



**MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 26, 2022**



PENDING APPROVAL

PRESENT: Mayor Trowbridge M. Littleton
Vice Mayor Peter A. Leonard-Morgan
Councilmember Chris W. Bernard
Councilmember J. Kevin Daly
Councilmember Morris E. “Bud” Jacobs
Councilmember C. Darlene Kirk
Councilmember Cindy C. Pearson

STAFF: Danny Davis, Town Manager
Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk
William M. Moore, Deputy Town Manager
Ali MacIntyre, Director of Business Development & Community Partnerships
A.J. Panebianco, Chief of Police
Tina Staples, Town Treasurer/Director of Finance

ABSENT: Councilmember Philip M. Miller

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, May 26, 2022 in the Town Hall Council Chambers, located at 10 West Marshall Street. Mayor Littleton led Council and those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The roll was called at 6:00 p.m.

Special Recognitions

Council Approval – Resolution of Commendation – National Sporting Library & Museum

Mayor Littleton noted that the National Sporting Library & Museum was an icon that provided a cultural benefit not only to the town, but world-wide. He expressed appreciation for all they did for the community and congratulated them on their anniversary. Mr. Littleton read the resolution aloud and following Council’s adoption of it, presented a signed copy to Elizabeth Von Hassel, their Executive Director.

Councilmember Kirk moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council adopt a Resolution of Commendation congratulating the National Sporting Library & Museum on celebrating their 10th anniversary of their rebranding and expansion.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Leonard-Morgan, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Kirk, and Pearson
No – N/A
Abstain: N/A
Absent: Councilmember Miller
(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.)

Ms. Von Hassel thanked the community for their support and invited everyone to visit their facilities.

Public Comments – Other Town Items

No one offered public comments of a general nature.

Public Comment – Boundary Line Adjustment (BLA) Requests

John Donovan, 122 North Jay Street, suggested the need to consider the scale of what was being proposed. He reminded Council that Middleburg's current population was nearly seven hundred people. Mr. Donovan advised that there were currently four hundred twenty-eight housing units, with another forty-nine being approved for the Salamander development. He reminded Council that the Windy Hill BLA would result in an additional sixty units and the Homewood Farm BLA would result in an additional sixty-six, the latter of which would sell at market rates. Mr. Donovan advised that based on the existing figures, there were an average of 1.64 residents per unit. He opined that Salamander's units would have an average of two residents per unit, which would increase the Town's population to eight hundred people. Mr. Donovan estimated there would be ninety-eight residents in the proposed Windy Hill development and one hundred eight in the Homewood Farm one. He advised that this would result in a population of 1,006, which was a 27% increase. Mr. Donovan opined that the outcome of the requests was that they would diminish the quality of life for the residents, as well as the cache that attracted visitors to Middleburg.

Patti Thomas, 201 Chestnut Street, noted that the Council was talking about the greenbelt around town and opined that what was proposed would actually fill in the gaps with development. She asked that the Council consider the requests without the bias of the goal of affordable housing. Ms. Thomas further asked that they consider the population. She advised that she did not understand why the Council felt it was important to sully the town by building affordable housing when Salamander declined to provide workforce housing for its employees. Ms. Thomas questioned why the Town should do so. She questioned the number of teachers or employees of major establishments who would want to live here and opined that it was expensive and there were no services. Ms. Thomas suggested the increase in population would drive the need for more services and retail. She reminded Council that Wolver Hill would produce another nine housing units; Salamander would produce an additional forty-nine; Hunters Hamlet would produce an additional eighteen; Windy Hill was proposing an additional sixty; Homewood Farm was proposing an additional sixty-six; and Banbury Cross would produce an additional thirty. Ms. Thomas opined that this would result in a 100% increase in population. She suggested that Middleburg did not need that and opined that affordable housing should be constructed in South Riding or Ashburn, where services were available.

Carter Wiley, 10 N. Pendleton Street, questioned what the proposed developments would do for the community. He expressed concern that they would erode the cache of Middleburg to a suburbia and would increase traffic. Mr. Wiley suggested the Safeway could not handle the existing population and noted that there was no room for additional retail development to support an increased population. He advised that there was nothing in Middleburg to support its aging population and noted that an assisted living facility that could service existing residents had not been discussed. Mr. Wiley opined that the Town's water was not drinkable and suggested it needed to be fixed before the Town made an investment that would benefit others. He advised that Middleburg was unique for a reason and suggested adding houses would turn it into something like the other towns in Loudoun County.

Status of Boundary Line Adjustment Proposals

Mayor Littleton thanked the speakers for their input and noted that it would help the Council figure out what to do and how to do it. He asked that they continue to provide it and noted the need for the public to provide solutions as well as identify issues. Mr. Littleton advised that the Council wanted to do the boundary line adjustments right if they did them. He reported that as to the question regarding Wolver Hill, the property would be placed in a conservation easement; however, it would be developed into five one-hundred-acre parcels.

Town Manager Davis advised that as to the question regarding teachers, the Foxcroft School provided data to the Town recently that included counts for Banneker, Foxcroft, The Hill School, the Middleburg Community Charter School and the Middleburg Montessori School. He reported that there were two hundred twenty-nine school employees in the area, including one hundred eighteen teachers. Mr. Davis further reported that seventy-four lived on campus and one hundred fifty-five had not been provided with campus housing. He noted that of that amount, eighty-three lived in Middleburg and seventy-two lived elsewhere.

In response to an inquiry regarding the status of the suggestion to hire a consultant, Town Manager Davis reminded Council that the proposal was to first gather public input and, if the Council wanted to pursue it further, to procure such services. He advised that if the Council wished to pursue these services sooner, it could be discussed.

Council discussed whether to engage the services of a consultant now. They noted that if they did so, he/she would not have the benefit of the community engagement. The Council acknowledged, however, that the consultant could also provide knowledge of which they were not aware. They suggested the need to understand what may happen, including what could be done by-right if the BLAs were not approved. The Council noted that the County's proposed zoning text amendments could impact what the development would look like if the BLAs were not approved. They opined that they needed help understanding the issues and advised that they would like to procure the services of a consultant sooner. The Council reiterated that the consultant could enlighten them on issues they may not otherwise be aware of. It was noted that the consultant would look at environmental impacts, zoning, and socio-economic issues as a part of the analysis. The Council suggested the need to seek the help of someone who could help them identify what the County's proposed zoning text amendments meant. They acknowledged that elections played a role in how development occurred in Loudoun County. It was suggested that Mayor Littleton, Councilmember Jacobs and Town Manager Davis meet to discuss hiring a consultant.

Council noted Mr. Wiley's concerns related to water. They acknowledged that the water had been stirred up recently due to theft from the system; however, they opined that it was drinkable. The Council noted Ms. Thomas' comments regarding the plans for Salamander to construct workforce housing and questioned why they were no longer planning to do so.

Town Manager Davis reminded Council that Salamander's proffers called for them to build workforce housing if they developed the MUV District; however, there was no mandate that they develop that district. He advised that they could do nothing with the property; could develop it as approved; or could request a rezoning and proffer amendment.

Mayor Littleton stressed that if they did something different, Salamander must get permission to do so. He noted that the idea behind the MUV District was to address the concern that there was no place for Salamander's employees to live, as well as to provide places for teachers to live. Mr. Littleton opined that the community wanted this. He acknowledged that things changed and opined that it was not a good idea to have a second retail district, as was envisioned in the MUV District.

Council expressed concern that there would be no rent control if the BLAs were approved. They also expressed concern that investors could purchase the units and turn them into high-cost rentals. The Council opined that the Town could not control this, as the property owners had rights. They noted that the prices would be market driven and suggested that people who hoped to buy the units could be pushed out due to the cost.

Council noted that Habitat for Humanity allowed individuals to purchase houses; however, if they sold the homes, they must sell them back to the Habitat for Humanity. It was suggested that there were controls that could be put in place to address the short-term rental issue, including banning them from being used for that use in certain districts.

Council noted that the population issue was a huge concern. They cited concerns about the lack of services, such as the ability of the Safeway to serve a larger population. The Council suggested the need to take care of elderly residents who must now go elsewhere for care.

Staff Reports

April Utilities Report - IES

In response to the concerns raised by Mr. Wiley, Stuart Will, of IES, reported that they were working to improve the water. He noted that he tested it this week at the Town Office and found the water was soft. Mr. Will explained that because they were supplying it from the Stonewall treatment plant, the customers were starting to see softer water.

Town Manager Davis noted that he previously spoke with Mr. Wiley regarding his water concerns and opined that some of them were related to the Town's past use of Well 3. He confirmed that theft from the system also stirred up the water. Mr. Davis stressed that the water was drinkable and met or exceeded all the State's requirements.

Mayor Littleton opined that the concerns may be unique to Mr. Wiley and noted that none of his tenants had complained about the water.

Mr. Will reported that work was underway to upgrade the meter reading system, including attaching radios to the meters.

In response an inquiry from the Council regarding water that was lost, Town Treasurer Staples reported that it was due to a toilet leak. She noted that this was one of the reasons the staff wanted the new system, as approximately 100,000 gallons of water was wasted over a two-month period.

Town Manager Davis reported that the new system would allow the staff to catch such leaks within a day or two.

In response to inquiries from the Council regarding I&I (inflow & infiltration), Mr. Will confirmed improvements could be made to the system to address it. He advised that Middleburg's system was small enough that it could make significant changes without spending a lot of money.

Town Manager Davis extended appreciation to Mr. Will for recently hosting the students from the Middleburg Community Charter School for a tour of the water treatment plant, as well as to the Police Department for escorting the students as they walked from the school to the treatment plant.

Project Status Report

Town Manager Davis distributed a draft flyer regarding the Marshall Street Water Tower Repainting Project and reported that it would be distributed to the public this week. He further reported that the work would begin on June 6th with the construction of a temporary cell tower. Mr. Davis advised that he would coordinate the work with the Middleburg Community Charter School and noted that the contractor would do as much of it as possible when school was not in session. He advised that the staff would conduct a public outreach session within the next two weeks. In response to an inquiry from the Council, Mr. Davis reported that the tower had not been fully repainted in many years. He noted that the paint on the inside was not lead paint. Mr. Davis advised that the contractor would not do extensive work June 15-17th when the school was in intersession. He opined that the exterior work, including the lead paint removal, would likely be done after the Fourth of July.

Town Manager Davis reported that the Pinckney Street repaving project was complete.

Discussion Items

Notice Required for Certain Loud Construction Noises

Captain Lou Dixon, of the Loudoun County Fire Marshall's office, advised Council that he was in charge of regulating blasting. He distributed a copy of their regulations to Council, as well as an information sheet on how citizens could file a complaint about damage or vibrations.

Mayor Littleton explained that the issue was that Salamander's contractor gave residents notice of their plans to blast months ago but no one remembered it. He questioned what could be done to require that notice be given one or two days before the blasting occurred. Mr. Littleton suggested that if the County could not do this, the Town do so. He advised that he wanted to put the community at ease that the blasting was under control.

Captain Dixon advised that there were a number of factors that played into the notification and described some of them. He expressed concern that notifying people that explosives would be on the site was a safety and security issue. Captain Dixon advised that if people knew the date, they could also fly drones over the property, which could cause electronic detonators to go off, thus creating a safety issue for the blasters. He noted that this had occurred in other areas of Loudoun County. Captain Dixon advised that for these reasons, there was no immediate notification of blasting. He noted that the blasters had to inspect any houses that were located within one hundred fifty feet of the blast zone before they began work, at which time the property owners were given notice that blasting was planned. Captain Dixon advised that the blasters notified his office daily when they were blasting. In response to an inquiry from the Council, he explained that blasters were required to give one public notice to those located within five hundred feet of the blast zone and offer anyone within one hundred fifty feet a pre-blast inspection survey of their property. Captain Dixon noted that this most often occurred when they began the permit application process. He acknowledged that this could be months ahead of the blasting.

Council expressed appreciation for the need to address safety and security issues; however, they expressed concern about the long notification window. They suggested the Town could do an automated phone notification. The Council noted the need to give residents time to prepare for the blasting and questioned whether it was possible to do a two- to three-week notification.

Captain Dixon reiterated his concerns about the safety of doing so.

The Council questioned whether there was anything to prohibit the notification being sooner. They further questioned whether it was possible to require it be done within xx days of the blasting. The Council noted that the notification could occur a day before the blasting and opined that it was not really a safety issue.

Captain Dixon confirmed there was nothing to prohibit notification sooner. He advised that he would consider Council's concerns.

Chief Fire Marshall Mike Atiger advised Council that he was new to his position. He noted that he had as many questions as the Council. Chief Atiger agreed that safety was the first priority; however, he advised that he would research this matter and report back to Town Manager Davis on his findings. He opined that it was not unreasonable to have a shorter notification period. Chief Atiger advised Council that the blasters were good about self-monitoring and had a good rapport with the Fire Marshall's office.

Council suggested a two-week notification period. They also suggested that at the same time, the residents be educated on the safety issues associated with flying drones over a blasting area or walking in/near a blasting zone. The Council suggested it may be better if the notification were to come from the Town in the form of a phone alert.

Town Manager Davis suggested the notice also inform the community of the other noises associated with blasting, such as the pre- and post-warning sirens. He advised Chief Atiger and Captain Dixon that the Town would be happy to help facilitate the communications.

The Council noted the strain on the community when the residents forgot about the notification they received so long ago. They agreed that safety came first; however, they noted that it was not possible to protect against nefarious actors. The Council expressed appreciation for any help the Fire Marshall's office could provide in closing the gap.

Construction & Noise Ordinance

Mayor Littleton noted the construction projects that were ongoing in the community. He further noted that the Town's noise ordinance allowed construction to begin as early as 7:00 a.m. Mondays through Saturdays and 8:00 a.m. on Sundays. Mr. Littleton advised that he received citizen complaints that 7:00 a.m. was too early on a Saturday and suggested the Town change the ordinance to 8:00 a.m., to which the Council agreed. They directed the staff to prepare an ordinance revision for their consideration.

Town Manager Davis advised that the staff would also look at the penalties to ensure they were sufficient to deter individuals from disobeying the ordinance and would bring this matter back to the Council.

Action items

Council Approval – Appropriations Ordinance – FY '23 Budget

Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council approve an ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE BUDGET, AFFIRM TAX RATES AND MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2023.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Leonard-Morgan, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Kirk, and Pearson

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Miller

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.) (by roll call vote)

Council Approval – Ordinance to Increase Water & Sewer Rates – FY '23

Mayor Littleton noted that inflation was currently 8%; however, the rate increase was only 3%, which was what had been planned.

Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan moved, seconded by Councilmember Kirk, that Council approve an ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE SCHEDULE OF WATER AND WASTEWATER USER FEES AND CHARGES.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Leonard-Morgan, Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Kirk, and Pearson

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Miller

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.) (by roll call vote)

Staff Reports (continued)

Town Manager Davis reported that sewer manhole risers needed to be installed on Pinkney Street. He advised that they were not currently in stock. Mr. Davis further advised that they would be installed when the contractor returned to do the Chinn Court paving in mid-July.

Town Manager Davis reported that the wayfinding signage would be installed beginning in mid-June, with the installations being complete by the end of the month. He encouraged motorists to use caution when driving in the areas where the signs were being installed.

Deputy Town Manager Moore advised Council that the Town would collect the scrap metal from the project and disassemble it. He reported that the old signs would be saved and noted that some of the posts may be reusable.

Mayor Littleton opined that the sale of the signs could be a good fundraiser. Town Clerk North reminded Council that there were regulations related to the disposal of Town property.

Discussion Items (continued)

Pedestrian Counters and Public Wi-Fi

Town Manager Davis reminded Council that they discussed pedestrian counters pre-COVID and advised that the desire for them had regained attention as the economy improved. He reported that EDAC had a desire to understand the number of visitors coming into Middleburg. Mr. Davis explained that the goal was to develop data points that could be used to understand the impacts of activities. He reminded Council of their conversations about the balance of visitor activity versus resident quality of life and suggested the need to see how many people were in town on the weekends. Mr. Davis reported that one of the vendors the staff was looking at had a unique system, which used artificial intelligence to identify objects, not people's faces. He noted that the video was not viewed by anyone, nor would it be stored. Mr. Davis advised that it would automatically be deleted. He explained that the infrastructure would be installed on the streetlights in town. Mr. Davis advised that this same infrastructure could be used to provide public wi-fi in the core downtown area.

Town Manager Davis noted that there were concerns as to whether this was needed, why it was needed, and whether this was the right mechanism to capture this information. He acknowledged that there were also privacy and security concerns. Mr. Davis questioned whether the Council was interested in doing this and suggested if they were, he could pursue a contract with the vendor.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Manager Davis confirmed the technology could not differentiate between visitors and residents. He explained that it would only create a baseline of the number of people in town during a certain period.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Manager Davis explained that the data gleaned from the pedestrian counter would be used to help the Town prepare for future events and could be shared with businesses so they would know when they could expect to be busy. He suggested the Town could also use it to market Middleburg during slow periods and as a marketing tool for recruiting businesses to town.

Councilmember Bernard opined that it could be used for long-range planning, such as the re-development of Federal Street. He suggested the need to understand the level of activity in town and how it was spread out throughout the week.

Mayor Littleton questioned the value of the data from an economic development perspective and noted that it could not be tied to sales or traffic per store, nor could it identify visitors versus residents or employees. He opined that no one would know what the data meant; therefore, it would not be relevant to businesses, as all it would identify would be the flow of traffic on the streets. Mr. Littleton questioned whether there was a problem with the lack of data and whether this was being oversold.

Councilmember Bernard opined that the Town could use it for marketing purposes and noted that it would identify opportunities where there were gaps.

In response to inquiries from the Council as to what other localities used, Town Manager Davis advised that most towns used VDOT traffic counts or a best guess. He acknowledged that most towns did not have this level of data gathering.

Council opined that more information was needed. They suggested the need for a plan on how the data would be delivered in a usable form. The Council acknowledged the need to look at long-range planning and to have actionable data so they could make decisions. They further acknowledged that there were not a lot of towns that made an investment in marketing like Middleburg. The Council suggested the need to understand the rate of return on this investment.

Council held some discussion about providing public wi-fi. They suggested the need to understand the potential of this endeavor and to tie it to a result. The Council noted that if the pedestrian counters did not deliver as expected, the system would be eliminated, which would mean the public wi-fi would be eliminated as well. They expressed concern about privacy and noted that cameras made people feel as if they were being intruded upon. The Council questioned whether Middleburg wanted to be known as a town that was watching people. It was noted that the Town's marketing could explain the purpose of the cameras; however, there would have to be a constant education as to why they were there. They noted the need to protect against the vendor holding data and acknowledged that technology companies were caught all the time with data they were not supposed to have.

Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan opined that the system would cost a lot of money. He advised that while he was in favor of public wi-fi, he did not support this proposal for a variety of reasons.

Council suggested the need to figure out how the data would be tied to businesses' data and to correlate it. They questioned whether it was possible to ask the businesses for customer data. The Council expressed concern that if the only thing provided was a head count, it would not correlate to anything. They expressed concern about public wi-fi and noted that people would be angry if it did not work well. The Council agreed, however, that they were comfortable allowing the staff to explore this further.

Draft Town Hall Project Donation Policy & Brochure

Town Clerk North reported that the Public Outreach Committee worked to develop a draft policy and brochure for the Council's consideration related to donations for the Town Hall Project. She advised that the Committee was recommending three levels of donation be established – platinum (\$5,000), gold (\$1,000) and silver (\$500), with the funds being used toward the purchase of amenities, primarily related to the parks. Ms. North explained that the draft policy identified who the Town would accept donations from; the form of recognition, which would be a consolidated plaque identifying the donor and donation level; would make it clear that there were no naming rights associated with a donation; identify who could accept donations on behalf of the Town; and, would include an exception in the event someone proposed to make a donation that did not comply with the policy but that the Council wished to accept. She advised that the brochure identified the items that would be purchased under each donation level.

Councilmember Kirk advised that she was opposed to the acceptance of donations for the project, as the project was fully funded.

The majority of Council opined that accepting donations was a good idea; however, they suggested it was not a good idea to solicit money when the project was already funded.

Town Clerk North agreed. She noted that she had been approached by individuals who wished to make a donation in memory of a loved one. Ms. North suggested the Town not actively seek donations, but simply put the policy on the Town's website so anyone who was interested in making one would be aware of the rules associated with the donation.

Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan, a member of the Public Outreach Committee, advised that he did not see this as a fundraising effort but as an opportunity for people to be involved in the project.

Council suggested it was not necessary to identify the amenities that would be purchased at each level. They further suggested there just be a general list of items that would be purchased in the brochure. The Council agreed with the desire to allow people to memorialize someone who served the town in a unique capacity. Some members questioned whether the funds could be donated to a charitable organization.

Town Clerk North advised that the Committee discussed this; however, they did not think it was appropriate to take funds donated for one purpose and use them for another.

Council suggested consideration instead be given to establishing an engraved brick program; whereby, peoples' names could be engraved on a brick when they made a donation. They suggested the Committee consider the Council's feedback and return in the future with a recommendation for their consideration.

Information Items

Council opined that Art in the Burg was awesome and recognized the work of Mary Ann Burns and the Middleburg Arts Council in organizing the event. It was noted that a person became dehydrated and collapsed during the event; however, the police officer addressed the situation in a calm manner, so it did not become a crisis.

Council announced that the PLAYroom and the Emmanuel Episcopal Church were collecting toys for children who have been displaced.

Closed Session

Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan moved, seconded by Councilmember Kirk, that Council go into closed session as authorized under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, for the discussion or consideration of the potential sale of Town-owned property located within the Town limits, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating position of the public body as allowed under Subsection (A)(3). Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan further moved, seconded by Councilmember Kirk, that the Council thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Bernard, Daly, Jacobs, Kirk, Leonard-Morgan, and Pearson

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Miller

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie.)

Mayor Littleton asked that Council certify that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting, which each member so did. He reminded those present for the closed session that any discussion that occurred within it should be treated as confidential.

There being no further business, Mayor Littleton declared the meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

APPROVED:

Trowbridge M. Littleton, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk

May 26, 2022 Middleburg Town Council Meeting

(Note: This is a transcript prepared by a Town contractor based on the video of the meeting. It may not be entirely accurate. For greater accuracy, we encourage you to review the video of the meeting that is on the Town's website – www.middleburgva.gov)

Bridge Littleton: We will call the May 26 meeting to order. First item is Pledge Allegiance.

Everyone: [Pledge of Allegiance]

Bridge Littleton: Next item here is Roll Call.

Chris Bernard: Chris Bernard.

Bud Jacobs: Bud Jacobs.

Darlene Kirk: Darlene Kirk.

Bridge Littleton: Bridge Littleton.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Peter Leonard Morgan.

Cindy Pearson: Cindy Pearson.

Bud Jacobs: John Kevin Daly.

Rhonda North: Rhonda North, Town Clerk.

Danny Davis: Danny Davis Town Manager.

Bridge Littleton: Ok. Next item is special recognition. We have a resolution of commendation for the National Sporting Library and Museum. Hard to believe, but they have reached their 10th anniversary, which is an unbelievable milestone. And a congratulations to the sporting library. It is a true asset to the community at large and has made a huge difference in the experience of coming to Middleburg. So we it is almost like the the month for ten year anniversary. I think this is like the third ten year anniversary for an organization or a business in town. [off mic] So, you know, but before before we read the resolution, I do just want to say real quickly that, you know, the National Sporting Library really has become an icon of the town and the service and the educational benefit and the cultural benefit that you all provide to the community and the world at large, being as world renowned as you are, is amazing. And then all you all give back to the community in terms of, you know, the concerts on the steps and free tours for kids and stuff like that is, is really, truly amazing. So we love having you a part of the community. We really appreciate all you do for our town and helping keep us on the map. But but but also the unique cultural experience that it is. So congratulations in reaching ten years. [applause] So let me take and read their resolution of commendation. So it's a resolution of commendation 10th anniversary of expansion for the National Sporting Library Museum, whereas in 1954, wow, George Ohrstrom Senior, Alexander Mackey-Smith, Lester Karow and Fletcher Harper pooled their collections of sporting books to found the National Sporting Library. And. Whereas, the original home of the National Sporting Library was the Duffy House, located at 11 West Washington Street, where it remained until 1969, when it relocated to Vine Hill in space that was shared with the Chronicle of the Horse. And. Whereas, between 1969 and 1999, the National Sporting Library's collections and visitors grew, resulting in the chronicle of the horse, moving to a new building and a national sporting library, taking over the entire Vine Hill building. And. Whereas, in 1999, the library began displaying artwork from its growing art collection as well as began finalizing or excuse me, organizing fine art loan exhibitions. And. Whereas, in 2008, the library's board of directors agreed to establish a fine art museum dedicated to the history and appreciation of sporting art. And. Whereas, following

an extensive renovation and expansion of the of Vine Hill in 2010, the National Sporting Library was rebranded to the National Sporting Library and Museum. And. Whereas, the National Sporting Library and Museum is celebrating its 10th anniversary of this expansion. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Mayor and members of the Town Council of the Town of Middleburg applaud the National Sporting Library and Museum for their faithful support of the community, as well as their longstanding service to our visitors and citizens. Be it further resolved that we recognize the National Spring Library and Museum on celebrating the 10th anniversary of their rebranding and express hope for many more anniversaries to come. Congratulations. [applause] Now, if you'd like to make a motion.

Darlene Kirk: I move the council, adopt a resolution of commendation, congratulating the National Sporting Library and Museum on celebrating the 10th anniversary of the rebranding and expansion.

J. Kevin Daly: Second.

Bridge Littleton: Any discussion. All those in favor say aye.

Everyone: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Opposed, abstentions. It passes. [off mic]

Elizabeth Von Hassell: That's okay. I just wanted to sincerely thank everyone here and the town of Middleburg and community for all your support. We are thrilled to be part of the community. I also would like to extend an invitation whenever we meet with anyone in the town, please come visit us as our guests, just let us know. We want you to come in. Don't pay any fees. Bring your friends. Bring your guests. Come share. All the wonderful art programs we have. We had maybe 30 kids today running around just wild. They were all looking or trying to get ready for the big event. And it just warmed my heart to see everyone here. So thank you so much for your support. Thank you all for sending so many people to see us. And we love being part of the community, so come to our open mic concerts too. Sadly, this one on Friday is going to be postponed because of the rain. But there'll be more to come. So. Thank you everybody. [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Congratulations. Thank you so much. Thank you. Take care. Yeah, exactly. Ok next item is public comment. So for the public comment session, we're going to do it like we're doing the last couple of meetings. We're breaking it into two halves. The first half is for anybody who would like to address the town council on anything. They wish for a public comment on any subject at all except anything related to the BLA annexation topic. We're going to handle that secondly, so that way, in case there's anybody here on a different issue, they don't have to they don't have to wait. We have folks in the room and we have folks potentially online. We will handle all of the public comments in the room first and then we will go to folks online as we broke those two individual sections out. As I've done at the last couple of meetings, as we've described how we're going to handle public comment for the annexation BLA discussion, just to remind the public we are going to be doing this public comment, the specific public comment period for the BLA discussion for probably another six weeks to two months. Also remember, no applications or formal requests have actually been made to the town. The whole goal with the public comment session being as long as it is, is that we want to get as much public feedback as possible to be able to go back to the potential applicants and tell them what the community's input on their initial concept is so they can refine it, hone it, do whatever they want, and if they want to come back, then they can come back. All of the public comment that we get from the community, we are keeping it on a running FAQ on our town website. We also have a online form that if you want to go in and fill it out and put anything on there you want, you're more than welcome to. We encourage everybody to do that. The more comments we get, the more constructive feedback we have, the better we'll be able to know what to do. And then there's no limit. There's no word limit. There's no limit how many times you can put something in, you can come back five days later and go, I forgot this and want to put it in, or I change my mind or I feel twice as strong than I did before. There's no there's no bad feedback. And then lastly, the other element here is when we get all the public comment and have distilled it down into what, you know, the main elements of feedback are, we do plan to hold another sort of public information session to give everybody sort of an understanding of what we heard, what the feedback was, what the major points, suggestions, comments, concerns, likes, dislikes are. So again, to be as fully transparent as possible and again, we're not under the gun. We're not under any timelines. We want to do this right. And we want to take as much time as necessary to come to the right conclusions. So with that, I will. Oh, also just a reminder, public comment is only the public talking to council.

You get 3 minutes, say anything you want to say, you can't. It's not that you can't ask the council questions, but we can't answer any questions. It is a one way broadcast from the public only. That's the rules, the way public comment work. But we will keep a running list of the questions that anybody asks directly after the public comment session. If it's a question we got the answer to, we'll tell. We'll say it right after public comments are done. You know, no sense in making folks wait. If it's a question we don't have the answer to, we will do our best to find the answer and then post it on the website with all the other frequently asked questions once we once we find it out, some questions we may not have the answer to because it's a question for the applicant. So but we want to answer as much as we can, as quick as we can. So with that, Rhonda's got some rules for online folks. So if you want to read those and then we'll we'll open the public comment.

Rhonda North: So if you are online and you would like to speak and you're on a computer or a device, if you will use the raise, raise your hand feature to let me know that you'd like to speak or send a message through chat if you're on a telephone, if you'll press Star nine and then once you're granted permission to speak, if you will, please unmute your microphone if you're on a computer or device. If you're on a telephone, you would press star six.

Bridge Littleton: Perfect. Thanks. And I guess the last thing I'll say to is, after public comment is done, the council will then spend 15 minutes talking about whatever the current status of the BLA annexation proposals are, if there is anything to discuss. So everybody is more than welcome to stay for that as well. Stay for the whole meeting if you like, but we will handle it right after that. So in case anybody here just to only hear about what's going on with the BLAs and annexations once that's done, you don't have to wait for the rest of the council meeting. Ok we will open public comment for anything unrelated to annexation or BLA. Anybody here wish to address council, anything other than that? Rhonda does anybody online that wants to. Speak about a different subject.

Rhonda North: Not indicating that they'd like to speak.

Bridge Littleton: Okay, let's wait 10 seconds. It's kind of hard to navigate that thing. Anybody? Okay. We will close the full public comment session and now go into the public comment session related to annexation slash boundary line adjustment. Anybody wish to address the council? Mr. Donovan, when you approach, have a seat, stand if you like, give us your name, address and then 3 minutes are yours.

John Donovan: Thank you. My name is John Donovan. I live at 122 North Jay Street. I've been here before. I have some comments. I have a lot of comments, but I have 3 minutes. So I just want to make some comments about the scale of what is informally proposed, because there are no formal proposals, but this might be a little bit hard for you to follow. I've reduced it to writing, which I can leave with Rhonda. Basic assumptions. And they're a little bit squishy because, for example, the current population of Middleburg nearly 700 is is the most current thing that I've heard. And nobody nobody really trusts the census. But let's just say it's nearly 700. Let's count 700. The number of dwelling units in Middleburg 428, that's a pretty hard number. The approved units at Salamander are 48 or 49, and we, I guess, should address those as givens because the earth is being moved and those are going to happen for better or for worse. Windy Hill the proposal, 60 units some age restricted, some not all carefully geared to be not market rate. And then Homewood, 66 units which to the best of my understanding is market rate, whatever they can sell for. So the population of 700 divided by 428 existing units is 1.64 residents per unit. If the salamander units are put in and if they will probably have a higher population per unit because they're more substantial homes than a lot of recent ones, maybe it's two persons per unit instead of 1.64. But if that is the case, the total population would be 800 as opposed to 700 in round numbers. The estimated population of the new Windy Hill units would be 98, give or take. Estimated population of the new Homewood units would be 108, give or take. The grand total population, if those estimates are at all real, would bring our population of the town. If the BLAs happen as envisioned or as suggested would be 1006 people. That's a quantum, leap from the little town that we've all enjoyed, loved living in, and has the visitors have found so charming using 477 as the baseline? Oh, this is my three minute warning already. Oh, darn it. All right, the combined, the combined, the combined increase if Windy Hill and Homeward were to happen as envisioned by the soon to be proposals would be 27% increase. I think that's pretty brutal for the town if the the town's population would grow by 32%, which to me is really a depressing, depressing number. And in conclusion, in just one person's opinion, such an outcome would arguably diminish the quality of life in the town and secondly, diminish the town's cachet that attracts so many visitors to come and spend that money so our retailers can ring their cash registers and what have you. So I think that the combination of the two BLA items I'm certainly more warmly disposed towards one than I am towards the other, but the combination would be

ruinous. Thank you. And now, just to prove how primitive I am, I'm going to give Rhonda about my comments handwritten, because I've never learned to type. Thank you all for the time.

Bridge Littleton: Well, Mr. Donovan, I type everything because my handwriting is so bad.

John Donovan: Well, I can't type.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody else? Patty.

Patti Thomas: Patti Thomas. 201 Chestnut Street. I looked at the exhibits which have been lauded as establishing a green belt around the town, and I looked at it with a different perspective because I marked on there what is actually the plan. It seems like we're filling in the gaps around the town with a development belt. I'd ask the council to consider the plan or the proposals for a minute without the bias that seems to have pervaded the suggestion, which is for the laudable goal of affordable housing and look at it instead of what it does to population and the completion of development around all of Middleburg. The packaging seems to have swayed some people that I've talked to to mask what the real problem could be. And I think Mr. Donovan said it very well. I don't understand why the town feels it's responsible to undertake measures to sully this small, historic town, one of the few that is remaining to build affordable dwelling units. When the principal major employer here, Salamander, has declined to do exactly that. I was on town council when the Salamander officials said that their mixed use village area, one of the areas would be utilized for workforce housing. That is now declined. Why should the town's people and the town taxpayers undertake to support workforce housing for that employer when they declined to do that? The plan for Salamander was embraced and approved based on that. Whether it was proffered is irrelevant. It was certainly pervaded the entire presentation that the MUV places would be for workforce housing. I've also heard the word teachers. Exactly how many teachers are there in this town? And I'd like you to find out. We have two small schools and then ask how many teachers or other employees of major establishments in Middleburg actually want to live here? It's a very unique way of life. It's very expensive. There are no services. And when you invite a population to a small area like that, what follows is the need for more services, more retail, and more things that support that population. Let's look at this map. I love that Wolver Hill was bought by Chuck Akre, but I've heard it was going to be an easement. Then I heard it was going to be nine divisions. That is, nine unaffordable, expensive tracts, probably each with a tenant house that's nine. Then there's 49 being built at Salamander. Then there are 18, which are reserved at Hunter's Hamlet, which is hardly a green space. That is that is not an open space [inaudible]. That is a subdivision. Then there are 60 proposed at Pettibone. 48, eight and ten in the new Windy Hill. Banbury Cross is 30 plus here. I got 234 new units and 702 new persons. That's 100% increase in population. We don't need this. Affordable housing is great, but it belongs where developers can afford to put it, which is South Riding, Ashburn, where people want affordable services and groceries. And it's not in Middleburg, which is a tourist destination. And you are if you adopt this or allow this annexation, you are going to deep fry the golden goose. Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Mr. Wylie.

Carter Wylie: Good evening. My name is Carter Wylie. I have an investment in town. 10 North Pendleton Street, and I live on 2819 Zulla Road in the Plains. The office market is very soft, it's somewhat concerning, and the annexation plan gives me even greater concern because I really want to know what it does for our community. What does it help us do? Is it a need that helps us or is it a need that helps the developer and brings people from outside here? And does that really help who we are as a community? My bigger concern is the cachet of this community gets eroded into what I would call gradually washing into suburbia. Affordable housing units are for not for our kids that are coming back from school. They're going to be from kids coming out from outside of this community here. And it's going to increase traffic and congestion well beyond what we're dealing with now. Safeway can't accommodate the people that live here as it is and there's not enough room for any more retail opportunities here to supply services for an additional population. One of the things that I find most concerning in the business I'm in, and one of the things I hear quite frequently is that there's nothing here to serve the aging community. An assisted living facility here would be something that no one has talked about, and it's something that would be great because the people that live here wouldn't have to move away. They get to stay here. And I find it interesting that all we're talking about is housing for other people, but we're not talking about housing for people that live here. And I think that's something that should be considered. One of the other great concerns I have is, is that we're making or allowing for an investment in this community that's going to benefit others. When we

have a water problem here that's not drinkable, I'm having to spend an inordinate amount of money in my building to address a water problem. It smells bad. It's not drinkable. If we've got all this money, let's fix the problem before we spread ourselves thin on something else, I would just like to raise the concern once again is that Middleburg has cachet and it's very unique for the very reason it is what it is. You keep adding houses that's going to turn into Hamilton, Lovettsville, Purcellville before, you know, with gables a mass in the distant vision. Thank you very much.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody else. Going once. Going twice. Rhonda, is there anybody on the phone who would like to address on the BLA annexation?

Rhonda North: No one has raised their hand as of this moment or submitted a chat.

Bridge Littleton: If you're on the phone and would like to speak on the annexation or BLA, by all means, please let us know and we'll turn the microphone over to you. No. We will close the public comment session. So first and foremost, everybody who spoke and everybody who's here, thank you very much for coming and providing your feedback and your input. It is very important. It's very critical. It's the only way anything ever gets done right and well. And it is helping us to figure out what to do and how to do it. And the other thing I would say is, please continue as you think of more things, have more questions, provide the feedback, provide the input, provide solutions. You know, I mean, that's the other thing, too. We're, you know, we want solutions to as is as well as the issues to address. So, you know, please come to every meeting or stop any one of us. Some of I mean, Carter, you and I talked for an hour yesterday, so anybody's got any questions. By all means, call myself a member of the council. Call anybody at the town office. We want to make sure that if we do anything, whatever we do, we do right and well. So with that, like I say, we'll close the public comment session and then go into council discussion. Real quickly, I wrote down a bunch of inputs from folks. I do have some information that is answers to either questions or things that folks had, as I understand, the Wolver Hill Easement. It is going into conservation easement and it's going to be five 100 acre parcels. So Wolver Hill is almost 600 acres and so it would be five 100 acre parcels is how the easement would be developed. The question about teachers we'll get that. I mean, we actually can figure that out. So we got numbers from.

Danny Davis: I have it if you'd like me to...

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, go ahead. Yeah, perfect. I knew we had gotten it. I didn't know how to tip your hand.

Danny Davis: Yeah. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. And council members, we. You received a presentation from Cathy McGehee with Foxcroft School in January of this year of the teachers excuse me, the schools around the area. That includes Banneker, Foxcroft, Hill School, the charter school and Middleburg Montessori School. There are 229 total employees, 118 of those are classified as teachers. Of those 229, 74 live on campuses of either Foxcroft or Hill School. So that leaves a remainder of 155 employees that do not live on a campus or campus provided housing. 83 of those 155 live either in Middleburg or Loudoun County, not broken down between those two. And then 72 of those employees live somewhere else, and that's anywhere from as far east as Alexandria and as far west as Strasburg. Winchester, Martinsburg.

Bridge Littleton: I knew we had it so. OK. Council Any other inputs, thoughts, comments Yes, sir. Mr. Jacobs.

Bud Jacobs: Mr. Mayor, you mentioned at our last meeting, I believe, or perhaps it was the meeting previously previous to that, that you had had a discussion with one of your colleagues who suggested that there was a consultancy that he had worked with that works on things like our BLA or annexation and is able to do a deep dove on the pros and cons or the known implications as well perhaps as some of the unknown implications of either moving forward with an annexation or not. And this is a long winded way of asking you where that idea stands. Have we moved forward to contact anybody? Have we?

Danny Davis: So, yeah. Thank you. Councilmember Jacobs. Our intention right now is to gather the public input that we are gathering and then to proceed forward with should council wish to take the next steps forward in developing further analysis of those proposals, then we would look to procure consultancies for those and potentially other type analyzes

that would come forward. At this point, that's my plan of schedule. If council has further direction or desire to embark upon that sooner rather than later, then we can definitely have that conversation.

Bridge Littleton: Yes, Bud the idea was in talking about Danny with this, talking about this with Danny, the thought was if we engage that guy now, we don't have the advantage of all the feedback from the community and we may want to ask the consultant to run scenarios. Right. So, hey, the community said this. What would it look like if that was done instead of this? So get everybody's feedback, get all that cataloged, get the consultant and give them all the data and say, you know, here's the baseline concept. Then here's what we've heard from the community. What do those do to it? How does that make it look? How does that change things? How does it make it better or worse? So that was kind of the idea, but we can always get them now and then just do it more. You can have extra cycles.

Bud Jacobs: The questions that that I have, as I have tried to thrash through these issues, is that there's a whole body of knowledge or information that I don't have. One of the things that I've realized is that I kind of sorta understand the BLA and what might happen. But in terms of what Loudoun County might do if we do not move forward with the BLA, it's kind of a dark forest to me. I took your guidance and started to go through the proposed zoning rewrite that potentially could have serious impact on whatever they do if we don't annex it. And I've got to tell you, it's it's practically incomprehensible to me. We've asked or I asked Ed Fleischman on the planning commission to do a side by side with the current ordinance and what the proposed changes might look like, particularly in AR two, I guess, and I don't know if he's moving forward with that or not, but we at least I can't say we I need some serious help understanding the issues here. I hate to spend the money. It may be premature given that we in fact don't actually have anything like a concrete proposal, actually, from either of the potential applicants. But I sure would like to start the process of getting us smarter than. And I'm assuming that others on council may share my.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Well, to your point Bud, I think one of the questions that we've had before has been, you know, the threat of what might happen if we don't do X, Y, Z. It would be great to know what they can and cannot do. I think particularly on the north side.

Chris Bernard: I think one of the things with getting this consultant is what don't we know? What aren't we thinking of? Right. So we can look at most of these issues and say, okay, I can see this [inaudible] and I can see the [inaudible], but there's probably issues that haven't come up yet that they may be kind of enlightened to. And the second thing was. I've now lost it,

Bridge Littleton: It was that good.

Chris Bernard: Because I was rambling. No, the second thing was not just having kind of this economic and social impact study, but an actual environmental because we've talked about, you know, you've got you're putting these units on town water. If there's a bunch of wells and septic fields, what kind of impact is that going to have on our water supply? Oh, that kind of yeah. That kind of stuff is also very interesting.

Bridge Littleton: So let me break it down into three things, though. So there's the environmental impact of by right, versus whatever. There's the zoning and all that kind of stuff. I can speak to that. And then there's the broader socioeconomic kind of analysis that, you know, to Carter's point, the Safeway, if you say, how does that work? What do you do? What type of stress does it put on all the services in this stuff. So let me speak to the one. I can speak to the zoning. That entire rewrite is going on in the county right now. It's a disaster. It is so bad that they that the county staff have a zoning. There's a zoning ordinance meeting next week. The county staff doesn't even give us track changes versions anymore because they can't keep up. You literally just get a whole new rewrite and you have to literally sit there and go line by line. I don't even try. I just read it and go. Does that sound reasonable. That we can have somebody, I mean, Danny, there's got to be a Rolodex of 100 people who could help us, you know, in Loudoun County, who can look at what the proposed changes to AR-2 are right now and say, here's the old, here's the new, here's what it means. I mean, that's straight land planning consultants. If they're not conflicted because they're working for a developer. But I know Al [Inaudible] and the Coalition and Moore, Walsh, Copeland have done a bunch of that too. So maybe we could ask them to come by. That we can get. That's easy. To your point, Bud, what makes me nervous about the AR-2 part is the county. It can change any time. Just because it's something today doesn't mean in five years it's not going to be something else.

So but let's look at what that is. And I think, Danny, what we should do, too, is we should go back to the 1993 rewrite. Compare that to the 04 05 rewrite and then the one that we're proposed now. Let's just I would like to see how much there was radical change over those three zoning rewrites on the socioeconomic type of analysis stuff. Let's if you're free Bud, let's you and I get with Dante and figure out the right way to do that and it's going to be extra money. But I get your point. Getting those people smart, getting them sped up, getting them up to speed now. And as more information comes in, they can adjust. But we beat the learning curve. So I think that's a good idea. [off mic] Ms. Kirk?

Darlene Kirk: Yeah. One of the things that the big unknown and we can do all the studies we want, but this is a huge unknown because we faced it with Salamander is the county will let some people do whatever they want. And she could have she was going to put a resort up there and a lot of homes. And that was one of the reasons we did bring it in because we wanted to control it better. And the thing that scares me is everybody in the county can say, Oh, no, we won't. We won't do this. We won't let her put all this stuff over here, but we still have no control over it. [multiple speakers]

Bridge Littleton: And that can change with an election. I mean, if you got many of you who've been here community for a long time, you remember what happened when it was the 03 election or the 01 I can't remember.

Danny Davis: The 03 election and the one before that really the 99 and then 03.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. The 99 election went way land conservation heavy they tried to they down zone the entire county which for all of us I mean loved it great all that kind of stuff and then that was a lightning rod election issue and then the entire board flipped in 03 to become all pro-development. So mostly. So yeah, to your point. Okay. So Bud if you got time tomorrow, Danny, if you're around the afternoon. Let's swing by and look at Scott's list and, you know, go out to one or two and figure out what it costs, what to do. Okay. Any other feedback, input, questions? Yes, sir.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Mr. Wylie mentioned it's about the water. And there's probably a gentleman somewhere here who was very upset to hear that because he's in charge of it. But seriously, I'd love to talk more about that because we all live in town and our water's pretty good. But it got stirred up the other day because someone tried to steal water from a hydrant. And that was a real problem, you know, and it goes on for days and days and days. So that's an external influence. But we find the water drinkable. But we do have a water filter in the in the refrigerator. If it's an issue, I think we really need to learn more about that because I know you're just right here. So that's that's important. Mrs. Thomas mentioned about the Salamander workforce. Excuse me. Workforce housing. I'd really like to talk more about that and find out what that actually. I mean, I know what it is, but I don't know why and why they're not now, you know, put under the gun to do it. And whether we've got any.

Bridge Littleton: We can't force them. It wasn't proffered. It was platted, but it wasn't proffered meaning. We can't. What?

Danny Davis: So just to clarify, it was proffered that if they develop the land, it had to be developed a certain way. And that was in accordance with both the concept plan as well as the proffer statement.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Is that the MUV?

Danny Davis: That's the MUV district. Now, there was nothing in the proffers that mandates they have to move forward with that phase or that portion of the development of their property. There are three kind of distinct portions the resort, the 49 homes on the West Side in the MUV. And so correct in terms of if they choose to do nothing with that property, they can choose to do nothing with that property. If they choose to develop it as approved, they still have the approval and the proffers and zoning to do that. If they want something different than what is approved in the current proffers, that would require a rezoning and that would require both potentially a change in zoning district, but primarily a change in the proffers because the proffers control until it is rezoned.

Bridge Littleton: So so think about it this way. If they ever want to do something different, they have to come and get permission, but they're not required to ever build it. But I remember like Patti, back when this was going on, there was a big concern from the community about having all these workers and no place for them to live. And that's kind of where

the whole MUV idea came, came from, and they landed on the number. And part of it was too we have teachers that need places to live. And so there was actually an area of the work of the housing units that was designated for teachers. Yeah. And I mean, that was actually what the community wanted back then. So and it's Carter and I talked about yesterday, right? Things change, times change, people's views change, and Salamander's economics change. So, you know and in a big scheme of things, I, I don't think it's a good idea to have a, you know, a secondary retail district over down back behind the hill because it just, you know, that'll fail and it only draws stuff away. So, you know, but at the time, it was kind of the the little hamlet section or whatever. So yeah.

Darlene Kirk: The other thing to keep in mind too is that they they say this is going to be affordable housing or whatever. We have to really make them stick to that. We can't let them say, oh, well, we're going to build these them that aren't affordable housing because we've done that before. I don't want to play that game.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Well, if I may, I'm sorry.

J. Kevin Daly: Yeah, well, that's that's one of my concerns as well. We have a free market system. We can. We do not have rent control. Nor would they when they build it. My fear is that a consortium of investors swoops down, purchases all that property. And turns them into high priced rentals. How does the town control that, or can the town control that?

Bridge Littleton: We can't control that.

J. Kevin Daly: If it's part of the Middleburg. If it's outside in this AR area, it's again free market system. You have property rights of the owner as long as he meets the requirements of an AR zoned region by the county. We don't have any control or say so.

Bridge Littleton: Peter, you had another question.

Peter Leonard Morgan: I was going to say that, you know, I raised that subject a few weeks ago, the same thing, which is it's going to be market driven. And, you know, we may be talking about one bedroom condos or two bedroom condos, but they are Middleburg there, brand new. So they're going to now we don't know what the market's going to do right now, but things might be changing a bit, but that longer term, that could be a serious situation. And it's just, you know, the people who we hoped will be able to afford to buy them are just pushed right out.

Bridge Littleton: No, it's a great question. I mean, it was it was interesting. I was doing a lot of research on how Habitat for Humanity works, and there's other organizations that do the same type of thing. And it's really kind of interesting. You don't own the land, but you buy the basically. The way it works is you buy the house but at a reduced price because at the when when you want to sell it and move on, you require to sell it back to them. And you can get you get some equity build and some inflationary value. But because you're selling it back to a foundation that all can kind of keep it and you have to qualify to buy it and stuff like that. I mean, this is not Habitat for Humanity. So, you know, and I'm not saying it should be, but, you know, it's it's. If the home the what you would call it is going to be done. To Kevin's point, are there controls out there that you can that can be put in place that guard against Airbnb? Right. I mean, we know we can ban Airbnb in certain residential districts. So that's not. I mean, that's a legitimate one. But that doesn't mean there's not other things you've got to be thoughtful of and thinking in the future. So. Any other questions feedback, input?

Bridge Littleton: Yes, ma'am.

Cindy Pearson: Just wanted to comment on Mr. Donovan's population. That is a huge concern. I think, as we all know, just to walk down the street or go into the Safeway and stuff, it is, you know, the little grand reopening they had on Saturday was so nice. They did a really good job. The Safeway was sparkling. It's a shame it can't stay that way forever. And it was stocked totally. But you know, you go in the next day, it's not like that anymore and you're talking that many more people. And with Carter making the mention of not taking care of the old folks, well, I'm one of them now and I'm looking at that. You know, you do. That becomes a concern after a while. Am I going to have to go to Ashburn or where the heck ever to find that care? So it would be nice. I'm not saying that's the place for it, but, you know, that's a concern we do need to bring up around here sooner or later.

Bridge Littleton: And you know what? Maybe we should put that down as a note, is that. You know, Windy Hill is talking about having an age component. Is there an age component of anything else that gets done over there? And it's all about scale, scope, size, all that kind of stuff. But it's a good question that should be asked. Yep. Okay. Last one.

Darlene Kirk: Okay. Remember, we did have people come in and want to put senior centers here. And that's another especially one in the area [inaudible]. Yeah. So, you know, we can't win.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. I think if I remember, I think the big objection to that was it was like a five story building. It looked like a prison. And it was like 100 and. Like, 100. And I can't remember. [off mic] Yeah. Yeah. Okay. Well, thank you. Really appreciate it. At this point, we're going to go on with the rest of the council's agenda. And you're more than welcome to stay. But we'll take a minute or two for anybody who doesn't want to hear about the April Utility Update report. [laughter] [off mic] Next item is staff reports. I should let Stuart go first. Hey, Stuart. How are you feeling? Good.

Stuart Will: I did hear it. And I feel bad that people feel that way and we're working to improve it. So actually, just this week, I tested water here at the office, and I'm pleased that the softness, the hardness of the water. It was actually very soft water. So the majority, you know.

Bridge Littleton: That's why the soap won't come out.

Stuart Will: That actually could be. Yeah. But, yeah, we're supplying enough water from Stonewall and from Well 4 that, I'm starting to see around the town that you guys are starting to see softer water.

Bridge Littleton: Damn it. I like that. Like Silkwood. Just take it right off. Okay.

Danny Davis: Well, and I will say, since we jumped on this in the beginning of the presentation, I did previously speak with Mr. Wylie and followed up on some of his concerns. And I think some of them are residual from the past when we were pulling a lot of water from Well 3. Which left a lot of sediment, specifically iron in the water, which could lead to potential discoloration from time to time. Vice Mayor mentioned the theft of water that we had that stirred up water because someone tapped into a fire hydrant. That will lead potentially to some issues. But I do want to be clear and Stuart will reiterate this with his testing and with what we show every month in our reports that our water is drinkable. It meets or exceeds all testing requirements. But for the public record, I just want to make sure we say that.

Bridge Littleton: And no, I, you know, maybe we go by and see him specifically. I mean, it could be a unique, unique thing for him because I mean, I don't I have not gotten complaints from his tenants.

Peter Leonard Morgan: So it might be unique to one area. Yeah. Be great to check it out. Yeah.

Bridge Littleton: I drink the water every day. And that. That that 11th finger fell off. So I'm good. Stuart, anything else?

Stuart Will: We are beginning to upgrade our metering system and had two guys out this week physically installing the radios down around Orange, Piedmont, Hunt Court, Jay Street and my helper today Crystal was out programming the radios and linking them to the meters. And so we're starting to make progress to get it to where we can just ride around in the truck. And if it's raining or snowing or what have you. Not going to affect your meter reads.

Bridge Littleton: So that's great. Any other questions for Stuart? Yes, sir.

Peter Leonard Morgan: So is this your new format report from now on?

Stuart Will: It is my understanding that it will be, yes.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Very impressive. I just want to ask the 500 West Washington Street leak. 18,000 gallons.

Tina Staples: Yeah, that's mine. So that one was a toilet. So if it went into the sewer system, it's usually a toilet. [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: I mean, swimming pool is, what, 180,000 gallons? [off mic]

Tina Staples: No, this is this is part of the reason why we wanted the radios, because this is over 100,000 gallons of water that was just wasted, treated, water that was just wasted.

Stuart Will: How many days was that, Tina?

Tina Staples: I think it was going on for over two months.

Danny Davis: Well, that is the benefit of the new meter read system is we should be able to catch that within a few days. If not the day.

Stuart Will: You'll have a computer and a radio device on my truck. I'll be able to just ride around the town, which I tend to do anyway, making sure you guys don't any leaks or anything looks amiss in the community. And while I'm driving and gawking, the computer will be interrogating meters and we'll download it to Tina's computer and it'll it'll red flag stuff that don't look right. So that'll be great.

Peter Leonard Morgan: And just following on, I know that we had an I & I issue with that big rainstorm. So I suppose we're going to talk more about that with the maybe manholes and inspecting that and maybe looking at people's sump pumps and whether they're going out outside or into the wastewater system.

Bridge Littleton: I think there's a certain point when there when the rain is what it is, you just there's nothing you can do about it.

Stuart Will: It is we can certainly improve our sewer collection system, and there's probably not enough money in the world to make it where it's not going to see some difference, though. So, you know, we actually have a benefit in that we are small enough to be able to make significant changes with not a lot of dollars.

Bridge Littleton: Awesome.

Danny Davis: I'd like to give just a big shout out and kudos to Stuart and Crystal. We hosted the entire Middleburg Community Charter School at the Stonewall Water Plant and thanks to Chief and his team for giving them police escorts because they walked the entire way from the charter school to stonewall. But it was five individual tours of half an hour each. So it was two and one half hours of his day with these students. And it was it's always fun to see them, especially for me, the fun part is the chemistry where you take them into the lab, you start to turn the water different colors as you're testing it for different chemicals or minerals. And they love that part. And so it hopefully we can pique some interest from our younger generation that working in the utility system is, is a fun, great job.

Bridge Littleton: You were the kid really distracted by shiny objects, right? [multiple speakers]

Danny Davis: Give me a Bunsen burner. I mean, you know.

Bridge Littleton: Burn down the gym. Okay. Any other questions for Stuart? Thank you, Stuart. Thanks.

Stuart Will: Have a good evening.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, boy. Whenever Will comes up I'm worried.

Will Moore: I'm just here as backup for Danny in case he needs me. All right.

Danny Davis: I'm going to pass around Mr. Mayor and council members. So one of our project updates we've started to include is related to work on the Marshall Street Water Tower. So we intend to distribute this out to the public tomorrow. So we will likely begin to see some movement on property the week of June 6th. That initial work for a couple of weeks is going to be related to removing antennas from the current water tower, installing a temporary water tower excuse me, a temporary cell tower, and putting the equipment back up. We've been coordinating very closely with the charter school, and as part of that, one of the key items is trying to do as much of the work as possible once the charter school is out of school for the summer. As we've talked about, there is lead based paint on the exterior. The work will be completely contained. And they do this regularly. But there will also be regular environmental pre during and post environmental testing. So we are going to be making outreach to the public. We're also going to schedule a public info session for the neighbors and anyone in the community. That will be the week after Memorial Day. So in two weeks. And the exact date of that depends on a discussion we have later tonight about another special meeting that we're going to be calling. So once we get that date, once that into this, and then go meet with the neighbors and take this to all the residents. So just want to let you know, we've been working on this.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Danny, on this?

Darlene Kirk: [off mic]

Danny Davis: So we don't think it's been fully repainted for many, many years. I'm not sure anyone actually knows. It's been touched up from time to time. [off mic]. So the inside has been done and the inside is not lead based paint. That's that's a different kind of paint in there. It's possible that the tank itself has been repainted with something different. But this the structure, the legs and you look it's a very complex system to where there's all the cross pieces. But they were able to show us just in the flaking the color of the flakes. They said, well, it's clear that's lead based.

Will Moore: It's likely that it's original. Even if the tower was repainted, it was probably not stripped. Correct. It's layered on top. [off mic]

Danny Davis: The only thing I understand is they have what they call an intersession, but that's June 15 through 17 and we won't be at a point of doing the exterior work then. Most likely again, dates are still fluctuating. Most likely this work will occur just before, just after July 4th. And it would be about, like I said in here, 7 to 10 days' worth of.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody got any questions for Danny or Will on the water tower? Okay. Let's do the briefing from the.

Danny Davis: Yeah, that's fine. And just let you guys know we've completed Pinckney Street.

Bridge Littleton: Okay, we can come back to all that. I just realized I'm like, these guys are sitting here. Let's let them get out of here.

Lou Dixon: How you folks doing good. Doing good. I am Captain Lou Dixon with fire marshal's office. I'm in charge of regulating blasting. I know you folks have some questions. It's me. It's me. Yeah. I'm not doing the blasting, though. I've been doing the regulations for the past six years with the county. So. And I've been in a lot of projects and a lot of stuff going on, less special projects, you know, historical districts, hospitals, all sorts of things. So what's being passed out now is a copy that is on the fire marshal's website for Loudoun County. It's the regulations for blasting are special requirements for blasting for a permit and what they need to do. And then also how a citizen could complain about blasting if they have damage or the concern about vibrations and air blasts that they can how they can make those complaints.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. I think the the main issue is with what's going on in Salamander. And I think the the question is, you know, we. So I think they were given notification a couple of months in advance and then, you know, everybody gets you get a notification. We'll be blasting in a couple of months and then all of a sudden, boom, boom, boom. And, you know, nobody remembered and nobody was prepared and all that kind of stuff. So. Yeah, I think the the question

really is how can what, what, what can we do or what do you guys do to where, you know, it's a day or two before people can be given the notification that it's going to be happening. And if it's something where you guys say, that's not in our regulatory framework, you know, not us, which is fine, and if it's us, then it could be us. And I think what we want to really do is just put the put the community at ease that it's under control and it's monitored and all that kind of stuff.

Lou Dixon: So. The problem with notifying people, let's just say they notify you that they're going to be blasting tomorrow. There's factors that come into effect, the explosives being transported to the site. The truck could break down. They could have to move the explosives to a different job site because this one's not ready yet. They have equipment that breaks down. They didn't get all the holes that they needed drilled at that time. People didn't show up to work. Drillers didn't show up to work. Also, weather plays a big part, like they're not blasting tomorrow. So it'll take time for that site to dry up with all the rain that we're supposed to be getting tomorrow. So it'll take several days, especially we have a weekend, and then we may have also a holiday. So three days, that's perfectly fine. But if that rain happened on a Monday, you're talking two days and you notified people that, hey, we're blasting on Monday and it doesn't happen. That's the that's one of the main concerns about that. Also, the real, real touchy subject in itself is that now we're notifying people in the public that explosives are on that site and that they're going to be on that site at that time. Yes. Yes. Yes. So if I tell you again, you know, you make that notification that on Friday they're going to be having explosives, they're going to be doing blasting on that site. We could have an issue and a problem with security. And I'm not just talking well, the drastic of, you know, people stealing explosives. We're talking about safety for the blasters. If these blasting companies switch to electronic detonation device and you have a citizen, a town person, fly a drone over their blast site to get a picture that electric that radio frequency could detonate. [off mic] Correct. So that's why when we show up on the scene, my cell phone, my radio, and he doesn't like it, but that's hey, that's that's our safety. That's our safety protocol, even. They're not using electric, but that's what that's what we do, even if they're not using electric detonators. So that's a big concern. Now, will that happen? Yes, because we've had it happen in other areas of Loudoun County where citizens have shown me drone footage of an actual explosion going off. And I'm like, you know, no. Or even the fact of the guys loading holes, loading the holes for the for later on in the day, I was like, no, you put those guys in danger real quick when you do that kind of stuff. So that's the reason why we do not notify you have a notification. Yes. That blasting is going to be going on within 500 feet of the blast site. You are notified if you're within 150 feet, you're offered a pre blast survey from a third company that does it. There's two companies in the area that do it. So they come in and do an inspection of your house, take pictures, document any of the damage that's already there at the house before blasting occurs. So but the blasting now so notification on the other part, they do notify us every day. They notify our communication center that there will be explosives on site in case there's an emergency. There's procedures that we have to do in our communication, fire department's procedures, if there's a medical emergency or a fire or something like that.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions. Bud.

Bud Jacobs: But what's the window for notification? How far ahead do you or does the company notify?

Lou Dixon: For us. They notify us that morning. So tomorrow morning, if it wasn't going to rain there, our communication center would probably get about 15 to 20 phone calls from blasting companies, notifying them that we have blasting going on at this address. This is the permit number and this is the point of contact for that site.

Bud Jacobs: And notification to the public to the affected public.

Lou Dixon: It's just that once notification with if you're within 500 feet of that site, you get that one notification.

Bud Jacobs: And when is that notification?

Lou Dixon: That's notification at the beginning of the process. It could be months ahead. Yeah. [off mic] So the reason that is, is they the companies like to get ahead of schedule and the aspect of getting getting the permit the permits get for six months, they will get the permit. But before they get the permit, they're actually contacting people walking the site. Going door to door for the 150 and for the 500, they're leaving fliers or they're just notifying them door to door. And so they do that process. That takes a while. So if they say we're going to be blasting in the next month or so, they have all

that legwork they have to do before they can even start blasting. And that doesn't include the stuff that needs to be done on the site, the cleaning of the site and removing of debris.

Bud Jacobs: Well, I appreciate all the regulatory pieces of this and certainly appreciate the security aspects. But I don't like having that long window in which we inform our residents. We got a lot of older folks who live over there. And maybe there ought to be a way that we could, I don't know, remind people at least that at some point over the next few weeks or months, there's going to be blasting going on over there because [off mic] Sorry, I didn't I didn't.

Darlene Kirk: Can't we do that through the thing that Rhonda does through the telephone? I mean, because she's good at that.

Bridge Littleton: So, I mean, I so I understand all the concerns. Right. And you've got to balance public interest with security interest. Right. So I think the problem is, if what we're saying is I got to notify you once within a six month window and these guys get ahead of it three, four or five months, it's really not notification anymore. You know, people need to be able to prepare. People have young children. People have a lot of stuff, you know. Well, yeah, but I mean, it's like it's so there's got to be a better medium, right? Six months is too big. One day unacceptable for safety. I got that. Why can't it be two or three weeks?

Lou Dixon: So being two or three weeks, you're going to have again product maybe not available. They may have to move to a different site to do work.

Bridge Littleton: Postponement. Got it.

Lou Dixon: That's all that.

Bud Jacobs: If it doesn't happen. That's okay. That's we're not worried about that. Yeah. That's a concern certainly that you have. Yeah. That's not what we're talking about.

Bridge Littleton: We're not worried about the 20% of the time somebody's got to reschedule because it rains. I'm worry about the 80% of the time where it goes off kind of as planned and. Yeah, exactly, exactly. Look, and we're going to be blasting, you know, there's going to be potential blasting in the next 2 to 3 weeks.

Lou Dixon: Okay. So I go back to the safety concerns with the citizens taking a look or even somebody coming in and taking the explosives and harming people on the site. That's that's the one main reason of why we don't notify or have it in our permit, that they have to notify the 500 foot radius because we could forget somebody. I mean, there was a gentleman in Ashburn who denies his denied that he even had a pre blast survey. But yet the third party company provided all the data. And when he went back and looked at his ring, he was like, yeah, they did show up. So there are people will miss the notifications and still go on and.

Bridge Littleton: Sure. I'm not looking for perfect. I'm looking I'm looking for better. Yeah. I would consider four month notification unacceptable.

Lou Dixon: Okay, well, their permits good for six months and they can renew they can renew their permit every six months.

Bridge Littleton: No, I get that. I'm not worried about the permitting. I'm not worried about that. You guys do a great job of making sure it's safe and all that kind of stuff. It's the simple issue of if all they got to do, if there's no bounding around when the. So let me ask you this question from a safety perspective. Is there anything that prohibits that notification being the day before?

Lou Dixon: Not I mean, there's no regulation on it at all.

Bridge Littleton: So they could be compliant if they did the notification the day before they did the blasting?

Lou Dixon: That's correct.

Bridge Littleton: So why aren't our rules saying because of safety concerns with dynamite and all these other things, you have to do it more than a month or two in advance. Can't really be a big safety issue if you allow them to do it the day before.

Lou Dixon: I'll have to think about that, that one with the chief we'll to think about that and.

Bridge Littleton: My point is right. You want you want to make sure that that they're taking all the safety. You know. You will eventually have somebody who wants to get blasting done. And they slipped the paperwork. They forgot the whatever. The guy didn't do the thing. And they're going to do that, right? It's going to happen. Right. It's a mathematical certainty. It probably won't happen often. But the question is when. But if safety issues like this are such this big, massive concern that we don't want to have this next day notification, then why aren't you barring that? Saying you cannot notify any closer than two weeks because we don't want to give people a heads up to fly drones or take the thing or protest or whatever. Right. I mean, if you're telling me that safety is this huge issue that we can't get closer, then why aren't you barring it from happening closer? You have control over that?

Mike Atiger: So I'll try to address that Mayor Littleton and council. My name is Mike Atiger. I'm the chief fire marshal for the county. You've probably not seen my face before, especially sitting in here. I'm new to the fire marshal's office.

Bridge Littleton: You were an EMT? Yes, sir. You gave me my first COVID shot in Purcellville. I remember. Yep. I was going. Is that the damn guy who stuck my [inaudible]. [laughter]

Mike Atiger: Sure. I can go anywhere you want. [inaudible] Oh, sure. So with that is, I'm new to the position so much like you, as I have as many questions as you all do, and I'm being very open and transparent with that. So some of the stuff that I'm hearing is we can certainly go back and reference or look up and see, is there any wiggle room in the code? I'm as much as anybody. Safety is the number one thing. Oh, but sitting in my seat is I also have to look that while Middleburg is a community within the county, is are we doing something different in Middleburg than we would do elsewhere in the county? And and that's I know that you all are not asking for anything, you know, to move mountains, even though we're using blasting, we could move. That's my only joke. Oh, yeah.

Bridge Littleton: He's been waiting months to use it.

Mike Atiger: Yeah, I can assure you, I've not been waiting months for that. But with that is it's certainly stuff that we can research and circle back with Mr. Davis on. Again, I'm not here to tell you all what you want to hear sometimes. And sitting in this seat, I have to tell you all what you need to hear. Do I think that it's unreasonable to have a shorter notification window? Me, as a new person, I don't think that's unreasonable, especially when you're when you're blasting in a community. It's not blasting an open field somewhere else in western Loudoun. And that information is helpful for me to hear in my position. Oh, and again, I'm not going to try to sell you all a bill of goods. It may not be that, but one thing that I did learn working with Captain Lou Dixon, Captain Travis is a lot easier to say. Captain T. Right. Is the rapport and the relationship that these blasters have with the fire marshal's office is safety is a big concern with them for obvious reasons. And one of those reasons, they know what the rules are. They know what the regulations are much better than I do. And he can speak to that also. But the reality of it is that these folks monitor themselves very well. And if they get something that is close to a threshold or something that they didn't anticipate, we normally don't have to go looking for it because they self-report and that's how it's been explained to me and that makes me feel comfortable sitting in my position that we have these folks that have that rapport with our office. So again, as you know, that's a very simple way of how I look at the stuff. So with that is I will read back through the stuff. I'll work with Travis and I'll circle back with Mr. Davis. If there's no other questions on stuff.

Chris Bernard: I have a question, comment on the safety thing and I get the security piece. You don't want anyone tampering or whatever. Maybe that, you know, two weeks out, you give a window. It's going to happen most likely between these days. Maybe that's an opportunity to remind folks, hey, don't be walking around near there. Don't be

walking your dogs nearby. Don't be flying your drones. Otherwise, there's going to be repercussions. So you could almost flip it around and use it as an opportunity.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, go ahead.

Cindy Pearson: In saying that, I would think if it came from the town office would be the best place for that to come from as a reminder, I know all the people that live in that area don't get our newsletter, though, so I'm not quite sure how that would happen. But that could be one thing. I don't know. But there's got to be a way. But I think if it came from us, just that reminder, you know, it's going to be blasting don't because we do have a few people that I can see out there wandering around.

Danny Davis: And it was a it was a learning lesson, too, for me in making sure that knowing that it is coming ahead, that we help inform the community as well of some of the other noises they're going to hear along with it. One of the biggest questions and concerns we heard is that as soon as the blasting went off, there was then sirens afterwards. Well, there is a pre blast warning siren and then there's a post blast siren to say a completed, all clear. Well, people heard the big boom and then they heard sirens and they thought, oh, my gosh, what blew up? Right. Because if you don't know to expect that. So I think from our side, we can also help inform the community here are the things you will hear around blasting as well. Here's who to call if you have a complaint. [off mike] So I think it is a good a good comment on that that we are happy to help facilitate the communications. It's aside from going door to door, which we can't do every single time, we can find the mechanisms to let people know and also then let them know how to share with their neighbors. Right. Because many of them, they will they will talk with each other. They will share with each other.

Cindy Pearson: And we have a publication person right here that might share that because they do read that, right?

Danny Davis: Right. Absolutely.

Bud Jacobs: The six month window works just fine in a quarry somewhere. But we're talking about blasting in a community. And as I said earlier, a community with a lots of with an older population. And we want to we want to do whatever we can to liberate, alleviate excuse me, the strain on them and also, frankly, the strain on the town offices who has to field all these calls, panicked calls, asking, geez, what's going on? What the hell's going on? So if you can help us with that, it would be very helpful. And it should be clear we're willing to step in and take responsibility for some part of this information [off mic]

Lou Dixon: The one thing that you let everybody know is that there's three different regulation agencies looking at blasting. They have the local, which is us, the fire marshal's office, and you have the state fire marshal's office looking to and then on top of that, ATF. So all three of us work closely together with one another to make sure that they're doing their job correctly and then that they're not going over limits. Your area is unique because of the historical district. So the ground vibrations are lower, the requirements are lower. And so that's you know, we look at those blasting records, the seismograph readings, the records of what they how much explosives they used, how many holes they've drilled, how deep they're going. Because that all makes a big difference in itself of how people feel the vibrations or even the air blast. So.

Bridge Littleton: We appreciate it. And I think, you know, as Danny said and Bud said, we're happy to be that information. The last mile of the information, you know, gap as it gets closer. But it it does put a strain on the community when people just forget. Right. I mean, you know, you could tell me tomorrow, I've got to do something in October. Well, that ain't happening, you know? And so but we really appreciate you all coming out and, you know, listen to the feedback and the concerns. And from our perspective, safety is first, too. And I think Chris brings up a really good point, is notifying, you know, you've got two types of people, you got good people and you got nefarious actors you're never going to protect against nefarious actors. They're going to do what they're going to do. Right. And, you know, it's absolutely on that side of the town. But the good people. Right. It actually is. You know, there's a safety factor for them not knowing when it's happening because they want to do the right thing, but, you know, get caught in, in and whatnot. So anyway, however, we can figure to get that gap closer, that would be great. We really, really again, we really appreciate you guys coming back out.

Lou Dixon: We can take a look at that for you.

Bridge Littleton: Yep. Okay. Thank you. Cool. Anybody else have any other questions? Thank you. Congratulations.
[multiple speakers]

Danny Davis: He's been gone a while is Linda Hale, most recently. Actually. Chief Keith Brower was fire marshal before he became system chief. Then Linda Hale was fire marshal for eight or ten years. He's been gone a while. I think he was gone before I started at the county or soon thereafter. Mr. Mayor, we were also going to talk about noise of other loud construction noise and potential.

Bridge Littleton: Yes.

Danny Davis: Would you like me to take that or do you want.

Bridge Littleton: Let me just do it real quick. So, you know, with Salamanders construction and then with other construction is going to be going on potentially or whatever. There's there's our town ordinance right now says that on weekdays, they can start at seven on Saturday and start at seven. And on Sunday they have to start at eight. Especially in federal towers. A lot of folks have complained that a 7 a.m. start on Saturday is too early. And they would even argue 7 a.m. on weekdays is too early. But, you know, think about it. You take out 5 hours. That's a whole nother workday. So is there any appetite to discuss taking Saturday and making it eight like we do on Sunday? [off mic]

Danny Davis: I would. I would suggest that we.

Bridge Littleton: You guys take it back. Work it, bring it back.

Danny Davis: And then. And then. And then the other item was ensuring that our penalties and violations were sufficient to actually deter people from not disobeying the the ordinances. So we will I will look at that with Mr. Crim as well. And we can should be able to bring you something back at the next meeting.

Bridge Littleton: I recommend flogging.

Danny Davis: I'll see if that. See if you have the enabling legislation under the Dillon Rule.

Bridge Littleton: We'll talk to our state senator. We'll get that done. Ok. Yeah. No. Next item. Council approval. Appropriation, Ordinance and budget adoption. Everybody ready for this? You better be.

J. Kevin Daly: I move.

Bridge Littleton: So I guess let me just ask the question. I mean, we've been through it multiple times. Does anybody have any last feedback or input for Danny, Tina, Rhonda or the rest of the town? I mean, I really appreciate you guys did a lot of hard work. And this is, you know, I think we're in a really good. Yes, I think we're in a good spot. All right. Would anyone like to make a motion?

Peter Leonard Morgan: I move that the town council approve an ordinance to approve the budget, a firm tax rates and make appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 2023.

J. Kevin Daly: Second.

Danny Davis: Any discussion.

Rhonda North: Mr. Mayor, we need a roll call.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, I got you. Thank you. I cannot believe we're actually talking about authorizing something that goes till June of 23. Time is flying, Ok. Rhonda, do you want to call the roll?

Rhonda North: Vice Mayor Leonard Morgan.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Bernard.

Chris Bernard: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Daly.

J. Kevin Daly: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Jacobs.

Bud Jacobs: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Kirk.

Darlene Kirk: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Pearson.

Cindy Pearson: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: All right, it passes. All right. Now the ordinance on water and sewer fees. Thank God we're not in Purcellville. [off mic]

Darlene Kirk: Good one. That is true.

Bridge Littleton: Real quickly, though. Yeah. Well, anybody have any other feedback or input on the utilities? I said this last time, but I really want to say it again. Really great work. Everybody on the town office that inflation's 8% and we are only having to raise our rates by what we plan, which was three. I mean, that is really, really impressive that we've kept everything running smoothly and doing a good job. That is not the case in some other towns. Purcellville. But any other questions? All right, Mr. Leonard Morgan.

Peter Leonard Morgan: I move that the town council approve an ordinance to amend the schedule of water, use water user fees and charges.

Darlene Kirk: Second.

Bridge Littleton: Roll Call Vote Please.

Rhonda North: Vice Mayor Leonard Morgan.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Bernard.

Chris Bernard: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Daly.

J. Kevin Daly: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Jacobs.

Bud Jacobs: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Kirk.

Darlene Kirk: Aye.

Rhonda North: Council Member Pearson.

Cindy Pearson: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Ok. Next item is we have a couple of discussion items. No, no, no, no. I just want to do that for them to get out of here. [off mic] Oh, yeah. Sorry about that. So you guys just wanna hit those real quick?

Danny Davis: Briefly. Pinckney Street was completed. There will need to be just one or two minor touch ups. That is with the riser for the sewer manhole. It's just not in stock. We went to get it a few weeks ago and as all things go. But we'll get that taken care of hopefully when the contractor comes back to do Chin Court. And that will be approximately mid-July when they come to do that. You see the update here on the wayfinding project. That sign installations are scheduled to begin in mid-June and should be completed by June 30th. That's still our target date and. [off mic] And it's. Oh 22. It is, yes. And I would just ask again this more for a PSA than it is for council that these folks doing the installations are going to be at street corners, you know, with multiple areas. And so just just use caution when when they're working, they have to follow all safety and.

Bridge Littleton: Put that in the town newsletter. [off mic]

Will Moore: Yes. We're going to collect all the all the scrap metal will be taken to the yards. We will disassemble and keep the sign plates and then we'll dispose of the old post and things that aren't reusable. But there'll be some things actually that are probably reusable for us. Good stock materials to have. So in there, working really closely with us, the contractor. Yes.

Bridge Littleton: I think that could be a really cool fundraising thing for the charter school or something like that. You know, people can bid on their street name or the health center fund, right? Exactly.

Will Moore: I've already tasked Ali with taking care of that. And we need a minimum of \$100 per sign. And if she falls short on that, it comes out of her budget.

Bridge Littleton: All in favor.

Everyone: Aye. [laughter]

Bridge Littleton: All right. The first nay vote of the year. All right.

Rhonda North: As a reminder, we do have an ordinance on disposal of town property, so we need to make sure we follow that.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. Danny Ok. Yes. Darlene.

Darlene Kirk: [off mic]

Rhonda North: I'm fine, thank you.

J. Kevin Daly: Is she looking pale?

Cindy Pearson: No. She's got color. She's good.

Bridge Littleton: [inaudible]. I've been seeing a whiskey bottle tip up every now and then. Was there any other project update or is that it?

Danny Davis: That's it. Unless there were any follow up questions on the water tower project.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. Let's see here. We've got recommendation town. We did the right. Hold on. Oh, that noise. I'm sorry. Right. Done that one. Ok. Next one is discussion of visitor counter and public wi fi.

Danny Davis: So, Mr. Mayor and council members, this is a topic that's come up for discussion actually pre-COVID and then got delayed due to the pandemic regained attention as our economy has increased coming out of the pandemic and has been a topic of discussion with EDAC. Interest in understanding how many visitors we actually have coming into town, how many folks we have on the sidewalks on a weekend, on a weeknight. Do our events draw in as many people as we're expecting? Are they successful in our efforts there? And so the idea of trying to develop additional data points that we could use for understanding the impacts positive and potentially negative of certain activities throughout the town. Some of that can come on a broad scale basis where we look at revenues. Some of that can come from anecdotal evidence from retailers. But the discussion was also to try to see are there ways to potentially gather more discrete points of data? Also, as of note, this was a portion of the conversation about the balancing of visitor activity in town and community quality of life and trying to get some some additional data to understand what how many people are we really seeing in town on weekends and other other things like that? So one of the vendors that we had been looking at has a fairly unique or relatively proprietary system where they use video feed to identify objects. And to be clear, this is not facial recognition or any of that type of technology, but it's programmed to recognize objects such as a bicycle, a pedestrian, a person, a stroller, a vehicle, even a bag on someone's back or that they might be carrying. And it would use the video to identify those objects. The video itself would not be viewed by anybody. It's all artificial intelligence. It would not be retained or stored. It would be the object counted, and then the video immediately deleted. This would entail putting these devices as well as some infrastructure on our certain of our streetlights where we have elevation and power. And then it would be on two or three lights within the town. So the opportunity to to try to gather this information in addition to this and kind of separate discussion, but but one that came up as we were talking through this is as we're putting or considering this infrastructure, it also is the, let's say, 75% of the way there to be able to provide potentially provide wi fi, public wi fi in the core downtown for visitors or people to be able to use who may not have cellular data or they might be using a laptop or other type device that doesn't have a cellular connection. And so there are two separate discussions, but they are kind of related because the infrastructure is generally pretty much the same. It is a potential just add on if council has an interest in pursuing that. So I know that there's been questions and concerns why do we need this or do we need this? Is this the right mechanism to capture this information? Is there concerns about privacy and security? So we wanted to bring this to you. Be happy to answer questions or have a dialog to see if this is of interest for the council. And if so, then we can proceed towards the next steps of finalizing contract details. If it's not, we can talk about other means or ideas we might have.

Bridge Littleton: Input.

J. Kevin Daly: How does the system differentiate between visitors and residents?

Danny Davis: It does not. It only captures a number of people. So we would be able to generally create a baseline of understanding. Again, not being able to differentiate, do I live in town or outside of town? But we create a general baseline of how many people do we see on a Monday at 10 a.m.? Right. And then what do we see at Monday at a 5 p.m. and a Monday where it's raining and a Monday where it's beautiful?

Cindy Pearson: [off mic]

Danny Davis: If you just keep going back and forth.

Peter Leonard Morgan: So what is the plan to do with these numbers? I'm just curious what exactly is going to you get all these numbers? Okay. There's 10,000 people on a weekend.

Danny Davis: Sure. Yeah, absolutely. So there's a couple of different opportunities there. One is for events specifically so we can be able to say Art in the Burg. We had 2000 people at this event because we really never know. Right? We make guesses and we make assumptions. But being able to use that then to help us as we prepare for additional events to understand potential crowds, potential amenities or infrastructure we might need around that. It's also to be able to see how we can share this with businesses, to give them intelligence, to be more successful in their job, in their efforts as businesses here in town. And maybe that's understand that either for their side to know when to expect the busiest travel or from the town side, when do we need to focus our marketing, our efforts and our our attraction to visitors so that we can help in those slower times? I mean, anecdotally, we know some of those, but also to be able to put numbers behind that. And then additionally, I think as we if and if we're approached by potential businesses looking to locate here who say, well, why would I come to Middleburg? Right. We can show you general receipts of here's kind of retail sales, but that's even skewed a degree here's meals but you know there's but be able to say you know on a given weekend we have 5000 people coming through town that walk that are passing by this corner or that corner and. You know, so being able to use this and then also pair it up with other data we might get from economic development Visit Loudoun folks like that.

Chris Bernard: There's another component, which is as we're looking at some of these long range planning ideas, like redeveloping West Federal or these kind of broader conversation of is Middleburg too busy, right? Or we're looking at adding through annexation. Understanding what the levels are now and how they're spread throughout the week or spread throughout the hours of the day. I think it'd be very useful.

Bridge Littleton: So I guess. I mean, so. Other than what you just said. I don't know what the value of the data is from an economic development perspective. You can't tie it to sales, you can't tie it to revenue, you can't tie it to average order. You can't tie it to you know, how many people have gone in and out of the same shop multiple times? You can't tie it to how many those people are residents versus visitors versus workers. You have no idea what that means. One weekend to the next. It's a beautiful weekend. We had 10,000 people in town last week and we had 8000 people. We had 2000 more visitors, no, that could have been the residents out and about. It'll actually could give you the wrong information. So, I mean, other than what you're saying, right. What's the general flow on the streets? I get all that. I don't see how it how it tells you anything different about relevant to a specific business.

Danny Davis: If I said a specific business, I apologize.

Bridge Littleton: You said it would be helpful to attract businesses here because they're going to have all this data to know how much you know.

Chris Bernard: But certain businesses will only put a business in a certain place if they look at the VDOT records and they are counting certain vehicles per day. This is a very similar thing.

Bridge Littleton: Do we have that problem?

Chris Bernard: No, but it's a data point. And if someone comes to us tomorrow and we want to start collecting the data becomes more valuable in the year over year.

Bridge Littleton: I think Ok get that and I'm a data guy. I got to make I want to make sure that we're not overselling what it actually is. Right. I mean, let's not position it as you know, it's going to drive revenue. It's going to drive more sales to businesses. It's a great tool for your business to be more. It's going to be how we direct marketing. We don't know that at all. So I mean, to your point, what we know it will do is it will give us traffic and volume flows on the

street. But what's the component of that? What's the wealth of that? How many of those are older, younger residents, non-residents staying for a wedding? Not, you know. I just want to make sure that we don't think it's a lot more than at least initially than what it.

Chris Bernard: When you're looking at some of the aggregate data, it can be helpful, I think when Danny was talking about marketing, you're looking at opportunities or gaps, right? So if you're looking at your data and it says, man, we're seeing, you know, 20% less people on Tuesdays than we see any other day of the week. Right. There's an opportunity there to market or create events or come up with something on Tuesday. So there are ways that it can be used. Now, every business is going to use it differently, but giving them a number of data points. How many strollers are going through town this month compared to another month is something that for my business would be huge. So don't short sell it.

Bud Jacobs: So you can have like a toy store.

Bridge Littleton: Oh I see where this is all going now. Oh, okay. No, no. I mean, I understand that. Right. But again, I mean, you want to make sure that the data you don't oversell what it is that it's going to tell you all these great things because it can be misleading, right? It can. What you're counting is if you're counting tops of heads. That in and of itself does, you know, can mean and different times of year. It could be spot on to what you think it means. And another time of year is totally different.

Danny Davis: And I do think the, you know, month to month, quarter to quarter and really year to year trends is where you really start to get the value of this. So day. Day one, I'm not going to be able to really use the data too much.

Chris Bernard: Seeing we saw 8000 people in a week is one thing. It's when you go to the next year and you say, wow, we saw 14,000 people like what's going on there? And you just keep extrapolating that. And I think it'll also count cars.

Danny Davis: Yes.

Cindy Pearson: What do other towns, community cities use for this purpose? Is there other things or is this.

Danny Davis: I don't know. I mean, I think you'll find some shopping centers that use they may use laser counters. Right. So you walk in the door and you trip it and you walk out and you trip it again. And so you work through that. Most towns that at least I'm aware of, they're using general VDOT count numbers for vehicles or they're using best guess or general information. But but generally, I don't think you're seeing this detailed of data gathering that I'm aware of, at least on a very broad scale. I know this this firm, for example, they they've deployed it out in Long Beach, California, and they've had it there for five or six years. And, you know, they can show you the trends over a period of time of how things are going in that particular downtown core.

Bridge Littleton: But they're not showing you why. That's the key. The key is why are we doing this?

Danny Davis: But that's for us to be able to.

Bridge Littleton: And that's the business case you need to make.

Danny Davis: But that's.

Chris Bernard: Try to think of? No, I'm just trying to think of the best way to frame it first thing. So I told Danny when we started this, right, we need to have a plan for how we're going to deliver this information and make it so that it's very usable by the businesses. And then again, I think the biggest factor that we need to look at is, is all this long range planning and understanding, like what really? And when people say, oh, man, I go to Safeway and it's so busy or I can't walk on the sidewalks. That's so anecdotal because I never find that problem. So being able to look at actionable data and make decisions and then the follow up to that is what Cindy asked about other towns. There's not a lot of other towns that are making the marketing investment that we are as a whole. Right. Most towns will have an economic development or

whatever, but the businesses do their own marketing. We've stepped in and taken on this kind of promoting the town situation and being able to understand some kind of ROI on that is important if we're going to keep allocating those dollars.

Cindy Pearson: I just say to that that, yes, I remember they've been looking for this kind of information for a long time. So to have something. Like this that could possibly work now, it's not going to get it you know, tomorrow you won't get the right. It probably is with economic developments been looking for.

Chris Bernard: And it's all in it's a relatively low cost. And then you think about adding what other small towns are giving a wi fi bubble. You know, there's there are some interesting perks to it.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. Sorry. Real quick. So a couple of things. So I understand the potential. Right. But I think the work has to be done to tie the potential to the result. Right. I mean, it certainly is. Oh, it could. It could. It could. Okay. And then there has to be the commitment that if it doesn't deliver, you get rid of it. So one of the things that for me is the most concerning is the privacy piece. That is a huge, huge, huge concern because this is not a town that spies on people. Not saying we're spying on people, but. Right. You walk in certain environments and you see cameras everywhere looking at you and you feel intruded upon. You know, I don't want people to have that feeling.

Chris Bernard: I forgot that they were in Long Beach. I will be in Long Beach in a couple of weeks. I'm going to I'm going to try to take a picture. To see really what they look like.

Bridge Littleton: I mean, you know, so like, you know, when I was in London last week, they had CCTV everywhere. And you feel you feel like you're waiting for a terrorist event to happen. You know, it just doesn't feel, you know? They don't know that that's what we're using it for. They think we're using it because we're either monitoring everybody because we have heightened security concerns or they don't see it at all.

Cindy Pearson: Well, that's my question what do they look like.

Bridge Littleton: But it's a camera, it's a lens. It's got to see, you know, and you've got to be able to move it. So anyway, I just you know, that's and then the other thing to it on the privacy piece is, you know, do we want to be the town that's known as watching? You know, do we want to be that antiseptic? It's and I mean, I might be going too much out of it, right? I mean, it just like I said, it just doesn't feel like.

Danny Davis: But so I think we can change and control that narrative we're the town that's counting, we're trying to understand how many people we have coming into town because we have so many downtown core events, right? We do.

Bridge Littleton: Are you are you going to put that in the marketing? I mean is that I mean, that's that has to be part of market. I'm not talking about the residents. I'm talking about the visitors. Don't mind the cameras. We're not really watching you.

Cindy Pearson: Well, actually, you should put it somewhere on the website or somewhere. Explain why it's there.

Bridge Littleton: No, I get that. But I mean, to your point about it's an education of people, well, then that has to be constant because this is an ever present thing all the time, for years and years and years and years, years to come. So again, you know, I might be blowing too much up about this, but.

Chris Bernard: That's why we talk about things.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, it's just it's one of those things that like when like I said, when I was in London, every damn corner. And I just I get it. It's London. They've had terrorist attacks and all that kind of stuff. I get I totally get it. But it just, you know, it was like getting nice, like, you know, it's nice to not feel like you're watched. And then the last piece to it, too, Danny and I talked about this is yeah, everybody says what they're gonna do with the data. Oh, we're never going to take anybody's data. Oh, we're never going to capture your face. Name for me, a tech company who hadn't got busted

doing that. So let's be ready that you know it they could do, you know. And it's not about the people today. It's about the people ten years from now, make make sure that how do we if that happens, we've insulated ourselves and protected ourselves and, you know, all that kind of stuff. So, I mean, not that we're going to be a congressional hearing or whatever, but. And what is the cost?

Peter Leonard Morgan: I wonder if I may say, oh, I missed it. Yeah, it's like I think it's quite a lot of money still 24,000 over three years. I'm a big fan of the wi fi. I don't think I would support this right now for various reasons. Yeah.

Bridge Littleton: Well, no. I mean, I think we need to think about it, which if you guys could figure out a way to tie that data with the businesses data in terms of how many people they had in the store, how many sales they generated.

Danny Davis: But people aren't capturing that data.

Bridge Littleton: No, they are.

Danny Davis: A few are. The businesses, there are very few. They will obviously they can give transaction reports.

Bridge Littleton: That's what I'm talking about.

Danny Davis: But that doesn't mean how many people are in the store.

Chris Bernard: [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: I mean, it is a request that you go to the businesses and ask them to give you some data they're not currently giving you. Right. And maybe there's a third party independent who helps put the three pieces together. But I mean, if you had this head count data, the number of transactions and total sales per day, now you can actually start to correlate things, you know, with only all you've got is the head count. You're not correlating it to anything. That would actually be come out with something that's actionable and really useful. Right. Does head count always correlate to number of sales and total revenue?

Chris Bernard: Oh, man, we've noticed. Like we could tell the business. We've noticed that there is a lot of people walking around town from 5 to 7:00 pm maybe don't close at 5. I mean, there there are things you can do without making that tie in. And I think there are things just like we were talking about with the unintended consequences of the development. There are things that we haven't thought of that we're going to learn just by looking at this. If we were to look at it.

Bridge Littleton: The only other comment I had about the about the wi fi. So you need to be very, very careful about that. If you're going to start delivering a service as you as a free utility, it better damn well work and it better not be something that's crappy because all you're going to get is people who are angry about it, right? Damn wi fi Middleburg never work. So I go ten feet and it drops. I can't get connections. My email don't. It turns into a problem, not a benefit. [off mic] But other than that, it's great. So is everybody comfortable with those? With Danny and Chris and others keep digging it and. [off mic] We don't need AJ anymore. [off mic] Ok next item here is. Oh, the donation policy. Yep. [off mic] Who's doing it? Who's briefing this?

Danny Davis: This is Rhonda.

Bridge Littleton: Rhonda, you are up, madam.

Rhonda North: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So the Public Outreach Committee, which consists of Vice Mayor Leonard Morgan, Council Member Miller, Town Manager Davis and I have been working on developing a policy and a brochure that would go along with it if the council is interested in pursuing it. What the committee is recommending is that there be three levels of donation, a platinum level of \$5000, a gold level of \$1000, and a silver level of \$500. The town would accept the donations and use the money towards the purchase of amenities associated with the town hall projects

specifically, mostly the park itself. The policy would identify who we would accept donations from. The donations would be recognized in the form of a consolidated plaque that would give the donor's name, or, if it was in memoriam, that person's name. And then the level of donation silver, gold, platinum. And then there are also other things in the policy that talk about you don't have naming rights if you if you make a donation, who can accept the donations and an exception that would allow the council, if somebody came with something specific that they wanted to donate either an amenity or cash to purchase, that the council could make an exception because the brochure kind of identifies different items that your money would be used towards purchasing. So if you're a platinum donor, that money would go towards the outdoor drinking fountains with the pet bowls, the flagpoles or the weather vanes. If you're a gold level, it'd be go towards the park benches, the picnic tables, trees and bushes. And if you're a silver level donor, it would go towards rocking chairs, the decorative brick entry and the outdoor refuse containers. So if somebody had something else that they thought of that was outside of this realm, then the council could consider those as well. So that's kind of it in a nutshell.

Darlene Kirk: [off mic]

Rhonda North: It's fine if that's what the council would like to do.

Darlene Kirk: [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Well, remember, Darlene, real quickly, it's not wrong.

Darlene Kirk: No, I didn't say it wrong.

Bridge Littleton: You did.

Darlene Kirk: I didn't mean too.

Bridge Littleton: Ok. We asked. No, no, hold on. We asked Rhonda and members of council to come actually and do this. We unanimously asked them to do this. So if we, at the end of the day, don't want to do it, that's fine. But, you know, nobody did anything wrong. It's a good idea. Let's see if it makes sense. [off mic] I understand.

Darlene Kirk: Because they do exactly what we asked them to do and do a great job of it.

Bud Jacobs: Well, I think it's a good idea to have a donation policy in place. I'm not certain, given what Darlene just said, that it's a good idea to advertise it very much. I think if somebody wants to come to us and make a donation, fine, we can pull out our handy dandy brochure and give it to them. But I don't think it's. I guess the word I would use is seemly to be appearing to go out and soliciting funding for a project that we have absolutely filled everybody from soup to nuts we've got funded financially. Having the policy in place. Great idea.

Rhonda North: Yeah, I agree with you. I mean, we have had I've been approached by folks we all know we've lost a number of prominent citizens within the last ten months. And I've been approached by at least one family member who wanted to donate a tree in her mother's honor. And so I told her we were looking at the possibility of accepting donations, and I would get back with her. But I think you're right. I don't think we need to do a hard sell. I think we just put it on the website for those folks who are interested. Here's the regulations, the policies, if you want to do it and just let them come to us as opposed to doing a hard sell.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, no, I agree. I think you, I think the idea of having a plaque that's in the hall that, you know, it's like you go to you go to any museum, you go to any place like that. They have that. These are our benefactors. We think of so much, all that kind of stuff. So I know exactly who you're talking about in memory of, you know someone who used to be on council. Exactly right. And they want to memorialize their loved ones. You know, that's that's I understand what they're trying to do.

Peter Leonard Morgan: So as part of the mini committee, I think I totally take Darlene's point because I felt the same way. And the important thing is if it's message that it is not to raise. I don't see it as being to raise funds to help to pay for it. It's more about people giving people the opportunity to have an involvement, you know, to be a little bit of a part of it and have some kind of recognition that [off mic] Yes. Yes, exactly. Correct. So they've got a record. So they've got an involvement there.

Rhonda North: Just an idea of what their money is going towards at each level so they can decide which what level.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. I don't think you need to put that in. Yeah. I don't think there needs to be a list of trinkets at each level that what it is, you know, I mean the way it works in most things is, hey, you know, it's 0 to 500 is this level 500 to 1000 this level. And it's, you know, everything I've ever given money to, it's never been and that's going to go towards a bench or a tree or that's going to go towards it. Now, to your point, people do the absolute the reverse, right? They come along and they say, I want to donate a tree in my mother's honor. That's a different thing. But establishing a program, yeah, I think not. Because you also. You don't want to handcuff yourself. You know, if someone comes along and says, hey, I'm going to give \$1,000, please buy a bench in honor of my mother. You can't you don't want to say, well, that's not on the \$1,000 list. That that's off putting for people who want to. And I really think it's going to be about most people who want to do something. It's going to be about memorializing somebody who served the town in a unique capacity. So. And I think that is special. Yeah.

Darlene Kirk: But couldn't these donations be better used by one of our 501c3s? I mean, the Health Center Advisory Board could use money to donate. I don't think the town should be doing this. I'm sorry. I just. That's my [inaudible]

Rhonda North: I mean, the committee did have that discussion, and I think they felt like, you know, people were putting this money towards something in the park and that they didn't feel it was proper for the town to then take their money and donate it somewhere else. You know, they can do that themselves if that's where they wanted it to go. And so the committee was reluctant to to recommend the money go elsewhere because they didn't feel like they should be taking people's donations and then making a donation elsewhere with it.

Cindy Pearson: And I kind of I agree with Bridge not having the list that this much buys, whatever the bench or whatever. But then you could have it would go towards a bench or a tree or a rocking chair or whatever. They may just have to have a list of the amenities, just not under each dollar item because as we know, that person's mother, you know, or other ones want to do something. So and I think it is good to have because we've had donations given to the town before, they just kind of have gone in a pot because there wasn't any other real thing for them to be used for. So I think that's a good idea.

Darlene Kirk: Why can't we have, like, a plaque in honor of those who served before us? As you come in, and if you want to list everybody. But how far back do you want to go? Do you want to go back to Mr. McMillan? You know, so I just. I just seems like we're looking for money. I know it's not. And you've written it very well because I read it, but.

Bridge Littleton: You know, I get it Darlene. It's, you know, I mean, it is what it is, right? People want to donate in ways they want. I mean, I give to certain causes and other ones I don't. So anyway. Okay. Yeah.

Chris Bernard: So I'm generally opposed to the idea in whole and I'm probably blowing it out of proportion. But what I see is a new town hall and things got like it feels like sponsorships. It's like there's little sponsorships everywhere for whatever people want to do. And I get that we've restricted it. There are a lot of places that do something similar. Colleges, for example, where if people make a donations in someone's honor, they get a brick with their name printed on it, and it's part of the sidewalk. Every time someone makes a donation, you pop out one of the plain bricks and you put in a name. It's very low impact. You hardly see it, but it's kind of cool and it's part of the building forever. Maybe something more uniform like that? I don't know. I just. I don't like the optics of it.

Bridge Littleton: That's fine. You know, nothing wrong with that. Yeah.

Rhonda North: So I am familiar with the brick program. When I was the executive director of the Downtown Business Association in Front Royal, we had a brick program. We did that. They're great when they're new, but they do have to be maintained. They have to be power washed on a regular basis because lots of dirt gets in those little grooves. So it is that those bricks, while they are nice and I have a brick with my name on it too down there they are maintenance heavy.

Bridge Littleton: I think we can manage that. I think we can manage washing the bricks.

Chris Bernard: Yeah. And it's all contained in one spot. Yeah.

Bridge Littleton: So I tell you what, let's do this. You guys have got some feedback, you know, take another look at it. And the next next time we come up, we'll decide what we want to do. All right. Thank you. All right. What is left? Nope. Closed session. Discussion item. I don't think there is any.

Cindy Pearson: I just want to say that I think Art in the Burg was the bomb. It was hot as Hades. I didn't stay a long time because you just literally melted. But people were there. The artists did a wonderful job. Mary Ann and all the people who made it happen. I tell you, I would. I really wanted to see her at the end of the day to see if she was still walking because it was so hot but that was really, really awesome. Thank you to all.

J. Kevin Daly: I want to follow up on that and AJ will too. A little bit later, we had I wouldn't call it an incident, but a young lady was dehydrated and collapsed. And our officer, Jamie, brand new on the force, completely calm. The situation didn't come into a big crisis. We had EMT show up. They took the they started an IV and took young lady to Stone Ridge. She's doing fine now if I understand. But the point the great point was Jamie a new guy just by his demeanor and calmness, kept everything flowing well. So kudos to him.

Cindy Pearson: Can I add to that? I did get to meet him and he was at the front gate. He has a great personality for the people in this town. He can talk and believe me, we all know how people like to talk and they were just bending his ear and he was so good with it so, you know, he's in a good spot. [off mic]

Darlene Kirk: I wanted to mention your wife who is collecting toys for children who have been displaced. And I think that's a really good thing to do.

Chris Bernard: I'll deflect that back over to Kevin because it's really Emmanuel Episcopal Church that's running the program. We're just we're an avenue if people want to get stuff, it's a place to do it.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. Any of the discussion items?

Danny Davis: Did you want to do Hillsboro Speed limit stuff?

Bridge Littleton: We can do that another time. Let's get more details on it. Any other discussion items? Ok. Closed session. This should be quick. [off mic] Let me read the motion.

Peter Leonard Morgan: I move the council go into closed session as authorized under section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for the discussion or consideration of the potential sale of town and property located within the town limits, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating position of the public body as allowed under subsection A3. I further move that the Council thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

Darlene Kirk: Second.

Bridge Littleton: All those in favor say aye.

Everyone: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: All right. We're in closed session. [closed session] I ask that the council certify the best of each member's knowledge of only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and two only such public business matters, as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened, were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting. I would like to remind those present for the closed session that any discussion that occurred within it should be treated as confidential. Oh, my God.

Chris Bernard: Yes.

Bud Jacobs: Yes.

Danny Davis: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Yes.

Peter Leonard Morgan: Yes.

Cindy Pearson: Yes.

J. Kevin Daly: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Meeting adjourned.