

MIDDLETOWN, OHIO

October 15, 2013

ROLL CALL

At 5:30 p.m. Mayor Mulligan called the business meeting to order in the City Council Chambers, Lower Level of the City Building with a moment of meditation and pledge of allegiance to the American flag. Members present: J. Laubach, A. Mort, J. Mulligan, D. Picard and L. Mulligan. Staff Present: City Manager Gilleland, Clerk Schenck, N. Begley, N. Powers, J. Gross, D. Adkins, S. Tadych, L. Landen, N. Wilson, J. Phillips and R. Dalton.

Ms. Scott Jones arrived at the meeting.

CITY MANAGER REPORTS

Ms. Gilleland introduced Superintendent of Middletown City Schools, Sam Ison, who provided information about Issue 9. He explained that on November 5th, 2013 voters in the Middletown City School District will be asked to consider a \$55 million bond issue, a 3.9-mil bond issue and a 0.26 permanent improvement levy. This is a critical vote to construct a new Middle School on the current Middletown High School campus, as well as additions and renovations of the current high school including additional classroom space and a new competition gymnasium. Equally important is the State of Ohio requirement to fund a permanent improvement levy for all district facilities. Mr. Ison explained that the Middletown City School District has been notified by the State of Ohio that we are now eligible to receive the state's share of the funding (\$40,000,000) to complete Phase II of the district's facilities project. These dollars are only available for the next 13 months and if the issue does not pass the dollars will go to another district that successfully passes their Bond Issue. Middletown has a unique opportunity to receive matching state dollars through the Ohio School Facilities Commission; this is a chance to save dollars for Middletown taxpayers. He explained that it will cost the homeowner of a property valued at \$75,000 or less \$9.21 a month, a \$100,000 home would be \$12.28 a month and a \$150,000 home was be \$18.42 per month. He explained that the entire project will cost \$95 million and that the state will fund \$40 million if the community will approve a \$55 million Bond Issue; but if the Bond Issue is not approved in the next 13 months, we may have to pay the entire cost in the future. Mr. Ison reported that the Middle School is 91 years old and is no longer adequate for 21st century instruction and that the High School is 44 years old and the facility cannot handle the technology and the environment for 21st century learning. He explained that the two facilities do not provide the health, safety and security that are needed for our kids. Having the middle school and the high school buildings on the same property will help us meet the needs and the mandates for 21st century education and the future at an economical cost; having new buildings with enhanced technology and the strategic placing of the two buildings will add safety for kids during and after the school day. He explained that as a result of a study that involved the community, the high school site was selected because it would provide an economic savings with busing and teacher resources, easy access to main roads, ample parking, and was appealing for the community with the Middletown Campus of Miami University across the street. He commented that the education and overall safety of students is a top priority and that a new middle school and remodeling the high school will allow us to secure all main entrances, add security systems and fire alarm systems and code upgrades which will support our efforts. He asked all residents to support his bond issue and reminded them that all of us were children in a school district and generations before us supported the schools. Good schools are the foundation of a good community; a strong school system impacts property values and is a reflection of the community as a whole. A new middle school and a renovated high school will meet the need for modern and secure educational facilities that will assist in providing our children with the advanced skills needed in today's and tomorrow's competitive workplace. The Middletown Schools are a valuable community resource, even for those without children attending the district.

ICMA AWARDS

Ms. Gilleland introduced Mr. Tracy Williams, representing the International City Manager's Association. Mr. Williams presented Ms. Gilleland with an award for thirty years in public service and congratulated her on her career. He invited the Mayor to the podium and provided some background information about the ICMA and the Community Partnership Award. He announced that at the recent conference in Boston, MA, the City of Middletown received this prestigious award for the Greentree Health Sciences Project. The Greentree Health Sciences Project represented innovation, excellence and success with multi-participants including local government, the private sector, non-profit organizations and individuals for the betterment of the entire community. He discussed the eight different entities that came together to make the project a tremendous success and stated that it was model for a true community collaboration. He provided additional information about project and the impact on the economic viability of the entire area. He presented the award to Mayor and congratulated the City on receiving this award. The Mayor expressed his appreciation for all of the important partners that made this project possible.

Doug Adkins provided information about recent improvements to the community center including an updated kitchen, new lighted sign and a newly painted interior. He reported that the Center is partnering with MetroParks to offer community gardening, new parents can receive support from the

MUM BASKETBALL PROJECT

Parent Resource Center, Butler Tech is offering GED classes and childcare is available for those who need it, MUM is providing tutoring during the afterschool program, families can participate in kindergarten readiness programs, the Center is offering facility rentals on the weekend, and more than 100 children participated in the Center’s day camp program during the summer.

He reported that Miami University Middletown has contacted the Community Center to partner on a basketball league using MUM and Community Center facilities. The league would feature the new international students partnered with local basketball players with the goal of fostering intercultural exchanges and knowledge through the common activity/interest around basketball. If there are still openings after the initial registration, we would open the league up to anyone else from the campus and community who may want to participate, such as the Muslim Basketball teams in the area. He explained that the league would be funded by a grant. MUM is in the process of writing the grant proposal and would like a Letter of Support from City Council to assist in obtaining the grant funds; the grant proposal will reflect the following concepts: the basketball program should happen twice a month, alternating between MUM and the Community Center, and/or a different community location once the program has gained traction, we will propose leagues instead of 3-on-3 pick-up games, so as to mix up more people/cultures, the events are structured so that we begin with "clinics" the first few times, where we exchange different cultural approaches for practicing and playing basketball, we are considering a welcome dinner where people can meet and discuss their experiences with sports from different cultures, if we are awarded the grant, we may start in March through the next Fall season. He explained that the grant application is due on Wednesday, October 16th and asked if City Council was interested in supporting the project with a letter of support.

Ms. Mort moved to offer a letter of support for the proposed basketball league. Ms. Scott Jones seconded. **Motion carried.** Ayes: J. Laubach, A. Mort, J. Mulligan, D. Picard, L. Mulligan and Scott Jones.

PRESENTATION Certificate of Recognition-Beauverre

Mayor Mulligan invited Jay and Linda Moorman of BeauVerre Riodan Stained Glass Studios to the podium and he recognized them as the oldest business in the City. Jay Moorman explained how the project began and the success that has developed from that initial leap of faith and partnership with the City twelve years ago.

CITIZENS COMMENTS K. Duritsch

Kristy Duritsch, 104 Kensington Street, representing the Citizens Advisory Board and the Middletown Safety Council, spoke in support of the police department and the outlined the need for a strong police force to deter drug and criminal activity in the community. She asked the City leader to honor the existing COPS grant.

M. Cotugno

Marianne Cotugno, 15 Ardmore Drive, the Miami University Representative on the Citizens Advisory Board, expressed her concern about proposed cuts to public safety. She explained that reductions to police department will compromise safety and potentially increase crime at the Middletown campus and throughout the community. She questioned if funds from the Downtown Fund could be used to financially support officers working in that area.

Lynn Dich

Lynn Dich, 225 Lorraine Avenue, a faculty member at Miami University, expressed her concern about proposed cuts in the police department. She commented that the ongoing revitalization in the community is very positive but that reductions in the police department and in public safety would actually be taking a step back. She stated that feeling safe at the MUM and in this community was very important to her.

Bill Keith

Bill Keith, 222 Franklin Street, Neighborhood Watch Block Captain, a member of the Citizens Advisory Board, a resident and concerned citizen in the community, spoke in opposition to potential staff cuts in the Police Department and in opposition to returning the Cops Grant funding. Her discussed the recent Public Safety Levy and commented that citizens supported this levy and expected that it would maintain the current staffing levels. He suggested that money be allocated to public safety instead of on downtown projects, maintaining the golf course or repairing potholes. He encouraged City leaders to put “Safety first”.

Lamar Ferrell

Lamar Ferrell, 106 Sierra, urged members of the community to support the Middletown City School District and to vote yes on Issue 9. He encouraged the community to finish what was started by the district ten years ago with the construction of the new elementary schools. He commented that 91 year old middle school building is inadequate and although the district is striving to meet the needs of the students, the outdated facility makes this very difficult. He discussed his concerns about the safety and security of students in this building and the need for a new modern facility for the staff and the students. He explained that 1/3 of the money spent on utilities for the entire district is spent on the aged middle school building. He discussed his concern about the safety and security of students

in the current high school and the need to update and modernize the facility and the benefits of both of these facilities being located on the same campus. He commented that 30 cents day is a minimal expense to show tomorrow's generation what they mean to us.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda issues were presented for action:

Approve City Council Minutes: October 1, 2013

Receive and File Board and Commission Minutes:

Park Board- September 9, 2013

Citizens Advisory Board- September 18, 2013

Historic Commission- August 29, 2013

Receive and File Oath of Office: James L. Ellison Jr.

Accept Resignation: Doug Hayes from the Historic Commission

Ms. Scott Jones moved to approve the issues and actions as presented on the Consent Agenda. Ms. Mort seconded. **Motion carried.** Ayes: J. Laubach, A. Mort, J. Mulligan, D. Picard, L. Mulligan and Scott Jones.

**MOTION AGENDA
Contract Brown &
Caldwell**

To authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Brown and Caldwell for design and construction assistance for the replacement of the drives and mechanisms for the three secondary clarifiers at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

Mr. Tadych explained that the secondary clarifiers were constructed in the 1970's as part of a major plant expansion. All three clarifier internal mechanisms are worn and have surpassed their useful life. Clarifier #2 has failed; this unit should be replaced immediately. He explained that the project will utilize the existing clarifier tank and provide new drives/mechanisms similar to the existing units. This project will also include clarifier modeling to incorporate technological improvements and other recommended features. He reported that there are sufficient funds in the 2013 Sewer Capital Improvement Fund (495) for this project at a cost of \$105,761.00.

Ms. Scott Jones moved to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Brown and Caldwell for design and construction assistance for the replacement of the drives and mechanisms for the three secondary clarifiers at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). Ms. Mort seconded. **Motion carried.** Ayes: A. Mort, J. Mulligan, D. Picard, L. Mulligan, Scott Jones and J. Laubach.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS
D. Picard**

Mr. Picard offered his condolences to the Akers family and reminded everyone that the United Way Campaign is wrapping up and encouraged them to support this great organization. He thanked John and Dave Hart for their generosity and support of the United Way Campaign, and commended them on all of the great improvements at the airport. Mr. Picard commented that the Broad Street Bash is a wonderful event and he thanked the organizers of the Broad Street Bash for all of their hard work.

J. Laubach

Mr. Laubach offered his condolences to the entire Laubach family, on the passing of his grandfather Robert Laubach. He commented that the world needed more men and women as selflessness and committed to the community as his grandfather was. He announced that he would be having his last Town Hall Meeting of the year on November 20th from 6-7:30pm at Beauverre and encouraged residents to come out and discuss issues affecting the City and thanked Jay and Linda Moorman for allowing him to hold the meeting there. He announced that the Oaks Church is hosting a Trunk or Treat event for the entire community on October 27th from 4-7 pm at the Middletown Senior Center facility.

A. Scott Jones

Ms. Scott Jones congratulated the Moorman's for investing downtown and for having a vision that is coming to fruition. She congratulated Ms. Gilleland, the City and all of the partners on the Greentree Health Sciences Academy on the ICMA Community Partnership Award and commented that when people tour the facility they are awestruck; the facility is really a trendsetter not only for the region but for the entire country. Ms. Scott Jones offered her condolences to the Akers family and to the Laubach family. She commented that she has run for City Council twice and has been elected twice on her own merits. She stated that that she is not up for re-election for two more years and in two years she will decide whether or not to run again. When and if she decides to run again it will be on her own merits, as she has always done. Recently she has discovered that her name has been used in campaigns in this year's City Council election. She was recently invited to an event, which she did not attend, which turned out to be an endorsement of candidates meeting. She commented that she believes that who we vote for is a private matter and while she wishes the each of the candidates well in the election; she has been advised to make the following statement. "Please do not use my name, photograph, likeness, image, excerpts or the names, photographs, likenesses, images or excerpts of my husband or my mother –in-law without our express written consent, thank you."

<p>A. Mort</p>	<p>Ms. Mort commented that she recently attended a dinner at McDonalds to benefit the police department and their efforts to educate young people through programs and activities. She reported that Light Up Middletown would begin the day after Thanksgiving and that the Grandpa Gang” was working to set up the displays in between soccer tournaments. She announced that October 19 would be Horse Daze at Sebald Park. She encouraged people to use recycling containers located all around town. She reminded everyone that the Great Miami River Clean Up will be November 2nd, from 9am-noon; meet at Bicentennial Commons to help clean up on the Middletown section of the river. She commented that the Gift Gallery on Central Avenue was a neat little shop, with many items locally made and encouraged people to stop in. Ms. Mort announced her support for Issue 9.</p>
<p>J. Mulligan</p>	<p>Mr. J. Mulligan thanked Mr. Ison and Mr. Ferrell for laying out all of the reasons to support Issue 9 and commented he believed that this would not only be positive for the students and staff but for the entire community.</p>
<p>L. Mulligan</p>	<p>Mayor Mulligan commented that the Broad Street Bash is a great example of what volunteers can do to bring a community together and that it continues to be a great event; well organized and well executed. He commented that while he hates to see him go; he wishes Patrick Kay well in his new position in Michigan and commented on the positive things going on downtown. He congratulated Ms. Gilleland on her 30 Years of Service Award and expressed his appreciation for the ICMA Community Partnership Award for the Greentree Project. Mayor Mulligan commented on the Suncoke Advisory Panel and the Choices Campaign targeted toward eighth grade students. He encouraged everyone to vote for Issue 9, and reminded everyone that the Council ward seats would be going away in this election. He reminded everyone to watch out for children as they are trick or treating.</p>
<p>Res. No. R2013-44 Amend Appro. Golf Course</p>	<p>Resolution No. R2013-44, a resolution to make adjustments to appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Middletown, Counties of Butler and Warren, State of Ohio, for the period ending December 31, 2013 (Golf Course Fund) was read for the second time.</p> <p>Mr. Landen provided a brief overview of this legislation which was presented at the last meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Scott Jones moved for adoption of R2013-44. Ms. Mort seconded and the motion carried. Ayes: Mort, J. Mulligan, Picard, L. Mulligan, Scott Jones and Laubach.</p>
<p>Ord. No. O2013-59 Contract w/Polydyne</p>	<p>Ordinance No. O2013-59, an ordinance establishing a procedure for and authorizing a contract with Polydyne, Inc. for the purchase for polymer for use at the waste water treatment plant for the year 2014 was read for the second time.</p> <p>Mr. Landen provided a brief overview of this legislation which was presented at the last meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Scott Jones moved for adoption of O2013-59. Ms. Mort seconded and the motion carried. Ayes: J. Mulligan, Picard, L. Mulligan, Scott Jones, Laubach and Mort.</p>
<p>Res. No. R2013-44 Amend Appro. Downtown Imp.</p>	<p>Resolution No. R2013-45, a resolution to make adjustments to appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Middletown, Counties of Butler and Warren, State of Ohio, for the period ending December 31, 2013 (Downtown Improvement Fund) was read for the first time.</p> <p>Mr. Adkins reported that as part of the Cincinnati State project, the City purchased a number of downtown buildings including the Bank One building at 2 South Main Street. Miami University Middletown (“MUM”) was occupying the building when we took title. MUM’s existing lease ended several months ago and the City and MUM negotiated a new five year lease which included several repairs to the building and a corresponding increase in rent paid by MUM to cover the cost of repairs. He reported that an additional \$46,000 out of Downtown Fund 481 must be appropriated to make the required lease repairs. He explained that the MUM rent was raised by \$50,000 spread over the five year period to recoup the costs of repairs and as rent is paid by MUM, it will be returned to the Downtown Fund to be appropriated for other activities. There was some additional discussion.</p>
<p>ADJOURNMENT</p>	<p>At 6:47pm the Mayor declared the meeting adjourned until Tuesday, November 5, 2013.</p>

Lawrence P. Mulligan, Jr. Mayor

Attest: _____