



MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 8, 2023



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 Philip M. Miller
Councilmember Cindy C. Pearson

STAFF: Danny Davis, Town Manager
Martin Crim, Town Attorney
Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk
William M. Moore, Deputy Town Manager
Tina Staples, Town Treasurer/Director of Finance
Shaun Jones, Chief of Police
Mark Putnam, Lieutenant

ABSENT: Councilmember C. Darlene Kirk

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, June 8, 2023 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.

Public Comment

Megan Gallagher, 214 E. Marshall Street, asked that the Council consider adopting a resolution opposing the Loudoun County Park & Recreation Department's application for a special use permit to build an urban sports complex for the single sport of cricket in the rural Mickie Gordon Memorial Park. She expressed concerns about the traffic, including the construction of turn lanes, that would be created on Route 50 as a result; the proposed 1,000-foot light towers that would operate until 11:00 p.m. from March to November; and, the transformation of a low-key, vintage park into a major cricket facility. Ms. Gallagher noted that less than 5% of the park's amenities would remain, with everything being devoted to the sport of cricket. She reminded Council of the value of this existing baseball diamond to the African American community and opined that the proposed redevelopment was in conflict with the County's Comprehensive Plan. Ms. Gallagher advised that the cricket fields would serve a narrow constituency, most of whom lived thirty minutes away on the eastern edge of Loudoun County. She acknowledged that the County cancelled the June 27th public hearing and now planned to hold a community meeting on the subject in the Fall. Ms. Gallagher noted that she was not familiar with how the Council related to the County and advised that if there was a place for it to make a statement, the citizens in the Council Chambers were in support of it.

Kristin Noggle, 3 Stonewall Court, noted that she took her dogs to the Mickie Gordon Park daily. She advised that the lights were already on until 9:00 p.m. at night and opined that it would be terrible if the proposed lights, which would be closer to the road, were installed. Ms. Noggle suggested the installation of turn lanes at this location on Route 50 was a non-starter.

Kathyjo Shea, 21854 Foxcroft Road, agreed with Ms. Gallagher.

Chris Gore, 1 Piedmont Drive, appeared before Council representing Mr. Curtis who lives at 1 East Marshall Street. He advised that Mr. Curtis asked where people would play ball if the Mickie Gordon Park were redeveloped. Mr. Gore echoed Mr. Curtis' concerns.

Jilann Brunett, 21854 Foxcroft Road, agreed with Ms. Gallagher. She noted that the Town had a dark sky ordinance and encouraged that it be reviewed as a part of this discussion.

Joan Ramsey, 23 Chinn Lane, advised that she was opposed to everything. She opined that children should be allowed to play at the Mickie Gordon Park.

Discussion Items

Proposed Development of Mickie Gordon Park

Mayor Littleton reported that he had heard a large number of concerns expressed by the community about the proposed redevelopment of the Mickie Gordon Park. He noted its history of being built to provide for the African American community during segregation and advised that it served the local community well. Mr. Littleton reported that he met with County Board of Supervisors Chair Phyllis Randall last week to discuss this and noted that she was unaware of the proposal; although, he acknowledged that it was not unusual for the County Board to be unaware of things such as this until they got closer to an approval. He noted that he explained to her the park's history and how it served the community. Mr. Littleton further noted that he stressed that the concerns were not a comment on the need for a cricket facility – but rather were about it being the wrong location. He further noted that he explained to her that the district in which Middleburg was located already had thirty less acres of park facilities than was recommended in the County Comprehensive Plan and advised it did not serve the community to take away the one it did have and to repurpose it for something that would not be used by the local community. Mr. Littleton advised that Chair Randall was very appreciative of being brought up to speed, agreed the community had legitimate concerns, and agreed that more attention needed to be focused on it.

Mayor Littleton reported that he, Town Manager Davis, and Deputy Town Manager Moore had a telephone meeting earlier in the day with Steve Torpy, the County's Director Parks & Recreation. He advised that after hearing their concerns, Mr. Torpy recognized the need to look at this further; agreed that finding alternative locations should be on the table; and, committed to hearing public feedback and looking at alternative locations. He further reported that Mr. Torpy agreed to delay the public hearing on the special use permit until the Fall and, in the meantime, to hold a public meeting in Middleburg to accept feedback on their proposal. Mr. Littleton advised that the Town would share the information on the public meeting once it was scheduled. He reiterated that this was not a case of opposition to cricket, but rather was about the need to identify the right location for a facility. Mr. Littleton thanked the community for their input; however, he noted that this was not over. He opined that it was, however, headed in the right direction. Mr. Littleton questioned whether the Council wanted to send a letter or a resolution to the Parks & Recreation Department, County Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors on this matter.

Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan noted that he was a cricket player and agreed the Mickie Gordon Park was the wrong location for such a facility. He advised that it was fantastic to see the public input on the proposal and noted the need to continue the community activism. Mr. Leonard-Morgan advised that he would attend the County's public hearing on it.

Councilmember Daly advised that he did not mind sharing the existing cricket field; however, he opined that the two existing small courts at the Mickie Gordon Park were plenty. He opposed turning the park over for this purpose.

Councilmember Pearson suggested the Council send a resolution opposing the proposal to the County. She opined that the new parks that have been developed in Loudoun County were "out of control" and noted that they used every inch of available space. Ms. Pearson advised that Route 50 could not handle the traffic this redevelopment would bring. She reminded Council that this was the location where Officer Tharpe was hit by a car during a Christmas in Middleburg event.

Mayor Littleton suggested a letter, signed by all the members of Council, be sent to the County in the next week or two.

Deputy Town Manager Moore suggested the Council wait until after the County held their public meeting before sending a letter. He noted that information may be learned, which could help further the Council's case by allowing them to take a more informed position. The Council agreed with this suggestion.

Mayor Littleton summarized that once the public input meeting was held by the County Parks & Recreation Department, the Council would use the public comments to add more strength to its letter. He suggested that if any members of the community had input they would like to provide to the Town, they email it. Mr. Littleton reiterated that once the Town knew the date of the County's public meeting, they would share it. He advised that the Council would follow-up on this proposal after the County's meeting. In response to an inquiry from the Council, Mr. Littleton advised that a written history of the park could be found in the recent *Blue Ridge Leader* news article and in Gene Shields' book on the Middleburg environment. Councilmember Pearson noted that it could also be found in the Thomas Balch Library.

Staff Reports

May 2023

Town Clerk North reported that work was continuing on the Town's website refresh project and advised that the concept design was approved. She reported that Civic Plus was in the process of creating new webpages based on the concept design and advised that they would be available for the Town's review in mid-August.

Town Clerk North reminded the Council and public that the deadline for filing to be a mayor or council candidate and to be on the ballot during the November elections was June 20th. She noted that the forms needed to be filed with the Loudoun County General Registrar.

Town Treasurer Staples reported that she anticipated receiving the \$2 million in federal community block grant funding for the Town Hall Project within the next couple of days.

Mayor Littleton noted that the appropriation for the Town Hall Project was passed on March 19, 2022, and that the Town would not receive the money until after June 8, 2023.

Deputy Town Manager Moore reported that work on the Marshall Street Water Tower was progressing. He further reported that information was distributed related to pedestrian safety and that the Town would place additional signage, once it was received, alerting pedestrians that they should not walk in the block between Chinn Lane and Liberty Street. Mr. Moore noted that the contractor recommended people not walk in the block for safety reasons. He advised that the Town was not installing pedestrian detour signs and advised that he would be happy to discuss the concerns about doing so with the members individually.

Mayor Littleton commended the Board of Zoning Appeals on their recent meeting. He acknowledged that this was the first case they had heard since 2008 and advised that he was incredibly impressed with their diligence. Councilmember Pearson agreed.

Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan commended Chief Jones on the new layout for the Police Department's monthly report.

In response to inquiries, Lieutenant Putnam advised that he survived the smokey conditions during the day.

Town Manager Davis reported, on behalf of Economic Development & Community Partnerships Director MacIntyre, that the information on the Fourth of July Celebration was available on the Town's website. He announced that a new restaurant may be locating at 16 East Washington Street; however, they asked that their name not be disclosed yet. Mr. Davis noted that the Middleburg Community Center was rescheduling their activities to next weekend due to the unhealthy air quality from the Canadian wildfires. He reported that Open Late would hold their first concert of the season on June 30th and the Hunt Country Music Festival would also begin on June 30th.

Town Attorney Crim concurred with the Council's comments with regard to how well run the BZA meeting was last week.

Town Hall Project Status Report

Town Clerk North reported that all the sod and most of the landscaping, with the exception of the plantings along the wood fence, had been installed. She noted that the plantings along the fence would be installed once the temporary electric line was removed. She advised that the exterior columns and drywall ceilings were in the process of being installed under the porches. Ms. North noted that the electricians were working to install the light fixtures and electric receptacles inside the building and the plumbers were correcting deficiencies in preparation for their upcoming inspection. She reported that earlier in the day, Comcast installed internet service, as well as the POTS lines, which would now allow for the installation of the fire alarm monitoring system. Ms. North advised that the Site Superintendent, Raymond Pullen, was no longer employed by Cooper Building Services and reminded Council that he was instrumental in advancing the project during his tenure. She noted that Cooper was in the process of hiring a replacement and hoped to have someone on the site on June 12th.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Manager Davis advised that he discussed the need to get cost estimates to extend the last piece of the power to the location of the EV fast charger with Downey & Scott. He noted that they recommended the Town not bring a third-party contractor onto the site until Cooper had turned it over to the Town so a scenario would not be created where they could say the contractor delayed them or caused an issue. Mr. Davis advised that Downey & Scott was seeking cost proposals from electrical firms experienced in EV charging stations and noted that they would be presented to the Council. He advised that as to the rest of the EV charging stations in town, he was looking at alternative providers, as he was getting minimal responses from Blink.

Vice Mayor Leonard-Morgan noted that the DC fast charger was in storage and ready for installation. He advised that the Middleburg Sustainability Committee was working to identify opportunities for the placement of Level 2 chargers around town.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Clerk North confirmed the landscaper was watering the sod and plantings on a daily basis.

Consent Agenda

A. Council Approval – May 25, 2023 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Councilmember Bernard moved, seconded by Councilmember Miller, that Council adopt the consent agenda as proposed.

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Kirk

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

Discussion Items (continued)

Town Water System

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Manager Davis confirmed that Stuart Will, of IES, was making sure the water towers were full. He further confirmed the wells were producing water without issues, despite the lack of rain. Mr. Davis reminded Council that the Marshall Street Water Tower was being drained and taken out of service so it could be repainted; however, it was the smaller of the storage tanks. He advised that the Town had 500,000 gallons of water available when the tanks were full. Mr. Davis reiterated that Mr. Will was making sure the tanks were refilled daily.

Town Manager Davis noted that the Town experienced air bubbles and sediment in the water earlier in the week. He advised that while it was not an ideal time to do so, IES would flush the hydrants beginning on June 11th. Mr. Davis noted that work was underway at Well 4 to clear the underdrains, with a back wash being conducted shortly, which should allow the Town to bring Well 4 back online. He advised Council that notices were sent out on June 7th alerting the public of these items.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Manager Davis advised that the water from the Marshall Street Water Tower went down the culvert along North Madison Street, where it flowed into the creek.

Closed Session

Councilmember Miller moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council go into closed session as authorized under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, for (1) consultation with legal counsel retained by the public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the legal advice of such counsel related to the Town Hall Project contract as allowed under Subsection (A)(8); (2) the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property located within the town limits for a public purpose, as allowed under Subsection (A)(3); and, (3) for the performance review of the Town Manager, as allowed under Subsection (A)(1). Councilmember Miller further moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that the Council thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmember Kirk

(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 7:03 p.m.

APPROVED:

Trowbridge M. Littleton, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk

June 8, 2023 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 meeting to order. First item is Pledge of Allegiance.

All: I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Okay, Next item is Roll Call.

Chris Bernard: Chris Bernard.

Bud Jacobs: Bud Jacobs.

Philip Miller: Philip Miller.

Bridge Littleton: Bridge Littleton.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Peter Leonard-Morgan.

Cindy Pearson: Cindy Pearson.

J. Kevin Daly: John Kevin Daly.

Rhonda North: Rhonda North, Town Clerk.

Will Moore: Will Moore, Deputy Town Manager.

Martin Crim: Martin Crim, Town Attorney.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. Next item is public comment. So any member of the public who wishes to address Town Council, you may do so at this time. You will have three minutes that is yours to do with as you please. Remember, it's not dialog back and forth. It's just three minutes for public comment. And again, no restriction any subject you'd like to speak on. So I believe we have one person signed up.

Rhonda North: Megan Gallagher.

Bridge Littleton: So Ms. Gallagher.

Kim Shelly: If she wants a few more minutes, can she have mine?

Megan Gallagher: No, I don't have a few more minutes. I have a vacation to go on.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, that's been tried before.

Megan Gallagher: Don't start yet. Okay. Hi again. It's Megan Gallagher from 214 East Marshall Street. I swore I didn't think I'd have a reason to come back in two days after we were here last. Here I am. I'm here tonight to ask the town council to take a look at and consider a resolution to oppose Loudoun County Parks and Rec's efforts to secure a Special Use Zoning Permit to build an urban sports complex for a single sport cricket on our rural and low key Mickie Gordon Memorial Park. This plan is so alarming, I can't even figure out which is the worst impact, whether it's the plans for

turning lanes on Route 50 East and West. A clear contradiction, contravention of 50 years of efforts for traffic calming that maintained the integrity of the corridor and our villages, or the plans to install 18, 100 foot lighted towers for three tournament level cricket fields that would operate from March to November up to 11:00 at night. It's hard to imagine this on the doorstep of Middleburg, much less in the rural area that Loudoun County supervisors swore to protect with a dark skies resolution. Then there's the complete transformation of this low key, quaint, kind of quirky vintage park into a cricket complex less than 5% just those tennis courts, the little league field and the recycling center will remain the same. Everything else is dedicated to cricket with new buildings, concrete walkways, paved parking roads off of Route 50. It's shocking. And then Bridge just told us before the meeting started that the designer of it and the proponent at Parks and Rec has never been there. It's amazing. They would wipe out the park's existing baseball diamond, which increasingly has become the focus of an interesting and valued part of African American history in and around the park and Macksville. It's completely incompatible with the Rural Areas Comp Plan and the A2 zoning, and I can't figure out well, now Bridge has told us who got the bright idea of dumping an urban park on a rural one to serve such a narrow Loudoun County constituency that lives 30 minutes away in the eastern edge of the county? This was a natural for the new \$100 million dollar Hanson Park. There's only one cricket field there. Is there room for two more? Save a lot of tax dollars if there was. So it belongs in the transition zone. The County cancelled the June 27th public meeting, Bridge says they're going to do it in the fall, better than August when nobody's here, that they want to have a meet the community. Since every single online comment was negative that should be a fun rodeo. And I just don't. I haven't been in town long enough to know how you all as a Council relate to the county itself. But if there is a place for a clear statement of an, Oh, this serves the whole county, but it's particularly valued locally, I would have all of the gang behind me rally to your support for that and in the public processes. Bingo. Thank you. [applause]

Bridge Littleton: You only missed what you know giving us also the history of Mickie Gordon Park. But that's okay. You had to squeeze it in three minutes. No, I'm just kidding.

Megan Gallagher: [off mic] horrible [off mic].

Bridge Littleton: No, no, no, no, no. It was great. Would anybody else like to address council?

Kristin Noggle: I just concur with everything Megan said.

Bridge Littleton: Name and address on the record.

Kristin Noggle: I concur with everything Megan just said. [off mic]. Oh 3 Stonewall Court Middleburg.

Rhonda North: Your name?

Kristin Noggle: Kristen Noggle. Sorry, Megan got me all excited the other day. [laughter] I tell her I take my dogs to the little baseball park, the unlit one I do that every single day. And the lights already for the cricket field are on till 9:00 or 9:30 at night. I can't imagine living any closer to that. And if the lights were any closer to the road, it would be terrible. So it's just I mean, and the turning lanes on 50 are just a complete nonstarter. There's just no way. So thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you. Would anybody else?

Kathyjo Shea: Kathyjo Shea 21854 Foxcroft Road. I just want to say ditto on Megan's speech.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you.

J. Kevin Daly: You're doing a great job of it.

Chris Gore: Good afternoon. My name is Chris Gore. I live at number 1 Piedmont Street in East Marshall. I'm here mainly to speak in person for one of my neighbors, Mr. Curtis. The young man lives half a block away from me up on East Marshall. He was going to try and get here this evening, and maybe he will. But his only comment he's a young

Black man. And he said, But they can't stop the Mickie Gordon. That's where we all played back ball and that's where I grew up playing ball. And so I just echo his concern and comments about this.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you. Thank you, Chris. Anyone else?

Megan Gallagher: How about a raise of hands of people who support that statement.

Bridge Littleton: Okay.

Megan Gallagher: Anybody else want to raise their hands to support a resolution in opposition? Thank you. [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: The ayes have it. [multiple speakers] All right. [off mic] Yeah. All right.

Jilann Brunett: If that's the condition. Chris. My name is Jilann Brunett. I live at 21854 Foxcroft Road. I also ditto what Megan said, but there is the Town Council several years ago did some kind of a resolution on dark skies and how we support that. I was on Go Green at the time we came forward to the Council. I would encourage that that get reviewed as part of our discussion on whether we are in support or not support. Thank you for your time and you do a good job.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you, Julianne. Anyone else? Oh. Mrs. Ramsey.

Joan Ramsey: I'm Joan Ramsey, 23 Chinn Lane, one of the older members of the community. And I don't know [off mic] for everything. That's all I have to say.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you.

Joan Ramsey: I agree very much that children should play there, too.

Bridge Littleton: That's a great point.

Martin Crim: Mr. Mayor, could we have the microphone moved a little closer to the speakers? We can hear them.

Bridge Littleton: Sure. I couldn't hear it. That's okay. I mean, I know we captured it on tape, but yeah, we'll also move the the Polycom a little closer. Anybody else wish to speak? Going once. Going twice. Okay. We will close the public comment. And I think what I'm going to do is like we did last time, since there are a lot of folks here interested in Mickie Gordon and what's going on, we'll move this part of the agenda up to the front. And so just a couple of real quick updates. And I've spoken to some of you on the street about it. You know, clearly there's a large concern from everybody in our community around Mickie Gordon Park. It's got an unbelievably incredible story and history to when it was built and provided for the African American community during segregation. And it's a unique piece of history that we want to preserve. But I think also it does serve the local community very well. I had a meeting last week with Chair Phyllis Randall of the Board of Supervisors. And in all fairness, this is something like this would not get on their radar screen until it got closer to approval. So when I brought it up, she was unaware of it. But that's actually very, very typical because it would be months away from getting to them. But I you know explained the history and how it does serve the community. And I expressed that, you know, this is not a comment that we don't need additional cricket facilities for the cricket community in Loudoun County. We absolutely do. They've been asking for it for ten years. But it's just that this is the wrong place was the sentiment from our community. And when you look at the capital needs assessment that the county has, our precinct or our district is already 30 acres behind on parks and recreational facilities that we should be having. And, you know, it doesn't really serve us well to take the one that we do have and repurpose it for something that's not really used by the local community. And then again, I also expressed the historical aspect to it. And, you know, there's a really wonderful story there. And Loudoun has a lot of great stories from that era of things like this. So she appreciated being brought up to speed. She said, this is great that you're putting it on the radar screen long before it actually comes to us for a hearing. Because a lot of times when it happens, by that point, it sort of got this unstoppable momentum and it's really difficult. So I did forward her all the information material. I spoke to her earlier this week. She's going to get into it. She agrees that the concerns we have are legitimate concerns and there needs to be much more

focused attention on it. Earlier today, Will, myself, and Danny had a phone call with the Director of Parks and Rec's. His name is Steve Torpy. And, you know, again, expressing the exact same concerns, you know, reiterating that there really should have been a community meeting before this got started, not on the back end, but here we are. So I think and Will, you and Danny can chime in if you like, but I think he heard it loud and clear, recognizes that this needs to be reviewed and looked at. I asked him directly, you know, is this a done deal or is finding an alternate location on the table? And he said, yes, it is. It's absolutely on the table. There is no such thing as a done deal. And, you know, we want to make sure we do everything we can to get it right. It wasn't a commitment to not do it, but it was a commitment to review it, hear the public feedback and look at alternatives. So they've pushed the public hearing back till the fall. I don't know when, but let's just assume August or September. And he also committed to by the end of the month, coming to Middleburg, bringing their plans, getting a public space and having a public meeting where everybody from the community can come, you know, take a look, provide feedback, provide input, and they can hear from us. And they're either going to have it at the Legion or at the Community Center. So the moment they lock those dates down, we'll be sure that we get the information out to everybody. The comment I would have is that, again, this is not about being against cricket or about the folks who love cricket and enjoy it. I mean, there's thousands and thousands of people who play cricket in Loudoun County. You know, it's about where's the right place for that facility to support those folks, right. I mean, nobody would argue that putting a 300 acre equestrian center in the middle of Ashburn is serving the Ashburn community. But, boy, we'd love to have one out here. So it's about the right stuff in the right places. So that's kind of an update of where everything is. So I do want to also say thank you to everybody in the community. I mean, the amount of input that was put into Lola was staggering and that was great. And then the outreach has been great. And so they've absolutely heard from everybody. So doesn't mean it's over but, you know, we're heading in the right direction. We just have to keep it up. So that's kind of the status of everything. I think the request from the public is would we be willing to do a letter or a resolution expressing kind of these same thoughts and feelings that we could send to Parks and Rec's, Planning Commission, and the Board of Supervisors? So, you know, everybody's thoughts or any input, please.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: [off mic] Thank you very much. Yes. As an Englishman who grew up playing cricket, this is the wrong place for cricket. [laughter] I love the game, but I just don't think it's right for here. I think it's fantastic to see so many of our friends and neighbors come out and speak like this. Community activism like this is amazing and I think we need to just keep it up and, you know, present at the next, at the public hearing. I'll certainly be going along to that because that's the only way that minds will be changed and it's a really valid reason and fight. Thank you.

J. Kevin Daly: I don't mind the thought of sharing a field, but the size and the number of cricket fields that they were planning to have at Mickie Gordon. And if anyone has ever watched cricket, it's a long game, eight hours. That's why the lights are going to be on until 11:00 at night. There may be room. I think they're playing cricket there now. [multiple speakers] They have two small courts. That may be plenty for what they need and sharing it with an historical baseball park and other facilities there. But to turn it completely over, I'm absolutely against it.

Cindy Pearson: So, yes, I agree that we need to send something if it's a resolution or whatever, because if any of you have been to some of these new parks they've built here in in Fairfax County, they are unbelievable. They are so out of control, but they're used every inch, but they're in that population that needs every inch of it. We couldn't handle the traffic here. It's bad as it is. I mean, remember what happened at Tim Tharpe down there in Christmas in Middleburg because the traffic was so bad. So, yeah, Big no needs to come from here.

Bridge Littleton: Any other input. So I mean, we can do a resolution, but I think a letter that's signed by all of us would probably be the right way to do it. And I think we just capture the bullet points that was expressed by the community in here. I mean, they're going to have this public input meeting at the end of the month. So I think if we shoot for getting something out in the next week or two is probably fine. What, Danny or Will, what do you guys think? Will go ahead. You're here.

Will Moore: Well, I would almost encourage you to do that the opposite, and that is allow them the opportunity to come and and hold that meeting. It's great the input you've had here this evening and all the input that you've seen online. But after that public meeting, you might be able to even further your case by referencing all the comments that were made and you might be in a position to make some more informed positions based on their presentation as well.

Bridge Littleton: That's actually a great idea. Everybody feel good about that? Okay. Danny, any input?

Danny Davis: Mr. Moore covered it. Exactly.

Bridge Littleton: Cool. All right. So I guess then the idea will be we'll have that public input meeting from the Parks and Rec. We'll use that to also add more weight and strength to the letter, especially if the community comes out in force. That'll be a you know, hey, there was 200 people at this meeting and, you know, so, okay, we'll plan to do that. If anybody from the community has more thoughts or inputs, you know, email any one of us on Council, email the town. The moment we get the date and time for that meeting, we'll let everybody know. And, you know, we'll support it as best we can and then we'll follow up with them afterward from the town directly. So any other inputs on this?

Bud Jacobs: Just a quick question.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah Bud.

Bud Jacobs: Is the history of the park captured anywhere in a nice concise form?

Bridge Littleton: So there's the Blue Ridge Leader did an article about it last a couple of weeks ago.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: The last one.

Bridge Littleton: The last one. It's very good. The history piece is very, very good. But also Jean Shields's book on the Middleburg Environment has a great section on there too. I have that book so I can send it to you. [off mic] Okay. Okay.

Cindy Pearson: And the Thomas Balch Library.

Bridge Littleton: And the Thomas Balch Library, Yep. But the Blue Ridge Leader's got a great concise. Yeah. Any other inputs? Okay. Again, everybody, thank you all so much for coming. Really, really appreciate it. And now we're going to move on to the exciting world of staff reports.

J. Kevin Daly: Are you sure you want to leave? [laughter] [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, right. [laughter] As long as we don't get below four. All right. First item is Rhonda North.

Rhonda North: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. We are continuing to work on the website refresh. We have approved the concept design, so CivicPlus is in the process of putting together the website, which we will have in mid-August for our review. And the only other item is just a reminder to folks we have the elections for Mayor and Council seats in November and the deadline for candidates to file to be a candidate and have their name on the ballot is June the 20th. You would do those filings through the general registrar at Loudoun County.

Bridge Littleton: Okay, Tina. And before you go anywhere.

Tina Staples: Thank you. Got to catch you before you go. [off mic] You took off. [off mic] Right. Thank you. Hi, everyone. You have my report. Happy to answer any questions that you have. I do just have one note that we are finally, hopefully receiving the community block grant the federal funding for the town hall project within the next couple of business days we expect to have it so.

Bridge Littleton: How much was that?

Tina Staples: 2 million.

Bridge Littleton: Right. [off mic]

Tina Staples: Yes. Took as you know, the federal government has a lot of hoops, so that takes some time. [laughter]

Chris Bernard: Did they find [off mic] building [off mic] money.

Tina Staples: Yeah.

Bridge Littleton: So let me think about this. So that budget or that appropriation was passed on March 19th of 2022, and it is now June 8th, 2023. And we just got the money.

Tina Staples: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Or it's pending.

Tina Staples: You're right. You're right. Let's let's hope nothing happens. But yes, that's absolutely.

Bridge Littleton: Well, Tina, hold your breath.

Tina Staples: Yeah. [laughter]

Bridge Littleton: All right. God. Okay. Any questions for Tina? All right, Tina, thank you.

Tina Staples: Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: All right. Next up is Deputy Town Manager, Mr. Moore.

Will Moore: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. You have my report. I don't necessarily have anything additional within the report to highlight. But just to raise awareness. Obviously, work on the water tower is progressing. We have I believe Mr. Davis sent out some information about what we were trying to accomplish with regards to pedestrian safety. We will be placing some additional signage up there as soon as it arrives. It could be as early as tomorrow afternoon, basically telling pedestrians that they should not walk in the block between Chinn and Liberty just for safety purposes. So that's our plan and happy to answer any questions regarding that as well.

Philip Miller: Just to be clear, we have a sidewalk closed sign, but no detour sign.

Will Moore: We do not have a detour sign. That is correct. Danny has put some information on our website about that. We could look at pedestrian detour signs. Be happy to talk offline about some of our concerns with that, though, as well.

Philip Miller: Okay.

Bridge Littleton: Any other questions for Will? Will, I just I did want to say I, you know, in my proclivity to always want to do things that are nothing but exciting and fun, I did watch the BZA hearing and actually because Cindy reminded me and I know it's like the first time they've met this, I'm sure this century.

Will Moore: Not, not quite a century.

Bridge Littleton: Okay.

Will Moore: It was the first case that was heard by the BZA since 2008.

Bridge Littleton: Okay.

Will Moore: They do meet annually for an organizational meeting, but not actually the case.

Bridge Littleton: And I will honestly say, much like the Planning Commission, I was incredibly impressed with the thoughtfulness, the thoroughness, the diligence, you know, the reason converse, you know, consideration. It was actually great to watch.

Cindy Pearson: I ditto that. Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. Next up is police department. Father Shaun. [laughter]

Mark Putnam: Mayor.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, Mark. The lieutenant's going to cover it for you.

J. Kevin Daly: Lieutenant.

Shaun Jones: He's going to speak because I have nothing.

Mark Putnam: My report is in front of you. If you guys have any questions, please feel free to ask.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Shaun?

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Observation.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Chief, love the new layout of the report. Very clear and with some different information now. So thank you for that.

Bridge Littleton: Such an improvement of what we suffered through for the last 11 years. [laughter].

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I didn't want to say that.

Shaun Jones: [off mic] aware of my time limit, sir. [laughter]

Bridge Littleton: Again, a first in the last 11 years. [laughter] No, thanks. And Mark, anything?

Mark Putnam: I have nothing.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. All right, Moving on. We're going.

Cindy Pearson: [off mic] I have a question.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, I'm sorry. Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: How was the smoke treating you all today?

Mark Putnam: Survived.

Cindy Pearson: Survived. Okay.

Bridge Littleton: Any other questions for Shaun or Mark? Okay. Thank you, gentlemen. Next is Economic Development.

Danny Davis: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'm covering this currently, and just as noted in the report, a couple items for the public. We do have our Independence Day activities listed on our website. So if anyone would like to get more information, it's MiddleburgVA.gov/July4 or you can find it under our events tab. You also notice a few of the information about new businesses and change in businesses listed here. One item of note the former Red Bar Sushi location at 16 East Washington. We are aware that there's a restaurant seeking permits for that location. They've not. They've asked we not disclose the name as of yet, though. If you've read ABC permit requests, you might be able to figure it out. So there is a restaurant likely coming into that location and we'll spread the word as soon as we figure it out. And with that, we have some other events coming up. The Middleburg Community Center had to postpone their events that were scheduled for tonight and tomorrow, and those are being postponed until the following Friday, June 16th. And then we have Open Late series beginning on June 30th and the Hunt Country Music Festival also beginning on June 30th. So lots going on. And happy to answer any questions.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for our stand in Economic Development Director. Okay? Nope. Danny, we're good. Thanks. All right, next up is, Martin Avenue.

Martin Crim: All right. Thank you, Mayor. I don't have anything to add to my report. I'm happy to answer any questions.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions?

Martin Crim: Actually, let me just echo what you said about the BZA here. I've been to a [inaudible] lately and also really well run [inaudible].

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Martin? Okay, cool. Martin, thank you.

Martin Crim: Yes sir.

Bridge Littleton: All right. Next item is, oh everybody's favorite topic, Town Hall. Who's taking this Matzah ball?

Rhonda North: That would be me. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So all of the sod has been laid. Most of the landscaping has been placed with the exception of along the wooden fence here that will go in as soon as the temporary electric line is removed. But that's starting to look good. The exterior columns are in the process of being installed, as are the exterior drywall in the ceiling. So the outside is starting to look very nice now. On the interior the electricians are working to install the lighting and the receptacles. The plumbers in there continues to do installations and correct deficiencies in anticipation of an inspection later this week. Comcast was on site today and installed the Internet service and the Pots lines that will allow us to move forward with the fire alarm monitoring system. And I'm not sure whether you've heard or not, but we did lose the Site Superintendent Raymond Pullen. He was very good and he really advanced that project quite a bit during his tenure here. But unfortunately we have lost him. And Cooper is in the process of interviewing and hopefully we'll have a new Superintendent on site on Monday.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Rhonda?

Bud Jacobs: I'm not sure it's for Rhonda. I've lost track of where we are on the EV, the recharging installation.

Bridge Littleton: That might be a Danny or Peter question.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I'll defer to Danny. I've answered it with some other people. But you know the latest, I think, Danny.

Danny Davis: Yeah. Thank you. Council Member Jacobs we have had ongoing conversations with Downey and Scott regarding getting cost proposals from electricians to run the last final pieces of the EV charging at the town specifically for the fast charger there at the town hall site. Downey Scott has also recommended to us, I think it's good advice that we not have any third party electricians into the town hall or into the project until Cooper has turned over phase one of the

project to the town. That way we don't create any potential scenario where they might look to us and say that our contractor has either delayed by their activity or caused any issues. So Downey and Scott, we in our conversations, we've given them direction or request to go seek cost proposals from 2 or 3 electricians that they've used in the past, get those to us and then we can bring that back to Council. Again, this is for completing the DC fast charger. On the other side, the rest of the EV charging throughout the rest of the town we are looking at some alternate providers of EV charging because we continue to have minimal input and response from Blink. Though, I do need to do some follow up there before I have a full answer for you.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: And if I could just add to that on two things. Just to reiterate, we do have the DC fast charger in storage, so it's ready to go in. And secondly, we have come across through the folks supplying the DC fast Charger what seems to be a really good option or opportunity for level two charging in a couple of places in town. So we're working furiously on that one.

Bridge Littleton: Any other questions for Rhonda on the town hall? [off mic] Yeah.

Cindy Pearson: With the sod and different plantings that's going in, do they have watering?

Rhonda North: Daily.

Cindy Pearson: Good. Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Anyone else?

Bud Jacobs: She said that rather emphatically.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, yeah.

Bridge Littleton: She's the one with the hose. [laughter]

Cindy Pearson: The one with the whip.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, right. [laughter]

Chris Bernard: Yeah. As I imagine someone had to ask for that.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, right, exactly. Okay, Rhonda, thank you. Next is the consent agenda or any other reports from committees or council liaisons? All right. Is there a motion on the consent agenda? [off mic]

Chris Bernard: Move that we adopt the consent agenda as proposed.

Philip Miller: Second.

Bridge Littleton: All those in favor say aye?

All of Council: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. Any discussion items? Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: Question. And I'm on the water thing tonight since we haven't seen rain and we're behind and I think Mark Snyder used to sit here, if I'm correct. So it must be him coming through me. How's our water levels? Can anybody here answer that question or is that a Stuart thing?

Bridge Littleton: Danny, you're nodding your head.

Danny Davis: Yes. And just so I'm clear, you're asking about water levels of the water tanks.

Cindy Pearson: Yes. And drought, things like that. Well, since we're low on water.

Danny Davis: Absolutely. So Stuart has been keeping on top of making sure that all of our tanks are full or as full as can be. Our wells are producing without any issues, despite all the drought, as it were, lack of rainfall as it were. So our wells are continuing to produce very well. As noted and perhaps maybe mentioned to you as part of the water tower work they are draining the Marshall Street Tower should have been today, if not already completed. And so that tower will be out of service because of the work they're doing on the Marshall Street Tower. But it's the smaller of our three storage tanks so we have approximately a half a million gallons of water in storage when our tanks are full. And Stuart is very cognizant of making sure that they refill as much as possible each day during production.

Cindy Pearson: Okay. Thank you.

Danny Davis: And Mr. Mayor, I was going to if I may take a moment, just briefly talk about a couple other utility items happening this week.

Bridge Littleton: All right.

Danny Davis: So in addition to that work, as many of you all recognize, there were some air bubbles in our water.
[multiple speakers]

Cindy Pearson: Milk.

Bridge Littleton: You call that a bubble?

Danny Davis: Comes out looking a little milky, but if you pour it between cups, you'll see the air dissipates. Also, we did have some stirring up of water, some residual sediment. So we've asked Mark to do a water flushing his crews. The timing is not perfect and not probably ideal with the Marshall Street Tower being offline. But Mark is confident that in our current production levels that we don't have any risk to the town. So flushing will begin Sunday night at in the overnight hours. And then in addition to that, as noted to you, we are working on well 4 to clear out the under drains and then working on a backwash cycle that will likely happen this evening after 10:00, and that will be to see if we can get well 4 back in production. The goal there is that if well 4 can we get back on line, then we have to run well three less, which again minimizes how much sediment gets into our system. So it's an ongoing challenge to get all those pieces together. But we're making hopefully as good progress as we can.

Cindy Pearson: Can I ask?

Bridge Littleton: Yeah.

Cindy Pearson: Is the flushing just on the east end or is it the whole town?

Danny Davis: It will be town wide.

Cindy Pearson: Okay. So will notice go out on that tomorrow so people will see that.

Danny Davis: Yes, we actually put notices out on that, I believe, yesterday we sent it on our website with an alert. So we will make sure we get that up on our Facebook page as well.

Bridge Littleton: [off mic] Yeah.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Danny, just as a follow up to Cindy's question about the or your comment actually about the tank being drained. Where does it all get drained to?

Danny Davis: Into the drain goes down the culverts along North Madison Street, under the driveway to the charter school. And so on a regulated draining of the tank it goes down North Madison Street in the culvert and goes into the creek back there. If we had to drain it really quickly in a less regulated manner, you would sometimes see water cascading across North Madison Street, which I know raises some concerns when people see a bunch of water gushing down across the street, sheet flow. But we're trying to do it in a way that it stays channelized.

Philip Miller: In other words, not your basement.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, all the way. [laughter] Okay. Any other questions on or discussion items? Once. Twice. Okay. We've covered Mickie Gordon Park. I don't think there's any informational items. [off mic] What's that? Yeah, I think we're going to go to Closed Session. Or real quick. Unless Will, Rhonda, or Danny have anything else we missed? Or Tina? Nope. Okay. We will now go to the Closed Session items. [off mic]

Cindy Pearson: Thank you all.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you.

J. Kevin Daly: Thank you for your interest.

Bridge Littleton: Norm. Did I get you home in time for dinner?

Cindy Pearson: Dinner. Can we all go into dinner now.

Bridge Littleton: Norm is buying.

Cindy Pearson: Oh, good, good. [multiple speakers]

Philip Miller: I move that Council go into Closed Session as authorized under section 2.2-3711 of the code of Virginia. For one the consultation with legal counsel retained by the public body regarding specific legal matters, regarding the legal advice of such Council related to the town hall project contract as allowed under Subsection A8-2 for the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property located within the town limits for a public purpose as allowed under Subsection A3 and three for the performance review of the Town Manager as allowed under subsection A one. I further move the Council thereafter reconvene in Open Session for action as appropriate.

J. Kevin Daly: Second.

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

All of Council: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Opposed? Abstentions? All right. Closed Session it is. Norm take care. [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: All right. I ask the Council certify that in the Closed Session just concluded to the best of each members knowledge, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters, one specifically identified in the motion to convene in Closed Session, and two lawfully permitted to be discussed in a Closed Session under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as cited in the motion. I would like to remind those present for the Closed Session that any discussion that occurred within it should be treated as confidential.

Chris Bernard: Yes.

Bud Jacobs: Yes.

Philip Miller: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Yes.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Yes.

Cindy Pearson: Yes.

J. Kevin Daly: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: And any other items? All right. Meeting adjourned.