

A Regular Meeting of the Township Committee of Middletown Township was held in the Main Meeting Room at Town Hall, One Kings Highway, Middletown, New Jersey and virtually through WebEx at 7:00 p.m. on September 20, 2021.

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena called the meeting to order and read the following notice:

The Notice Requirements provided for in the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied. Notice of this meeting was properly given by transmission to The Star Ledger, The Independent and Two River Times and by posting at the Middletown Township Municipal Building and filing with the Township Clerk all on January 7, 2021.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clarke, Hibell, Kratz, Settembrino, Mayor Perry
Absent: None

Also present were Township Administrator Anthony Mercantante, Township Attorney Brian Nelson, Township Engineer Ted Maloney Chief Financial Officer Colleen Lapp, Assistant Administrator James Van Nest and Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena requested a moment of silence to honor the troops serving worldwide defending our freedom and way of life.

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION/PROCLAMATIONS

Presentation Honoring Saker ShopRites, Inc. with Middletown Township Green Business Award 2021

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena invited Richard Saker, Chairman, President and CEO of Saker ShopRites, Inc. to join Mayor Perry at the front of the room to accept the award. Mayor Perry presented Mr. Saker with the Green Business Award for 2021 for implementing practices that exceed environmental regulatory requirements by preventing pollution, reducing waste and conserving natural resources. Mr. Saker accepted the award and commented that he is honored to receive this award since he is also a resident of Middletown a beautiful town. He also commented that the Middletown ShopRite is the most successful ShopRite in Monmouth County.

Proclamation Recognizing September 26, 2021 as Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day in the Township of Middletown (For the Record)

**Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day
September 26, 2021**

WHEREAS: The Township of Middletown has and will forever support our military and their families who have defended our Nation's timeless truths and great freedoms; and

WHEREAS: Courageous American heroes of every generation have given their last full measure of devotion in defense of our country and our freedom. The families who stood alongside these individuals have paid a price no family should ever have to pay; and

WHEREAS: Their heroic actions will never be forgotten and are eternally etched in the pages of our Nation's history; and

WHEREAS: These selfless military members have left behind fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, spouses, and children who mourn their loss. Although they have suffered unimaginable sorrow, these families have charged forward with inspiring strength and determination, giving selflessly to their communities and our country; and

WHEREAS: In 1936, Congress designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day"; and

WHEREAS: This day is now commonly known as "Mother's and Family's Day" and is an opportunity to recognize and honor the entire family of our fallen heroes; and

WHEREAS: These families who have lost a loved one in defense of freedom are recognized as Gold Star Families; and

WHEREAS: Their unselfish leadership fosters patriotism and encourages us to consider what we can do to be better citizens; and

WHEREAS: The Middletown community supports our Gold Star Families and commends their courage and resiliency.

THEREFORE: I, Mayor Tony Perry and the Middletown Township Committee, do hereby proclaim September 26, 2021 as **Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day** in Middletown and extend our support to all observing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena requested a motion to approve the minutes.

It was moved by Mayor Perry, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hibell and carried to adopt the minutes of the following meetings:

August 16, 2021 Regular Meeting, September 7, 2021 Workshop Meeting

Executive Session, June 7, 2021, July 19, 2021, August 16, 2021 and September 7, 2021

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clarke, Hibell, Kratz, Settembrino, Mayor Perry
 Nays: None
 Abstention: None
 Absent: None

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena stated Motion carries to approve the minutes.

PUBLIC HEARING OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

Township Clerk Heidi Brunt read the following ordinance by title:

Ordinance 2021-3317 – 2021 Salary Ordinance

Mayor Perry opened the meeting for public comments.

Hearing no comments from the public it was moved by Mayor Perry and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hibell to close public hearing and carried to adopt this ordinance on second and final reading.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clarke, Hibell, Kratz, Settembrino, Mayor Perry
 Nays: None
 Abstention: None
 Absent: None

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena stated motion carried to pass this ordinance.

INTRODUCTION OF PROPOSED ORDINANCES

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena read the following Ordinance by title:

Ordinance 2021-3318 – Ordinance Establishing Permitting Process for Closure of Municipal Roadways for Special Events

It was moved by Mayor Perry and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hibell to pass this ordinance on first reading.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clarke, Hibell, Kratz, Settembrino, Mayor Perry
 Nays: None
 Abstention: None
 Absent: None

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena stated motion carried to pass this ordinance on first reading with a public hearing to be held on October 4, 2021.

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena read the following Ordinance by title:

Ordinance 2021-3319 – Ordinance Amending Section 240 of The Code of the Township of Middletown Governing Fee Schedules for Passports, Registrar of Vital Statistics and Legalized Games of Chance, Bingo and Raffle Applications

It was moved by Mayor Perry and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hibell to pass this ordinance on first reading.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clarke, Hibell, Kratz, Settembrino, Mayor Perry
 Nays: None
 Abstention: None
 Absent: None

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena stated motion carried to pass this ordinance on first reading with a public hearing to be held on October 4, 2021.

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena read the following Ordinance by title:

Ordinance 2021-3320 – Ordinance Amending § 465-109 Of The Code of the Township of Middletown Adding a Midblock Crosswalk to Red Hill Road

It was moved by Mayor Perry and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hibell to pass this ordinance on first reading.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clarke, Hibell, Kratz, Settembrino, Mayor Perry
 Nays: None
 Abstention: None
 Absent: None

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena stated motion carried to pass this ordinance on first reading with a public hearing to be held on October 4, 2021.

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena read the following Ordinance by title:

Ordinance 2021-3321 – Bond Ordinance Providing an Appropriation of \$6,414,150 For Various Capital Improvements by and for The Township of Middletown in The County of Monmouth, New Jersey and Authorizing the Issuance of \$5,665,943 In Bonds or Notes of the Township for Financing Part of the Appropriation.

It was moved by Mayor Perry and seconded by Deputy Mayor Hibell to pass this ordinance on first reading.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clarke, Hibell, Kratz, Settembrino, Mayor Perry
 Nays: None
 Abstention: None
 Absent: None

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena stated motion carried to pass this ordinance on first reading with a public hearing to be held on October 4, 2021.

CONSENT AGENDA

Deputy Township Clerk Kaaren Sena requested a motion to adopt a consent agenda including Resolutions 21-225 through 21-227, Bingo and Raffle Applications and Firefighter Application.

It was moved by Mayor Perry, seconded by Deputy Mayor Hibell and carried to adopt the consent agenda:

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clarke, Hibell, Kratz, Settembrino, Mayor Perry
 Nays: None
 Abstention: None
 Absent: None

Township Clerk Heidi Brunt stated the motion carried to adopt the consent agenda.

Resolution 21-225 - Resolution Cancelling Current Taxes and Tax Lien Certificates Issued in Error in Relation to Block 316, Lots 3 And 6

WHEREAS, the Township of Middletown seeks to cancel certain tax sale certificates issued in error for various years between 2000 and 2009 in relation to Block 316, Lots 3 and 6; and

WHEREAS, 2021 taxes in the amount of \$260.00 have also been improperly levied and need to be cancelled.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Middletown in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey that it hereby authorizes and directs the Tax Collector, Tax Assessor and other appropriate officials to take the following actions:

1. Cancel the following tax sale certificates issued in relation to Block 316, Lots 3 and 6:
 - No. 20000112 issued in 2000 to the Asbury Park Bus Terminal;
 - No. 20020119 issued in 2002 to the Asbury Park Bus Terminal;
 - No. 20040076 issued in 2004 to the Asbury Park Bus Terminal;
 - No. 20060101 issued in 2006 to the Asbury Park Bus Terminal; and
 - No. 09-00150 issued in 2009 to the Township of Middletown.
2. Cancel 2021 taxes for Block 316, Lots 3 and 6 with a current balance of \$260.00 and render no further taxes or assessments on the same.
3. Render no refunds for any of the above cancelled tax sale certificates until a determination can be made, in consultation with the Township Attorney, as to the legal validity and amount of any claims to the same.

Resolution 21-226 - Resolution Authorizing Supplemental Payment for CPR Training Classes

WHEREAS, stipends for EMS Chiefs within the Township of Middletown are now established in the annual salary ordinance; and

WHEREAS, to be compliant with the Internal Revenue Code, any supplemental payments should be made as if the individual is an employee of the Township, therefore, requiring authorization to supplement the salary set forth by Township ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Middletown in the County of Monmouth, State of New Jersey that it hereby authorizes a supplemental payment of \$250.00 to EMS Chief Colleen Kelly for CPR training classes conducted in 2021.

Resolution 21-227 – Resolution Authorizing the Payment of Bills for September 20, 2021.

The Township Committee hereby approves a resolution for the payment of bills for September 20, 2021 in the amount of \$12,239,901.08.

BINGO AND RAFFLE APPLICATIONS

Raine Organization	21-83
Raine Organization	21-84
Middletown Village Parent Faculty Assoc.	21-85
Premier Theater	21-86
St. Mary’s R.C. Church	21-87
Mater Dei Prep PTO	21-88
CDA Court Fulgens Corona #1684	21-89
Ocean Avenue School PTA	21-90
Monmouth County Boy Scouts of America	21-91
Monmouth County Boy Scouts of America	21-92
St. Catherine’s Church	21-93
Christian Brothers Academy	21-69-A
PTO Harmony School	21-94
Mater Dei Prep PTO	21-95
Mater Dei Prep PTO	21-96
Mater Dei Prep PTO	21-97

FIREFIGHTER APPLICATIONS

Joseph M. Trembley Middletown Township Fire Co. #1

TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE COMMENTS:

Committeeman Clarke, commented that the 20th Anniversary 9/11/ Memorial was something special and he thanked Committeewoman Snell for her hard work and dedication and he commended the Mayor for making a great speech. He congratulated Richard Saker of Saker ShopRite the recipient of the Green Business Award for 2021. He commended Middletown Police Officer (Name of Officer) who helped a Middletown boy with Autism get on the school bus. He proved how one act of kindness can help another. He was sorry he could not attend this year’s Middletown Day celebration or the dedication of the Cason Unit for the Fire Department.

Committeeman Settembrino, commented that the 20th Anniversary Memorial was second to none. He congratulated Richard Saker of Saker ShopRite for the Green Business Award. He thanked Administration, Recreation and the Department of Public Works for making Middletown Day a day full of lots of fun. It was a well-attended event.

Committeewoman Kratz, agreed with the sentiments on the 9/11 20th Anniversary Memorial. It was the first event she attended as a member of the Township Committee and what an event it was. She had fun at Middletown Day watching families spending time together. She commented on Christopher Roland Caphelon. She said Mrs. Rolands son wanted nothing more but to be a Fireman.

Deputy Mayor Hibell, commented Middletown Day was a great success. He congratulated the Roland family his mother is very grateful. He congratulated Richard Saker of Saker ShopRite for the Green Business Award for 2021.

Mayor Perry, commented that the 20th Anniversary Memorial was unlike most other ceremonies. He stated much hard work went into making it so special. It was changed many times but it delivered on being patriotic and dignified. This year's speech was one of the hardest he has ever had to make. He thanked Maureen Raisch, Tara Berson, Raven Rentas and Janet Dellett for all of their work to make it a special occasion. He was happy to see people together and enjoying life at Middletown Day. The story of Chris Roland is inspiring. To see his mother on the truck he served on was something special. He also announced former Committeewoman Pam Brightbill lost her father Bill Shultz this weekend, as well as Senator Declan O'Scanlon who lost his father. He offered his condolences and blessings to both families.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

John Giaimis, 659 Center Avenue, read the N.J.A.C. Code 7-19 detailing the Township's responsibility regarding flooding. He is concerned conditions are becoming dangerous. He urged the Township to please look into the situation.

Laura Lizinski, Center Avenue Resident, discussed the issue with flooding. She sent several emails with no response, she met with the Township Administrator in person and followed up with an email and still hasn't gotten a response, so she came here tonight in person. She stated that not getting any answer is most disturbing and she is not going to lose another vehicle at her expense and on her insurance. Mayor Perry asked Maureen Raisch to take her information and schedule a meeting.

Dana D'Eugenio, Owner of 1284 Highway 35 for 13 years, urged the Township Committee to not approve the business license to operate a kennel. Do not allow this store to open they have a long history of complaints.

Cindy Knowles, White House Station, NJ, urged the Township Committee it is in their best interest to not allow pet store to open.

Don Watson, 1 Collinson Drive, stated he emailed the Director of Recreation regarding donating milkway seeds to Poricy Park for the butterflies and received no response. He said line of communication is broken emails seem to fall into oblivion. He mentioned the playground at Countryside Park and pointed out that there isn't a lot of parking. He recommended a crosswalk from Johnson Terrace across Cherry Tree Farm Road. Township Administrator Anthony Mercantante said they can look into it. He inquired about an update to Main Street and Port Monmouth with the gas company. Township Engineer Ted Maloney responded he is meeting with NJ Natural Gas and will update him after the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Hibell, seconded by Committeewoman Snell and carried to adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

Roll Call Vote: Ayes: Clarke, Hibell, Kratz, Settembrino, Mayor Perry

Nays: None

Abstention: None

Absent: None

Clerk Brunt stated motion carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Brunt
Township Clerk

Approved:

Anthony S. Perry, Mayor