



**MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL
Monthly Work Session**



**Monday, January 5, 2009
Town Office, 10 W. Marshall Street**

8:00 a.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Betsy A. Davis
Councilmember Trowbridge Littleton
Councilmember Lisa Patterson
Councilmember Judith Pryor Plescow
Councilmember Kathy Jo Shea

STAFF: Jerry M. Schiro, Town Manager
Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk
David M. Beniamino, Town Planner
Steve Webber, Chief of Police

ABSENT: Vice Mayor Darlene Kirk
Councilmember Catherine "Bundles" Murdock
Councilmember Mark Snyder

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held their regular work session on Monday, January 5, 2009 in the Town Hall Council Chambers, located at 10 W. Marshall Street. Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Council Review – January 8, 2009 Council Meeting Agenda

Mayor Davis noted that there were no action items on the agenda. She further noted that the only discussion item was the draft Rules of Procedure; and suggested that unless there was something urgent related to them, they be discussed at the meeting.

Mayor Davis advised Council that she received a phone call from reporters with Leesburg Today and the Washington Post regarding talk about closing four Loudoun County elementary schools, including Middleburg's. She explained that her statements to the reporters reflected around the fact that the small communities were tired of being targeted for closure whenever there were financial issues; and, that everyone needed to share in the financial pressure. Ms. Davis asked that the Town Clerk secure information regarding the proposed closures; and, suggested that a resolution of support be placed on the regular Council meeting agenda. Councilmember Shea noted that Supervisor Jim Burton's website contains a release on this item. Mayor Davis asked whether the Council would like to consider a resolution during the upcoming meeting. Council agreed they did.

Councilmember Patterson reminded Council of the County's upcoming budget meeting. She recommended that the Parent/Teacher Organization be contacted as well. Ms. Patterson noted that the budget cuts stem from the Purcellville High School lawsuit, which the School Board settled for \$6 million that must now come from their budget. Councilmember Shea suggested the Council may need to deal with the School Board. Mayor Davis asked the Town Clerk to secure additional information regarding this matter; and, to contact Martha Cotter as well.

Councilmember Shea asked that a discussion item be added to the agenda regarding the Volunteer Fair in Middleburg on January 19th.

Closed Session – Personnel

Councilmember Littleton moved, seconded by Councilmember Shea, that Council go into closed session as allowed under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) pertaining to the discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of the public body. Councilmember Littleton further moved, seconded by Councilmember Shea, that this discussion be limited to the reassignment of specific public employees. Councilmember Littleton further moved, seconded by Councilmember Shea, that the Council thereafter reconvene in open session for action as appropriate.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Littleton, Patterson, Plescow and Shea
No – N/A
Abstain: N/A
Absent: Councilmembers Kirk, Murdock and Snyder
(Mayor Davis did not vote as there was no tie to require her vote)

Mayor Davis asked that Council certify that to the best of each member’s knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting. Councilmembers Littleton, Patterson, Plescow and Shea so certified.

Councilmember Patterson moved, seconded by Councilmember Littleton, that Council authorize the Town Administrator to close out the leave balances of the water and sewer staff and to transfer them to Loudoun Water.

Town Administrator Schiro confirmed he would close out the leave balances of the two employees; and, would transfer the balances to Loudoun Water.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Littleton, Patterson, Plescow and Shea
No – N/A
Abstain: N/A
Absent: Councilmembers Kirk, Murdock and Snyder
(Mayor Davis did not vote as there was no tie to require her vote)

Discussion

Eura Lewis appeared before Council to express concern regarding trash/trash cans on the streets throughout the town, as well as a discarded sofa in front of Thomas & Talbott, over the weekend. She expressed concern about the unsightliness of the town during the Antique Show when guests were present. Mayor Davis recommended that letters be sent to businesses and residents asking that they not put out their trash for collection prior to 4:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. Town Administrator Schiro advised Council that he would discuss this problem with the Street Superintendent.

Councilmember Littleton advised Council that he attended the Antique Show over the weekend; and, noted that the vendors spoke very positively regarding residents' attendance and purchases.

Councilmember Patterson reported that a vehicle struck the wall at the intersection of Madison and Federal Streets, moving the wall by approximately a foot and breaking the steps. She noted that the wall was located in VDOT's right-of-way; and, expressed concern regarding the hazard that existed. Ms. Patterson explained that the sidewalk support would be lost if the wall shifted any farther. Dan Morrow recommended that when the wall was repaired, VDOT also stripe a crosswalk at this location so as to alert pedestrians that they were stepping from the sidewalk directly into the street.

There being no further business, Mayor Davis declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 a.m.

APPROVED:

Betsy A. Davis, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rhonda S. North, MMC
Town Clerk