

**TOWN OF MIDDLETOWN  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 9, 2026 | 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 February 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

**Town Council Present**

Mayor Charles Harbaugh IV  
Councilor Carolyn Aliff  
Councilor Jessica Chekaldin  
Vice Mayor Jeffrey Pennington  
Councilor Diane Newman-Shannon  
Councilor Jacob Skeith  
Councilor George Smith

**Staff Present**

Town Manager & Public Works Superintendent Les Morefield  
Chief Gary Benedict Jr.  
Town Treasurer Keith Smith  
Town Clerk Christina Smith  
Deputy Clerk Rachel Henry

**1. Set Agenda**

Mayor Harbaugh asked for a motion to set the agenda. Councilor Skeith made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilor Pennington 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 Joint Public Hearing, Town Council and Finance Committee meeting minutes from January 12, 2026. Councilor Aliff made a motion to approve the minutes. Councilor Newman-Shannon seconded the motion. All Councilors were in favor and the Joint Public Hearing, Town Council and Finance Committee minutes were approved.

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

Bill Kircher 7800 Church St. – see attached

**4. Report of the Personnel & Finance Committee**

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

Councilor Aliff – Yes

Councilor Chekaldin – Yes

Councilor Pennington – Yes

Councilor Newman-Shannon – Yes

Councilor Skeith – Yes

Councilor Smith – Yes

Motion carried 6-0

Councilor Skeith made a motion to approve revision to Section 5.5 Holidays, Addendum 2 – Police Department (E). Councilor Pennington seconded the motion. Mayor Harbaugh asked for a roll call vote.

Councilor Aliff – Yes  
Councilor Chekaldin – Yes  
Councilor Pennington – Yes

Councilor Newman-Shannon – Yes  
Councilor Skeith – Yes  
Councilor Smith – Yes

Motion carried 6-0

**5. Report of the Public Works Committee and Facilities Committee**

Councilor Aliff stated the monthly staff report can be found in the packet for review.

**6. Report of Public Safety Committee**

Councilor Pennington stated the calls for service can be found in the packet for review. Councilor Aliff asked Chief Benedict for an update on Officer Seabaugh in which he advised she was doing well and will return soon.

**7. Report of the Ordinance Committee**

Nothing to report

**8. Report of the Planning and Zoning Committee**

Councilor Smith made a motion to approve the appointment of Tracy Madagan to serve on the Planning Commission board. Council Aliff seconded the motion. Mayor Harbaugh asked for a roll call vote.

Councilor Aliff – Yes  
Councilor Chekaldin – Yes  
Councilor Pennington – Yes

Councilor Newman-Shannon – Yes  
Councilor Skeith – Yes  
Councilor Smith – Yes

Motion carried 6-0

**9. Report of Special Committees**

Mayor Harbaugh announced Heart & Soul 5k will take place in town on February 14, 2026.

**10. New or Unfinished Business**

Mayor Harbaugh set the Work Session meeting for March 2, 2026 @ 7:00 p.m.

**11. Petitions and Communication**

Nothing to report

**12. Adjournment**

Mayor Harbaugh adjourned the town council meeting at 7:08 p.m.

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Christina Smith  
Municipal Clerk

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Charles Harbaugh IV  
Mayor

CASA

My Name is Bill Kircher, I live at 7800 Church St and I am currently volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for Warren County. There are currently 32 judicial districts in Virginia and only 27 or 28 programs exist in these judicial districts, multiple districts—including Frederick County and the City of Winchester do not have a CASA Program. There are approximately 3400 kids that do not have a CASA advocate. The child welfare system is under extraordinary strain. Community resources are stressed to the maximum. Social workers are overburdened and turning over quickly, sadly changing mid-case. Attorneys' caseloads are rising.

- According to Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services Website 3,430 children were served in 2024-2025
- 1,419 CASA volunteers provided advocacy in 2024-2025
- 130,743 volunteer advocacy hours were contributed (valued at \$4,500,174)

Currently, there is a bi-partisan amendment sponsored by Delegates Callsen and McQuinn and State Senators Ebbin, Favola, Mc Dougle, and Stanley to increase CASA's budget by 4 million dollars. As FYI: the CASA program ~~has~~ had a funding increase since 2008. *every 2 kids Don't have advocates*

*has not had*  
The CASA serves an independent advocate for kids in the foster care, and some cases is the only constant adult presence while the child is in foster care system. Request Middletown Council pass a resolution supporting this funding increase in the CASA budget and encourage the surrounding communities to do the same.

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