

Meeting Minutes of the Middletown Borough Council
May 2, 2016

The May 2, 2016, special meeting of the Middletown Borough Council was called to order at 6:44 p.m. by Council President Benjamin Kapenstein.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the following Council members answered roll call: Dawn Knull, Robert Reid, Ed Shull, Damon Suglia, and Benjamin Kapenstein. Also present were Mayor James H. Curry III, Borough Secretary Bruce Hamer, and Solicitor Adam Santucci. Anne Einhorn, Robert Louer, and Diana McGlone were absent.

Public Comment on Agenda Items – Matthew Eckert of Eckert's Lawn Care stated he was contacted to provide a bid for mowing various Borough owned properties. He indicated his objection to having his bid opened if there was an intention to re-bid the work.

Discussion – 2nd Ward Councilor Vacancy – All applicants for the Councilor vacancy were present at the meeting. President Kapenstein asked each applicant to explain why they would be the best person for the position and why they wanted to be a member of Council. Damon Suglia asked each applicant why they did not run in the prior election.

Leslie Givler indicated she is a life-long resident of the Borough and is aware of the current situation. She noted she previously ran for Council but did not win the election. Ian Reddinger stated he has a business background and has lived in the town since 2010. He indicated his interest in Council moving forward and noted he decided not to run for Council after Mr. Wilsbach determined he would run for the office. Ed Egenrieder stated he has lived at the same address for 58 years and has time to serve on Council as he is now retired. He noted he had worked two jobs until this past January and indicated if a person is going to criticize they should get involved.

Mayor Curry asked the candidates about their views on the water-sewer lease and the downtown revitalization project. Mrs. Givler indicated she did not like the downtown revitalization but noted it is here now. She opined removing the Authority is appropriate. Mr. Reddinger stated there are pros and cons on both issues but had no comment as he did not have enough information. Mr. Egenrieder stated he had mixed emotions noting the project has taken away from other businesses. On the water-sewer lease, he opined there was not enough research done.

Quotes – Grass Cutting Service – Bruce Hamer explained bids for grass cutting services were solicited because the anticipated expenditures for the year would be

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above the threshold for which competitive proposals are required. Mr. Suglia noted that 80% of the FEMA properties to be cut are in the 3rd Ward and works need to proceed on the same. Dawn Knull indicated her objections because some contractors were not given an opportunity to bid. Adam Santucci opined on the urgency to proceed on this matter. The bids were opened at this time and were as follows:

Eckert's Lawn Care - \$600.00 per mow, \$50.00 for one time branch clean up, and \$45.00 per hour for code enforcement properties.

Thompson's Lawn Care - \$750.00 per cut.

Coble Landscapes & Lawn Care - \$625.00 per mow, \$250.00 initial clean up.

Laudermilch's LawnScapes - \$1,478.00 per mow, \$65.00 each for spring and fall cleanup, \$65.00 for code enforcement properties; each price was quoted as per 1,000 square feet.

MOTION by Damon Suglia, second by Robert Reid to accept the proposal from Eckert's Lawn Care for the year 2016 contingent upon providing proof of insurance. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 to 0.

Authorization to Sign Grant Agreement – EIP Phase 4 – Mr. Kapenstein reported the Borough was awarded a grant to complete a 5 year Capital Improvement Plan at an estimated cost of \$50,000. The grant will cover 75% of the expense for this work. A Request for Proposals must be issued for potential vendors. **MOTION** by Dawn Knull, second by Robert Reid to authorize President Benjamin Kapenstein and Vice-President Damon Suglia to sign the Grant Agreement for the Early Intervention Program Phase 4. Motion carried by a roll call vote of 5 to 0.

Public Comment – **MOTION** by Damon Suglia, second by Dawn Knull to move up the public comment on the agenda prior to the executive session. Motion carried by a vote of 5 to 0.

There were no comments from the public.

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Mr. Kapenstein announced there would be an executive session following the meeting for litigation, personnel, and labor relations.

Adjournment – **MOTION** by Dawn Knull, second by Damon Suglia to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Kenneth L. Klinepeter
Borough Secretary