – yes, Gary Kendall – yes, Jake Smith – yes, Dick Schwalm – yes.
2. Dan Fountain moved to approve the first reading by name and number only of ORDINANCE 2019-2 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 31.10 OF THE MIDDLETOWN TOWN CODE. This ordinance changes the town code to allow police officers to be appointed as the Code Enforcement Officer. Gary Kendall seconded. Dan Fountain, Donita Chambless, Gary Kendall, and Jake Smith voted yes. Dick Schwalm voted no. The ordinance passed on its first reading.
3. Donita Chambless reported that the county is planning on demolishing 3 houses outside of New Castle as part of a grant program. She presented a list of 4 houses in Middletown that could be submitted to the county as candidates for demolition. Dan Fountain moved to authorize Chambless to submit this list. Donita Chambless seconded. Dan Fountain, Donita Chambless, Jake Smith, and Dick Schwalm voted yes. Gary Kendall voted no. The motion passed.
4. Jake Smith moved to re-appoint Amy Morris to the Middletown-Fallcreek Township Library Board. Dan Fountain seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
5. The Town Marshal announced that Deputy Mike Vaccaro has retired from the Middletown Police Department after 18 years of service. Dick Schwalm moved to hire Matt Thompson as a full-time deputy to replace Vaccaro. Gary Kendall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
6. Dan Fountain moved to authorize the Town Marshal to order a 2019 Ford F-150 Police Package pick-up truck from Autofarm for the quoted price of \$23,464, after receiving a trade allowance of \$16,500 on the town's 2014 Ford F-150 Police pick-up. Gary Kendall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
7. Dan Fountain moved to hire Valerie Boggs as a part-time Dispatcher Grade 3 and promote Heather Couch and Betsy Mills to Dispatcher Grade 3. Donita Chambless seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
8. The Utilities Superintendent reported that the pump at the lift station on Locust Street has been replaced. During the installation it was discovered that someone had dumped oil into the sewer leading to the lift station. The Superintendent said 300 gallons of oil, mixed with water, had to be pumped out and hauled away by Fluid Waste. The Town Council President directed the Town Attorney to draft a letter to be sent to all waste water customers with laterals leading to the lift station, warning them of the legal penalties of dumping oil in the sewer system. The Superintendent said he would provide a list of addresses to the Town Attorney.
9. The Utilities Superintendent announced that the sewer main on South 10th Street in front of the nursing home has collapsed and that a repair estimated at \$75,000 to \$100,000 will be needed.

10. The Utilities Superintendent presented two quotes for a utility toolbox truck bed, one from Clark Truck Equipment for \$7,266 and one from Truck-Pro for \$7,787. The Superintendent will meet with the Clerk-Treasurer to discuss the budget for this purchase and will report back at the next meeting.

11. Scott Emswiller, of Scott's Computers, responded in person to the letter he received from the Town Council in regards to an invoice for payment to a sub-contractor on the project to install a security gate at the treatment plants property. He explained that the invoice for \$2,200 from Monroe Corporation was for work that the Superintendent had requested directly from the vendor and should be paid by the town. Donita Chambless moved to direct the Clerk-Treasurer to pay this invoice, once it has been submitted in proper form. Dick Schwalm seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Emswiller also reported the project to install the security gate will be completed in March, weather permitting.

13. The Utilities Superintendent reported that the Clerk-Treasurer has contracted directly with a heating and cooling vendor to repair furnaces in the Fire Department bays of the Municipal Building and that this work should have been directed by the Superintendent. Dan Fountain said he wants the work scheduled through work orders.

14. Dan Fountain moved to have the Town Council direct the Redevelopment Commission to begin meetings with the town attorney to investigate expanding the Norfleet TIF to include all business property on State Road 236. Donita Chambless seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

15. Donita Chambless moved to pay Deputy Guy Cobb at the Town Marshal pay rate for the remainder of 2019 and place him at the highest deputy pay grade beginning in 2020. Dan Fountain seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

16. Donita Chambless moved to authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to transfer the \$16,000 General Fund budget for Audit Fees to the Police Salaries budget. This is made possible because the audit fees were paid in 2018. Dan Fountain seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Clerk-Treasurer