



MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Monthly Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 11, 2025



PENDING APPROVAL

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

STAFF: Danny Davis, Town Manager
Martin Crim, Town Attorney
Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk
Will Moore, Deputy Town Manager
Shaun Jones, Chief of Police
Angela Fletcher, Town Treasurer/Finance Director
Ali MacIntyre, Business Development & Community Partnerships Director

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2025 in the Town Hall Council Chambers, located at 10 West Marshall Street. Mayor Littleton led Council and those attending in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The roll was called at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Jilann Brunett, 21854 Foxcroft Road, noted that the Council would discuss water issues during the meeting. She reminded the members that while the Town had data, it was only for a point in time and advised that the Town did not have enough to establish trends. Ms. Brunett opined that Vince Gugliotta, of IES, was doing an amazing job of balancing the pumping against the water that was available. She reiterated that the data the Town had would not give it all the answers yet, as there was not enough of it. Ms. Brunett noted that she was thrilled the Town now had data, as it did not have it in the past.

Staff Reports

August Staff Reports

Town Clerk North reported that she continued to focus on the completion of the Town Hall Project. She advised that Veritas was working on the miscellaneous items on the list and was currently focusing on the correction of the exterior painting and millwork on the deficiency list. Ms. North reported that the replacement door hardware and outdoor drinking fountain were on order. She advised that Boland Trane continued their work on the HVAC system and reported that it continued to operate in such a manner that put the building in a negative pressure situation. Ms. North advised that they were working to increase the outside air supply and advised that a Boland Trane technician would be coming on site to inspect the unit. She noted that he would confer with the system manufacturer while he was onsite.

Town Clerk North reported that she continued work to organize the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception and noted that the invitations had been sent. She advised that a good response had been received thus far. Ms. North reminded Council that a couple of years ago, she drafted an ordinance that would combine the water and sewer Town Code chapters into one. She noted that the draft was placed on the back burner for a number of reasons. Ms. North reported that she revised the draft and expressed hope that it would be brought to the Council in the near future for their consideration.

Mayor Littleton recognized Ali MacIntyre, who was named one of Loudoun's Top 40 under 40.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Business Development & Community Partnerships Director MacIntyre confirmed she had enough volunteers for the Oktoberfest event. She reported that the American Legion would provide parking assistance, and the Middleburg Arts & Community Events Committee would man the three hospitality tents.

Councilmember Jacobs congratulated Ms. MacIntyre on receiving the Loudoun award and expressed appreciation for her energy and ideas.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Business Development & Community Partnerships Director MacIntyre confirmed that while everything was not complete, she did speak with someone about the parking lot for Oktoberfest. She confirmed that everything would be good by next week.

Mayor Littleton announced that he was appointing Councilmember Curran to serve as the Council representative for the newly established Middleburg Arts & Community Events Committee.

Finance Director Fletcher announced that the auditors would be onsite next week to begin the annual audit. She reminded Council that July was a heavy expenditure month because of the bond payments. Ms. Fletcher noted that the revenues were light because she booked some of them back into the prior fiscal year.

Mayor Littleton advised that Officer Davis did a great job of tracking down the hit and run driver for the accident he witnessed. He noted that he witnessed a car rear end another car that was parked and was able to get the license plate number. Mr. Littleton advised that the owner of that car was happy to get the insurance information so they could get their car repaired. He noted that they did not press charges.

Town Manager Davis advised Council that there was an event at the Salamander Resort earlier in the month in which the resort was almost fully bought out by high level executives from across the world. He reported that their security team was impressed with the professionalism, outreach and communication from Chief Jones and the Police Department to ensure they did everything possible to keep the executives safe while they were in Middleburg. Mr. Davis noted his appreciation for having Chief Jones serve as a small-town chief. He further noted his sense of professionalism when helping people prepare their security plans and noted that the security team specifically mentioned this during their visit to the Town Hall.

In response to an inquiry, Police Chief Jones reminded Council that during their last meeting, a plan was presented related to speeding enforcement that included several steps, including the possibility of installing school zone speed cameras. He advised that he met with a representative from that company last week and they were moving forward with a speed study that would begin within a week or so. Chief Jones noted that in addition to the Charter School, they were also looking at the possibility of installing speed cameras at The Hill School, both on South Madison Street and The Plains Road. He reported that they have also reviewed possible locations for the speed signs and noted that they identified a few areas that may require extra signage. Chief Jones noted that he was working with Deputy Town Manager Moore on this.

Councilmember Leonard-Morgan reported that there was a 15 MPH flashing school zone sign on Marshall Street that had not worked for about a year.

Town Manager Davis advised that the staff was aware of this at the beginning of the school year; however, they were under the impression that the sign had been reactivated. He confirmed they would address it.

Mayor Littleton noted that a school zone extended 750 feet from a school. He advised that in the case of the Middleburg Charter School, the end of the school zone was at Jay Street. Mr. Littleton reported that this was a topic during the recent Coalition of Loudoun Towns (COLT) meeting. He advised that the Town of Leesburg had already installed speed cameras in some of their school zones and were looking to put them up in three or four more locations. Mr. Littleton further advised that their police officers were writing tickets, which had made a difference in their speeding problems.

Town Attorney Crim reported that, as a follow to an inquiry during the last Council meeting, he looked into the issue of the proposal to move all Virginia elections to even numbered years. He advised that a Joint House Senate Committee, with some citizen members, was studying the issue and would produce a report. Mr. Crim suggested it would be four years before any changes could occur, as it would require a change to the State Constitution, which currently called for biennial elections for the House and quadrennial elections for the Senate. In response to an inquiry from the Council, he confirmed there would have to be a referendum for a Constitutional amendment and noted that it would have to pass in two consecutive General Assemblies with an election in between before it could be put on the ballot for a referendum.

Mayor Littleton noted that Mayor Burke, of Leesburg, was called to testify before the Committee; however, about a minute into her statement expressing a desire to not federalize local elections, the Chair of the Committee said “he did not want to hear about that” and questioned the extra costs. He reminded Council that there were no extra costs for local elections because General Assembly elections were held in odd years and federal elections were held in even years; therefore, there was already an election every November. Mr. Littleton noted that prior to the May elections being moved to November, the Town incurred a cost. He advised that Mayor Burke’s point was that the Committee seemed very pre-determined in what they wanted the outcome to be.

In response to an inquiry from the Council, Town Attorney Crim reported that the pre-filing for bills would begin on November 17th and end at the end of December. He confirmed that individuals who were elected but not yet seated could pre-file bills.

Asbury Church Project Report

Town Clerk North reported that the contracts with Glave & Holmes and Downey & Scott for the Asbury Church Restoration Project have been signed, and a kick-off meeting was scheduled for September 22nd. She reminded Council of the press release that was issued seeking historic photos for the Oral Histories Project and recognized the following individuals who shared their photos: James Roberts, Phyllis Cook-Taylor, the Windy Hill Foundation, Betsy Davis who shared her late father’s photos and Cathy Bernache who shared her late husband’s photos. Ms. North advised that they would be incorporated into the videos. She reported that the individual videos, which should now be close to being in final form, would be received next week for the Committee’s review. Ms. North noted that the first draft compilation video would also be received and once the Committee was comfortable it was going in the right direction, Caandor would draft the script for the voice overs. She advised the Mayor that once it was ready, she would work with him to schedule a time for his voiceover recording.

Moment of Silence

Mayor Littleton noted that it was the 24th anniversary of September 11th, which was a history altering event during which three thousand American lives were lost. He asked that the audience hold a moment of silence to remember those who lost their lives both that day and in what followed on the war on terror.

Consent Agenda

- A. Council Approval – Declaration of Surplus Property – 2017 Ford Explorer
- B. Council Approval – Amendments to Ordinance Establishing Strategic Finance Committee
- C. Council Approval – Amendments to Policy Pertaining to Town Grants for Special & Community Events
- D. Council Approval – August 28, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Vice Mayor Bernard moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council approve the consent agenda as proposed.

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

Action Items

Council Approval – Implementation of Voluntary Water Conservation Measures

Town Manager Davis reported that the Town was starting to see a decrease in the levels of Well 4 that have not been seen before, specifically, the water level had dropped anywhere from 120 feet to 220 feet during pumping. He noted that it previously only dropped thirty to forty feet during pumping. Mr. Davis explained that this meant the water level was getting to within fifty feet of the pump, even at the lower pump level of 493 feet. Mr. Davis noted that this was a significant change in just three weeks. He advised that there was a potential number of factors to explain this, with the number one factor being that the area was back in a moderate drought. Mr. Davis noted that no appreciable rain was in the forecast; therefore, the staff was concerned the water table would continue to be challenged. He acknowledged that the staff was only working off a year's worth of data and did not have enough to project full trends. Mr. Davis explained that based on where the water levels were, the staff wanted to make sure the Town was prudent in its actions. He reminded Council that they revised the water conservation ordinance in July and recommended the Council approve going into voluntary water conservation measures. Mr. Davis reported that the staff would continue to watch the water levels and report on them during each meeting. He noted that Well 3 continued to produce very well; therefore, there was no concern the Town was running out of water – only that it needed to be cautious and aware of how the levels had changed. Mr. Davis reminded Council of the project to put a Variable Frequency Drive on Well 3, which would help extend its longevity. He noted that the Town was not seeing any impact on Well P at this time, which was the best producing well for the Salamander side of the system. Mr. Davis stressed that there was no cause for concern; however, he noted the need to be aware of the situation as it stood. In response to inquiries from the Council, he confirmed the staff was watching for potential leaks and noted that the Town was not producing more water than was typical. Mr. Davis noted that he asked Mr. Gugliotta to contact the well drilling company to see if they were aware of any natural factors or other things that may have caused such a large drop over the last few weeks. He reported that in terms of data related to how voluntary water restrictions have worked in the past, the Town did not have that information. Mr. Davis noted that there was information available on the impact of mandatory conservation measures. He confirmed the Virginia Department of Health was allowing the Town to use Well 3 as a back-up well even though it had a bit of PFAS. Mr. Davis noted that the water was being diluted and mixed with other water sources; therefore, there were no long-term concerns. He reported that the PFAS regulations provided guidance on how to treat them in the future and advised that there were years of deadlines for the Town to meet. Mr. Davis advised that the Town was not at risk of regulatory concerns. He advised that the communications related to the voluntary water conservation would be similar to the language in the Town Code. Mr. Davis reported that it would be included in the eNewsletter, as a news flash on the Town's website, and on Facebook. He asked that the members of Council help spread the word through their contacts as well. Mr. Davis noted that the staff would also use the Middleburg Business & Professional Association and other avenues as appropriate to get the information out. He advised that as to rain barrels, there was information on that program in the most recent Town newsletter. Mr. Davis reported that the Loudoun Soil & Water Conservation District's Board of Directors would provide the Town with an agreement that would allow residents to purchase rain barrels at a discounted rate, with the Town helping to offset some of the cost.

In response to a suggestion from the Council that the communications mention the details of Well 4 so people understood the Town's concerns, Town Manager Davis noted that there was a challenge in providing too much detail and losing the overall message. He opined that there was a way this could be captured so people would understand why water conservation was important. Mr. Davis advised that he did not want the community to think the Town was not trying to fix the issues if they were operationally related. He noted the need to make sure the residents were aware that the Town was using all its resources to keep the water flowing as normal.

Council suggested the communication also be in the form of a video.

Vice Mayor Bernard moved, seconded by Councilmember Daly, that Council declare Voluntary Water Conservation measures to be in effect for users of the Town of Middleburg municipal water supply, effective Friday, September 12, 2025, and request all users to take best efforts to reduce the use of water throughout the Town.

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

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: N/A

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

Mayor Littleton asked that the staff reach out to the Red Fox Inn and Salamander Resort to see if they would be willing to truck in non-potable water for their irrigation.

Discussion Items

Enforcement of Private Signs in Public Rights-of-Way

Town Manager Davis reminded Council of the discussions that have occurred about the proper placement and usage of sandwich board signs in the public rights-of-way along the sidewalks and noted that they authorized a pilot program during their last meeting. He reported that over the Labor Day holiday, a number of business signs were placed illegally at the street corners throughout the town, which led to concerns of accessibility, safety, clutter, and visual disarray. Mr. Davis advised that the staff implemented a temporary sign before the pilot program signage could be designed and had placed four signs out that were being removed each evening and returned in the mornings. He noted, however, that the Town's enforcement options for signs and other encroachments in the public rights-of-way were outdated and not as robust as they could be. Mr. Davis reminded Council that the Town could revoke the permit for the business to place a sandwich board sign in front of their business if they continued to put it in the wrong location or it could confiscate the sign.

Mayor Littleton opined that the sign would have to be returned to the business if it was confiscated.

Town Manager Davis advised that he could confer with the Town Attorney on that. He advised that the issue was the enforcement of the fines and noted that the fine was currently only \$25. Mr. Davis questioned whether the Council would like to consider increasing the fine as an incentive for the businesses to follow the Town Code. He noted that no action was required at this time and suggested that if the Council was interested in exploring this, he would work with the Town Attorney to develop language related to enforcement that contained a tiered approach.

Councilmember Kirk suggested the need to think about signs being placed in the rights-of-way in other areas as well.

Town Manager Davis agreed and noted that there have been political and community signs placed in the rights-of-way elsewhere. He advised that when that happened, the staff tried to work with the property owners and, at times, would relocate the sign so it was on their property and would then let them know they needed to keep it on private property. Mr. Davis agreed with the need to enforce encroachments throughout the town.

In response to a comment from the Council, Town Manager Davis advised that the staff's goal, first and foremost, was to encourage and get compliance with the law. He confirmed they would do the appropriate communication outreach, including a warning period; however, a number of the businesses were fully aware of the requirements and chose to ignore them.

Councilmember Curran opined that taking the sign away or suspending their ability to put one out would carry more weight than a citation, as it represented advertising dollars. She further opined that giving them a warning and then not allowing them to put their sign out may create a better enforcement dynamic.

Mayor Littleton noted that the issue was that they were putting their signs at the intersection of Washington and Madison Streets, which they were not allowed to do. He reminded Council that the businesses could only put them out in front of their stores. Mr. Littleton noted that when the Town confiscated the sign and returned it, the businesses put them out again the following weekend. He reported that people had fallen and gotten hurt because they could not get around the signs. Mr. Littleton cited an example of an elderly woman who used a walker who could not get past the signs and fell off the curb. He noted that if she had gotten hurt, it would have been a liability for the Town. Mr. Littleton advised that this was an issue of safety, liability, and fairness. He reminded Council that there could be up to two dozen businesses on a street and opined that if one put out a sign, the Town had to let them all do so. Mr. Littleton noted that having two dozen signs on a corner would not work. He advised that if the Town put up a sign indicating “more shopping and dining this way”, everyone would get something and would be treated the same. Mr. Littleton stressed that the biggest benefit was public safety. He noted that a small number of businesses kept violating the ordinance and opined that a tool was needed to address this. Mr. Littleton suggested they be given a month’s warning and be told that after the month, “this” was going to happen.

Town Manager Davis noted that even if the Town revoked their permit, they could still put their sign out, at which point the fine would allow the Town to address it. He reported that the Town Code allowed for the removal of the signs, with the Town storing them for a reasonable period of time before disposing of them. Mr. Davis noted that the application stated the Town would hold them, let the owner know it had taken the sign and give them a chance to retrieve it. He advised that after a reasonable period, the sign was thrown away.

Mayor Littleton suggested it be made clear in the Town Code that the Town would only hold the sign for seven days and the Town would then have the right to throw it away.

Councilmember Kirk suggested the Town Code be amended to state that after the second violation, the Town would confiscate the sign, after which, the fine would increase.

Town Manager Davis advised that he would discuss this with the Town Attorney.

Vice Mayor Bernard noted that the Town was very pro-business and opined that the business community was as much a part of the town as the buildings and residents. He advised that the Town understood the value of a chalkboard sign for a business; however, when the signs were left unchecked, they turned into a problem that was a detriment to the businesses and the community in general. Mr. Bernard suggested the need to make sure the Town was fair and consistent across the board.

Town Manager Davis advised that he had good direction and would put some language together for the Council’s consideration. He advised that he would return with it during Council’s next meeting.

2026 Citizens Academy

Town Clerk North reminded Council that the Town held its first Citizens Academy earlier in the year and opined that it was well received. She reported that she was seeking Council’s guidance on whether they wished to hold another academy in 2026 and suggested that, if they did, it be scheduled for March 11, 2026. Ms. North noted that her memorandum on this item included a proposed agenda, which was expanded from the first one to include items that were suggested by the graduating members of the first Citizen’s Academy. She recommended that, assuming the Council wished to hold another academy, the number of participants be increased from ten to fifteen and opined that based on the first academy, an additional five individuals could be accommodated.

The Council agreed it wished to hold a second Citizens Academy as recommended by the Town Clerk.

Information Items

Bingo at the Community Center

Mayor Littleton noted the cost of participating in the Bingo events at the Middleburg Community Center and expressed concern that it was prohibitive for a family of four. He questioned whether the Council was interested in working with the Center on some type of partnership arrangement that would allow for a lower cost for the residents. Mr. Littleton suggested this be a budgeted item in the future and that the Center not have to apply for a grant. He noted that there was no sense of urgency to develop the details, as the next Bingo event was not scheduled until 2026.

Town Manager Davis advised that this was a great addition to the conversation he and Business Development & Community Partnerships Director MacIntyre intended to have with Sue Foote, of the Community Center, about long-term partnerships. He suggested an enhancement of the Mayor's idea as it related to staying engaged with the community. Mr. Davis expressed appreciation for the Council's support for this idea.

Millie Miglia

Mayor Littleton reported that he and Town Manager Davis spoke with the organizers of the Millie Miglia about the idea of bringing the Warm-Up USA back to Middleburg. He opined that they loved the idea; however, the issue was their CEO and Board of Directors, who needed to buy into the vision. Mr. Littleton advised that he told her that the Town would love to have it back and noted that the form would be a big question. He opined that the organizers may want the Town to "drive" the event and suggested the Town would be okay with that. Mr. Littleton noted that there needed to be a desire on the part of the Board of Directors to return, at which point the form could be determined. He noted the need for the Board of Directors, all of whom were new, to desire that the event return and suggested the Town put together a five-minute video presentation that could be sent to them. Mr. Littleton advised that it would need to be translated into Italian. He questioned whether the Council had any reservations about taking \$5,000 from contingency reserves to pay the Town's marketing firm to create a video.

The Council agreed that if a video was going to be done, it needed to be done professionally.

Installation of New Head of School at Foxcroft Academy

Town Manager Davis noted that the members of Council should have received an invitation to the installation ceremony scheduled for September 19th at 5:30 p.m. for the Foxcroft Academy's new Head of School. He reminded the members of the Loudoun 40 Under 40 Awards ceremony. Mr. Davis further reminded them of Oktoberfest, which was scheduled for September 20th.

It was noted that the Community Center was also scheduled to hold Bingo on September 19th at 5:30 p.m.

Closed Session

Vice Mayor Bernard moved, seconded by Councilmember Kirk, that Council go into closed session as authorized under Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, for the discussion of a personnel matter related to an employee bonus, as allowed under Subsection (A)(1). Vice Mayor Bernard further moved, seconded by Councilmember Kirk, that Council thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

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

Mayor Littleton asked that Council certify that, in the closed session just concluded, to the best of each member’s knowledge nothing was discussed except the matter or matters (1) specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and (2) lawfully permitted to be discussed in a closed session under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act as cited in the motion, which each member so did. He reminded those present for the closed session that any discussion that occurred within it should be treated as confidential.

There being no further business, Mayor Littleton declared the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Trowbridge M. Littleton, MAYOR

Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk

September 11, 2025 Middleburg Town Council Meeting

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

Bridge Littleton: We'll call the meeting to order. First item is Pledge of Allegiance.

All: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Okay. The roll call.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Peter Leonard-Morgan.

Bud Jacobs: Bud Jacobs.

Darlene Kirk: Darlene Kirk.

Bridge Littleton: Bridge Littleton.

Chris Bernard: Chris Bernard.

Cindy Pearson: Cindy Pearson.

J. Kevin Daly: John Kevin Daly.

Pam Curran: Pam Curran.

Rhonda North: Rhonda North, Town Clerk.

Danny Davis: Danny Davis, Town Manager.

Martin Crim: Martin Crim, Town Attorney.

Bridge Littleton: All right. Next, we will go to public comment. If anybody would like to address the Town Council on any matter, they may do so. And they have three minutes. Anybody. Seeing as there's no one. [laughter]

Jilann Brunett: I'm not on the list yet. No. My name is Jilann Brunett. I live at 21854 Foxcroft Road. And I want to say to the Council about the water issues. You're going to be talking about some of that tonight. We finally have data, which you all know was my flag for years here, but remember that the data yet is still only a point in time. We don't have enough data to really establish trends. Vince is doing an amazing job in my book. I haven't been here for the month of August, so I haven't looked at any of the current numbers, but he's doing an amazing job of balancing the pumping against what water he has and keeping things so that there's not a lot of any groundwater or other things going on. And I think he's doing a great job. And I think that you are getting some data, and I think that's great. Unfortunately, it's not going to give you all the answers yet. We don't have enough data. But I wanted to point out that I think Vince is doing a great job, and I am thrilled that we have at least some data to look at, which we've never had before. Thank you for your time. And I think you all are doing a good job. Also, I'm glad it's not me.

Bridge Littleton: Thank you. I think. Anybody else from the public wish to address Council? All right. We will close the public comment and go to staff reports. First up is our illustrious Town Clerk.

Rhonda North: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Well, we continue to work on the town hall. Project Veritas has been in the building for about a week now, working on miscellaneous items. They're actually working on the exterior painting and trim work

deficiency list. The door hardware is on order. The outdoor fountain that needs to be replaced is on order. Boland Trane is continuing to work on the HVAC system. Unfortunately, it is still operating in a negative pressure position. But they are working to increase. They think if they increase the outside air supply that that may address that issue. So, we will have a technician coming on site soon who will, when he's here, contact the manufacturer and they'll try to talk through some of those issues. So that's continuing to move forward. Volunteer appreciation reception is the end of next month. The invitations have been sent, and we're getting a good response to that. And I've been trying for a couple of years. I've drafted an update, an ordinance that would combine our water and sewer ordinances that unfortunately kept getting put on the back burner. But I have done some updates to that, and we're going to try to move that forward and get that to Council hopefully in the near future.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Miss North? All right. Miss MacIntyre. [off mic] Your [inaudible] sound seems fine.

Ali MacIntyre: Well good.

Bridge Littleton: The 40 under 40.

Ali MacIntyre: By the hair of my chinny chin, chin. Yes, tis I. Sorry, I forgot. No, you guys have my report. Do you have any questions? Sorry.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody?

Ali MacIntyre: I'm happy to still give some updates.

Bridge Littleton: Madam Curran.

Pam Curran: Do we have enough volunteers for Oktoberfest?

Ali MacIntyre: We do. That's a great question. Thank you for asking. So, we do have enough volunteers. The American Legion I've been corresponding with Annie. They're also participating in Oktoberfest, but they're going to be helping us specifically with parking. And then members of the Middleburg Arts and Community Events Committee rebranded and renamed. They're going to be manning the hospitality tents, which we have three this year. So, we're just wrapping up final details. And we do have. Yeah. So, volunteer wise, yes, we're wrapping up final details, but should have plenty of volunteers and staff from Brian's team.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: [off mic]

Bridge Littleton: Depends on for what?

Bud Jacobs: For Loudoun.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, yeah. Absolutely. Please do.

Bud Jacobs: I think we were just talking about.

Bridge Littleton: I forgot. Yeah, I forgot.

Ali MacIntyre: I already forgot.

Bridge Littleton: Please, Bud. Absolutely.

Bud Jacobs: Well, congratulations. [off mic]

Ali MacIntyre: Thank you. Thank you. I really appreciate that.

Bud Jacobs: [off mic] We appreciate your energy and your ideas.

Ali MacIntyre: I think it varies based on the day and the amount of energy, but I'm happy with the gratitude strike that from the record.

Bridge Littleton: Danny, write that down? She's happy with gratitude. That's all she needs. Everything resolved with the parking lot?

Ali MacIntyre: With the parking lot? Yes. Yes, I did speak with that it's not completed as of today, but I did speak with

Bridge Littleton: But it will be good by next week.

Ali MacIntyre: Yes. Corresponding with him today. Right now.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. Very, very cool. Anybody else have any questions for Ali. It's been a week. And, Ali, before you go, I just want to let you know, after much debate and deliberation, we have decided that for the. What's the new name of the committee?

Chris Bernard: [off mic] We don't know. We can't say it.

Rhonda North: Say it. Middleburg Arts and Cultural and Community Events Committee.

Bridge Littleton: See Rhonda.

Ali MacIntyre: Rhonda knows.

Bridge Littleton: That in recognition of you being so single handed and needing multiple hands that we've decided to appoint Pam Curran as your Council rep.

Ali MacIntyre: Oh, thank goodness.

Bridge Littleton: Because she's all you need.

Ali MacIntyre: She can do.

Bridge Littleton: It. Yep. That doesn't mean you can't show up.

Ali MacIntyre: You guys can all still show up and volunteer.

Bridge Littleton: No, that would create a meeting. We're not doing that.

Ali MacIntyre: Oh, yeah. That's right.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. Ali. Thank you.

Ali MacIntyre: Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: All right. Next is Miss Fletcher.

Angela Fletcher: Thank you, Mayor and Council. You have my report before you. I just wanted to make mention that the auditors will be here at the end of the month. So, we're preparing for that.

Bridge Littleton: Can you tell us the days we'll make sure we're not here? [laughter]

Angela Fletcher: Yeah, the 29th. Yeah. That week. [off mic] Reporting for July and August. And just a reminder that July expenses are heavy due to bond payments. And revenues are light because we book back to the prior fiscal year, but I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Angela? Okay, Angela. Thank you.

Angela Fletcher: Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. Next up is. Where are we, Chief?

Shaun Jones: Good evening, sir. You have my report. Good evening, everyone. You have my report before you. Any questions?

Bridge Littleton: I will just simply say Jason did a great job tracking down the hit and run that I witnessed.

Shaun Jones: Thank you. Thank you, sir.

Bridge Littleton: What's that?

Shaun Jones: I said, thank you sir.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, yeah. Yeah. No, it was interesting that it was the husband of a member of the Little River Districts Planning Commission Member. Yeah, they were in town having dinner, and I literally witnessed this car pulling out of a parking spot and rear ended their car and drove away but was able to get the license plate number. So, I gave it to Jason, and they had the sheriff over there, and they were just happy that the insurance is going to cover and fix the car. They decided not to press charges. I would've sent them up the river, but that's me. Any questions for Shaun? Yeah.

Danny Davis: Could I just point one thing out real quick? I know it's hard because this is the August report and what I'm going to say happened in September. But there was an event at the resort where the resort was almost fully bought out by high level executives from across the world, and their security team lead just was so impressed with the professionalism, the outreach and the communication of Chief and our department to ensure that we were doing everything possible in our small town to keep their executives safe while they were here. The collaboration, the communication and the availability to always be on call. So, I just want to publicly state how much I appreciate Chief Jones as a small-town chief.

Shaun Jones: Thank you.

Danny Davis: For keeping that communication up. But also, there's that sense of professionalism where you have to know what you're doing to be able to help with those plans and prepare those. So just wanted the Council to know that that was something that their security team specifically noted as we were talking here in the town hall.

Shaun Jones: Thank you, sir.

Bridge Littleton: I appreciate it, thanks. Thank you. Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Chief, I wasn't here at the last meeting, but the one before. We had a member of the community who was asking about speeding again. I just wondered how that's all going. Any comments? Any observations about improvements?

Shaun Jones: Yes, sir. We Last meeting, we came up with a plan. We had several steps that we are taking a look at. One of the things that the Council approved was to explore the possibility of installing school zone speed cameras. We met with the representative from the company last week this week, he just emailed me today stating that they're moving forward with doing a speed study. So, we're going to probably start the speed study within either next week or the week after primary area school zones at the charter school. But we're also looking at the school at the Hill School on South Madison. And we also took into consideration what you said about the Plains Road. And we explored the Plains Road to see what we can do in the town limits. So, we're in the process of doing that as well. We've also road the town yesterday to just re-identify a point where we're going to take the sign speed signs that we have and move them around. So, we identified a few areas that we might need to install extra signage. And we're working with Mr. Moore on that as well.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: That's great. Thank you. That does remind me, actually that there's a 15 mile an hour, you know, when the school is going in session.

Shaun Jones: Yes sir.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: And it says 15 miles an hour. It hasn't worked for about a year on Marshall Street. The flashing lights, it does work the other side, you know, as you come off of.

Shaun Jones: We'll take a look at that.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Yeah. Thanks.

Shaun Jones: I thought we got there.

Danny Davis: Yeah. We were aware at the beginning of the year that they were not operational, and we were under the impression they had been reactivated or were back working, but we'll make sure tomorrow.

Bridge Littleton: I mean, I drive that every morning when I'm going up, when schools coming in and out, it doesn't work.

Shaun Jones: It doesn't. Okay.

Bridge Littleton: Because I actually I'm thinking like, yeah, it's never flashing.

Shaun Jones: Okay. We'll take a look at it first thing tomorrow morning.

Bridge Littleton: One of the thing and I told this to Danny yesterday; I know you guys look at the school zones. It was interesting. I was really curious how far 750ft is. So, where that flashing sign is on Marshall, which is the end of the school property. 750ft is to Jay Street.

Shaun Jones: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: I mean, it's a lot. Yeah. I mean, it is long. It's just you just don't think of being that far. It is really far.

Shaun Jones: And then another thing is another thing that we took a look at last week when we were riding around where the water tower is. It's adjacent to the school that gives us an extra, you know, maybe looking at replacing the signs after the study comes back and so forth as well.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, we had a COLT meeting last night and I was talking about speed, speed signs and stuff like that. The Town of Leesburg has already put up three in their school zones that actually, you know, issue tickets and all that. And they're looking at putting up 3 or 4 more because it has made a difference.

Shaun Jones: Yes sir.

Bridge Littleton: So, I thought that was interesting.

Shaun Jones: We'll keep you posted. We'll keep you posted.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. Thanks.

Shaun Jones: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: All right, next up is. Mr. Moore.

Will Moore: Thank you, Mr. Mayor, Members of Council. You have my report. I don't have anything in particular to highlight, but happy to answer any questions you would have.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Mr. Moore? Gotta be something. Come on, let's make something up. All right. If not, we'll move on to Town Attorney.

Martin Crim: Thank you, Mayor. In addition to my report, I want to follow up on something that you asked about last meeting, which is the consideration of moving all Virginia elections to even numbered years. I looked into this some more and found that there is a joint subcommittee to study this issue. It's a Joint House Senate Committee with also some citizen members. They've met four times this summer. They are going to meet four times next summer and then presumably produce a report with some kind of change. But my calculation, it wouldn't be until about four years from now that we would see any changes, because what they have one of the things that they have to do is change the state constitution, which currently calls for biennial elections for the House and quadrennial elections for the Senate. And they would have to change that in order to move the times to this even numbered years. So, with that, I stand ready to answer any questions.

Bridge Littleton: And Martin, is it fair to say if they wanted a constitutional amendment that has to go to a referendum?

Martin Crim: That's correct. It has to pass in two consecutive general assemblies with an election in between. So, it's not any two of the General Assembly sessions with an election in between, and then they would have to put it on the ballot for a referendum.

Bridge Littleton: Got it. Okay. Well, that's helpful to know. Mayor Burke from Leesburg was called down there to testify at that committee. And, you know, she, you know, wrote a really nice statement and everything about, you know, why we don't want to federalize our local elections and things like that with federal issues. And she got about a minute into her commentary and whoever the Chair was, someone who clearly wants to move them all to even years said I don't want to hear about that. All we want to hear about is how much extra cost is it? And, you know, what's kind of interesting is whether you're in Virginia right now, whether you're on odd years or even years since we're all in November, there's no additional cost to the towns because the General Assembly is on odd years and the federal elections on even years. So, every November it's statewide. And it's not that we have to bear any extra cost. Now, if we had to have a special election, that's different. But when they moved everything from May to November, there was no longer that extra cost, because I think we used to have to pay for that. And it was like 10,000 bucks or something or whatever it was. Yeah. So, but that's now since all gone away. And Kelly's point was the committee seemed very predetermined in what they wanted the outcome sort of sort of the classic here's the answer. What was the question?

Chris Bernard: [off mic] Find the commonality.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, yeah. It's. Yeah. Anyway. All right, Martin, thank you.

Martin Crim: Yes sir.

Bridge Littleton: Hey, real quickly, actually, Martin.

Martin Crim: Yeah?

Bridge Littleton: So, we're going to have an election in November. How does the pre-filing of bills work?

Martin Crim: Honestly, I just had the pre-filing calendar up a minute ago. Pre-filing. Begins Monday, November 17th. And that ends at the end of December. So, you would expect to see.

Bridge Littleton: So even though they're not seated, they could still pre file because they want.

Martin Crim: That's correct.

Bridge Littleton: Okay.

Martin Crim: That's my understanding of it that would make sense. I've never heard anything to the contrary. Okay.

Bridge Littleton: All right. That makes sense. All right. Any other questions for Martin? Okay. Next up, what have we got here? Asbury Church back to Ms. North.

Rhonda North: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So, I'm happy to announce that the contracts were signed with Downey and Scott and Glave and Homes for the restoration project design. And we have a kickoff meeting scheduled for Monday, September the 22nd. As to the oral histories project in response to our press release asking for historical photos, we had some citizens who responded James Roberts responded, Phyllis Cook Taylor, the Windy Hill Foundation. Of course, Betsy Davis provided some photographs from her father's collection and Kathy Bernache from her husband's collection. So, we're grateful for all those folks help in providing photos for the individual interviews. We expect to have what hopefully is close to a final product on the individual interviews next week for the committee's review. Also, we should have a first draft of the compilation video. And once we've approved the direction that's going in, they'll work on the voiceover script, and we'll get with you, Mr. Mayor, on scheduling a time for you to do the voiceovers. So, project's moving along.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Rhonda? And whatever do you want me to do it, I'm sick. Real quickly, before we move on to the consent agenda, one thing I forgot to mention at the beginning, which I feel bad about. As everybody knows, today is the 24th anniversary of September 11th. It is hard to believe it's been 24 years. But I mean, certainly a history altering event where 3000 Americans, you know, needlessly died. And it's, you know, certainly one of those things where I think if everybody was okay, we should just take a moment of silence to remember those who, you know, lost their lives and then everyone who lost their lives. And after that, in the war on terror. So. Okay. Thanks. Next is the consent agenda. Would anyone like anything removed from the consent agenda? And I believe that is the proper process. If not, would someone like to make a motion?

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

Bud Jacobs: Second.

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

All of Council: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. Next up is Action Item, which is Council approval of the implementation of voluntary conservation measures. Mr. Davis.

Danny Davis: Thank you, Mr. Mayor and Councilmembers. If you don't have it in, iLegislate. It's in your email. Emailed it earlier today, so I apologize for that. It's last-minute addition due to some operational changes, but it is in I legislate if that's how you use your iPads there. But we wanted to bring this forward to you because in speaking with Vince with IES today starting to understand that we're seeing some decrease in the levels of Well 4 that we have not seen before, specifically when the well is running losing dropping the water level, dropping anywhere from 120 to almost 200 or 220ft during pumping, whereas previously it was only dropping between 30 and 40ft during pumping. What that means is that at times,

based on some events measurements, the water level is getting within 50ft or so of the pump at the reduced at the lowered level, which is 493ft, so that the water level is getting somewhere around 440ft. Which is significant change from where it had been just about three weeks ago. There are a number of potential factors. Number one, and I've listed a lot of these in the memo, so not to read it all, but it has been extremely dry. We are back in a moderate drought according to drought.Gov. And at this point we don't see any appreciable rain coming anytime soon. And so, there's concerns that as the water table continues to be challenged as Miss Brunett aptly pointed out, I appreciate that these are points. We don't have enough data to give full trends just because we're still working off of about a year's worth of data or so. But understanding where we are still leads us to a point where we want to make sure we're being prudent in our actions. So, as you recall, Town Council adopted revised water conservation ordinance language back in July. My recommendation to you this evening would be to have Council endorse and approve going into voluntary water conservation measures. That's where we strongly encourage all of our residents and businesses to take actions to conserve water as best as they can. We will set the example with that and try to encourage people to limit the use of irrigation systems and other things that could be a potential loss of water. And then we'll keep an eye on our water levels over the next few weeks and at each meeting, as needed. Make recommendations whether potential mandatory water conservation measures are needed. For Council's benefit and for the public as a reminder Well three is our backup well, it continues to produce very well. So, there's no concern that we're running out of water, but it's the concern that we need to be cautious, and we need to be aware of how levels change. We do have a our project to put a VFD Variable Frequency Drive on Well 3, which we believe will help extend the longevity of that well and thankfully we're not seeing any significant impacts on Well P at this time, which is the best producer of water for the Salamander high pressure side of the system. So, no cause for significant concern. But just to have us being aware of the situation where it is today. And we'll keep working with Vince and EIS to gather other information we might have. So that's the information I have for you. We have a draft motion if Council is in favor of that, and if so, then we'll start sharing that information to the public as quickly as we can.

Bridge Littleton: Any questions for Danny? Yes, Cindy.

Cindy Pearson: Just a quick question which I know you've done. I just want to ask it if you all have checked that there's no leaks on the territory around the Well 4.

Danny Davis: Thank you for the question. It's a very appropriate question. We are keeping our eyes open everywhere we go for any potential leaks. The real measure right now is that we are not producing more water than typical, if I can put it that way. So, nothing that would indicate that we are producing water at a level that is trying to catch up by 10 or 20 or 40,000 gallons a day. So, nothing at this point, but definitely worth us keeping our eyes open around the town. And also, I've asked Vince to give the drilling company a call and just run this scenario by them and try to understand if beyond natural factors or other things, whether he might have any insight into why we would have seen such a drop over, just, you know, the last few weeks.

Bridge Littleton: Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Thanks. Do we have any history of how voluntary restrictions have worked in the past? Does it really work to have a follow-on question?

Danny Davis: Yeah. In terms of that question, we don't have really great information or data on that. So, we know what has occurred when we've put in mandatory measures but haven't really analyzed if there's been a significant impact on voluntary by implementing voluntary.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Thank you for that. And just also with well three are we okay with all PFAS and all that. How does that come into play?

Danny Davis: Yeah, thank you for that as well. So VDH has allowed us at this point to continue using Well three as a backup well even with the little bit of PFAS that's been initially identified in, Well three again, there's dilution and mixing with, with other sources of water as well. So, we don't have any concerns long term about that. The PFAS regulations also are initial regulations to guide us into how we treat that in the future. But there are years and years of deadlines for us to

meet. Not saying we shouldn't try to address it quickly, but we're not at risk of any regulatory concerns. And then our goal would be, if we do introduce Well 3 into the system, we're mixing it and blending it with water from other sources as well.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. Pam

Pam Curran: So, what does the communication look like that goes out in terms of guiding them on what it could look like?

Danny Davis: Sure. Absolutely. Yeah, it's similar to some of the language in, in the ordinance, but really, it's letting people know, reminding our community that we are dependent on groundwater and that while we have sufficient water to continue serving the community, we want to ensure that we're all using it wisely. And so, encouraging, limiting outdoor watering to after hours, you know, not during the heat of the day trying to encourage best practices because every gallon that everyone can help us with ensures the longevity of our wells and our supply. So, we're looking at our newsletter blast, our news flash Facebook, of course. And then we, we look to Council to help us spread that word as well through your contacts and neighborhoods and people, you know, and we'll use MBPA and other avenues as appropriate for that information.

Pam Curran: Now, where do we land on the rain barrels? Because we thought that might help, too.

Danny Davis: Absolutely.

Bridge Littleton: We need rain.

Danny Davis: Well that too. [laughter] So in fact, there's a write up. There's a write up in the Middleburg memo that went out today on the water bills the Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District, I think, had to go through their own internal approval process for purchasing a stock of them. But they intend to approach us with an agreement between us and them. And then we'll look to hold a community meeting sometime in the next, I would assume, a couple of months where we can encourage the community to come out, and then they can buy rain barrels at a discounted rate, and the town helps offset a little bit of that cost.

Bridge Littleton: Bud.

Bud Jacobs: In your communication with the town and other stakeholders. Danny, would it be worthwhile to mention very briefly some of the details regarding Well 4 so people understand where our concern comes from?

Danny Davis: I think so. I there's always a challenge there where too much detail and you lose the overall message and.

Bridge Littleton: I think you can do it by percentage.

Danny Davis: But that's it right. So, I think there's a way we can at least capture the why behind it. Because when people hear the why, then that helps them understand why it's important to all of us. Thank you.

Bridge Littleton: Well, no, I mean, it's a great point because like, you know, again, you have to bury him with detail, but like, hey, normally when we've seen it, it's been this it is now 80% lower than we've been seeing. So that's why we're concerned right. And that's like that catches.

Danny Davis: And I don't want the community to think that we're also not on top of trying to fix the issues if they're operational or doing a lower pumping rate. So, we'll make sure that they know we're using all of our resources to do our best to keep the water flowing as per normal.

Bridge Littleton: Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: I'd like to make a suggestion. Actually, because we always put up the, you know, written notices, etc., and it's a serious suggestion to do some little videos with maybe you and other members of the staff I saw. I remember we had one with Ali at some point and they get a lot more, I think, interest and a more human and it's not difficult to do.

Bridge Littleton: Absolutely no. I think it should be Peter.

Danny Davis: Well, what I do. [off mic] I do know that Ms. MacIntyre really enjoys being on TV, so we will make sure to make her part of that video.

Bridge Littleton: Hey, Ali. Ali. That's how you get a raise. [laughter]

Danny Davis: It's a good input. I think it is good, especially for Facebook, just to tell people understand, you know? Yeah.

Bridge Littleton: We can get Jilann. All right. Any other questions? Okay. Would anybody have any concerns about going to the voluntary. Okay.

Chris Bernard: I move that the Town Council declare voluntary water conservation measures to be in effect for users of the Town of Middleburg municipal water supply effective Friday, September 12th, 2025, and request that all users take their best efforts to reduce the use of water throughout the town.

J. Kevin Daly: Second.

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

All of Council: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Opposed? Abstentions? Okay. I guess. Hey, one other thing too is that I would, you know, recommend especially reach out to the businesses, especially Red Fox and Salamander, if they are willing to do the trucking in non-potable water like they've done in the past for their irrigation and stuff that would be, I mean, can't force them, but we would really appreciate it.

Danny Davis: Absolutely.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. All right. Next up is where is it? Discussion items, enforcement of private signs in right of way.

Danny Davis: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'll kick this off, and then Mr. Moore can chip in if there's any additional information. Also, the Town Attorney, if you have any questions on that end. But as Council knows, we've been having discussions about proper placement and appropriate usage of what we call sandwich board signs in the public right of way along the sidewalks. And the Town Council authorized us to initiate a new pilot program at the last meeting subsequent to that meeting over the Labor Day holiday a number of businesses placed signs improperly, illegally, at street corners throughout town. And when signs are placed outside of the permitted areas it can lead to concerns of accessibility, safety, clutter and just visual disarray. So, we took our best effort to implement a temporary step before the pilot program could be designed, because we want our pilot program to be actually professionally designed, well thought out, and appropriately conducted. So currently, the town has placed out four signs town, provided they're being removed each evening and placed back each morning and appreciate the staff's work on that. But what this also reminded us is that our enforcement options regarding signs or other encroachments in the right of way are maybe a little bit outdated or perhaps not as robust as they could be. In the new ordinance that the Town Council adopted late last year. There are certain things that we can do which we can revoke the permit of a business to be able to put out a sign in front of their business if they continue to put it in the wrong spot. We can also confiscate the signs and just say we're taking it that's in our authority as well.

Bridge Littleton: But then you have to return it.

Danny Davis: I'm not sure we're required to return it, per se. Well.

Bridge Littleton: [multiple speakers] Let's be clear on that one.

Danny Davis: I'll ask the Town Attorney when we get to that point. But the second or the third issue is related to enforcement of fines. And currently our ordinance says you can fine at \$25, which is, you know, not something to sneeze at, but it's also not a significant number. So the question is whether we should consider the Town Council should consider increasing those fines, which would be a stronger incentive for businesses to follow the requirements of our town code, and especially now that the town is taking this step of putting our own signs out, we want to make sure that there's not continued misplacement of signs where it will create safety or other potential liability for the town or the business. So that's the question before you. No action tonight just to see the Council's interest and perhaps the town staff working with the Town Attorney to develop some revised language related to enforcement with maybe a tiered system of proposals listed in the draft memo here, but we're happy to answer any questions Council might have about this.

Bridge Littleton: Darlene.

Darlene Kirk: It's not a question, but a comment. We also need to think about signs being put in the right of way, not just downtown, because we've had this issue before and that needs to be covered and taken care of.

Danny Davis: Absolutely. And I believe the town's code about streets applies across the board for right of way. At times when we've had the political signs or the community signs that say No Parking or Save Our Street. We have tried to work with those property owners and remind them, and in fact, at times we will relocate the sign a foot further in. So, it's actually not in the right of way, but on their property and let them know we've they need to keep it on their private property and not in the right of way, but absolutely correct Ms. Kirk that we want to make sure that we're enforcing encroachments in the right of way appropriately throughout the town.

Bridge Littleton: Any other questions? Yeah. Peter.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Just a thought with the enhancement of fines would it be a thought to if we'd go that route to maybe delay when it when that starts just to give folks a chance to get used to the idea rather than just setting a date too.

Danny Davis: I think our goal is always first and foremost, just to encourage and to get compliance with the law. And so, we use our avenues of communication and judgment to make sure that that day one, we're not just slapping them with a very hard fine. And they were not aware of it. So, we'll do appropriate communication outreach. There could be a warning period or a warning chance. But on the flip side, a number of these businesses are fully aware of the requirements under the code and at times have chosen to, you know, ignore the requirement. So, but yes, I understand your point. And we want to make sure that we're applying that appropriately.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah, Pam.

Pam Curran: It's more a comment, I think taking the sign away or suspending their ability to put a sign out probably would carry more weight than a citation because it represents advertising dollars. You know, if I can't put my sign up, then I'm not advertising the shop. So, I think I think consistently giving them a warning to start educating them and then, you know, possibly not allowing them to put the signs out might create a better enforcement dynamic than us.

Bridge Littleton: The issue with that is when they're putting the signs out on the corner of Washington and Madison, they're not allowed to do that regardless. They can only put their sign in front of their store, and they all know that, and they're doing it anyway. So, the issue is, you know, like we've had to confiscate signs and then we give them back. And then the next weekend it's right back out there and the two things that really concern me a lot about is especially when you have multiple signs that show up, right? I mean, we have literally had people fall and get hurt because they couldn't get around the sign to get up and down the ramp for the sidewalk. There was an elderly couple six months ago where there was a woman on who had a walker she couldn't get past the sign she was trying to go around, and she fell off the curb. That's liability. If she got hurt, that could've been liability the town would have been sued for. So, you know, it's number one. It's safety. Number two, it's liability for us. And the third one is, you know, and this is one of the ones I come back to all the time about fundamental fairness. Right. So, take any street there are half a dozen to two dozen businesses on that street. Well, if you let one person have a sign, you got to let everybody have a sign. And now you got two dozen signs on the corner. And that's just not. It doesn't work. So, I think Ali and Danny putting up the general sign that says more shops and

dining this way is a way that everybody gets something, but it respects that, you know, everybody's treated the same. And again, the biggest one is the public safety. But unfortunately, we have had a very small number of folks who just regardless just keep doing it. So, I think it's a tool that's needed, you know, and again, give them all a month warning. Hey, after one month this is what's going to happen. That's totally fine. Right. Or whatever, whatever it is. Right. Because it will only be for a certain period and then it's enforced, and everybody knows and it's not guesswork.

Danny Davis: And even if we revoke their permit, they might still choose to put a sign out [multiple speakers] without having the permit, which then the fine would allow us to go to that next level. So, they're used in tandem often. And Mr. Mayor to answer the question, and our code language regarding removal of signs, the last phrase says the town will store removed signs for a reasonable period of time before disposing of them. I believe our application has been we will hold them and let them know we've taken them and give them a chance to retrieve them. But if we don't hear within a reasonable period of time, we may throw them away because they've not responded.

Bridge Littleton: Totally get it. So, we're not storage zone. But then that and maybe we should clear the code, right? Is that we'll hold it for seven days and then we'll we have the right to throw it away. Because it would be the thing that we want to make sure of is that there's not the implication that if we confiscate it, we're chucking it regardless. You know, I think what we're the intent here is we're going to take it. You can come get it, but after a while we'll get rid of it. Okay. Darlene.

Darlene Kirk: Can we put something on there that says that maybe there's a second time that we confiscate a sign from you then it's more.

Danny Davis: We can talk with the Town Attorney and ensure that any authority we have in there is appropriate.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah Chris.

Chris Bernard: And yeah, just to, I guess, level set this a little bit before it turns into, like a town versus business community. I think we've typically been very pro-business. And I certainly feel like, you know, our business community is just as much a part of the town as the buildings and the residents. And so, I just want to be kind of careful, like, I think left unfettered. While we understand that there is a value for a chalkboard sign for a business to generate revenue. When it's left unchecked, it has turned into a problem that is a detriment to not just all the businesses in that area, but to the community in general. So, I think it's important that we do this, and I want to make sure that we're fair and consistent across the board. That's all.

Bridge Littleton: Danny, you got what you need.

Danny Davis: I think that's a good direction for us to put some language together. We'll bring it back. I think we can probably get it to you at the next meeting.

Bridge Littleton: Sounds good. All right. Next on discussion items, Ms. North Citizens Academy.

Rhonda North: Thank you, Mr. Mayor. So last March, we had our first annual Citizens Academy. I think it was well received by the folks who did participate. So, we're now seeking Council's guidance on whether they wish to hold another academy in 2026. If so, we're recommending the date of Wednesday, March the 11th. That middle march seemed to work well for folks. And if you're agreeable, we'll go ahead and start advertising and accepting applications. It did include in the agenda packet suggested agenda, which is pretty close to what we did last year, did add a few topics in that the graduates from the first Academy recommended be included. So, we did expand the end time a little further out. We're also recommending if Council is amenable to continuing the program, that we increase the number of slots from 10 to 15. The ten worked very well. We think we could handle a few more folks. The hard part is, like the tours of the treatment plants and things, making sure that we're not overly crowding as folks are trying to move through those spaces. But we think we could handle 15.

Bridge Littleton: Anybody have any concerns with Rhonda's plan of action?

J. Kevin Daly: Yeah. Go.

Bridge Littleton: Thanks, Rhonda. Thank you. Any information items? I have two real quickly. Really for Council consideration if we want to do something about it. First one, this is a very, very not macro. What's the opposite of macro? Yes, very micro issue. So. And Cindy's going to smile. It's regarding the bingo at the community center. So, here's the question. Really a question for Council. Bingo is one of those great community events that really is about the community and everybody here wanting everybody to be able to participate. In the past, it was difficult because it was like \$45 per person. So, if you're a family of four working at Safeway, that's 200 bucks for one night of bingo. You can't afford that. You know, and that's tough. And they're doing it again next week, which is going to be great. I just signed up for it. Well, by the time you and the community center lowered the price, I think to 25 and [off mic] lower for kids. But by the time you apply the fees and everything, it's actually now 36. Yeah, I just paid for it. Or okay. [off mic] Yeah, exactly. So anyway, if whatever if it's 30 to whatever your family of four working at Safeway, you're not going to come. Right. It's that could be half your food budget for the week. So, the question for Council is and getting the detail and getting the data is really, really important. When we were at Biz Buzz, I asked Lynn, you know, how much does [inaudible] cost you about to run it? And it's like between 6 and \$7000. If you do the full catering and all that kind of stuff, there's probably cheaper ways to do it. They would like to do it twice a year. I would really love to see that price come down. So, a question for Council is do we want to explore bingo as a partnership between the town and the community center, and we help try to offset some of the cost. You know, it's really only locally advertised. And, you know, if we can get it to if we can help them get it to for everybody, it's \$15 all in or 20 bucks all in. I think it'd be great. Yeah. And, you know, whatever. I mean, however, however, it works, right? It has to be something unique because, you know, I think we should budget it. I think we should, you know, not make them come to the committee every year. It's really about getting the price to be affordable for just about everybody. But I just wanted to take stock of everybody. If you all that was something we should explore. Okay. And we can figure out what it might or might not look like. Their next one isn't until January or February or March. So, it's not like we have to solve the problem tomorrow, but we can touch base with the community center, see what the expected cost is, see what would be fair and reasonable, how to get the price down to whatever. So. Okay. Yeah, Danny.

Danny Davis: Mr. Mayor. And I think that's a good addition to some conversations that Ms. MacIntyre and I intend to have with Miss Foote. And who the new person as well, coming into the community center about long term partnerships. And so, you might see some enhancement to this idea where it's not just about bingo, but it might be about events we host, their events we support, and how they stay engaged in community and make it kind of a holistic review of their involvement and engagement in the community and how we're a part of that. So, I think that's a great point. I appreciate Council being very supportive of that idea, and I think this will add into those conversations.

Bridge Littleton: And I think you have nodding heads. Yes, from everybody. Okay, great. Second one was Danny, and I had a call. When did we talk to Francesca? Was it last week? God, Bud, you closed it won't open again. We had a call with Francesca last week about the Mille Miglia. They're still going through a lot of transition with their new board. One of their board members has been ill for a number of months, so it's, you know, been hard to align and whatnot. You know, I think from her perspective, bringing the event back here, you know, from a staff perspective and from her and others, they love it. They really want to try to do it. But again, it's about their board. It's about their CEO or their president. I can't remember which it is their Board of Directors, you know, it's having their buy in and their vision to try to drive it that way. One of the things I said was, well, you know, we would love to have it back. What form that takes, that could be a big question, right? Because in the five that we did, it was always them kind of driving we supporting. Then they were starting to talk about how they wanted us to drive, you know, no pun intended. And they would support, which I think we were considering we'd be okay with. But devil's in the details, right? But we there has to be their desire to want to return in the first place. Then we try to figure out what form that takes. So, one of the suggestions I made to Francesca was, would you like us to put together a five-minute presentation? I mean, some of them, she was quite honest, don't speak English. So, they would do the translation into Italian. And I said just. Yeah, exactly. I said, you know, we could. [off mic] Yeah, yeah. Yeah, exactly. You know, put something together, some slides, maybe string together some videos or whatnot. And she said that would be great. She thought that would be helpful, help all the new people. And Danny, correct me if I'm wrong. I don't think any of the new people came over here last night.

Danny Davis: I don't believe any have.

Bridge Littleton: I think it changed right after our event. So literally all the people on the board, none of them have been there, been to Middleburg for the event. So maybe it's something that gives them a flavor of how special it is. I know Ali and Danny and the staff are really, really busy. Maybe it's something we can have our marketing firm help us out with, but I didn't, and Danny brought this up. I don't think we want to do it without. It might cost a couple thousand dollars. I don't think we want to do it without Council being okay with it. So first I want to see if it's something that people are. Yeah, let's put something together. And it could be just as simple as a PowerPoint presentation, and we drop a couple videos in it. It could be something that's a little more professional. But does everybody want to do it or not want to do it? And if so, would anybody have any reservations about taking up to 5000 from contingency. If we wanted to do something really professional, that we have a third-party firm, do it.

Darlene Kirk: [off mic] I think we should do it professionally, too.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. You want it to look good.

Chris Bernard: It's got to be good.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah.

Chris Bernard: You don't get two chances.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. Yeah. It's true. You want them to be.

Chris Bernard: If we go to them now and they're not into it, I don't see us going back. I mean, let's nail it.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. Any thoughts? Concerns? Not a good use of money. Not a good use of time.

J. Kevin Daly: [off mic] Just make sure they have their visas.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. I'm not touching that one. Yeah. Bud. [off mic]

Bud Jacobs: I think it's a great idea.

Bridge Littleton: Okay. [off mic] All right. Peter, any concerns? Okay. We'll figure it out. We'll keep it at 5000 or less. I think that's within your signature authority, right?

Danny Davis: I can go up to 25.

Bud Jacobs: Don't.

Bridge Littleton: We will be revising that.

J. Kevin Daly: I think we reduce it.

Bridge Littleton: Second. Any discussion? None. Okay. So. All right. And again, it's just something that they could try to emotionally connect with. So, All right. Cool. We'll figure sort of a plan for that. Maybe you help with that. And go forward. Okay. Great. Any other information items.

Darlene Kirk: Make sure you have kids and dogs in the video too.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, yeah. Oh, that's right, the race. The kids race. Yeah.

Danny Davis: Just for Council's awareness. I believe you each received one of these in your mailbox. Apologies if you have not, but Foxcroft is installing their new head of school next Friday evening. So, if you're interested and have not

received that, please let me know, and I can send you the details on that. But there's a lot going on next week. 40 under 40. Bingo. And the Foxcroft thing. And then Saturday is Oktoberfest. So that's a lot next week. [off mic] A week from Saturday.

Bridge Littleton: Yeah. And her installation is Friday. Oktoberfest is Saturday, and bingo is on Sunday.

Chris Bernard: No bingo's Friday as well. They're both Friday. What time is the Foxcroft?

Bridge Littleton: 5:30.

Chris Bernard: Oh, man.

Bridge Littleton: Because I think bingo starts at 5:30.

Darlene Kirk: Yep.

Bridge Littleton: Okay.

Chris Bernard: I got a [off mic]. I'm going to Bingo.

Bridge Littleton: Wow.

Darlene Kirk: I'll see you there.

Bridge Littleton: What's Thursday?

Chris Bernard: 40 under 40 it's Thursday. Yeah.

Bridge Littleton: Oh, right for Ali. Oh, I hope you're ready. We're going to come with clappers. Hey, it's going to be a packed weekend. Okay. Anything else? Anybody? All right. I guess the next thing is closed session.

Chris Bernard: I move that Council go into closed session as authorized under section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia for discussion of a personnel matter related to an employee bonus as allowed under subsection A1. I further move that Council thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

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

All of Council: Aye.

Bridge Littleton: Opposed? Abstentions. All right.

Chris Bernard: No.

Bridge Littleton: All right. I asked that Council certify that in the closed session just concluded, to the best of each member's knowledge, nothing was discussed except the matter or matters specifically identified in the motion to convene in closed session and two lawfully permitted to be discussed in closed session under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act as cited in the motion.

J. Kevin Daly: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: I'd like to remind those present for the closed session that any discussion that occurred and it should be treated as wide open for discussion.

Peter Leonard-Morgan: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: As confidential?

Bud Jacobs: Yes.

Darlene Kirk: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: Yes.

Chris Bernard: Yes.

Cindy Pearson: Yes.

J. Kevin Daly: Yes.

Pam Curran: Yes.

Bridge Littleton: All right. Meeting adjourned. One hour.