

**Cape May Court House, New Jersey  
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE  
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE  
WORK SESSION AGENDA  
September 20, 2021 5:00 PM (prevailing time)**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Mayor's Announcement: I hereby declare that notice has been given to the Herald Times, the Atlantic City Press and posted on the bulletin board of the Middle Township Municipal Building, stating the time and place of the following meeting, as required in P.L. 1975, Chapter 231 of the State of New Jersey. (Sunshine Law).

Notice of this meeting was properly given in Resolution No. 26-21 entitled "Establishing Work Session Meeting Nights" which was adopted by Township Committee of the Township of Middle on January 7, 2021.

Members present are Mayor Donohue and Deputy Mayor Gandy

Business Administrator/Township Clerk Kimberly Osmundsen, Deputy Business Administrator Suzanne Schumann, Deputy Township Clerk Andrea Singley, Township Engineer Vincent Orlando & Municipal Solicitor Marcus Karavan

*Committeemember Norris was absent*

**FLAG SALUTE:****PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:**

Proposed Ordinance to Prohibit Parking  
on West Side of North and South Beach  
Avenue

*Mayor Donohue:*

- *Gave background on issues faced on Beach Avenue; explained Ordinance was on a previous agenda but Township Committee choose to postpone the Ordinance to give residents in the area notice of the topic; explained purpose for the Ordinance was to help with allowing safety vehicles to have access to the homes on Beach Avenue*

*Ron Hoguet, 161 Beach Avenue:*

- *Asked to have the current road regulations to explained to those present; discussed previous parking permits*

*Kimberly Osmundsen:*

- *Explained currently there were no restrictions in the ordinance for the north or south end of Beach Avenue*

*Mayor Donohue:*

- *Explained unless the Ordinance is officially adopted, parking is permitted on both sides of the street*

*Maureen McCormick, 51 South Beach Avenue:*

- *Discussed previous no parking signs in the area; spoke of concerns with one sided parking; suggested placing more signage on the street*

*Mayor Donohue:*

- *Clarified her concern is that parking on one sided will interfere with traffic*

*Janice Hoguet, 161 Beach Avenue:*

- *Discussed issues with sand on the road*

*Harry Bailey, 21 South Beach Avenue:*

- *Explained area of previous turn around at the end of the road that was taken over by sand; discussed issues with parking were on the east side only at the south end of Beach Avenue; spoke of concerns of road caving in due to trash trucks*

*Mayor Donohue:*

- *Explained NJDEP's involvement with the turn around*

*Harry Bailey, 21 South Beach Avenue:*

- *Continued to discuss concerns with parking on the eat side of the street*

*Don Ciminera, 45 Beach Avenue:*

- *Commented on past issues with trash not being picked-up; explained trash truck employees explained they were unable to get around the bend due to cars parked by the bend; discussed issues with trucks maneuvering around the bend on the streets with cards being there*

*Herb Mondors, 177 North Beach Avenue:*

- *Discussed lack of police activity in the area; agreed about difficulty of the street being a one lane road; suggested requiring the parking limitation to seasonally*

*Ron Hoguet, 161 Beach Avenue:*

- *Discussed lack of police activity in the area; agreed about difficulty of the street being a one lane road; suggested requiring the parking limitation to seasonally*

*Mayor Donohue:*

- *Stated the Township wants to take safety into consideration*

*Jeff Severence, 200 Beach Avenue:*

- *Agreed parking needs to be prohibited the seasonal options would be the best option; explained difficulty with houses with multiple vehicles*

*Mike Sipos, 43 Beach Avenue;*

- *Stated if the parking must be prohibited the seasonal options would be the best option; explained issue with prohibiting the parking on the west side*

*Charles Pensari, 154 Beach Avenue:*

- *Spoke of concern of cramming cars on either side of the road; discussed fire vehicles that have attempted to go down the street and the difficulty with their size; discussed road maintenance with the sand; explained issues of back wash causing erosion on the street*

Mayor Donohue:

- Discussed South Beach road project and challenges regarding the North end

Vince Orlando:

- Spoke of discussions from previous years about putting in a continuous bulkhead; explained reason that project was not able to be completed; explained steps taken to help minimize the sand and erosion issues in the area; discussed project tabled for dredging in the area

Mayor Donohue:

- Explained the only beach replenish the Township has been able to accomplish in the last few years was for the horseshoe crabs; discussed upcoming beach replenishment for Kimble Beach; spoke of efforts to help continue to do beach replenishments in the area

Don Douglass:

- Proposed geo tubes for the reeds beach area to help

Mayor Donohue:

- Thanked everyone for coming out; explained ordinance would be tabled at the regular meeting and they would have an additional work session at a later point with Goshen Fire Company present

Michael Sipos, 43 South Beach Avenue:

- Asked if the fire company has done any test runs with smaller fire vehicles

Mayor Donohue:

- Stated he was unsure if they had a smaller truck; explained questions could be presented to the fire company at the work session in which they are present

#### Cape May County Central Dispatch

Chief Leusner:

- Explained the need to discuss this matter publicly and further explained that Township Committee must take action on the matter within the next 30 to 45 days
- Provided background on correspondence from the State advising of requirement to upgrade the 911 systems
- Stated that on August 20<sup>th</sup> the State would be opening bids for new 911 systems
- Spoke of discussions with other municipalities about their current 911 system providers
- Discussed costs associated with upgrading the current systems as well as the timeline for the State's new systems to be up and running
- Spoke of concern for salary impact the Township would face with dispatchers
- Explained option A would be to upgrade the system and increase dispatchers' salaries; discussed concerns with this plan; further discussed difficulty with shortage of dispatchers and having to utilize Police officers in dispatch;
- Mentioned option B would be to join the County Central Dispatch which could save the Township money and provided examples of cost savings
- Spoke of difficulties dispatchers would face learning a new system; Township would have to pay the County to participate and the transfer process would take about 6 to 8 months
- Reiterated timeline for a decision; discussed a particular dispatcher that had been with the Township for 25 years; explained the Township will keep them onboard and that leaves them with 8 other dispatchers
- Stated the County is hopeful that the current dispatchers hired with the Township will make the move over should the Township decide to move to County Central Dispatch

Mayor Donohue:

- Discussed consideration of central dispatch concept in the past
- Explained struggle to staff the dispatch office and its effect on the decision to possibly move to County Central Dispatch
- Stated that he believes the Township is at the point of making the move to the County and it would be in the best interest
- Spoke of Chief Leusner's due-diligence and getting the information out to the appropriate properties; stated he is glad that Township dispatchers will have the ability to make the move over to County Central Dispatchers with pay, benefits and still enrolled in the pension system
- Asked what official action needs to be taken

Chief Leusner:

- Explained a shared service agreement would have to be executed between the Township of Middle and the County of Cape May
- Continued to discuss the necessary steps to take to make the transition

Committeeman Gandy:

- Spoke of the arrangement being inevitable

Mayor Donohue:

- Provided examples long-term savings

Committeeman Gandy:

- Asked how if the cost is maintained over time with the county

Chief Leusner:

- Stated from his understanding it would be a 5-year agreement; further discussed costs per call in the agreement and the effect of those costs after 5 years; discussed call numbers in the Township

Mayor Donohue:

- Asked if the number of calls received in the Township are the most in the County

Chief Leusner:

- Stated it is close to the highest; explained various call types compared to other municipalities

Peter Jespersen, Cape Issues:

- Commented on past discussions about transferring dispatch
- Urged Township Committee to take action on central dispatch

- Discussed County Central Dispatch facility
- Reviewed benefits of moving to Central County Dispatch

*Ed Dillio, CMCH:*

- Agrees that the Township may not have a choice but to transfer services; discussed concern of taking officers off the streets to help maintain dispatch

*Stan Doniger, Rio Grande:*

- Questioned calls made on cell phones that are out of the area

*Chief Leusner:*

- Discussed obtaining accurate coordinates from the calls; provided examples

*Peter Jespersen, Cape Issues:*

- Discussed most recent study done within the County

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS AND PROJECT UPDATES:**

**Administration:**

**Finance:**

**Public Works:**

**Engineering:**

**Legal:**

**Tax Collection:**

**Tax Assessment:**

**Construction/Planning/Zoning:**

**Recreation:**

**Police / Animal Control/ Code Enforcement:**

**Buildings and Grounds:**

**Sewer:**

**Economic Development:**

**Personnel:**

**Zoning:**

**Township Clerk:**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**                    *NONE*

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – 5:55pm

1<sup>st</sup>: Committeeman Gandy                    2<sup>nd</sup>: Mayor Donohue

Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Gandy, Mayor Donohue

Andrea N. Singley, Deputy Township Clerk

Minutes prepared by E. Bowman