

**TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 12, 2024 | 7:00 p.m.**

The Town of Middletown Town Council meeting was held in the council chambers located at 7875 Church Street, Middletown VA on Monday August 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Town Council Present

Mayor Charles Harbaugh IV
Councilor Carolyn Aliff
Councilor Stephanie Mitchell
Councilor Diane Newman
Councilor Jacob Skeith
Councilor Shayla Rickard

Town Council Absent

Vice Mayor Jeffrey Pennington

Staff Present

Town Manager & Public Works Superintendent Les Morefield
Chief of Police Gary Benedict Jr.
Town Treasurer Keith Smith
Town Clerk Christina Smith, CMC

1. Set Agenda

Mayor Harbaugh asked for a motion to set the agenda. Councilor Skeith made a motion to set the agenda. Councilor Rickard seconded the motion. All Councilors were in favor and the agenda was set.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Mayor Harbaugh asked for a motion to approve the Town Council minutes from July 8, 2024. Councilor Aliff made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Skeith seconded the motion. All Councilors were in favor and the minutes were passed.

3. Citizen Comments (3 minutes per person per meeting – max 30 minutes)

Lisa Shaffer 612 Van Foosen Street, Winchester – see attached for comment

Gretchen Coffey 2329 Third Street, Middletown – see attached for comment

4. Report of the Finance Committee

Councilor Skeith made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Councilor Aliff seconded the motion. Mayor Harbaugh asked for a roll call vote.

Councilor Aliff - Yes
Councilor Mitchell – Yes
Councilor Newman – Yes

Councilor Skeith – Yes
Councilor Rickard – Yes

Motion carried 5-0

5. Report of the Personnel Committee

Nothing to report

6. Report of the Public Works Committee and Facilities Committee

Nothing to report

7. Report of Public Safety Committee

Councilor Rickard advised the monthly calls for service are in the packet. Chief Benedict added that K9 Edo has been recertified and recently assisted Fredrick County Sheriff's office on a stop that yielded 9.47 grams of cocaine and 2.1 grams of fentanyl.

8. Report of the Ordinance Committee

Nothing to report

9. Report of the Planning and Zoning Committee

Planning Commissioner Bill Kircher reported that the commission is currently waiting on SUP from Steel Dog and plans from Wawa.

10. Report of Special Committees

Mayor Harbaugh reported the Back-to-School Event held at the town office on 8/9 was a success with approximately 500 kids in attendance. He also updated those in attendance that the annual car show will take place 8/17 on Main Street from 3-8 p.m.

11. New or Unfinished Business

Mayor Harbaugh set the Work Session meeting for Tuesday September 3, 2024 @ 7:00 p.m. noting Monday is a holiday.

12. Petitions and Communication

Dave Holliday owner of Dave Holliday Construction and the Director of Land Development Patrick Sowers presented the mayor with the deed of four-acre parcels which was recently appraised at \$114k as a donation to the town. Can you please let me know if you are coming to the meeting this evening or if we need to share your comment on your

13. Adjournment

Mayor Harbaugh adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Christina Smith
Municipal Clerk

Charles Harbaugh, IV
Mayor

Good evening,

I am Lisa Shaffer. I am retired and used to own the old "Larrick's Tavern". Even though I no longer own property in Middletown, I have a lifelong love for the Wayside Inn. I am here tonight with Gretchen Coffey who agrees with me that more can be done to keep the Wayside operating and thriving.

I was inspired recently by the joyous return of Americans who were unjustly detained in Russia. It took months, even years in some cases, to secure the release of these people. It happened because of the collaboration of our Allies and our government to make a deal. I see the Wayside as a similar situation. This community needs to collaborate with the owners to come up with "out of the box" solutions to help the Wayside stay in business. It is the historical "anchor" of the community and it is too valuable to let it disappear.

Many may say that, because it is privately owned, we are powerless to help the Wayside. I believe it is our duty to do all in our power to preserve historical resources.

In the coming months, I will actively seek to meet with the owners to share some ideas for a vibrant and revenue generating business. I will be asking members of the business community to formulate ideas for collaborating with the Wayside. For example: Shaffer's Barbecue could set up a barbecue buffet for a mid-day meeting. The Wayside could collect a small rental fee and open the bar for drinks. Both businesses would benefit. The marketing value alone would be fantastic.

I have a lot of ideas for the Wayside Inn. I am sure that there are more people like me, who have a "volunteer" mentality and who care more about helping in the community than making money.

This (hold up copy of Travelers' Rest) is a loosely structured business plan for a Destination Dining and Entertainment Adventure for the Wayside. I would be ~~grateful~~ ^{happy} to share this with others who might be interested in bringing this recurring event to the Wayside Inn. I will soon be sharing this information at a meeting and will post a date and time as soon as it is set.

(Hold up Charles book)

As is demonstrated in this book written by our mayor and Jeff Pennington, the Wayside Inn is the centerpiece of this community. Let's collaborate with current and future owners to keep the Inn thriving with respect for the past and hope for the future.

Thank you

I am Gretchen Coffey and I have been a resident of Middletown for 14 years. I have enjoyed its connections to history, including the travellers along a pathway through the Northern Shenandoah Valley, who appreciated a rest stop on a spot along the trail that in the future a town surrounded.

The stop had a stone structure [about _ by _ feet] and this structure amazingly still exists ^{via an erpica rising from its} ~~on a~~ dirt floor within the Wayside Inn! The Inn continued to be a place of refreshment and rest until the present. It is a treasure of Middletown, and is a contributing ~~factor~~ structure to Middletown's historic district designation. It would be an immense shock to Middletown residents if it were knocked down.

Please be energetically proactive on behalf of this gem, and especially the re-created original ~~•~~ wayside structure on dirt floor.

Thank you.

I give the balance of my time to Lise Shaffer.