



**Town of Middletown**  
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MIDDLETOWN TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

November 16, 2010

The Middletown Town Council met for its regularly scheduled meeting on November 16, 2010 at 7:00 P.M. in the council meeting room in the municipal building at 653 Locust Street, Middletown, Indiana. Clerk-Treasurer Jim Hanson recorded that Council President Jake Smith and Council members Lisa Hicks, Jim Mundell, Tim Mundell and Dan Fountain were all present. Dave Copenhaver was present as legal counsel for the town. After the pledge to the flag, the minutes from the previous meeting were approved as presented.

1. President Jake Smith opened the Public Hearing for proposed Ordinance 11-02-2010, an ordinance establishing a fire protection surcharge for the use of services rendered by the waterworks system of the Town of Middletown at 7:05 P.M. Citizen Jeff Walker asked how the monthly charges contained in the ordinance were established. It was explained that H J Urbaugh, an accounting firm hired by the town, set the proposed rates based on the meter size of each water utility customer. It was further explained that the rates were not at all dependent on the amount of water used by the customer. Bill Harrison clarified that if utilities are not turned on at a residence there would be no fee paid for the maintenance of the fire hydrants. Dick Schwalm asked if the tax rate would be decreased since taxes would no longer be used to pay for hydrant maintenance. The answer was that those monies could be used for other town expenditures. There being no further questions or comments from those present, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:32 P.M.

2. After the Public Hearing ended, the president asked for business from the floor. Lisa Hicks made a motion to pass Ordinance 11-02-2010 on its second reading by name and number only. Dan Fountain seconded the motion. Dan, Jake and Lisa voted yea. Jim and Tim voted nay. The motion carried.

3. David Hanson and Bob Sharpe representing the Sons of the American Legion came forward to present the town with a \$200 check to be applied to the Christmas light repair fund. Jake Smith said he had received a like amount from the Don and Dolly Osborne family in memory of Eldridge Workman to be applied to the fund.

4. In another matter, Jake informed that Dan Fountain would be unable to attend the meeting scheduled for December 21, 2010. He further stated that he had a conflict with that date also. Jake made a motion to change the meeting date from December 21, 2010 to December 14, 2010. Lisa seconded the motion. All voted aye. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Dick Schwalm from the Utility Advisory Board advised council about some items discussed at the last meeting of the board. He said the town needs to have a written policy defining where the town responsibility ends and where the customer's responsibility begins with the water utility. Jake has a copy of the policy used in the city of New Castle. He will make that available for the utility board. Dick further stated that the water utility needed an automatic valve installed on the chlorinator. It would render a cost savings plus added safety benefits. Finally, he said the utility board recommended buying some new electric meters. These cost about \$25 each and would stop loss to town due to old meter slow down, another cost savings. Council member Tim Mundell made a motion to allow the electric department to purchase 100 meters at a cost of \$25 each. Dan seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

6. Utility Superintendent Rick Hines reported that the Christmas lights are repaired and installed. The new salt spreader has arrived at the dealer and is waiting for us



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to pick up. He also reported that the digesters have been cleaned at the sewage disposal plant.

7. Ron Koons had received a complaint from a Comcast customer complaining of poor signal. He was not getting results by calling Comcast. Ron was able to intercede and get the matter resolved for the customer.

8. Clerk-Treasurer Jim Hanson brought to council a request from a resident of the Crestwood Mobil Home Park to have the town pick up leaves in the park. Since it is private property the town does not go into the park to pick up leaves. After discussion, council agreed to have the town pick up bagged leaves if the residents would bring them out to 8<sup>th</sup> Street curbside. Rick said the town would go out there on Monday morning to pick up the bags. In another matter Hanson informed that the town was moving forward with the IMPACT program. Another meeting is scheduled with Mr. Lee Schluge on Thursday. Additionally Hanson reported that the approval for the additional appropriation for MVH Fund had been received from the DLGF. Finally Hanson informed that the town had raised more than half of the money need for the Christmas light repair.

9. Council member Jim Mundell reported that a recent class sponsored by Three Rivers Solid Waste District was a success. Each class member was given the instruction and the materials necessary to build a rain barrel for home garden use. The class was held here in Middletown at the Civic Center.

10. Council member Lisa Hicks brought to the table Middletown 2010 and 2011 Salary Ordinance that she and her staff had prepared. Lisa made a motion to pass the new salary ordinance on its first reading. Dan seconded. Lisa, Dan and Jake voted yea. Jim and Tim voted nay. Motion carried. Tim pointed out that this document would cause some employees to take up to \$2 per hour pay cut. Jake stated that this was not the intent. He then made a motion to amend the salary ordinance to state that no employee would receive a pay cut. Lisa seconded this motion. Dan, Jake, Lisa and Tim voted yea. Jim voted nay. Motion carried.

11. In closing Jake announced that Wayne Sordman from the Historical Landmarks Foundation had given a well received presentation to the Progress Group last week. Also Jake reminded everyone that the Christmas Parade would be Saturday, December 11, 2010 at 4:00 P.M.

12. There being nothing further to come before council, the meeting was adjourned.

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