



**MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, April 23, 2020**



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

**STAFF:** Danny Davis, Town Administrator  
Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk  
William M. Moore, Deputy Town Administrator  
Jamie Gaucher, Business & Economic Development Director  
Estee LaClare, Planning & Project Associate  
Julie Rivard, Finance Director/Town Treasurer

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held their regular monthly meeting, beginning at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2020. Due to Governor Northam’s executive orders prohibiting more than ten individuals from assembling and requiring that people social distance, the Council meeting was held remotely with the Mayor, Council and most of the staff participating from their respective homes.

Mayor Littleton explained for the viewing audience that it was the Council’s responsibility to conduct essential public business despite the COVID-19 pandemic; however, it recognized the need to do so safely, not only for its members but also for the Town staff and members of the public. He further explained that to that end, in accordance with the Council’s resolution declaring a local emergency and its ordinance implementing emergency procedures and effectuating temporary changes to address the continuity of governmental operations, the Council would hold its meetings via remote access until such time as the Governor rescinded his executive orders. Mr. Littleton advised the viewing audience that copies of the agendas were available on the Town’s website and that the meetings would be livestreamed and recorded for viewing on the website. He explained that anyone wishing to participate in the meetings during the public comment periods or the public hearings could do so by dialing (540) 339-6355. Mr. Littleton reviewed the process that would be utilized for the remote meetings.

Mayor Littleton led Council and those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The roll call was called at 6:01 p.m.

**Staff Reports**

**COVID-19 Update**

Town Administrator Davis noted that Executive Order 53, which limited certain businesses, was extended by Governor Northam until May 8<sup>th</sup>. He advised that he indicated he would lift it sooner if the State experienced a fourteen-day decline in the rate of positive test results. Mr. Davis noted that the deadline could again be extended if this condition was not met. He reminded Council that the Governor’s stay-at-home order was through June 10<sup>th</sup>; however, that date could also change.

Town Administrator Davis noted that it was unknown as to what restrictions would be put in place once the businesses were allowed to re-open and advised that the Town would provide the information as best it could. He reminded Council that the Town website was updated frequently with regard to available business assistance programs, well as the latest information for residents. Mr. Davis noted that the initial federal business assistance funding went quickly; however, an expansion was being proposed. He advised that the Town would provide information on that program as soon as it was received. Mr. Davis announced that Loudoun County approved a \$1 million Small Business Relief Program and opined that applications would be accepted beginning next week. He noted that the funding would be awarded through a lottery system.

Town Administrator Davis reported that the Town's operations were continuing in a safe manner.

Town Administrator Davis reported that the Virginia Senate declined to approve the Governor's proposal to move Town elections to November; therefore, they were still set for May 5<sup>th</sup>. He advised, however, that the Governor was expected to announce that he would call a special session of the General Assembly next week for the purpose of moving the elections to mid to late June.

Town Administrator Davis reported that Davenport and Camoin Associates have been asked to provide the Town with data so the staff could develop revenue projections for the remainder of the current fiscal year, as well as for the coming fiscal year. He advised that he spoke with Ron Carlee, of Old Dominion University, who opined that Middleburg's revenue stream was the most dependent on meals and lodging tax revenues of any town in Virginia. Mr. Davis noted that seventy percent (70%) of the Town's revenue stream was vulnerable.

### Town Elections

Mayor Littleton explained that if the Governor extended the election date to May 19<sup>th</sup>, which was the most he could do, municipalities could ask the circuit courts to extend it by up to another sixteen days to June 2<sup>nd</sup>. He advised that he spoke with some of the other towns in Loudoun County, who were also interested in filing a petition; and, suggested it be filed as one, as opposed to five separate petitions. Mr. Littleton questioned whether the Council was in favor of petitioning the Circuit Court for an extension if the Governor extended the date by two weeks. In response to an inquiry from the Council, Mayor Littleton confirmed that moving the date of the Town election would not affect the absentee ballots that had already been cast. He further confirmed the intent was to continue to allow in-person voting. Mr. Littleton explained that extending the date was the only option that was legally permissible.

The Council noted the need to encourage voters to vote by absentee ballot. It was further noted that Loudoun County was doing a good job of promoting this.

After some discussion, the Council agreed to band with the other towns in Loudoun County to move the election date out further.

*Councilmember Jacobs moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that if the Governor tomorrow extended the municipal elections to May 19<sup>th</sup> that Middleburg, with or without the participation of the other affected jurisdictions, petition the court to delay the election an additional fourteen (14) days.*

*Mayor Littleton offered a friendly amendment to delay the elections an additional sixteen (16) days. Councilmember Jacobs agreed to this friendly amendment.*

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

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

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**Consent Agenda**

(A) Approval of Council Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2020 Regular Meeting

*Councilmember Leonard-Morgan moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council adopt the consent agenda as proposed.*

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

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

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**Action Items** (non-public hearing related)

Council Approval – Extend Interim Appointment of Councilmember Jacobs

Town Clerk North noted that when Councilmember Jacobs was appointed to the Town Council on an interim basis, it was through the May 5<sup>th</sup> special elections. She explained that with the proposal to change the date of the special elections, the staff was recommending action be taken to extend the interim appointment to coincide with the new special elections date. Ms. North recommended the actual election date not be referenced in the motion.

*Councilmember Pearson moved, seconded by Councilmember Bernard, that Council extend the interim appointment of Morris “Bud” Jacobs to the Middleburg Town Council until the special election is held and the replacement member is elected and sworn into office by the Loudoun County Clerk of the Circuit Court.*

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

No – N/A

Abstain: Councilmember Jacobs

Absent: N/A

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

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Council Approval – Contract for Solid Waste Management – American Disposal Services

Town Clerk North reminded Council that in November, Middleburg and six other towns formed a Town Consortium for the purpose of developing and issuing a regional RFP for refuse and recycling collection services. She reported that two proposals were received, with the Consortium Committee believing that either could do the job. Ms. North reported that after accepting the firms’ best and final offers, the Committee recommended the award of the contracts to American Disposal as they proposed to keep the collection dates for all towns on Wednesday and offered the lowest price. She noted that Haymarket and Purcellville ultimately dropped out of the Consortium. Ms. North advised that it was now up to the remaining towns to decide whether they would accept the Consortium’s recommendation that each enter into a contract with American Disposal.

Mayor Littleton commended the Town staff for doing a good job with this solicitation. He opined that the regional approach was creative and a great model for how things could be done in the future.

In response to an inquiry from the Council as to what would happen if the other towns did not approve the contracts, Town Clerk North advised that the Town Consortium Committee would have to determine whether American was willing to continue to extend their offer to the remaining towns. She noted that they did so even though Purcellville and Haymarket dropped out.

In response to an inquiry from the Council regarding recycling, Town Clerk North advised that American would provide 96-gallon trash cans and recycling bins to the Town's customers. She reported that recycling would continue to be comingled, with American separating the items at their MRF and sending them out to the markets that remained. Ms. North advised that American did not indicate any changes would be made to the recycling items that would be accepted; however, the contract did recognize that market conditions may change and that what was accepted may change as a result.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Clerk North reported that American would continue to provide large item pick-ups, as well as one special circumstance pick-up per year for free. She noted that any additional special circumstance pick-ups would be at the charges as bid. Town Administrator Davis noted that they would also provide a dumpster for special events.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Clerk North reported that Bates Trucking declined to renew Middleburg's existing contract as they were losing money on it. She advised that Haymarket negotiated a contract renewal with their existing vendor and the Town of Purcellville decided to solicit bids again in an attempt to get a better price as they had more time before their existing contract expired.

*Councilmember Bernard moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Kirk, that Council approve the award of a contract to American Disposal Services for the provision of Refuse and Recycling Collection Services for the Town of Middleburg based upon their proposal dated March 20, 2020. Councilmember Bernard further moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Kirk, that Council direct the Town staff to finalize the details of the contract and authorize the Town Administrator to execute a contract, said contract to be approved by the Town Attorney as to form.*

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

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

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Council Approval – Contract for Historic District Guidelines Update – Frazier & Associates

Deputy Town Administrator Moore reminded Council that the HDRC members tried to update the guidelines on their own; however, it was simply too large an undertaking for volunteers. He advised that they were impressed with Frazier & Associates' long history of doing this type of work. Mr. Moore noted that the Town also contracted with them for the wayfinding signage project. He reported that Frazier & Associates was under a State contract the Town could ride. Mr. Moore advised that the total cost of this contract would not exceed \$50,500.

Councilmember Pearson, the Council's representative for the HDRC, reported that the Committee felt Frazier & Associates would be a good fit for Middleburg. She expressed a personal concern about committing to spending \$50,000 given that revenues were anticipated to be down in the coming year. Ms. Pearson acknowledged the need to complete the project.

Town Administrator Davis reported that the funding for this project was included in this year's budget and would be encumbered and rolled over into FY '21 if the contract was approved. He reminded Council that they froze the appropriation of certain funds in the FY '21 Budget and opined that this was sufficient to cover any lost revenue the Town may experience.

The Council expressed a desire to continue the project and noted that updating the guidelines was way overdue. They further noted that the guidelines protected Middleburg's charm. The Council expressed concern about the optics even though they felt the project should move forward. They questioned whether it was possible to wait a month before approving the contract in order to better determine the effects of the COVID virus on the Town's revenues. They further questioned the length of time for which the price would be good.

Deputy Town Administrator Moore opined that waiting a month would be fine. He advised that he would check with Frazier & Associates to determine how long the price would be good; although, he did not anticipate a spike in the State contract price in the coming year.

After further discussion, the Council agreed to table action on this item until the second meeting in May.

*Councilmember Pearson moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council table this item for a month.*

The Council held some discussion surrounding the logistics of the project given that meetings were being held remotely.

Council Approval – Request for Funding – Middleburg Community Center

Town Administrator Davis reminded Council that they received a recommendation from the Health Center Advisory Board in December to award the Community Center \$5,000 for improvements to their playground; however, the Council tabled action in order to allow the Center time to provide additional information. He reported that they received another bid for the work, which came in at a little over \$5,000, which was more in line with reality.

Councilmember Pearson noted that she would not participate in the discussion or vote as she had a conflict of interest since she was an employee of the Middleburg Community Center.

The Council held some discussion as to whether the donation should come from the Health Center Fund or the General Fund and opined it should come from the General Fund. It was suggested the Center be awarded the entire amount of the cost proposal, as this work would improve community assets.

Mayor Littleton expressed concern about how the Town handled grants and charitable giving. He acknowledged that the Town was working to develop a policy. Mr. Littleton expressed concern that the original grant request submitted by the Community Center was not based on a quote and noted that it was for \$20,000. He further noted that most organizations received \$4,000 from the Town. Mr. Littleton advised that if the Town had approved the original request, it would have paid \$20,000 for \$6,000 worth of work. He reminded Council that the Town had already given the Community Center \$30,000 for pool improvements. Mr. Littleton advised that except for the Charter School, the Town had not given any other single organization that much money. He reiterated the need to develop a policy for grant funding and opined that things were getting out of balance.

Councilmember Pearson, who chaired the sub-committee responsible for the grant policy strategic initiative, agreed with the Mayor's concerns and noted that it was working to draft one. She reminded Council that the Community Center provided the community with a place to go.

*Councilmember Leonard-Morgan moved, seconded by Vice Mayor Kirk, that Council approve the recommendations of the Health Center Advisory Board to provide \$5,951.69 in funding to the Middleburg Community Center for the purposes identified in their application, with revised information provided.*

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

No – N/A

Abstain: Councilmember Pearson (conflict of interest)

Absent: N/A

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

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## Information Items

### Status Report – Restaurant Take-Out Voucher Program

Town Administrator Davis reported that the restaurant voucher program was well received by the residents and advised that the restaurants were grateful. He opined that a number of them had gained new customers as a result. Mr. Davis reported that four restaurants turned in over one hundred vouchers each and advised that he expected that number to grow by the end of the week when they submitted their next update. He reported that most of the voucher packets had now been distributed. Mr. Davis reminded Council that inside dining was prohibited through May 8th. He reported that some of the restaurants indicated they planned to remain open even after the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for this program; however, others were not sure they could. Mr. Davis acknowledged that the Council wished to discuss what else could be done to help them. He noted that this program created a lot of work for the staff and thanked Town Clerk North and Administrative & Accounting Assistant Anderson for their hard work and for the great job they had done interacting with and serving the public.

Mayor Littleton thanked all the employees in the Town Office for their hard work on this program.

### Status Report – Retail & Support Business Program

Town Administrator Davis reported that twelve businesses had signed agreements to participate in the Retail & Support Business Program and two more were expected to sign agreements later in the week. He advised that the Town would provide participating businesses with a poster, which could be edited to include their own information. Mr. Davis reported that the Town was taking out two advertisements in the Middleburg Eccentric and Middleburg Life to thank the restaurants and encourage people to shop virtually locally. He opined that the Town was supporting retail businesses as best it could. Mr. Davis noted that the MBPA was also working on additional website and social media posts and a video.

### Expansion of Assistance Programs

Mayor Littleton noted that the Washington Business Journal contained an article on the Town's voucher and retail programs. He further noted that other localities were calling to inquire about them. Mr. Littleton opined that they were well received and were great for the businesses and residents. He noted that the Governor's order expired May 8<sup>th</sup>; however, the benchmark for lifting it was fourteen consecutive days of declining positive test results, which could result in an extension of the ban. Mr. Littleton noted that the Town could not help everyone. He suggested it extend the restaurant voucher program in some form.

The Council held considerable discussion about extending the program, the best way to do so and the cost. They acknowledged the benefit to the Town in terms of Middleburg's image. The Council agreed to extend it in the same format for an additional month and to send out a new set of vouchers.

Mayor Littleton suggested that if the Council extended the restaurant voucher program, it should do the same for the retail program. He noted that extending that program would not cost as much.

The Council suggested that individuals who did not want the vouchers be encouraged to donate them or to share them with others. They held some discussion as to how to fund the extension and agreed it should come from the General Fund. They noted that the retail businesses were capped at a reimbursement amount of \$3,750 per month. The Council agreed the retail and support business program should be extended by an additional month until June 20th.

*Councilmember Miller moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council extend the Restaurant Support Program to the end of the month of May and to allow the vouchers to not expire until the end of the extension of the program and to issue a second round of vouchers.*

Mayor Littleton offered a friendly amendment to the motion to appropriate the funds necessary for the participating restaurants to continue to participate, estimated at \$120,000.

Councilmember Miller accepted the friendly amendment and added that the funding was to come from the General Fund.

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

(Mayor Littleton only votes in the case of a tie) (by roll call vote) (on motion as amended)

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Councilmember Bernard moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that the Town extend the Retail Support Program until June 21st and adjust and double the cap to \$3,750 per month with the program ending June 21, 2020.

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

No – N/A

Abstain: Councilmember Miller (conflict of interest)

Absent: N/A

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

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The Council noted that the Town was not in a position to extend these programs a third time. They asked that the businesses be sent a note suggesting they take the next thirty days to plan for how they would adapt if the bans continued to be extended.

#### Small Business Loan Program

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Business & Economic Development Director Gaucher reported that he did not have access to the national data base; therefore, he did not know how many local businesses received a Small Business Administration loan. He advised that he was in communication with the local banks, one of whom indicated it processed fifty-eight applications.

#### Middleburg Community Farmers Market

Business & Economic Development Director Gaucher announced that the farmers market would launch on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and advised that it would be temporarily located in the rear parking lot of the National Sporting Library & Museum. He explained that the Virginia Department of Agriculture and the Virginia Farmers Market Association were requiring that the markets be in a location that allowed them to operate properly and that vendors wear facemasks and gloves. Mr. Gaucher advised that they were discouraging physical contact between vendors and patrons and were instead suggesting individual pre-orders. He explained that the farmers market would temporarily be set up as a drive-through event, with vehicles entering and exiting in separate locations. Mr. Gaucher advised that vendors must be located at least ten feet apart and their tents must be weighted. He noted that he was meeting with representatives from the National Sporting Library to work out the logistics. Mr. Gaucher reminded Council that the new Farmers Market Manager was taking the leadership role in opening the market.

The Council suggested that good signage was needed.

Town Administrator Davis advised that it would be branded as a temporary location, as it could not be held in the bank parking lot due to the need for a separate entrance and exit. He suggested there may be an opportunity to install a banner on Route 50 to draw patrons' attention to the new location.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Business & Economic Development Director Gaucher reported that five vendors have confirmed they planned to participate. He advised that they would like to grow the market later in the year.

There being no further business, Mayor Littleton declared the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

APPROVED:

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Trowbridge M. Littleton, MAYOR

ATTEST:

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Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk

## April 23, 2020 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](http://www.middleburgva.gov))**

**Bridge Littleton:** You know, you guys can work as we get to the meeting, let's go and get started. Philip's here. All right. We will call the April 23rd meeting to order. First item is Pledge of Allegiance. Now, last time was kind of interesting because all of us were out of sync. Does one person want to say it?

**Darlene Kirk:** Yeah, you say it.

**Bridge Littleton:** Oh, boy. All right. [Pledge of Allegiance]. OK. Next item will be read out the participating statement for using virtual. It is the Middleburg Town Council's responsibility to conduct essential business matters despite the COVID 19 pandemic. However, it recognizes the need to do so safely for not only its membership, but also for the town's staff and members of the public. To that end, in accordance with the resolution confirming the declaration of an emergency, of a local emergency and the ordinance to implement emergency procedure and effectuate temporary changes to address continuity of government operations during COVID 19, the town council will hold its meetings via remote access until such time as the governor rescinds his emergency order prohibiting the gathering of more than 10 individuals and mandating social distancing. Copies of the previously referenced documents are available on the town's website for those who wish to view them. The town will continue to livestream and record its public meetings, which are available for viewing along with the meeting agenda packet on our Web site. Members of the public who wish to participate in the meeting during the public comment periods or to speak during a scheduled public hearing may do so by dialing in at 540 339 6355. You'll be placed on mute until such time as the public comment or public hearing periods are opened. While the meetings are being held remotely, the council will offer to public comment period one at the beginning of the meeting and one at the end of the meeting. As usual, speakers must identify themselves and their address when called upon and will be limited to three minutes. To ensure trust in the process. The town clerk will ask the council to do a roll call at least once an hour. In addition, we will ask each member by name that they have comments or questions related to each item as we proceed. All votes of the council will be taken by roll call. Town clerk will announce the name with the individual then stating how they are voting. All right. So let's just do a quick roll call.

**Rhonda North:** Vice Mayor Kirk.

**Darlene Kirk:** Darlene Kirk.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Bernard.

**Chris Bernard:** Chris Bernard.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Daly.

**Cindy Pearson:** Cindy Pearson.

**Kevin Daly:** Kevin Daly.

**Bud Jacobs:** Bud Jacobs.

**Bridge Littleton:** The two youngest have yet to speak up.

**Rhonda North:** Philip Miller.

**Philip Miller:** Philip Miller

**Bridge Littleton:** That leaves one.

**Chris Bernard:** I went first when Rhonda called me.

**Bridge Littleton:** We can't hear you, Chris.

**Cindy Pearson:** You're on mute, Chris.

**Bridge Littleton:** I unmuted you. Go ahead.

**Chris Bernard:** Chris Bernard.

**Bridge Littleton:** There we go. All right.

**Rhonda North:** Mr. Mayor.

**Bridge Littleton:** What's that?

**Rhonda North:** It might be easier if I do the roll calls and people just respond because I don't think anyone knows who's talking at the moment. And we had some folks talking over each other.

**Bridge Littleton:** Okay. Rhonda, you want to do it again, or are we good?

**Rhonda North:** No, I think we're good for now.

**Bridge Littleton:** Okay. So now we're going to go to public comment session. Is there any member of the public who wishes to address the council? Please say so and we will recognize you to be heard.

**Rhonda North:** Mr. Mayor, we have no one. We have no one on the line.

**Bridge Littleton:** Has anyone called in?

**Rhonda North:** Mr. Mayor, we have no one on the line.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. We will close the public comment session and move on to staff reports. But before we do, just a real quick reminder of how well we'll do the engagement over the over the UberConference. At each item we'll go around the room and I'll call each person to provide any input, questions, comments for as long as they need, and then we'll move on to the next person and do that for each of the topics. Just that way, we don't talk over each other. And lose the lag and stuff like that. So with that, Danny, do you want to go into the updates on COVID?

**Danny Davis:** Yes, Mr. Mayor, thank you for this. As you know and we've talked about before. Information continues to change regularly and quickly. So we'll go over briefly what has been happening to date and what is going on today. As you all know, the initial executive order 53, which limits certain businesses and their operations, was extended by the governor through or really until May 8. However, this also is subject to change. As the governor indicated, their data that they want to see would be 14 consecutive days of decline in the rate of positive COVID tests in the Commonwealth of Virginia before they are to lift any of these business restrictions. And so that remains to be seen, I think, May 8 is the earliest we are likely to see. And it's, you know, possible it will be extended beyond that. So we will continue to monitor the governor's updates when he does press conferences and briefings to the Commonwealth. Of course, the stay at home order continues in order until June 10th at this time, although that date could change in the future either direction. But again, the unknown also is when things do begin to open up how or what restrictions may be on businesses, even when the current restrictions are revised. There's been a lot of hints

or speculations. Don't necessarily want to assume any of those are fully accurate. But just to say we will do our best and we feel our job here in the town is to help provide information as best as we have it and to share that with our constituencies, our public, our businesses and our visitors. We continue to try to update our Web site as frequently as we can with information on assistance to businesses and the latest information for residents. As you're also aware, the initial programs through the federal government and the SBA went very, very quickly. And so they've been passing additional aspects of the CARES Act. CARES 1.5 now is someone's description of it. The next iteration is also under discussion. So we will continue to gather that information, provide that to our businesses and to the public, as they will also likely be getting that through other sources as well. On that note, Loudoun County two nights ago approved a million dollar program for small business relief here in Loudoun County. And there are some specific requirements that have to be met under that program. And at this point, we believe the application period will be opening up next week, will be open for a limited period of time, a few days, and then the awardees will be granted the random drawing or lottery, as it were. So we will continue again to share that information with our businesses as much as we can. Mr. Mayor, can you still hear me OK?

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah.

**Danny Davis:** Ok. Our video went out again, so I'm going to keep talking and I'll try to fix it in a second. So for any of the businesses here in Middleburg, please pay attention to the Loudoun County Economic Development Page. And also we will be adding it to our Web site about assistance for businesses. And we want to help as many as possible get the information they need to apply for the county's funds. That's up to ten thousand dollars per business with a cap of a million dollars from the county government, a total cap across the board. We continue our safe operations. Things are going well here in the town and the setup is working sufficiently, you know, still getting used to cross sharing of information with people working off site, but doing our best in that manner, staying safe. And the public is again fully cognizant and appreciative of what we're doing here. Of course, you know, the the efforts that you have taken already to support the community and we'll update those separately. In terms of elections. If you were not aware, the state Senate did not approve the governor's proposal to move the municipal elections all the way back to November. And so currently municipal elections, including Middleburg's, are still set for May 5th. So, however, it's our understanding that tomorrow the governor during his press conference will announce that he is going to call a special session next week so that the General Assembly can approve a change likely to move municipal elections to middle or late June. June 16th is the date we're hearing and this time. So that's a brief update on the elections. And we can we can add more information as needed. And we are working with I've reached out to Davenport, who did our financial advisory services, also have asked Jamie to reach out to Camoin, who's doing our economic development strategy just so we can get some good data points on how to develop revenue projections, scenarios for for council's information. I spoke with Ron Carlee, who's former county manager of Arlington County. Worked for ICMA for a number years and now is a professor at Old Dominion. And I would venture to say that our revenue stream is probably the most dependent upon meals and hospitality of any other jurisdiction in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Based on the data he had, we were I believe I calculated it was almost 70 percent based or was based on vulnerable revenue streams, which includes business licenses, meals, occupancy and sales tax. So we are continuing to get the best information we can for how to best estimate what our revenue impacts may or may not be. And with that, Mr. Mayor, I believe that's what I have. If there's something. Any questions? I'm happy to answer them or if I forgot something. I apologize.

**Bridge Littleton:** All right, so we'll go around real quick and see if anybody has any questions for Danny. Before we do that, I do want to get some additional updates on the election stuff. So it's a very fluid, dynamic moving issue. I spoke to Michelle Dowdy about an hour ago. There is actually not a consensus on what the governor is going to propose. They were saying one thing last night. They were saying something this morning. And then now it's kind of gone into a you know, I'm not sure what they're actually really going to announce tomorrow. And no heads up has been given in terms of, you know, what the element what the actual elements of those of those details are. So I'm asking you to take a minute to explain this for everybody, because it might be something the council has to act on depending the path the governor goes. So there's really two options. The governor can, as Danny mentioned, he can call a special session where the state legislature can reconvene and act on a specific piece of piece of legislation, the proposal of which right now is that the municipal elections in May would be moved to sometime in mid-June and then the primary elections, which are currently scheduled for June 23rd. And those are the primary elections for all

the November elections would then move to sometime in late July. A lot of folks have worked real hard on that. And it's a workable solution and I think a lot of municipal governments. And, you know, towns and cities are very, very much in favor of that. [Inaudible].

**Bridge Littleton:** I think we lost Danny in the town office.

**Danny Davis:** Can you hear me?

**Bridge Littleton:** Danny, we can hear you, Yes. We can hear you. So that's definitely one possibility. If that is no action by the town, all absentee votes are counted. You know, we push it off till mid late June. And there is nothing that would disrupt our elections from happening and then a new council seated in July. Second possibility, the governor does not call a special session and he merely extends the date for the election by two weeks. So he has already to do that. He can extend any election timeframe by two weeks. So instead of it being May 5th, it would be May 19th. Now, he cannot extend it any further than that. But if the governor does extend an election by two weeks, a municipality then has the ability to file with the circuit court for us would be Loudoun County and request additional. You can request an additional 16 days to be added on to that additional two weeks. Now, that would be by petition of the town to the circuit court and every municipality across Virginia can do that. So depending on what the governor announces he's going to do tomorrow, if he does not call a special session to move these dates and only extends it for two weeks, then the town has a decision to make as to whether or not we want to petition the circuit court of Loudoun County to push it out even another up to 16 days or whatever the judge would deem permissible. I've talked to several of the other towns. So there's five towns in Loudoun that all have May 5th elections. Leesburg and Hillsborough are already in November. So so it doesn't matter for them. But for the other five towns, they will all be in the same same boat and haven't talked to every town. But I've talked to most of them, and there is a strong desire that they would want to move an additional period of time by request of the circuit court. And the thought is that it would be much stronger and much more forceful if all of us towns did that petition together. And I think we would do it in one petition and might actually, instead of five separate ones, it actually might save some costs. So the question for the council is because it would be a requirement for Danny and a requirement for Martin. If the governor does not call a special election or excuse me, call a special session to reconvene the legislature to move the elections, and the only way we would be able to move this into November is by petition to the circuit court, is everybody in favor of doing that and trying to do it with the other towns? But ultimately, if we can't get the town to do it, we still gotta do it for ourselves. Just to add that extra time.

**Cindy Pearson:** When did you say to move it to again?.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah. So it's gonna be. So the governor can move it to May 19. By statute, the circuit court could then add up to 16 days, which would make that like June 15th, I guess. No.

**Cindy Pearson:** 14th would be a Tuesday.

**Bridge Littleton:** No, he can add 16 days. The 16 on May 9th is 11. Three more days, he could move it to June 2nd. June 2nd or June 3rd. But there's a complication there. There's also a statute in Virginia to says two elections cannot be held within 30 days of each other. So if they took advantage of the full 16 days, that would be June 2nd, but that would be within 30 days of the June 23rd election for the primaries. So it's unclear as to whether the circuit court can do that or not. But worst case, they could give us an additional five days for that, for an extra buffer of safety, which I think, you know, is totally worth it. So the question then for the council is, you know, if the governor only extends it for two weeks. Do we want to join in with the other towns or by ourselves if we have to petition the circuit court to extend up to 16 days. But ultimately, for as many extra days as they would allow. I know it's a lot. But it's got a lot of ins and outs to it.

**Bud Jacobs:** This is Bud. I would I would be in favor of that, Bridge.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. Let me do this. Let me run around the horn real quick and see if anybody has any questions. And then we can decide if it's something we want to. And then, Danny, you know, ask for your input, but then see if it's something we want to move on. So Darlene any input from you?

**Darlene Kirk:** I'm fine with it.

**Bridge Littleton:** OK. Cindy?

**Cindy Pearson:** Does it affect the mail in ballot, then?

**Bridge Littleton:** No, all absentee ballots would be counted and the absentee ballots could be continue to be received up until the day of the election.

**Kevin Daly:** Hello?

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah. Kevin, you're up.

**Kevin Daly:** Getting a lot of feedback. This is my question. Is the intent then to allow in-person voting?

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah, that that's the way it, that's the way it is. So these days are for two things. Number one, the cutoff date to receive, you know, for absentee ballots to be received by the Board of Elections. And it would also be the date of the in-person voting.

**Kevin Daly:** Ok. Then the other question big question is we're still guessing whether or not it would be safe to have this much social interaction in June. This is before the June 10th deadline that the governor has already set.

**Bridge Littleton:** That's correct. But from a legal perspective, these are the only options on the table.

**Kevin Daly:** Ok. I'd rather error on the side of caution and extend it into June. And if that's the best we can do, then so be it. But I would really encourage, strongly encourage, absentee voting. After all, if it's good enough for President Trump, it ought to be good enough for the rest of us for voting.

**Bridge Littleton:** So, Kevin, totally understand I will say this. The Loudoun County Board of Elections, at least have been doing a really good job at pushing absentee voterism or actually absentee voting and absentee voting is at, you know, all-time highs I think, you know, for a May timeframe election. I mean, Fairfax County, I think they've got like 70 percent of what they would normally get in a walk in election in May. They've already gotten that by absentee. Or not Fairfax County, Fairfax City. So, yeah, I mean, I think you're absolutely right. We all need to continue to pound the drumbeat about absentee voting and all that. So that's a very good point. Philip?

**Philip Miller:** I mean, I will just point out that everyone on the ballot in Middleburg is running unopposed. So it doesn't affect us that much. I would encourage us to continue to push for absentee voting for all of our residents, regardless, just for their safety and for all of our safety. And I think if push comes to shove, then we stand with the other towns and push as far away as we can.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. Yeah. You know, that's a good point, right? All of us are opposed. But the other thing is they legally have to do the in-person, you know, so the election workers have to come here. They've got to set up and run the machines and all that stuff. So. But it's a good point. Okay. Chris?

**Chris Bernard:** Yeah. I mean, similar to Philip, considering that it's a kind of a moot point to us as far as the result goes, I think we push it as far as we can so that we have the safest possible situation.

**Danny Davis:** Could you hear us Bridge? Ok. Sorry. Give us one second. Can you hear us now?

**Rhonda North:** No, we lost the Internet again.

**Danny Davis:** It dropped again? I mean, the entire switch went down, our telephone went down.

**Chris Bernard:** I wonder because it's like raining. I wonder if there's a weather component.

**Danny Davis:** I'll call in here. We're still on. We can't hear you. Hold on, hold on. I'll get it. This is crazy, sorry. How about now?

**Chris Bernard:** What changed?

**Rhonda North:** Something keeps blinking.

**Bridge Littleton:** They don't have that authority. What they voted on was a resolution supporting the governor's proposal. The governor's proposal failed last night. OK. So. So he put a proposal out and it was voted down.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Well, I certainly think we shouldn't be doing it on May the 19th, even if this is an essential function. I think June the 10th should be the earliest after that. And I would certainly support joining the other towns. And if that can't happen, then we should have another conversation about doing ourselves and find out what the cost implications are or other implications.

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, the problem is we can't do that. We don't have the authority. It's it's literally those those dates are set by law, by the governor and by the election boards. So the only the only power we have is in this one instance to request the circuit court to extend an additional 16 days. We could beg him and ask him. But that's it.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** I would agree with that. Yes. OK.

**Bridge Littleton:** Danny, from your guy's perspective, do you do you have any other input or do you need us to vote it as a motion so that assuming the governor's decision next tomorrow is to just move it two weeks, you guys can move forward with a petition to the circuit court?

**Danny Davis:** Yes, Mr. Mayor, can you hear me OK?

**Bridge Littleton:** Yes.

**Danny Davis:** Great. Thanks. Sorry. Our entire network jumped off, even our landline phone. So appreciate the patience there. Yeah, I think it would probably be most helpful to have a motion from you saying if if the governor only moves it by two weeks, then you direct us to petition the circuit court in conjunction with the other towns as appropriate and otherwise, this doesn't need to be part of the motion. But if he does call a special session and the General Assembly does reach a conclusion, we will rely upon their decision.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah, yeah, exactly. So I think that captured it. Does anybody want to reiterate what Danny just said into a motion?

**Bud Jacobs:** Let me give it a try. This is Bud again. Hello?

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah. You're good. We hear you OK.

**Bud Jacobs:** I move that if the governor tomorrow extends the municipal elections to May 19 that Middleburg with or without the participation of the other affected jurisdictions, petitioned the court to delay the election an additional 14 days.

**Kevin Daly:** Second. Kevin Daly seconds.

**Bridge Littleton:** And I would make a friendly amendment that we say 16 days. That's the maximum.

**Bud Jacobs:** Agreed.

**Bridge Littleton:** OK. Any other discussion? All right, Rhonda, if you want to do the roll call vote.

**Rhonda North:** Vice Mayor Kirk.

**Darlene Kirk:** Yes.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Bernard.

**Chris Bernard:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Daly.

**Kevin Daly:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Jacobs.

**Bud Jacobs:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Leonard-Morgan.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Miller.

**Philip Miller:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Pearson.

**Cindy Pearson:** Aye.

**Bridge Littleton:** OK. The motion passes. Next item on the agenda is consent agenda. Does anybody have anything they want to remove? Seeing as there's only one item.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Make a motion?

**Bridge Littleton:** Please, sir.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** I move the council adopt the consent agenda as presented.

**Kevin Daly:** Kevin Daly seconds.

**Rhonda North:** Rhonda, you're up.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Bernard.

**Chris Bernard:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Daily.

**Kevin Daly:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Jacobs.

**Bud Jacobs:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Leonard-Morgan.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Miller.

**Philip Miller:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Pearson.

**Cindy Pearson:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Vice Mayor Kirk.

**Darlene Kirk:** Aye.

**Bridge Littleton:** And the motion carries. All right. Because consent agenda is approved. Next item. Oh, I don't know if we want to do this one. The extension of Council Member Jacobs' interim appointment. This could be a lot of trouble.

**Kevin Daly:** [inaudible] to be changed and extended to the June timeframe. If we push back the additional 16 days, if the governor adds 14 day.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah. So we'll just have to update the motion it covers that. OK. Rhonda, I guess this is your memo if you want to brief it for everybody.

**Rhonda North:** Yes, Mr. Mayor. So when Council Member Jacobs was appointed to the council in November, it was through the special election May the 5th and the certification of that election and the swearing in of the new member because we had specifically tied it to May 5th. And it appears the elections could possibly move to another date. We thought it was wise to add an item to the agenda to just make the motion to extend his appointment until the special election is held. Delete the reference to a date and that way we won't have any type of gaps accidentally occurring.

**Cindy Pearson:** Make a motion?

**Bridge Littleton:** Please.

**Cindy Pearson:** OK. I move the council will extend the interim appointment of Morris Bud Jacobs to the Middleburg Town Council until the special election is held and the replacement member is elected and sworn into office by the Loudoun County Clerk of the Circuit Court.

**Chris Bernard:** Second.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok, Rhonda, we have a second. If you'd like to do the roll call.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Daly.

**Kevin Daly:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Jacobs.

**Bud Jacobs:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Leonard-Morgan.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Miller.

**Philip Miller:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Pearson.

**Cindy Pearson:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Vice Mayor Kirk.

**Darlene Kirk:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Bernard.

**Chris Bernard:** Aye.

**Bridge Littleton:** Motion carries. Bud, you chicken. I wanted to see how you were gonna vote. Careful what you wish for. Okay. Next item is the solid waste management contract. Danny, if you want want to, you know, give us a quick briefing on this. I know we've been over it couple of times, but please take us through the details. I know we're we're ready to do this.

**Rhonda North:** I'll turn it over to Ms. North. If that's all right.

**Bridge Littleton:** Even better.

**Danny Davis:** And Mr. Moore is also available should there be any other questions specific to the actual operation of our waste disposal activities.

**Rhonda North:** Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Council, as you're aware, back, I believe it was in November. We formed a town consortium with six other towns in the area and we developed a regional RFP for refuse and recycling collection. That RFP was let. We had four companies who attended the prebid conference. Ultimately, two folks submitted proposals. We interviewed, the committee interviewed both of the companies, felt that either one could provide the services required to satisfy the towns and asked them for their best and final offer. Once we received that, we rank them and are recommending the award to American disposal. They agreed to continue to do the collections for all of the towns on Wednesdays. And they also offered the better price of the of the two. I am sad to say that Purcellville and Haymarket did ultimately drop out of the consortium. So we are now down to to just the five communities. But as I say, we've made our recommendation and it now is going to each of the towns to determine whether they wish to to award the contract. And so as the staff, we're presenting it to Middleburg to see if the council is willing to take that make recommendation and make the award.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok, well, so first just let me say, especially to you, Rhonda. But but Will as well. And I know Tim helped and Danny, you guys are really, really good job coming up with a creative way to, you know, try to, you

know, get get as much synergy as we can with the other localities to get the best deal possible. Really appreciate all the hard work. I think it's a great model for thing, how certain things might be all be done, the future. But let's go around and check in with everybody. Darlene. Any questions, inputs or thoughts?

**Darlene Kirk:** Well I was just sorry to see our current one not win. Because they've been very good.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah. Cindy?

**Cindy Pearson:** If the other towns don't accept it for some reason, I have no idea will the conditions of the contract still. Will we be back to a different spot then or will we go for what we're offered.

**Rhonda North:** We will we will have to to check with American to see if they are still willing to honor the price and the terms of their proposal. With with less folks participating, they were willing to do it when Purcellville dropped out. So hopefully they would would continue, but we would have to check with them to see.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Ok. OK. OK. I hope the other towns do. I was just wondering that. And Darlene, I have to disagree with. I think that our honeymoon has been over for quite some time. [Inaudible].

**Darlene Kirk:** [Inaudible].

**Bridge Littleton:** Kevin.

**Kevin Daly:** Yeah, I kind of question why Purcellville and Haymarket decided to withdraw when there's strength in numbers for this type of negotiation. And I also agree with Cindy. I've been finding garbage remaining in my trash cans after the guys have come by, so I'm good to go with the decision made. And hopefully the consortium will continue to to honor it.

**Bridge Littleton:** OK. Bud.

**Bud Jacobs:** Couple of questions, I believe when China is acceptance of recycling materials from the United States and other countries, a number of jurisdictions in the United States, including Arlington County, stop recycling. The agreement or this potential agreement with American disposal includes recycling. I assume that is an added cost factor. I'd like to know how they recycle and what they recycle. My second question is the bins. Most of the bins in my neighborhood are pretty torn up because the incumbent contractor did not have the right equipment on the truck to empty them mechanically. And I believe the contract provides for American disposal to provide the residents with new 96 gallon bins. Is my understanding correct?

**Rhonda North:** So, yes. Yes. Mr. Jacobs, American would provide 96 gallon refuse containers and then they would provide recycling bins. So one of the things that the staff would have to arrange is to collect the existing baked CSI ESI cans in bins and and to distribute the American bins to our customers. They American has a MRF, a recycling center, where they will take all the co-mingled recycling. They will separated out. They will send it to what markets still remain. We have not been advised of any change to the items that are accepted will be accepted for recycling. But the contract does note that we recognize that conditions change from time to time and that we may have to to change as the markets dry up.

**Kevin Daly:** And they recycle or they would recycle paper, glass, plastic. Is that correct?

**Rhonda North:** Correct.

**Kevin Daly:** OK. Thank you.

**Bridge Littleton:** Philip, any questions?

**Philip Miller:** My only question was whether or not there was any provision in the contract for event pickups. For any special event waste that we have.

**Rhonda North:** So there are multiple provisions in the contract. The vendor would continue to do the large item pickups that that we're used to seeing. There's also something in there called a special circumstance collection where if we have a bad weather event or something of that nature, where all of a sudden, you know, we have large amounts of refuse or tree limbs or what have you laying around town, they will come in and do one pick up at no charge per year for free. Again, a for free per year. And then they have given us the cost above the 1 free one per year.

**Danny Davis:** In addition to that, they also included costs for dumpsters. So it would not be part of the overall cost of the contract, but there are built in known costs for those particular events.

**Bridge Littleton:** So is it fair to say that those additional things we have prices for and for us, it's sort of like an all a carte menu thing. If we wanted to do it, we can do it. We know what the price is in advance and we have that option.

**Danny Davis:** That is correct.

**Bridge Littleton:** Okay. Philip, any other questions?

**Philip Miller:** No, I'm good.

**Bridge Littleton:** Cool. Chris.

**Chris Bernard:** I'm all set.

**Bridge Littleton:** Peter.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Couple of observations. Darlene, I think I read somewhere that Bates Trucking declined to renew our contracts, [Inaudible]. They applied, I think, to the portion, but not to the town. Another point here, I had the same question as Kevin about why did Haymarket and Purcellville pull out? You know I'd be interested to hear if Rhonda has an answer to that. And now regarding recycling. You know, since China stopped taking recycling, glass has become a confused issue. And they say in Fairfax County, they have bought purple cans to actually allow people to take that glass to those cans. And they probably crushed and used for roads and to cover the trash piles. But in Loudon County just recently, I believe the board of supervisors agreed to do the same thing. So that should comfort you because glass right now, even though we put in recycling, there's a confusion as to whether it's actually being recycled properly and plastic is. So Go Green is working on that right now.

**Bridge Littleton:** Peter, what's Go Green. [Laughter]. You know, nobody else may know what that means, but I know what that means.

**Kevin Daly:** May I say something before we continue? Peter, you're doing a great job with air quality. I can't believe how clean air has become in just a matter of weeks.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Thank you so much councilman, we've been working hard on that.

**Bridge Littleton:** Oh, boy. All right. So if there's no other questions, would someone please be willing to make a motion?

**Rhonda North:** So, Mr. Mayor, did you want me to respond to the questions about Haymarket and Purcellville?

**Bridge Littleton:** Sure, if you want to. Yeah, sure.

**Rhonda North:** So. So the town of Haymarket went back to their current vendor and renegotiated with them. And so they went with their current vendor. The town of Purcellville has more time before their contract expires. And so they opted to to leave the consortium. And they're going to do their own individual RFP in hopes of getting a better price.

**Bridge Littleton:** It's definitely a little bit of roll of the dice. Any other questions before we move to the motion? All right, Chris, you're up.

**Chris Bernard:** I got to open it. Hang on. I move the council approved the award of a contract to American Disposal Services for the provision of refuse and recycling collection services for the town of Middleburg based on their proposal dated March 20th 2020, I further move that the council direct the town staff to finalize the details of the contract and authorize the town administrator to execute the contract said contract to be approved by the town attorney as to form.

**Bridge Littleton:** OK. Darlene, do you want to do the roll call, please?

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Jacobs.

**Bud Jacobs:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Leonard-Morgan.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Miller.

**Philip Miller:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Pearson.

**Cindy Pearson:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Vice Mayor Kirk.

**Darlene Kirk:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Bernard.

**Chris Bernard:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Daly.

**Kevin Daly:** Aye.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok, the motion carries. The next item is historic district design guidelines update. Will, it is over to you.

**Will Moore:** Thank you, Mr. Mayor and members of council. Hope everyone is doing well. You have my memo. Just a quick synopsis. The HDRC attempted in the past two meetings to do wholesale revisions to design guidelines. And those efforts have been unsuccessful for a couple of reasons. One, it's just too large of an undertaking for the volunteer members and two, efforts in the past to interview and come to a good feeling with [inaudible] had not been successful. Back in February, we were happy to bring in Frazier Associates, go through an interview process, make a presentation and go [inaudible] HDRC. And the HDRC was very impressed with Frazier. Frazier has a very long

history of doing this kind of work. Frazier is also the firm with which we're contracted to do our wayfinding. So there should be some good synergy between those two things. Frazier is already under contract, under a state contract that is available for us to use. So they have been through a competitive procurement process. If council is satisfied with the amount that is proposed here, which is the total would be not to exceed 50,500 for the effort, then we could immediately contract with Frazier without going through another cochairman process. I'll be happy to answer any questions you have related to this.

**Bridge Littleton:** So we'll just go round real quick? Well, actually, Cindy as the HDRC representative. Any input from you before we take questions?

**Cindy Pearson:** No, but HDRC or whatever you'd like to call it. We're very interested in Frazier. Frazier came and spoke. I think it's a good fit for us. You know, the only concern I have at this time, of course. Just me. This is my personal concern, not HDRCs, because we haven't met in a while. And I understand it's a good time to go because we can sit under that, you know, get that amount. But knowing the town funds are going to be very limited for next year, should we commit to these bigger contracts now? I mean, I know it's something that needs to be done and you know, we've want to have it done for a long time. But, you know, it's another \$50,000 we're gonna commit to. And now we have it in the budget this year to do. But next year our budget, we have no clue what our budget is going to look like. That's my only concern.

**Bridge Littleton:** Will or Danny, would either one of you want to speak to that.

**Danny Davis:** Mr. Mayor and Council Member Pearson. That's obviously going to be a concern for a number of projects that that we're facing and looking at doing. We do have some funds, as you mentioned, in current year, which we can encumber and essentially roll over. They can be used into the next fiscal year as appropriate. At this point, I would say the the funding that we have put on freeze that council approved to freeze it at your last meeting I believe is sufficient at this time to cover those potential costs. And there's potential, I guess, a loss of revenue. That's a better way of putting it. And so the amount of funds we have budgeted, both in the planning and zoning budget and also in consulting and administration, I think are sufficient to cover it and currently have not been reduced. So I'm definitely cognizant of the sentiment of the funding and not wanting to put ourselves in a hole. But I believe that our budget as approved at this point, is OK to continue forward with this project.

**Cindy Pearson:** Thank you.

**Bridge Littleton:** So let's just go around the room real quick. Any other input? Darlene.

**Darlene Kirk:** I don't have any input.

**Bridge Littleton:** Kevin.

**Kevin Daly:** I also concur. Thank you, Cindy for your question. If we go with that. Yeah. I want to preserve as much as we can the town's business [inaudible] economic potential in the future? If it doesn't, then we ought to put it aside for now with higher priorities.

**Bridge Littleton:** Thanks, Bud?

**Bud Jacobs:** As I understand it, the contract has a not to exceed fifty thousand five hundred dollars and all of these funds are allocated for this fiscal year. In other words, the contract, although performance may carry over into the next fiscal year, payment of funds for that performance would not. And if that is the case, then I'm I'm all in favor of doing this.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. Philip.

**Philip Miller:** I see this as a critical need. It's way overdue and I think that it's an investment in protecting what makes Middleburg charming and special. And it's the way that we can protect our heritage feel so that when we do rise out of this and become another tourist destination town, we look even better than we do today.

**Bridge Littleton:** Peter?

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Yes again, Cindy, I'm really glad you raised that question. This is a very important one at this point because we want to make sure everything we look at and spend we take it very, very seriously. I do think it's an important thing to do. I actually watched these guys in the meeting and it was very impressive. And I know guidelines they like at the moment that they are historic, historic. And I have and if we don't write this contract, this go around. Is it likely to be a lot more if we waited a year, for example, two years.

**Will Moore:** The answer to that is no. So this contract is awarded for a maximum amount of what the state calls small project that are under \$80000, but it doesn't necessarily get paid hourly rates or anything like that. So Frazier has been successfully procured under this contract for a number of years running and we would anticipate that they would remain so. So I wouldn't anticipate it if we had to delay for whatever reason that we would see a spike in cost in subsequent years.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Great. Thanks. Thanks a lot, Will. By the way, your name is incorrectly spelled in the memos. I know if that's important, but I'm inclined to say we should go ahead with it. You know, I am concerned about optics and the real value of money here, but I'm inclined to go ahead with it, I do think like Philip said, it is an important issue. [Inaudible].

**Bridge Littleton:** Peter, could you repeat your comment? Kevin missed part of it.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** I was saying I'm inclined to agree that we should go ahead with it, even though, you know, it's a lot of money in anyone's language. Three months ago, we wouldn't even thought twice about it. And now we have to be really cognizant about what we're spending large ish amounts of money on. And is it appropriate right now? Is it a priority right now? But I do think it has a high degree of priority.

**Kevin Daly:** Thank you.

**Bridge Littleton:** Will, let me ask you a quick question. So this price proposal that we have from Frazier, does it have a validity period on it?

**Will Moore:** I don't believe that. I don't believe that they stipulated any period in our negotiation with them. We could certainly get back with them if that's a question. But there was not one stipulated when they gave the proposal.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yes. No, I got you. And here's the question I've got. So, I mean, I absolutely. We've got to do this. It's been 30 years or 40 years, whatever it's been, since since we updated that. But. I do respect what, you know, Cindy's point and Kevin and everybody's, right, is that do we? I mean, my question really is to this do we wait one month if the price will hold for one month? Do we wait one month and just sort of see where the economic shakeout is in terms of, you know, Corona, the town, the county. You know I mean, I don't think we want to kick this thing down the road. You know, six months. Cause that just that drags them out. This work never gets done. You know, I don't think our our world is going to change much over one month. But this is the big month, right? This is the big month. We're supposed to be hitting the peak of the disease. We're supposed to see, you know, six weeks from now coming out of the lockdown and stuff like that. Ultimately, everybody's in favor of going ahead, just going to get started. Fully support. That's great. But I just I asked that question generally.

**Chris Bernard:** Can I weigh in?

**Bridge Littleton:** Oh, Chris, I'm sorry.

**Chris Bernard:** Yeah. So. So a couple of things on this. When I was looking at it earlier, I really, really balked it when I hit the costs. I mean, coronavirus aside, I think, you know, it's an important project. It's something we need to do. It feels like a lot of money for. I don't know that we know. So we need to reinvent the wheel there. But so we are dealing with coronavirus so that at least the second part, which is, you know, we had that list of things that we discussed last last two weeks ago, I guess. You know, hey, do we need to pay out employee bonuses and stuff like that? And I think that that right now, that kind of stuff seems to be more important and higher priority than doing this. So if we had to choose between one of those two things, I think I'd lean that way. And I think what Bridge is saying is, you know, do we have to do tonight? Do we have a a month or two once we have a better idea of what's going on? And if the price changes, then the price changes and we can look at other people to do this or whatever it is. And the last thing I wanted to point out was that in their little proposal here, there's a note that it says that the fee doesn't doesn't include any inside visits due to COVID 19. So do we want this group reviewing our historic downtown guidelines, but they can't come here? I don't know. It just seems weird. I'd rather push this until it made more sense.

**Bridge Littleton:** You know, that's a fair point. We did have a discussion last week around, you know, things we're gonna spend money on priorities and whatever.

**Cindy Pearson:** Can I say something?

**Bridge Littleton:** Cindy. Go ahead, please.

**Cindy Pearson:** Will, what do you think about tabling that for another month or even maybe in full till July? Would that, give me a thought?

**Will Moore:** I certainly think one month would be perfectly fine, and that will give us an opportunity to communicate with Frazier and get a better idea of how long they would be willing to hold this price. I don't think it's going to be OK. I would not anticipate big jump in any case. So certainly if we want to hold off on, that's not going to make or break this project by any means. So we can get some more information between now and then and revisit it next month.

**Cindy Pearson:** Ok. I'd like to make that motion to table it for a month.

**Kevin Daly:** I'll second that.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. Does anybody I mean, you know, sort of last last go round. Anybody have any concerns about bringing this back up at the second meeting in May for action? Once we have a little clearer view on economic stuff.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** I mentioned, I think Chris brings up a good point. I've seen that as well. My question was different. It was can we. Is it OK for HDRC to have meetings online with them, which it clearly is, if we've been doing it. But his point about them not physically being here when it's all about the tactile. I think it's a very good point.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. Any other any other input on that? You know, again, for tabling into the till the second meeting in May.

**Bud Jacobs:** Just one comment. The proposal doesn't say that they will do online or mail contact work. It it says that that could be an option if it's necessary to do so. I don't think they they think they're going to do this thing without ever having come over and looked at the town and the district in the historic district overlay and so on and so forth. They just. They describe it as a potential option.

**Bridge Littleton:** So Will I guess those are a couple of questions you definitely want to go back to them and, you know, run to ground and get more clarity would be good to know. And I think the you know, I don't want to speak

for anybody so if I'm saying this incorrectly from your point of view. Please speak up. But I think there's a comfort level that we table this to the second meeting in May. And with the intent that we do act on it, then. You know, given, you know, everything is sort of on the same path, then great. But if the, you know, the world economy take some serious dove for the worst, OK, we can, you know, then rethink it again. But, everyone OK with that? OK. So we'll do that. And so Will and Danny, I don't think you need any actually action by us. You've got direction on that. Should be all you need, right?

**Danny Davis:** Yes, sir.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok, great. Ok. Next one, request for funding for the Middleburg community center. This, I guess, to revisit the requests we've had from them several months ago now around I guess the mulch stuff. Danny, do you want to go into that first?

**Danny Davis:** Yeah. Real briefly. This was part of their request to the Health Center Advisory Board. They came in in November and the council considered in December. And during that discussion, the council asked to hold on to this request until the community center had an opportunity to gather more information on the project. Their proposal was to update and make some improvements to their backgrounds, including their playground area specifically. That would be a benefit to the community and their overall community offerings. And so they were able to go back and get a bid from the company that used to do all of the landscaping and work on behalf of the county Parks and Rec department. When the when the county was maintaining these aspects of the facility and I believe this company still does work for Parks and Rec. So as you see in the memo, this new proposal is just over \$5000. The Health Center Advisory Board had already recommended \$5000 to the community center for this project. And so this proposal that they have, I think, is much more in line with reality of these types of activities than their initial cost estimate. So, again, this is up for the council's discretion and consideration. The reason is brought to you today is because we know ongoing operations do continue. Landscaping type services are essential defined under the current order. And so things like this are requested to continue moving forward as much as possible. I do not have Ms. Rogers on on the line with us. So if there are specific questions that would cause a need to postpone this, we could ask her to join the next meeting. But I'm happy to to answer anything. If you have any questions about it as best as I can.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. Thank you. We'll go around. Darlene, any inputs, questions or thoughts?

**Darlene Kirk:** Well, certainly a lot better than their initial request and a lot less expensive. So I think it's fairly reasonable.

**Bridge Littleton:** Cindy?

**Cindy Pearson:** I have to abstain from this discussion and vote because I do work for the community center.

**Bridge Littleton:** I think you can still discuss it. But if you want to abstain from voting.

**Cindy Pearson:** I'm good.

**Bridge Littleton:** Kevin?

**Kevin Daly:** Good to go.

**Bridge Littleton:** Bud?

**Bud Jacobs:** Yes, good to go.

**Bridge Littleton:** Philip.

**Philip Miller:** Given what we've used the health center funds for recently, did we want to consider paying for this out of something else like general fund?

**Danny Davis:** If I may, Council Member Miller. When when we had this information come previously, a portion of the funds were coming from the health center and a portion of the funds were coming from the general fund, about half and half. So I'm not sure we specifically delineated which were out of the health center versus which ones were out of the general fund dollars. But if it makes it better, we can make and we can have this come out of the town's charitable or general fund versus the health center funds. But all in all, that was part of the health center recommendations, though. Again, it's it's council's discretion.

**Philip Miller:** Yeah, just don't see how it really aligns with that mission these days. I would prefer to take it out of the general fund, out of a charitable contribution.

**Danny Davis:** We can do that.

**Philip Miller:** Otherwise, I'm good.

**Bridge Littleton:** Chris.

**Chris Bernard:** I'm good.

**Bridge Littleton:** Peter.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Couple of things I'm confused why it's not the health center fund's thing, isn't that part of the philanthropy? And secondly, why don't we just go the extra half a mile and and go to the 5 9 5 1 6 9.

**Danny Davis:** Council Member Leonard-Morgan. You know that that's always a challenge when when approaching grants is, you know, how how best to define that line of of what falls from from potentially what fund or under what auspices. The health center the funds were were for to be used for charitable purposes in Middleburg. Charitable purposes can be rather broadly defined. And so I think, you know, it being a nonprofit organization does good for the community. Definitely could be defined there. Definitely. It's different than some of the other purposes that funds are being given out, such as specifically supporting those who are low income, unable to pay their bills, need food, things like that. So I think that's part of the balance there. When considering the funds, we had initially not expended the full amount amount the health center fund just because the town had the council in the prior budget, had felt it appropriate to contribute general fund dollars towards these these activities and these requests. So that's why it was initially essentially a 50/50 split. So I know I don't really answer your question, but I know that's part of it.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** I appreciate that. It's slightly rhetorical as well, because I think playground repairs and the swimming pool, have such community access. So I just keep thinking back to the original mandate of the health center [inaudible] I'd like to make the friendly amendment to increase it to the request just under six thousand.

**Bridge Littleton:** Danny, refresh my memory. We didn't pay for the pool out of the health center fund, did we?

**Danny Davis:** Correct. The pool funding came out of the general fund, the charitable contributions line item.

**Bridge Littleton:** So Peter was there any other input? So I just. I'm going to make it just a couple of observations on an areas of concern I've got.

**Cindy Pearson:** Don't forget Bud.

**Bridge Littleton:** Didn't I say Bud?

**Cindy Pearson:** No.

**Bridge Littleton:** Bud, I'm sorry.

**Cindy Pearson:** Or Kevin.

**Kevin Daly:** You never say me.

**Bud Jacobs:** I don't have any comment. I certainly don't see a conflict or or misalignment with the health center funds mission using money there. But I don't care where the money comes from. And I agree with Peter that increasing the amount to 5 9 5 1 is a good idea.

**Bridge Littleton:** And last, but certainly not least, Colonel Daly.

**Kevin Daly:** I'm good to go. I don't care what color the money is.

**Bridge Littleton:** Take it out. Take it out of Kevin's paycheck then.

**Kevin Daly:** It'll take a few years. But, hey, I'm going to be [inaudible] for another four years. I can do it.

**Bridge Littleton:** So not so much about the specific requests, but a little bit about the process. I've got some observations that are causing concern. And I think the. You know, it's it's number one. It's about us and about our grants and and charitable giving, you know, how we go about doing it. And I know that's one of our strategic priorities to review that whole thing and come up with a much more balanced approach and stuff like that. So I know on our side, you know, we'll we'll we're going to, you know, retrofit that and and and and make it more, you know, aligned or whatnot. But, you know, where I'm concerned, is that the original request originally came in with no quotes for services, with no background on how much it was actually going to cost to do this. And just a number thrown out there of twenty thousand dollars. And, you know, a one page form. You know, most of our charitable organizations, we give them about four or five thousand dollars. And this is one that came in for \$20000 with zero backup. And it was, you know, the health advisory board did their job. They looked at a sort of a whoa, twenty grand for mulch. OK, wait a minute. You know, we're maybe comfortable with five, but still that's five was a guess. But there was no there was no quote. There was no information about how much would actually cost to do the work. And then they go out and get the quote and the quote is actually \$5,000. Now, if we'd approved that original request as they submitted, we would have given them \$20000 for work that was only going to end up costing six thousand. And I just you know, now we're lucky, right, that the Health Center Advisory Board said no, five. And we all said, wait a minute, we need more detail. But, you know, there, there, there, there's a gap there. And then the second thing is and this is at the community center. You know, between the thirty thousand for the pool and the 5,000 for this. You know, that's thirty five thousand dollars in charitable contributions to one organization in one fiscal year. And that's not the concert stuff or the fireworks, which are great because those are sporting events. But, you know, there's no other organization in town we're giving that kind of money to. Like Seven Loaves to provide meals for needy. Stuff like that. You know, education, what not. Well, I would say except, you know, the charter school, we did give the charter school that fifty thousand dollars for the matching grant. And so I throw the damage to this bucket as well. We really have to take that strategic priority aggressively and come up with a fair, balanced process because, you know, I can see it starting to get out of balance with certain requests.

**Bridge Littleton:** Right. Where one organization is gonna be getting thirty forty fifty thousand dollars and another one is going to get five. And you know who's to say one better or worse. And I don't know what the answer is. Right. Like every organization in the most they can get us five grand a year or something like whatever it is. But I think the thing that sort of drew me to the concern was that a request for 20 grand, which is thrown in and the actual cost comes in at six thousand. Yeah. Yeah. Please, Cindy, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

**Cindy Pearson:** Ok. I agree with your concern. And I believe, I'm sorry. The name of the work we're doing on it, Rhonda. But whatever it's called now with the new applications and such that [inaudible] the nonprofit and whoever

to apply for money, that's going to help tremendously with this. I think it's our bad for not having this before. You know, we had something that we worked on which was better than nothing, even way back before that. So come a long way but we've got a way to go. And the other thing is that the center really does provide a place for the community to be [inaudible].

**Bridge Littleton:** Yes, Darlene.

**Darlene Kirk:** [Inaudible].

**Bridge Littleton:** So I understand. And I'm not saying I know what the answer is. You know, it just it gets it gets tough, especially as. And I guess where I'm. My one area of worry is, you know, financially, the town is in a very good position despite COVID 19, right. And people see that and people go, wow, they asked for 15 and they got 15 this year, next year. I'm going to put in fifteen. And, you know, not that everybody is not needing of it and deserving of it, but, you know, we can't we're going to I just I'm concerned where we start to get put into a position where every request now comes in for twenty thousand dollars and, you know. You know, it's tough. It's tough for us to say no, you know. So anyway. And the revamp of the process will probably, you know, solve a lot of this. So. Okay, who would like to make the motion for moving forward with this? Peter?

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** I'm here. OK. I move the town council approve the recommendations of the Health Center Advisory Board to provide five thousand nine hundred fifty one dollars and sixty nine cents in funding to the Middleburg Community Center for the purpose identified in the application with revised information provided.

**Darlene Kirk:** Second. Darlene.

**Cindy Pearson:** Any discussion? All right, Cindy, time for roll call.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Leonard-Morgan.

**Cindy Pearson:** Rhonda.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Leonard-Morgan.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Miller.

**Philip Miller:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Pearson.

**Cindy Pearson:** Abstain.

**Rhonda North:** Vice Mayor Kirk.

**Darlene Kirk:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Bernard.

**Chris Bernard:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Daly.

**Kevin Daly:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Jacobs.

**Bud Jacobs:** Aye.

**Bridge Littleton:** Okay. Discussion items, any discussion items from a member of the council? Ok. Next, the status report on the two support programs.

**Danny Davis:** Thank you, Mr. Mayor. And I'm going to start with the restaurant program and discuss that briefly to let you know, the feedback on this program has been phenomenal. It has been very, very well received. The restaurants are extremely grateful for the town's support in this way and have expressed it numerous times, both formally when reaching out to them, but also informally when just interacting with them throughout town. The residents, almost to a single person, have said how great this is. They believe it's a great way to support the restaurants they're trying, residents are trying their best to support them above and beyond this program as well, and are just wanting to do what they can as well to help our restaurants continue to be successful. I will say I've heard from a number of the restaurants who believe that they have gained new customers, which I think is a lot of the point of this is is not just a mutual benefit overall, but also really allowing the residents in town to experience places in town that perhaps they've never tried before or might not have tried without this program as well. And I think, in a sense, the value of this as a kind of compounding growth type value in terms of the overall benefit to the restaurants and to their marketing efforts and for the town. I don't have all the numbers updated exactly, but I can tell you that we've had it over at least over four of the establishments having turned in over 100 vouchers each and expect that to grow a good bit when we get updates from them tomorrow as well. We've distributed pretty much all the packets. We have a few held back just in case there's one or two folks that we missed that that come in. But we've pretty much distributed them all throughout the town. And it's, again, very, very positive. As we talked about earlier, we know this limitation on dining inside of restaurants or at the establishment at this point continues through May 8th. I did a fairly generic outreach to the to the restaurants participating just to get their feedback on how the program was going. The value meant to them. Some of them have indicated that, you know, they're likely to continue operating beyond April 30th just based on where they are and in seasonality, things like that. Others have indicated that they're not sure if they'll be able to continue open after April 30th if if things continue as is. So I know council wants to have a conversation about what else to do about the restaurants at this point. And so I'm happy to provide or answer any questions you might have. But that's that's my brief update for you right now. Ms. Ray, I'm sorry if I can real quickly just say again for Rhonda and especially for Shannon, our new administrative assistant. This has been the voucher program specifically has been a bit of a workload. And so I want to give huge kudos to them for doing their best, representing the town, representing a number of people calling in, looking for the packets that don't live within the town limits. And so they've had to have those phone calls where people have a Middleburg address but don't actually live within the town limits. But they've done an extremely great job interacting with the public, serving the public and making sure that we captured as many of the residential units in town as possible. So I want to thank them for their good work on this program.

**Bridge Littleton:** That's great. Thank you. And we'll thank everybody at the town office for all you guys do to make the program, you know, a great success. So, Danny, do you want to. Let's do this. Why don't you give us the update on the retail program? I know it's a lot shorter. And then we could have a discussion about, you know, if we want to do any extension.

**Danny Davis:** Sure. Absolutely. So briefly, you have in your packet here, again, as of Friday, those those businesses who expressed interest to Mr. Gaucher in terms of the retail program, just to provide a few points of clarity in case there is any question. Two of the vendors are the local publications that serve the town, even though technically they they just squeak outside the town limits. They serve the businesses in town very much and are critical to the ongoing success of our town. And so I believe there was consensus to allow them to participate. The CARMontt garage in case anyone's unaware is the name of the repair shop at the Exxon station. I had the same question. And then Middleburg Humane was was probably inappropriately titled there. That's actually the thrift shop that shares a space with Scruffy's. Yeah. And so it is not Middleburg Humane which is located in Marshall. So just wanted to provide clarity. As of today we have twelve signed agreements and I expect two more tomorrow. So that would be

14 total, which is a positive number continuing to reach out to some of those that we have not received formal signed agreements back and to try to encourage them to continue to get those into us if they want to be a part of this. We did provide posters for those who have retail fronts and would like to put up sale posters on their storefronts that are consistent. They can be edited by each individual business to include their own web address, their own logo business name, and then if their discount is different, then we put a set 30 percent. But that number can be edited fairly easily and we can assist them if they want. We thought that was good to have. So there can be kind of the same style of poster throughout town for those participating businesses and it gives any walk by traffic the ability to see how how to make good orders, whether Web site, telephone, things like that. As you know right now, there is a smattering of how people get their information up on their front doors. I would also note that as part of both of these programs, we are taking out an ad actually two pages worth of advertisements in both *The Eccentric* and the *Middleburg life*, thanking our restaurants who stayed open over this period of time and encouraging people to continue to support our restaurants. And also in the same vein, encouraging people to shop local virtually through this retail program and directing people to our Web site and encouraging them to continue supporting our local businesses. So a lot of the pieces coming together to really provide support as well to our retail community as best as we can. And then in speaking with Punkin today, it sounds like they're working on some additional posts on their Web site and social. They're working on a video that's kind of generic town wide video. We're still here. Don't forget, you know, don't forget us. But also, here are ways to continue shopping at our different stores. So all in all, hoping to help our retailers as much as we can. And there seems to be good excitement about what the town council has approved.

**Bridge Littleton:** That's great. Thanks, Danny. Just for everybody's awareness. *Washington Business Journal* just had an article today about our about our voucher program and what we're doing to help businesses, which was very well received. From that, I actually got a call from the mayor of the city of Waynesboro or an email. The mayor of the city of Waynesboro this afternoon. And then he called and. I called him back and he wanted to about the program. And they wanted. They're going to try to replicate something for that for their businesses in downtown in Waynesboro. So I think it's been really, really well-received, especially a restaurant program and the retail ones just getting, you know, getting off its feet. And I think it's great for the businesses, great for the residents. So. So now the question is, you know, the governor's order stays till May 8, I believe. But really what the benchmark is, is 14 days of decline. So that's going to be the benchmark by which, you know, restaurants can have, you know, at least limited seating and stuff like that. And, you know, the one thing about that timeline is if you get to day twelve with decline and on day 13, it goes up, it starts over and it's another 14 days. Now, understanding we can't be all things to all people do everything for everyone as much as we want to. That with the success of the restaurant program, I would love to for all of us to have a discussion on if we want to look at extending that and extending it has to have a couple of pieces to it. The first piece is the financial support to the restaurant to continue to stay open. The second piece to it is what type of benefit do we want to get from them on that for our residents? You know, whether it's vouchers or something else, we could we could modify that. And in the third piece is assuming we do want to take this a little bit further, given that the shutdown will likely be in place. How do we want to do that? Do we want to do it a whole month or do we want to do it one week at a time? Do we want to, you know, coincide it with the lifting, but not past a certain date? And then if if the ban stays in place past a certain date, well, our program ends then, you know, by all rights, the governor could keep the ban in place to August. Well, we can't go that far. So so first threshold question, assuming the ban is going to stay in place, let's just say till sometime in June. What is the feeling on figuring out some kind of extension? So all this. And then we'll figure out what the details are. Darlene, what are your thoughts?

**Darlene Kirk:** I'd like to extend it. I think it's been successful and helpful. [Inaudible].

**Bridge Littleton:** Oh. I see what you mean. Cindy?

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah, well, I mean. Oh, I do. I mean, I'm sending.

**Cindy Pearson:** Two things I wanted to say about the vouchers first. I don't think the count we're getting back at a true count of how much people are using the restaurant because as for me, I'm not using them. You know, hoping it's given them more money. So, that's not a really good way to get a return on what they're getting or I'm not saying that right. How many meals restaurants are you know, are actually.

**Bridge Littleton:** How many meals the restaurants are actually providing because of the voucher program? Yeah.

**Cindy Pearson:** Correct. Correct. My question before we decide what is the cost to us? I want to say per week because I think we could do it in two week increments would be the way to go with that opening.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah. Back so back of the envelope. If all the restaurants get how we did it before you divide that number by four weeks and then do it per restaurant, the cost per week is about \$30000.

**Cindy Pearson:** So that's a budget question. How are we and where do we have the ability to do that.

**Bridge Littleton:** OK.

**Cindy Pearson:** I mean, I think it's a great idea. Please don't get me wrong. And you know, I think that I don't know how much it costs us to do the vouchers. I know how it costs a lot of time physically to go back to do that. But, you know, it seems like the easier way to help some people.

**Bridge Littleton:** I mean, one day we one thing we could do. To your point is anybody who's got an existing voucher, we could just let them extend it to whenever the program ends. The second thing we could do is you say, you know, use the vouchers you've already got. Use them. And if you've already used your vouchers, show the person that show them that you're a town resident and you get 10 percent off, you know, bring your ID or whatever, you get 10 percent off and then you're. Yeah. To your point, I think a lot of folks have told me, oh, I got the vouchers, I'm definitely going, but I'm not using them because I want them to keep the money, too, you know? So, again, a person could choose, they could say, hey, here's my address, give me the 10 percent off. Or they could say, you know, I'm not worried about it. I just want you guys to do better. Ok. Kevin, your thoughts?

**Kevin Daly:** Ok, well, my understanding is that restaurants their profit margin is razor thin. If we lose the restaurant, we really are going to be hurting economically in our future. And anything that we can extend the health of the restaurant to get through this tough time so that they remain with the town. When the economy is better and COVID is not the the issue it is today. I think we need to help try to maintain them. I say, let's extend it.

**Bridge Littleton:** Bud.

**Bud Jacobs:** I agree with the general sentiment that we should find a way to extend the program. I think it is going to be necessary. I also think that the town has gained some long term benefit from the council's efforts to undertake this program, and I imagine it will be the same for the retail part of this. I've had two phone calls from people well outside our jurisdiction, one from Vienna, one from Arlington who have heard about what we're trying to do here are wholeheartedly in favor of it. And I believe it's done a really good job of improving the town's overall image. And that's going to be with us for some time. I honestly, apart from the concern about the financial piece, I don't see any downside at all to continuing this at least through the end of May, if that proves necessary. And I understand, of course, that beyond that, we're not likely going to be in a position to help much.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. No, that's a great point. OK. Philip.

**Philip Miller:** I think it's been a very successful program, I also don't agree that the numbers that we're seeing reflect just what I'm seeing driving through town or being at the restaurant. I think that we should absolutely look at extending it. I would propose not a one week extension at a minimum, but two weeks. I think it's taking people more time for the vouchers. I also think it takes a couple of days to get these out there through the mail to the residents after we print them. We need to take that into consideration. I'm in favor of pushing this out.

**Bridge Littleton:** Chris?

**Chris Bernard:** Yeah. No, I think it's been great. So from an administrative perspective and you know, even though the business shut down only goes until the 8th, the governor stay at home thing goes through June 10th or whatever. So I think to me, it makes more sense to just go ahead and do it for the whole month. That gives everyone a number of days to use them.

**Bridge Littleton:** We lost your last sentence.

**Chris Bernard:** Sorry. So I think we should just go ahead and do it for the whole month. Gives people enough time to use them. We only have to do one round of printing. We only have to cut these people a check one time. I think they're going to be substantially hurt, at least through the end of May.

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, you raise a good point there, too, because one thing I didn't think about is they also have to have the ability to plan.

**Chris Bernard:** Yeah, they've got to pay their rent for the whole month.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ordering food and staffing and stuff like that.

**Chris Bernard:** And I understand that's a big, big outlay upfront for us. So maybe it's you know, maybe we only do it 80 percent of the way or whatever. I don't know what that looks like. But I think if we're gonna do it, we should just do it for the full four weeks.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. Peter. Yeah. Yeah. Danny, what? What's up?

**Danny Davis:** If I can just cause this may affect the conversation so I don't want to assume one way or the other. I think what I'd like to understand is we're talking through all this is whether we're talking about essentially a repeat of the of the voucher program that we just did or a spinoff of the program, which is allowing the current vouchers that are out there to remain valid for those restaurants that agree to to continue to participate and perhaps some other kind of benefit to town residents apart from a direct voucher, perhaps. Again, partly to Council Member Pearson's point and others sort of acknowledged there are many people who have identified that they appreciate the vouchers but aren't going to use them because, you know, they want to benefit the business. So perhaps it's a you know, like you said, maybe a discount or something else. But I think also administratively, it was quite a drag. Not that we can't do it again, but definitely pulled down our focus away from some other things.

**Bud Jacobs:** You've done it once. It'd be easier to do it again than do something completely different.

**Bridge Littleton:** Let me let me pause you right there. So I think what we're trying to do first is understand whether or not we want to actually make the financial commitment and outlay to extend this program in a certain form, which is right now, which we'll discuss next. But the first is about the financial commitment. Right. And then when we discuss the next piece of, you know, how do we do it to extend existing vouchers, we just, you know, bring them in if you got them and if you are to use them, you get 10 percent off. That way, you guys have nothing else to do other than getting the word out, the terms have changed. Well, let let's let's hold that piece for a second. Let's just see what I what what I want to understand is, you know, what is everybody on board for? You know, continuing it, recognizing it might be continued a little differently. And really, you know, we want to make sure that everybody, you know, is onboard or you know, that there's the the ability to commit the funds to do it. So and then we'll come back to the execution. So Peter. I think you were the last one.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. Mayor. My my understanding is that, well, I'm all for it. I'm all for longer. In fact, my understanding of June 10 is currently earliest people could stick their heads of their homes. [Inaudible]. the voucher scheme just just extending the ability of folks to use it. But that in itself doesn't help the restaurant any further. My understanding of what we're talking about. It's. It is another round of funding, by, you know, the double whammy of benefiting the residents. So at the risk of being a bit boring about it [inaudible] some form of what we've got already would be to me that's the way it should go. And I think we need to extend it as long

as we can, because to Kevin's point, if we see any restaurant disappear as a result, if we can help in the school to stay, to make sure they can remain. It's not just the money at stake. It's the whole bigger picture, isn't it? It's about keeping these wonderful restaurants alive. [Inaudible]. And it just carries on down the road.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. So then one other element I would want to throw out there, too, is because I think this is an important an important piece to this is the retail program, right. If we are going to extend the support for the restaurants, I think we absolutely also have to extend the program for the retail. You know, to use as well. You know, it's and I said at the beginning. Right. We can't be everything to all people everywhere all the time. But, you know, that program, you know, is is a lot more streamlined and a lot easier to manage. But, you know, the retail side of Middleburg is a big cornerstone of who we are as a destination as well, along with restaurants. So now the cost of that is not as much grief as the restaurant on. But I do think from a fundamental fairness perspective, we would want to extend both to June 30th. Got to do both. OK. OK. So and again, this is going to be dirty math on the back of a cocktail napkin. But I think if, you know, we did do a one month extension, the voucher program. And Danny, correct me if I'm wrong, I think that program in total cost, you know, just the restaurant's support side, not the voucher side of stuff, was about one hundred and twenty thousand?

**Danny Davis:** 115.

**Bridge Littleton:** 115. OK. So that's what, one hundred fifteen thousand. OK. And then I think on the retail side it's about half that.

**Danny Davis:** All depends on how many business participate. If 20 businesses participate. That's sixty seven thousand, seventy five thousand.

**Bridge Littleton:** Danny, we lost your last sentence.

**Danny Davis:** Yeah, if 20 businesses participate it's 75 thousand if my math is correct.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. So the total exposure here to likely exposure if and again if everybody participate as it currently does, would be about \$300000, give or take. OK. So that's sort of the the number side of it. The second question is, and this goes to Peter and to Cindy as well as the retail program is easy. Right. They it's it's the extension of what they're already doing. There's no vouchers involved or whatever. On the restaurant side. How do we want to handle it? Do we want to extend existing vouchers? Do we want to send out new vouchers or do we want to do a hybrid that like if you haven't used your voucher, you can still use it to the end? And if you use your voucher, you know, the restaurant will honor, you know, 10 percent off your next three orders.

**Bud Jacobs:** Oh, my God. How do you manage something like that?

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah, Cindy, go ahead.

**Cindy Pearson:** I know re-doing the voucher program is a lot of work, but the 10 percent, you know, you get \$10 meal, you're only getting a dollar off. And that's just \$3 if you're doing 3 meals. So it's not really the type of benefit that if you have the voucher. And I don't think with people showing their IDs because you know, how that is around here. Oh, yeah.

**Bridge Littleton:** My driver's license says P.O. Box.

**Cindy Pearson:** So maybe if we do go the voucher route that you all could bring some to us and let us do something and get them out for you since we're stuck at home. That's not a bad idea. I don't mean all of us, generally us, whoever volunteers on us. I don't know another I don't think I was with the existing ones are still going to use them, so I know some are going to go to waste again. But maybe this time around there could be a little thing. Please, please hand them out if you're not use them, you know whatever.

**Bridge Littleton:** I think it's a Cindy, I think it's a very good point. Danny, let me ask you a question from a logistical standpoint. So if all the restaurants who participated participate again. Really, all you have to do is tell Mr. Print to go do the same thing again.

**Danny Davis:** Yes, sir. And I didn't mean to indicate I mean, that that definitely was a fair amount of work. And we've had probably what, Rhonda 25 to 30 people walk in with changes in addresses or people that we needed to resolve situations. I mean, a lot of the a lot of the time consumption was really the after they went in the mail. Then the responding to people who either didn't get it. Where is it? Which address? Those are things we deal with, even with utility bills. So, again, it's part of what we do, but it definitely will be much easier this time in terms of Albert has the files, we say you know change the serial numbers to, you know, starting in a thousand instead of 0. And, you know, they can basically resend. So, yes, I mean, and to answer your question short, that part of it would be fairly straightforward.

**Bridge Littleton:** What's the cost of printing those vouchers?

**Bud Jacobs:** The cost of to print and send, I want to say was less than fifteen hundred dollars.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. Good. OK.

**Chris Bernard:** Hey, Bridge this is Chris.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah, Chris.

**Chris Bernard:** So here's what I'm thinking. I think like Danny was saying, it's the second time they've done it. I feel like it should be easier the second time they've done it. I don't think we need to reinvent the wheel. We did something really great. We put a lot of thought into it. It worked. If people don't want to use the vouchers, they don't have to use. And that's a choice they're making. And I think we put something into it, says, hey, we're doing this program again. You know, when we when we publicize this and if you had trouble getting your vouchers last time, please reach out to whatever phone number at the town office, they'll come to us. I think that's gonna go a lot smoother. I hesitate to change the plan. I think we just run it back. And we and the other stipulation should be if you have a voucher that is expired, the restaurant should just still honor those to the end.

**Bridge Littleton:** Oh, yeah, absolutely.

**Philip Miller:** Yeah, I completely agree with what Chris just said and it's exactly what I was going to say. If we can, based on a contract that was written, require them to extend the first one and then just do it again with different serial numbers, it keeps continuity to the program. It's very simple. It's obviously working and people are using it. So why fix something that's not broken?

**Chris Bernard:** Let's not get cute.

**Bridge Littleton:** Danny, the only thing I would add is in the letter when we send it out, really encourage people that, hey, if you're not going to use your vouchers because you want to see the restaurant benefit from your dollars, that's great. Please go donate them, you know, to Wendy Hill or somebody because they will take advantage.

**Chris Bernard:** Yeah, let's maybe we create an avenue for them to to donate the ones that they want to give back. Bring them back to us. Send them to this address, whatever it is, and we'll disperse them.

**Philip Miller:** At least put it in the letter that they can drop it in the box in front of the town office.

**Bridge Littleton:** Peter, you were going to say.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Lisa [Inaudible] of Windy Hill. She's collecting not unused, unwanted vouchers, but donated vouchers, so, you know, she's actually doing that. I can let people have her information.

**Bridge Littleton:** OK. So I think, you know, everybody's input makes a lot of sense. I think, you know, we're gonna have to make a motion because I think what we're saying is, number one, extend the voucher program, send out a second series of vouchers in the exact same parameters as before. Do it for the end of May. Go back to the restaurant. Basically take the existing contract extended for one month. Add in the additional dollars in vouchers. And, you know, they got to continue to brand with us and keep their hours and everything else stays the same. And then the the extending of the retail program to the end of May as well. And the funding amount to cover all that should be around two hundred thousand dollars. Unless I missed anything from anybody. Did that capture what we're what we what we want to give the staff directional.

**Kevin Daly:** Just to be just to be clear, it's a health center foundation funding.

**Chris Bernard:** Oh, yeah. How do we want to pay for this? Not the health center. Yeah, I was going to say, do we take this one from our budget? Yeah. I was thinking about that earlier and I got distracted. I tangented myself.

**Bridge Littleton:** You know, I don't see any issue with us taking it from a general fund. You know, we did that first with the heath center fund. We're gonna pay it back over two years. You know. But let's respect its integrity a little bit and leave the rest of it where it is. And and then go from the you know, and we have one hundred and fifty percent reserve for exactly these types of items. That's that's why we created that. That works for me.

**Chris Bernard:** So it'll come from the general fund.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah.

**Chris Bernard:** Okay. Do we need to do a motion.

**Bridge Littleton:** Who would like to make the motion?

**Danny Davis:** Can I ask one one quick clarifying before we get there. Just based on the timing of the retail program and when we have begun it, we didn't really start that till the beginning of this week. So most of those agreements run through mid-May anyway. So I just wanna make sure I'm hearing we're not necessarily extending that a full additional month. We would just be extending that somewhere between a week to 10 days to the end of May. Is that what I'm hearing correctly? So it may not be a full doubling of the retail program. It may just be simply extending it to May thirty first.

**Bridge Littleton:** So that's a question for everybody. You know, there there is a fairness question there. Right. The are restaurants gonna get a runtime of two months. Should we get the retail business as a runtime of two months in which we're like, you know, you know, early, early, mid ish, June.

**Cindy Pearson:** How does that affect them if they get to reopen?

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, right now, according to the order, you know, we all have to stay at home until June 10.

**Philip Miller:** Cindy the program caps at thirty seven fifty per business.

**Bridge Littleton:** It just allows them to maximize on it longer.

**Chris Bernard:** Real quick question on this. If we're gonna. But does that double the cap for them through the end of this period, the second period?

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, yeah, it would be because. Yeah, we were yes. We were adding in additional that to our thousands to cover the additional cost of the extension for that time period. So. So yes, Cindy, we're actually already what that dollar amount. We're already capturing the extension of it. We just didn't put in the same equivalent amount of days. Right. So. Yeah, so. So. Yeah. Chris. I think that's right. We would want to extend them to June, let's say 10 with the dollar values that we that we just talked about. And the restaurants go to the end of May.

**Philip Miller:** Can I just make a point that. So when was the first contract signed Danny?

**Danny Davis:** 17th of April. But but essentially the end date of the first contracts I put as May 20th.

**Philip Miller:** If we give them really 30 days.

**Bridge Littleton:** June 20th. Yeah, I mean, that doesn't change the dollar value because we're we're, you know, doubling that. So that's fine. Yeah. And that makes sense. I wish somebody could say, yeah, let's vote on that.

**Philip Miller:** So if these are tied together, I need to abstain.

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, let's do it. So let's do the restaurant one then we'll do the retail one.

**Philip Miller:** I move that we extend the restaurant's support program for the month of May to the end of the month of May. And allow the vouchers to not expire until the end of the extension of the program.

**Bridge Littleton:** And to issue a second round of vouchers.

**Philip Miller:** And to issue a second round of vouchers.

**Kevin Daly:** Second.

**Bridge Littleton:** So I can make a friendly amendment and also to appropriate the funds necessary to you for all participating restaurants to continue to participate. Estimated at about one hundred and twenty thousand dollars.

**Philip Miller:** Accepted from the general fund.

**Bridge Littleton:** Okay. Rhonda, do you want to do the roll call?

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Miller.

**Philip Miller:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Pearson.

**Cindy Pearson:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Vice Mayor Kirk.

**Darlene Kirk:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Bernard.

**Chris Bernard:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Daly.

**Kevin Daly:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Jacobs.

**Bud Jacobs:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Leonard-Morgan.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Aye.

**Bridge Littleton:** Chris, do you want to take the stab at the retail one?

**Chris Bernard:** So we're doubling the cap and were extending until June 20th?

**Danny Davis:** I would say 21st. That's a Sunday. I would just put a hard day on June 21st.

**Chris Bernard:** Ok. So I move that the town extend the retail support program until June 21st and adjust and double the maximum amount that can be earned by each business to double what the current amount is. Do we need to re-do that?

**Danny Davis:** And I just want to make sure I understand the clarity. I think it was intended to be 3750 per.

**Bridge Littleton:** Danny, we can't we couldn't hear you.

**Danny Davis:** I think it was intended to be 3750 per 30 day period, correct? Yeah. So I just wanna make sure that's clear that it's not seventy five hundred dollars in the first month and then they're out. So basically if we extend the program until June 21st, it will repeat the count.

**Chris Bernard:** Let's just start over. All right. So I move that the town council extend the retail support program and adjust the cap to thirty seven fifty per month program ending June 21st 2020.

**Kevin Daly:** Second.

**Bridge Littleton:** Rhonda. You want to do the roll call vote?

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Pearson.

**Cindy Pearson:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Vice Mayor Kirk.

**Darlene Kirk:** Yes.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Bernard.

**Chris Bernard:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Daly.

**Kevin Daly:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Jacobs.

**Bud Jacobs:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Leonard-Morgan.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Aye.

**Rhonda North:** Council Member Miller.

**Philip Miller:** Abstain.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. Motion passes.

**Chris Bernard:** Hey, Bridge real quick.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yeah.

**Chris Bernard:** So just as a quick note to anyone who's, you know, I think maybe we should have a message that goes with us to the business owners and everything and says, look, we're happy to do this again, but we need to really take the next, you know, 20, 30 days and think about what our plan is if this extends, because we can't keep doing this. So happy to do it for a second month. But we know the next month is gonna be a much harder conversation. So they need to adapt.

**Bridge Littleton:** So, Chris, I had this written on my notes. Positioning ourselves. Right. So that was the last thing I wanted to mention was I think now is the time where we start, you know, and Danny, this is in the fall and you and Jamie and maybe Philip and and Chris, you know, from the retail and the restaurant side of it, how do we start positioning ourselves that as these programs take taper off, they can you know, there's other avenues to keep things going. And then are we making sure we're ready to springboard as hard as possible once, you know, we're in the clear from that from a health health perspective. Now is the time to be planning for that. So it's just a comment. But to your point, Chris, we do need to start, you know, putting a chin to the grindstone and and figuring that out.

**Chris Bernard:** Yeah. I just don't want them to get to, you know, the last week of May and start saying, OK, what are we doing for June. And then we go, what do you mean, June? So it's it's just it's time to start getting ready and there's gonna be an adaptation that has to take place.

**Bridge Littleton:** Well, and I think, you know, we said this at the very beginning. I think the clear understanding is this is it. You know, the restaurant program we're going to go to here and the retail program we're going to go there. But there's I don't think there's any intention to extend those any further. You know, even if COVID is still going. This is probably the max of what we're able to to support directly. So, I mean, you know, you never say never, but. That I think your your point on making that message is important. Ok. Any other input on the programs or COVID before we go to the last public comment session.

**Bud Jacobs:** Quick, quick question from Bud.

**Bridge Littleton:** Yes, sir.

**Bud Jacobs:** Do we have any sense at all whether any of the small businesses in town have been successful in applying for small business administration loans and getting actually getting their money?

**Bridge Littleton:** Jamie, do you want to. Or Cindy do you want to speak about that?

**Cindy Pearson:** I do know some have gotten it. I won't say who.

**Chris Bernard:** Some have definitely gotten it.

**Bud Jacobs:** In order of magnitude. How many?

**Jamie Gaucher:** This is Jamie. I don't have access to the database, the national database, but I have been in conversation with each of the four banks in town. And one of the banks told me there were fifty eight applications for the payroll protection program from businesses that had a Middleburg address. 58. I don't know how many actually receive funding, though.

**Bud Jacobs:** That's helpful, thank you.

**Danny Davis:** Mr. Mayor, may I also take a moment to ask Mr. Gaucher to just give a quick, brief update to the council on the farmers market. It's kind of under change in review based on COVID and also some other factors. And it's not all in stone yet, but there are some updates, if that's okay. I'd like to just give a brief update.

**Jamie Gaucher:** Okay. Thank you for that. So with regards to the farmers market, we're looking to launch on Saturday, May 2nd. But that's not that far away. And from a temporarily from a temporary basis, we're going to be. And we hope this is still not set in stone, but we hope we're going to be in the back parking lot of the National Sporting Library and Museum. And we're doing that because based on the Virginia Department of Agriculture recommendations and the Virginia Farmers Market Association, there are all sorts of provisions that have to be in place in order to properly operate a farmer's market nowadays. And so I'll just touch on some of those very briefly. All the vendors are going to be required to wear facemasks and gloves. Physical contact with customers and vendors is discouraged unless, of course, it's required to transfer payments, credit cards are preferred. Cash is less attractive. We're also going to try and push pre-orders. So this sort of facilitates movement through the market. I think if the market as a more of a drive through nowadays. So looking at all the parking spaces for parking lots in Middleburg, we can sort of we can have people enter and exit from two different spots at the National Sporting Library and Museum in the back parking lot is large enough that people can sort of go through the line and then out the other side without having to get out of their car. Additionally, every vendor has got to be 10 feet apart from every other vendor. And if they're going to have tents, they have to be weighted down. Tents aren't required. And outside of that, we're going to try this. So I will be in town tomorrow. I have a meeting with the National Sporting Library. And I'm to walk through sort of from a logistics perspective how this could work. And of course, it's for those of you who were not aware, we are working this year with Megan [Inaudible]. She has been a vendor at the market in the past. She has agreed to take a leadership role and she will be joining me as well. So we're we're laying the track and driving the train at the same time. To some degree. But I think the key takeaways are it's going to be a slightly different operation and we're going to launch on Saturday, May 2nd, I hope.

**Danny Davis:** And this type of set up has been, I think, relatively successful or as successful as possible in other towns. Warrenton, Leesburg. Leesburg, I think has had a huge outpouring of support from their regular customers as well. So it does change a few things in terms of our logistics, but we are working towards making it work as best as possible.

**Cindy Pearson:** I'd just like to say good luck. I think it's a good idea. I don't personally like to hear it moving again because moving the market is really hard. So in doing that, I hope you have good signage that you're going to use and maybe you could use the police's boards for a couple of weeks to guide people that the market's going to be in a new location, a new look, a new location maybe. Could be your whatever. But it's just really hard when you have to change locations. But I understand it.

**Danny Davis:** I agree, I agree, and I think we'll perhaps brand it as temporary look, temporary location because it is a necessary thing to do. It's not ideal by any means, but we definitely couldn't fit this type of flow through the parking lot. So I agree we'll work on good signage. I think even using the message boards is a great idea. [Inaudible] Well, that is a good question. And I think there is an opportunity if the sporting library is open to it. And Jamie, I would ask that you raised this with them tomorrow. We can easily put up some banners along route 50 in their front yard for those coming from the west that clearly draws attention to their property. And so, you know, the

the hill is is good, but I think you lose some visibility because of the peak and where this would fall and in the parking lot. So but an opportunity to put some signage up, if nothing else.

**Bridge Littleton:** Peter.

**Peter Leonard-Morgan:** Quick question. [Inaudible] Will we have enough vendors, do you think?

**Jamie Gaucher:** Yeah. That that's a great question. We we've contacted all of the vendors and as of this morning, I believe we had four or five confirmed, so we would like to grow the market later in the year. I'm not sure that we're going to be able to dramatically increase the number of vendors given the current circumstances. But I think we have five confirmed at this point in time to.

**Bridge Littleton:** Any other questions for Jamie or Danny on the farmer's market? Ok. Let me pull up the agenda here real quick. I think that was it. We're now going to open up the second public comment session for any member of the public who has called in and would like to address the council. If there's anybody out there, Rhonda, is anybody logged in or called in?

**Rhonda North:** No, sir.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. We will close the second public comment session. And just Danny, I don't believe we have any any items in the closed session, right?

**Danny Davis:** That is correct. We are not prepared to discuss anything at this time.

**Bridge Littleton:** Ok. So with that, we will adjourn the meeting. Everybody stay safe.