At 5:30 p.m., Mayor Condrey called the City Council meeting to order in Council Chambers, Lower Level of the City Building.


Sheriff Sims congratulated Chief Birk on his promotion and commented that he is grateful for the great law enforcement relationships with surrounding communities. Sheriff Sims provided the 2019 annual report and commented that the department remains extremely busy and working hard to provide for the safety and security of our Warren County residents and visitors. He remarked about the growth of Deerfield Township and South Lebanon and its impact on the department. We have continued to work proactively against those drugs that impact our communities. Overdose deaths continued to decline in 2019. On the evening of November 26, 2019, Deputies Brandon vonAhlefeld and Ed Pangallo responded to assist the Ohio State Highway Patrol with a head-on crash investigation on Interstate 71. The vehicle contained one adult male and two small children. Having to break the car window, Deputy Pangallo assisted to remove two small children from the vehicle. Accessing the severity of Landyn's (age 3) condition and still waiting on the arrival of the emergency squad, Deputies vonAhlefeld and Pangallo made a quick decision to transport Landyn to Bethesda Hospital. Because of these decisions and actions, Landyn is recovering from his injuries. Many medical staff reported Deputies vonAhlefeld and Pangallo actions saved Landyn's life. In the early morning hours on December 13, 2019, deputy sheriff's responded to a shooting at an Oregon Rd address just outside Lebanon. The investigation revealed an elaborate scheme by the female teenage resident, along with five others. This plan, orchestrated by five teenagers, was to lure another individual to the girl's residence with the intention of robbing and kidnapping him. As the meeting between the girl and would-be victim was taking place, two individuals armed with a baseball bat and firearm moved in. It appears the robbery victim, armed himself, fired several shots to protect himself. This left one of the teenagers dead and another wounded. Four people have been charged with murder, but the investigation is on-going. He commended his staff for their work to bring these individuals to justice. He provided an update on the construction of the new jail facility.

Ms. Joyce Smith reported that the First half tax bills are due to the Butler County Treasurer's Office by February 25th this year. They went out in the mail January 24th. Tax bills can be found on the Butler County Treasurer's web site at www.ButlerCountyTreasurer.org. For those local government entities that have requested advance payments from the Auditor's Office, our advance schedule is one week prior to the due date and one week after the due date: the weeks of February 17 and of March 2 respectively. HB 499 was introduced February 10, 2020. State Representatives Bridget Kelly (D-Cincinnati) and George Lang (R-West Chester) are the primary sponsors of recently introduced legislation that provides county auditors the authority to test fuel for quality and octane. Rep. Sara Caruthers (R-Hamilton) and four Democrats have signed on as co-sponsors. Auditor Reynolds has been the driving force behind this push which has statewide support from the Ohio Township Association, the Ohio Farm Bureau and the Department of Agriculture. Ohio is one of only three states in the nation, along with Alaska and Nebraska, which does not have a fuel quality testing program in place. The filing period to contest the value of your property to the Board of Revision, located in our office, is open through Tuesday, March 31st this year. The form and instructions are available online at www.ButlerCountyAuditor.org. She reported that the deadline this year to file for or renew CAUV is Monday, March 2nd. A filing fee of $25 is required on the date the application is filed but yearly renewals are free. Renewal letters have been mailed out. Submitting the renewal is extremely important for those not wanting to pay the potential recoupage charges associated with coming out of the CAUV program. Recoupment is equal to the previous three years tax savings. If you have any questions concerning CAUV or recoupages, please contact Harold Baxter in our office at 513-887-3146. The Auditor's Office and each of the fire departments in the county are working together to identify those properties that have suffered fire damage and may be eligible for a reduction in property values. We are asking for fire reports each month and then we notify property owners of the DTE 26 form. State law gives county auditors the authority to reduce real estate values of properties that have been damaged or that have been destroyed.

Community Building Institute (CBI) Chairman Dan Alnutt thanked Council for their past and continued support. He introduced Karin Maney and Verlena Stewart and thanked them for their work. He highlighted several of the programs administered by CBI and discussed the impact they have on the community. He stated that he was proud and grateful to be part of an organization that does so much good for the
Karin Maney stated that the Community Building Institute’s mission is to be a creating and sustaining force for community revitalization. We do this by transforming one student, one family, one neighborhood and one community at a time. We do this by moving families from at-risk, to stable to thriving; when families thrive, communities thrive. She stated that CBI provides cradle to career programming.

- Community Health Workers (Infant Mortality Prevention)
- Parent Resource Center (Early Education Initiative)
- RISE Afterschool & Summer Camps (Rosa Parks, Amanda Elementary & MHS)
- Community Service Classes for youth 14-18
- Afterschool & Evening programs at Robert Sonny Hill Jr. Community Center
- Employment Center and GED/ESOL Classes

Total income from July 1, 2018- June 30, 2019
Grants $837,037 69%
Contributions $189,865 16%
City of Middletown $100,000 8%
CDBG $60,000 6%
Programs $19,593 2%
$1,206,495

Total expenses from July 1, 2018- June 30, 2019
Programs $1,154,812 94%
Support $79,930 6%
$1,234,742

Ms. Maney provided the 2020-2021 budget for the afterschool programming at the Robert Sonny Hill Jr. Community Center.

She shared the 2019 highlights including:
- The Employment Center opened and served 61 clients, 10 obtained first time employment or better employment.
- Butler County Jobs & Family Services brings representation to Community Center.
- Together We Can Back to School Fair – Over 750 backpacks given away, 60+ volunteers and 30+ community partners

She discussed the new programming for 2020 including the Parent Resource Center On-The-Go! at the Community of Christ Church near the Midtonia Village Apartments and at Berachah Church near the Jefferson Park Apartments. She thanked the City for their continued support of the Community Building Institute.

Todd Bailey, 7300 Algonquin Drive, Cincinnati, OH stated, “I am a 68 year old student pilot with experience using Middletown’s very fine airport. I have landed several times while skydivers are landing in the drop zone near the runway. It is a very distracting experience and certainly has the potential to create unsafe conditions for the operation of aircraft close to the drop zone. The pilot does not know how well the skydiver will control the landing in the drop zone, nor the control of the parachute and other equipment after the landing. Also, another source of safety concern is that the skydivers must then transit back to the skydiving facility with their gear from wherever they landed – whether in the drop zone or not. Pilots simply should not be distracted during takeoffs and landings and while flying in the pattern.

Moving the drop zone away from the active runways and airport buildings and further away from the pattern is an excellent idea. Based on the presentation made on February 2, 2020 at the City Council retreat [which I attended], the possibility of relocating the drop zone to the former Aeronea property makes considerable sense [subject, of course, to an analysis of the location of obstacles such as power lines, poles and other safety considerations.] Such a move could also improve the efficiency of the jump operations given that the FAA is opposed to continued use of the current drop zone near the airport buildings. There is a Federal Regulation which directly applies here - 14 CFR Section 105.5 which states: “No person may conduct a parachute operation, and no pilot in command of an aircraft may allow a parachute operation to be conducted from an aircraft, if that operation creates a hazard to air traffic or to persons or property on the surface.” This Federal Regulation is mandatory and has general application to all airports. Relocating the current drop zone away from buildings and active tarmac and runway areas will satisfy this requirement. In addition, by relocating the drop zone further to the south and away from the active runways, this presents additional safety benefits because the standard pattern for the downwind approach is on
the northern side of the airport. Therefore, skydivers are at a greater distance from the aircraft operating in the pattern as the skydivers approach the new drop zone. The FAA approved turf runway is a valuable asset. I have used around 50 turf runways throughout the Midwest. Middletown's turf runway is one of the best in the region. It does not cost very much to maintain on an annual basis. If the airport actively promoted this asset within the general aviation community, Middletown has the very clear potential to become an attractive destination for pilots who wish to learn how to use turf runways and obtain their "tail dragger" endorsement on their pilot's license. With the proximity to Frisch's and the modest aviation museum being located at the airport and the excellent paved runway, pilots could fly here for lessons and training. Having used the grass strip at Waynesville [Red Stewart Field] and taken lessons there, the turf runway at Middletown is far superior and has the amenities which are absent at Waynesville. I suggest that the proposed Master Plan take these facts into consideration. If properly promoted, Middletown's turf runway and its very attractive amenities present the prospect for additional revenue from an existing, low cost, high quality and valuable asset."

Ernest Streifhau

Ernest Streifhau, 233 Cherry Street, Germantown, OH stated that he has been flying out of Middletown for 54 years. He used to fly jets for Armaco. He discussed being able to communicate and cooperate with many different airport users in the past. He stated that the skydivers need to stay southward of the runway. In his opinion zone 4 was best. From a pilots perspective Middletown has the ideal grass runway.

Louis Flenner

Louis Flenner, 116 North Grimes, Middletown, OH asked who was responsible for picking up couches and tires that are littering the alleys. He stated that there is an old truck on Church Street that looks like it's been there for twenty years. He stated that several times he has seen City workers trying to pick up ladies of the night in City trucks, on City time; as a taxpayer he doesn't appreciate it.

Tom Anderson

Tom Anderson, 5401 Crooked Tree Drive, Mason, OH, stated that he has been renting multiple hangars at the airport for more than 30 years. He is a retired aeronautical engineer and licensed mechanic. He stated that the City has made tremendous progress at the airport and that moving the skydiving drop zone to area 4 keeps the development opportunities open. He explained that the City decides where the skydiving drop zones are located and where pilots fly in the vicinity of the airport, the FAA does not specify how patterns are flown. He recommends that the City move the drop zones to area 4.

Ted Tracy

Ted Tracy, 7674 Lakota Hills Drive, West Chester, OH stated that he is a tenant at the airport. The Middletown Airport was attractive because it had available hangar space. The airport is a viable, valuable resource to the City of Middletown that has a lot of potential. He stated that there are several businesses at the airport providing economic development and the addition of Butter Tech adds an educational component. The key is making all of the airport users comfortable and safe. He described landing his new plane at the Middletown Airport for the first time and the importance of the grass runway.

John LaBarre

John LeBarre, 1171 Montbell Drive, Cincinnati, OH has been an airline captain and an experienced commercial pilot for the past 42 years. He has rented 2 hangars at the airport for 15 years and has a wealth of piloting experience with all types of aircraft. He stated that because the FAA contributes money to the airport, the City and the airport must treat all users equitably. In his opinion none of the proposed drop zones are ideal.

John Hart II

John Hart II, 1937 Wilbraham Road, Middletown, OH stated that moving the drop zone would be disrupting twelve years of safety in Middletown. He commented that he recently lost a friend because an inexperienced skydiver caused an accident that cost the life of a professional skydiver. Mr. Hart stated that when he established operations at the Middletown Airport he worked with FAA Representative Paul McGowen to designate the safest areas for parachute drop zones. The current drop zones have a separation of traffic for more experienced and less experienced jumpers to land in different areas. We are at the safest spot at the airport and I have prepared a two hour presentation. I think there needs to be a town hall meeting with the FAA (Federal Aviation Association), AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association) and the USPA (United States Parachute Association) to get the facts. We are at the lowest point at the airport. I am a pilot and I and others do not see this "thread the needle" thing; they go where they are supposed to go; they don't see a wall. We see the runways, we are trained to land on the runways, not the fields, not the tarmac, on the runways. I personally believe that if you listen to the lies that have been told by Matt Eisenbraun, they are lies and I will prove that you will be responsible for a fatality. It will fail on you, we haven't had one here because of that. We have a separation of traffic and we communicate and we work effectively. The pilots are constantly in
communication with the ATC (Air Traffic Controllers), and any jet that flies into the Middletown Airport must file a flight plan. Mr. Hart stated that if the jets request no skydivers in the air then Start Skydiving holds the jump runs; so there is no impact to jet traffic. He asked for a public town hall meeting to address the lies that City Council has been told. They are lies. As a business, we are committed to this community. No business does more for this community with their talent, treasure or their time than my sons and I. The way that this has been approached is as a vendetta, it’s not about safety. There isn’t anything unsafe about what we do. We are an aviation activity, we need to be treated fairly. You need to hear the facts from true experts. I have hired by Matt to give you what he wants you to hear. I agree that this airport is an economic engine and it has so much potential but you aren’t going in the right direction. Start Skydiving is being blamed for taking part of Smith Park. We aren’t taking away the Park, the park should be untouchable. You shouldn’t even be considering Smith Park for anything but serving this community. Start Skydiving is in the safest spot and I want the time for you to see the facts. We bring 40,000-45,000 people to this community each year. They stay in local hotels and eat and drink in local restaurants and bars and buy fuel here. There is a large economic impact that we bring to this community. We are a valued partner to this community and we are committed to Middletown. I am asking for that town hall meeting; it needs to occur. The inaccurate information that you have been given needs to be addressed. We are here to work with everybody, we are an aviation activity. We are also protected by the Federal Grant Assurance Act. We are going to protect who we are and we are going to look out for every pilot. We don’t want to see people get hurt or have problems. But if you move us anywhere else, you are going to put us in the downwind of 2305. I have the statistics to show that the wind typically comes out of the northwest. The downwind pattern is dangerous to parachutists. I am asking to be able to show you the facts. I tried to bring a billion dollar aerospace research and development company to Middletown but Doug and Matt did not make time to meet with them. The only person that showed up from the City was the airport manager. You guys don’t even listen to him; he thinks that the person he works for is full of shit. A billion dollar company with 60 employees that was considering relocating to Middletown didn’t come here because no one gave them the time. You are being misled. We are committed to this community. It’s not Start Skydiving that is out to close your soccer fields or your baseball diamonds or take away the park. It’s one man and it’s a fallacy. It is wrong and it’s time to call the liar out. I want a town hall meeting with the FAA (Federal Aviation Association), AOPA (Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association) and the USPA (United States Parachute Association) to get the facts and show you what will happen.

Ms. Cohen stated that she had reached out to Mr. Hart earlier in the week with copies of the drop zone proposals and asked for and welcomed written feedback. Mr. Hart stated that he received that request but that he wanted to present that feedback, not present something in writing because there will be questions. He asked if anyone reached out to Shawn Kendall who was evicted. Ms. Cohen stated that she did reach out to Mr. Kendall and that she would be happy to discuss that after the meeting.

Levi Cramer

Levi Cramer, 24 Aberdeen Drive, Middletown, OH stated that last November he came within 4% of having a seat in this chamber by running the slogan, “A voice for the people.” He stated that he was here tonight, not as a sore loser, but to be the voice for the 2 dozen or so people that had reached out to him. He expressed his concerns about how the City Council is spending money. Former Mayor Mulligan was very straightforward about the need for an additional $6.5 million for road pavement. According to the budget the City brought in revenue of about $137 million last year and had a surplus of about $11 million; the year before that the surplus was about $13.2 million. He stated that he understood that a surplus is important for an emergency, but he felt that the current road conditions constitute an emergency. Roads should be a top priority, right after public safety. For this Council to then begin raising license plate fees to the tune of $235,000, representing just 3.6% of what is needed to pave roads while running a surplus of $11 million and while throwing $600,000 at a few pieces of property without a City appraisal is an absolute slap in the face to the taxpayers of this City. It is simply appalling. Thank you Mayor Condrey for speaking up against the measure. He stated that he understands that the City needs housing stock and that is what the property is slated for but that it should not be a higher priority than the roads. Airport renovations should also not be seen as a higher priority than the roads. City Council your residents go to work, school and church on these roads in cars, not in private airplanes. He stated that many of the pilots that have spoken live outside of the City, The people that do live here are frustrated about the state of these roads. If you listen to your constituents in person or on social media, they will tell you that roads are a top priority. He stated that during the campaign, several City Council candidates indicated exactly what he thought was our people priority. He stated that he had seen the emails where some City Council members stated that they didn’t believe that Smith Park was the best place for these drop zones;
he appreciated that and hoped that they would continue to think that way.

David Pearce

David Pearce, 607 Tara Oaks Drive, Middletown, OH, spoke as a representative of the Ohio Challenge, the annual hot air balloon festival. He discussed the impact to the Ohio Challenge of moving the drop zone to area 4. He explained that the Ohio Challenge held at Smith Park is Middletown’s signature event and brings tens of thousands of visitors to Middletown. He discussed improving the communication and collaboration of the users of the airport and the park. The Ohio Challenge has not been included in any of the communication about potential changes to the airport or the park so far. (There is a meeting scheduled for Thursday of this week.) The event requires the use of the entire space at Smith Park, any reduction of the open space will impair the event. He stated that the City has asked stakeholders for feedback and the Ohio Challenge Event team would like to provide that feedback and get involved in the process.

Pete Robinson

Pete Robinson, 5802 West Alexandria Road, Middletown, OH stated that Middletown Youth Soccer Association was established in 1986 with the mission to develop and encourage sportsmanship, fair play and skills training in the game of soccer for area youth. The organization administers recreational and competitive leagues and serves over 1,000 young athletes ranging in ages 5-19 years. In a few weeks, Smith Park will be the site of the 23rd annual Spring Blast Soccer Tournament with over 180 teams in 30 divisions participating in 306 matches on 25 fields over two days. From March to May there will be 106 league matches played. In the fall, the Midfest Soccer Classic Tournament will be held, last year 140 teams participated. The tournaments are the lifeblood of the organization and the revenue they generate allow us to pay for the goals, nets, field maintenance, mowing and building maintenance. The Association has partnered with the Ohio Challenge, and Light Up Middletown and contributed money for asphalt at Smith Park. If proposed drop zone 4 is implemented, it will the seriously jeopardize the ability of the Middletown Youth Soccer Association to serve the area youth like it has since 1986. The future of Middletown Youth Soccer is in your hands with this decision.

Bill Becker

Bill Becker, 4738 Longford Drive, Middletown, OH, stated that he is one of the few people that could say that he has held a City Council seat, the City Manager position and the Chief of Police position. He spoke as a member of the Grandpa Gang; the volunteer team sets up the Light Up Middletown displays every year in Smith Park. The first they knew of anything going on with Smith Park and the airport was from reading the newspaper article that was published after the February 1st City Council Retreat. He quoted the Journal News article, “Officials are also proposing to expand the airport boundaries by including the land used for soccer and lacrosse teams for the drop zone and add more hangars in that area near the runway, Eisenbraun said. While there is nothing happening on any plans in the southwest end of the park, Eisenbraun said the area could still be used by Light Up Middletown, the Ohio Challenge, other events and sports activities as well as an entertainment facility.” Mr. Becker stated that Light Up Middletown uses the whole park and bring in about 90,000 visitors to Smith Park each year. Light Up Middletown has been putting money back into the park for several years. Parks are such an integral part of the City, you guys know that. He stated that he also served in Deerfield Township and they have some of the finest parks that he has ever seen. People are drawn to parks and Smith Park is the jewel of Middletown. His children played there and grandchildren have played there and he hopes future generations play there. He understands that there has to be an answer for the airport and the drop zones but this Council needs to make it clear to staff that Smith Park is off the table. Smith Park is busy and well used all year long. It is the jewel of Middletown and we should do nothing but try to improve it. He stated that in one diagram it shows all of Smith Park as part of the airport. He wasn’t clear about those plans because they weren’t part of the decision making process. People love the Smith Park, they love soccer, Light Up Middletown, the Ohio Challenge, National Night Out, car shows and other events held at the park. He urged City Council to slow down and to make it clear to staff to find a different solution and stay out of Smith Park.

Kathy Stites

Kathy Stites, 374 Yankee Road, Monroe, OH, has been the Tournament Director for Middletown Youth Soccer for 23 years. She stated that the upcoming spring soccer tournament will have an economic impact of $1.7 million to this community. Middletown Youth Soccer has been providing similar economic impact to Middletown for the last 23 years. Right now for this year’s spring tournament, 700 hotel rooms have been reserved from Middletown to Dayton Mall to West Chester. We need to know that we have a community to stay in. She provided a diagram that showed that Middletown Youth Soccer has 11 fields set up in the area proposed for drop zone 4. She stated that tournaments are a big thing here in Middletown and the revenue they generate allow us to pay for the goals, nets, field maintenance, mowing and building maintenance. She stated that Warren County just spent $15 million put in a new
soccer facility. If the City forces Middletown Youth Soccer to move it will be very expensive.

Thomas Spillman

Thomas Spillman, Aurora, IN, a commercial pilot and an authorized FAA (Federal Aviation Association) air boss. He acknowledged that he was not speaking on behalf of the FAA but that Start Skydiving’s current landing zone is the safest spot at the airport. He commented that as a commercial pilot that has flown in and out of airports all over the country and there is not a problem coming in and out of this airport with the skydivers. He asked Council to reconsider the landing zones and stated that either end of the runway wasn’t safe because of the downwind pattern.

Betsy Hanavan

Betsy Hanavan, 800 S. Main Street, Middletown, OH spoke as a citizen of Middletown and the parent of three young athletes against the proposal to remove the athletic fields from Smith Park. Smith Park is one of our greatest assets and it would be devastating to render it unusable for youth sports, large events or general community enjoyment. She stated that we have heard from many pilots this evening and while she respects their opinions, many of them live outside of Middletown. I live on South Main Street and I see far more skydivers than I do pilots and planes, therefore I do question how much they would truly be impacted. Many local groups have spoken this evening and shared that a news article was the first they heard of this proposal. I hope that those proposing these ideas have a vested interest in our City. These ideas and proposals impact us, the people that live here. I hope that these proposals and any proposals are being made with the best interests of the City and the citizens at heart. Once and for all, we need to put egos aside and we need to start acting in the best interests of our community and most importantly our children. As a side note, I too, am a pilot. I have been flying since I was thirteen years old. The only thing I look at when I am landing a plane is what is straight in ahead of me, the runway; not what is beside me or behind me but where I am landing.

John Hart III

John Hart III, 5329 Rentschler Estates, Fairfield Township, OH spoke about the safety of the sport of skydiving and of safety of operations at Start Skydiving. Start Skydiving has been operating out of Middletown for 12 years and has not had a single safety issue involving another aircraft. There is no basis to say that it is unsafe where we are located. He stated that skydiving is self-regulated by the United States Parachute Association and these regulations are based on years and years of experience. We have found the safest and most efficient spot at the airport. We have no intention of moving. The first time I heard of the whole Smith Park thing was during the City Council Retreat. Why move us at all? We are not impacting any other airport operations where we are located. There is a lot more to be said and I am hoping to share that with you during the town hall. There is a lot more to it than what has been presented to you.

David Henry

David Henry, 5987 N. State Route 741, Springboro, OH, a pilot for Start Skydiving was the pilot in charge when the fatal accident occurred in Florida. He stated that he never wanted to see that happen again. The proposed landing zones are too close for experienced and inexperienced skydivers to land safely. He discussed the proposed landing locations. Location 1 is dangerous because of pilots performing run ups (a series of last-minute checks performed by pilots on an aircraft prior to take-off) may cause a prop blast (backward-blowing air from the propellers or jets of an aircraft that knock a parachutist sideways). Location 2 is dangerous because it takes away the grass runway from student pilots. Middletown’s grass runway is one of the best in this area. Location 3 is dangerous because it is too close to downwind traffic. Location 4 is not a good idea because it would take away space from Smith Park and the users that depend on it. He urged City Council to keep the drop zone where it was at.

Kyle Lewis

Kyle Lewis, 200 Airport Lane, Jackson, OH, Regional Manager with Governmental Affairs of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). He covers 8 states, all the way out to North and South Dakota. He stated that there have been many comments made tonight but that you cannot share all of the aspects of aviation in three minutes. He encouraged to get all of the facts out on the table. There are many federal regulations on traffic patterns and there are some regulations on skydiving and drop zones. It is important that City Council understand everything before they make a decision. He did not offer any input on the proposed drop zones but presented AOPA as a resource. The airport is important, not just to Middletown but to the National Airspace System and it is part of the National Plan of Integrated Airports (NPIA). The FAA views it as very important as they provide federal funding for it. Under that federal funding there are some strings attached with economic non-discrimination. He stated that the turf runway is a great asset.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Ms. Cohen reported that they are working on a request for proposals for the Middletown Paperboard site; City Council should expect to see more on that in the
next few weeks. She reminded City Council that there will be a work session at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2C prior to the March 3rd meeting. This work session will be to discuss the Community Development Block Grant funding for the upcoming year. She stated that Council had heard some comments about the legislation to amend Chapter 892 (Motor Vehicle License Tax) and that roads were of great concern to the citizens and to City Staff. City Council has indicated that her that they would like to table that legislation at this time; they would like to sit down and go over all of the options and review the road plan. Ms. Cohen stated that she appreciated everyone who came and spoke tonight at the meeting and that the City welcomes these conversations. There have no decisions made yet, this is the beginning of a conversation about the long term plans at the airport. The City will continue to collect data from stakeholders; she provided her email for people to weigh in on the issue.

Receive and File Board and Commission Minutes:
Library Board- October 15, October 29, November 19 and December 17, 2019 Board of Health- January 14, 2020
Confirm the personnel appointments of:
Annette Accursio to the position of Historic Property Specialist in the Economic Development Department, Planning and Zoning Division; and
Mark Horn to the position of Water Treatment Operator in the Department of Public Works & Utilities, Division of Water Treatment; and
Brandon Williams to the position of Maintenance Worker in the Department of Public Works & Utilities, Street Maintenance Division.
Confirm the promotional appointment of Pawel Mieczynowski to the position of Fire Lieutenant in the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire.
Confirm the demotion of Mark Sam Allen from the position of Police Sergeant to Patrol Officer in the Department of Public Safety, Division of Police.
Receive and file an Oath of Office for Eric Grindstaff.
Approve the purchase four new Ford Fusions for Detectives off the ODAS Contract for the Division of Police in the total amount of $82,176 from Middletown Ford.

Mr. Mulligan moved to approve the issues and actions listed on the Consent Agenda. Ms. Nenni seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: M. Nenni, Mr. Moon, Mr. Mulligan, Ms. Condrey, Ms. Vitori.

Ms. Cohen called Fire Chief Lolli to the podium. Chief Lolli introduced Lieutenant Pawel Mieczynowski. Chief Lolli stated that it was an honor and privilege to promote Lt. Mieczynowski who has achieved the American dream. Pawel was born in Olaszyn, Poland and came to the United States in 1989. In 2000, He became a U.S. citizen and was hired by the City of Middletown in 2006. In 2008, he was promoted to squad person and in 2016 his son joined the department. Lt. Mieczynowski competes in the annual Firefighter Combat Challenge locally, nationally and internationally. Last year he earned second place at the international competition with a time of 1 minute and 51 seconds. Chief Lolli welcomed Lieutenant Mieczynowski’s family to the podium for the Pinning Ceremony.

To authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Howell Contractors Inc. to proceed with the Rosedale Road Water Main Replacement.

Mr. Mulligan moved to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with Howell Contractors Inc. to proceed with the Rosedale Road Water Main Replacement. Mr. Moon seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Mr. Moon, Mr. Mulligan, Ms. Condrey, M. Nenni, Ms. Vitori.

To approve a contract with various vendors for the purchase of supplies for the Water Maintenance Division.

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Ms. Vitori moved to approve a contract with various vendors for the purchase of supplies for the Water Maintenance Division. Mr. Mulligan seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Mr. Mulligan, Ms. Condrey, Ms. Vitori, M. Nenni, Mr. Moon.

Ms. Nenni congratulated Lieutenant Pawel Mieczynowski on his promotion and wished the City a Happy Birthday! The City turned 187 years old on February 11th. We have bright past and we are working very hard on a brighter future. She commented with
regard to the airport discussions, I grew up in Middletown and I played youth soccer at Smith Park for most of my childhood. It is wonderful to see the next generation doing the same. I have seen the packed fields during the Spring Blast Tournaments, enjoyed the Light Up Middletown displays and walked my dogs on the paths there. It is a great attraction for residents and visitors alike. This council has no intention of taking a thriving park away from its citizens and at the last meeting we unanimously approved an agreement to develop a Parks Master Plan. This will give us a comprehensive plan for the future of all of our parks. I cannot wait to see what new ideas come from the study and look forward to sharing them with the public for feedback and collaboration opportunities. We heard for the first time at the Council Retreat that one option for the new skydiving drop zone was inside Smith Park; but that was not a preferred location and no decisions were made regarding any move. There were several other options inside the current airport facility including the current drop zone. I understand that there will be no immediate changes to the airport or to Smith Park and any rumors to the contrary are false. It is my stance that our parks are a valuable asset to our citizens and community and must be protected and improved. I would like to encourage our citizens to stay engaged and reach out to us when they have concerns. We, just like you, live, work and play here too and we want the best for community. There will be a Girl Scout cookie walk downtown on Saturday hosted by DMI and the DORA (Downtown Outdoor Refreshment Area) businesses.

Mr. Moon commented that several people have reached out to him about the proposal to relocate the skydiving drop zone inside Smith Park. He stated that he doesn’t see that proposal as a realistic option. City Council heard these proposals for the first time at the City Council Retreat. He congratulated Ms. Nenni and her fiancé Lucas on their recent engagement. He congratulated Lieutenant Mieczykowski on his promotion. He announced the upcoming Warren County Municipal League dinner meeting.

Ms. Vitori thanked everyone for coming tonight and stated that she loves communication and engaging with the public. She stated that many people have reached out to her about the Smith Park issue. The new drop zone location proposals were presented to City Council as an array of options at the retreat. None of those options would remove park facilities from the area; one option suggested moving them. She said that she said needs more information and that no one takes this decision lightly. There is no outcome where we have no park facilities. As the mother of three young boys, we are there all the time for soccer and lacrosse, there is no way that we are taking that away. She is optimistic that we can work with the public and collaborate and do so many great things. Smith Park is our greatest asset in the literal way because it is 600 acres, and I am optimistic that we can come together and really make this the jewel of our City.

Mr. Mulligan thanked those that came out and shared their thoughts, it’s always good to get public input via email or citizens comments. These comments will factor into our decision-making process on this topic. We do have a lot of options and will continue to get more informed as the weeks and months play out. He congratulated Lieutenant Mieczykowski on his promotion and the other City staff members on their personnel appointments.

Ms. Condrey thanked everyone for their input via email or by speaking in person at the meeting. She acknowledged that we hear a lot of complaints about blight and she encouraged people to help their neighbors to reduce blight in their neighborhoods. She encouraged people to also reach out to City Council in support of ideas. It helps to know what the citizens think.

Mr. Mulligan moved to suspend the Charter provision that requires reading on two separate days and to declare Ordinance No. O2020-11 an emergency measure to be read one time only, Mr. Moon seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Ms. Condrey, Ms. Nenni, Ms. Vitori, Mr. Moon, Mr. Mulligan.

Resolution No. R2020-04, 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, 2020 (Sewer Fund) was read for the second time.

Mr. Mulligan moved to approve Resolution No. R2020-04, 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, 2020 (Sewer Fund). Ms. Vitori seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Ms. Vitori, M. Nenni, Mr. Moon, Mr. Mulligan, Ms. Condrey.

Ordinance No. O2020-11, an ordinance consenting to real property tax exemption pur-
Property Tax Exemption

suitant to R.C. 5709.08 applicable to property owned by the City of Middletown and more particularly described as Butler County Auditor’s Parcel No. Q6511026000021 and declaring an emergency was read.

Mr. Mulligan moved to approve Ordinance No. 02020-11, an ordinance consenting to real property tax exemption pursuant to R.C. 5709.08 applicable to property owned by the City of Middletown and more particularly described as Butler County Auditor’s Parcel No. Q65110260000021 and declaring an emergency. Ms. Vitori seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: M. Nenni, Mr. Moon, Mr. Mulligan, Ms. Condrey, Ms. Vitori.

Ord. No. 02020-13
Purchase Water Meters

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ordinance No. 02020-13, an ordinance establishing a procedure for and authorizing a contract with Badger Meter, Inc. for the purchase of water meters and declaring an emergency was read with no action requested until March 4, 2020.

At 7:19 p.m., Mr. Mulligan moved to adjourn to executive session under the authority of O.R.C. 121.22 (G) (4) Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment; and under the authority of O.R.C. 121.22 (G) (8) To consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, or to negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance, provided that both of the following conditions apply:

(1) The information is directly related to a request for economic development assistance that is to be provided or administered under any provision of Chapter 715., 725., 1724., or 1728. of sections 701.07, 3735.67 to 3735.70, 5709.40 to 5709.43, 5709.61 to 5709.69, 5709.73 to 5709.75, or 5709.77 to 5709.81 of the Revised Code, or that involves public infrastructure improvements or the extension of utility services that are directly related to an economic development project.

(2) A unanimous quorum of the public body determines, by a roll call vote, that the executive session is necessary to protect the interests of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project. Ms. Nenni seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Mr. Mulligan, Ms. Condrey, Ms. Vitori, M. Nenni, Mr. Moon.

At 8:00 p.m., the meeting was declared adjourned until March 3, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2C.

Nicole Condrey, Mayor

Attest: png signature