

**Cape May Court House, New Jersey
TOWNSHIP OF MIDDLE
TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE
WORK SESSION AGENDA
October 16, 2023 4:00 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. 42-23 entitled "Establishing Work Session Meeting Nights" which was adopted by Township Committee of the Township of Middle on January 4, 2023.

Members present are Mayor Donohue, Deputy Mayor Gandy, and Committeemember Norris

Deputy Business Administrator Suzanne Schumann, Deputy Township Clerk Emily Bartleson, Township Engineer Vincent Orlando & Municipal Solicitor Matt Rooney

FLAG SALUTE:**PRESENTATIONS OR DISCUSSIONS:**

Goshen Playgrounds – EDA – Vince Orlando

Vince Orlando presented Township Committee with a power point on the proposed playground upgrades.

Kimberly Osmundsen asked about tying the park in with the rest of the complex.

Vince Orlando, discussed meeting with synthetic turf company regarding the ball field. Further discussed quote received was about \$1.2 million. Explained the ADA playground came in, in the low \$700,000 range and they currently have \$400,000.00 in funding. Continued to explain the playground by the snack stand came in around the low \$500,000 range and they have \$78,000 with a match to utilize.

Nancy Sittineri spoke of snack stand that had to be removed which was not anticipated.

Vince Orlando reviewed how the removal of the structure effected the project.

Kimberly Osmundsen confirmed there is one million dollars set aside in bonds for recreation but that was more so set aside for grounds not playgrounds.

Mayor Donohue state they cannot touch those funds.

Nancy Sittineri suggested completing the project in phases instead of all at once.

Mayor Donohue stated ADA has to be implemented.

Vince Orlando agreed. Further explained that prices have increase exponentially. Explained for the \$200,000.00 they are able to purchase swings and some of the other ancillary items.

Mayor Donohue suggested putting in at least a few items with the \$200,000.00 with woodchips to get something put in the parks.

Kimberly Osmundsen asked about going to open space for this project or the field upgrades.

Nancy Sittineri explained they are very particular for open space.

Kimberly Osmundsen reference other fields that were just funded by Open Space.

Nancy Sittineri explained the current requirements needed to submit to even be considered for the application.

Vince Orlando explained a similar interaction that Cape May City went through wit a park of theirs.

Kimberly Osmundsen asked if consideration would be taken as the park is connected to the bike path.

Vince Orlando suggested presenting both projects to the County for consideration.

Kimberly Osmundsen asked about the time lines for both options.

Vince Orlando further suggested trying to conform to the ADA.

Nancy Sittineri advised they must spend \$78,000.00 by next spring but can ask is an extension can be granted.

Vince Orlando explained it is important to get the one playground up and running. Stated he believes the ADA upgrades should be completed first.

Mayor Donohue agreed with spending the \$78,000.00 to get started.

Kimberly Osmundsen suggesting completing the ADA playground now then waiting until 2024 after budgeting for the remaining playgrounds. Reviewed the funds they currently have established for the project.

Kimberly Osmundsen asked Vince about the costs associated with sod and irrigation if they do not move forward with the turf.

Committeeman Gandy asked about current irrigation at the Goshen Complex.

Kimberly Osmundsen explained that it is currently non-working.

Committeeman Norris explained the benefits of turf is to utilize it year-round which gives time to work on the other areas in the complex.

Mayor Donohue suggesting speaking to the sports organizations that utilize the fields and explain the turnaround time for the main turf field versus the sod and irrigation.

Kimberly Osmundsen advised they can do the turf then have Nancy Sittineri and Vince Orlando speak with the County about grant funding for the sod and irrigations for the remaining areas.

Committeeman Gandy discussed the negatives of turf. Stated he believe turf is the best and fastest option though.

Committeeman Norris agreed that turf is the best option and will incorporate all the sports but they will have to advise the field is strictly for sports.

Vince Orlando discussed maintenance options for the turf field and remaining fields. Explained the way to grow grass on the back ten despite the sand base.

Mayor Donohue explained issues with explaining to residents the 3–4-year plan to grow grass versus the turf option, which can be completed by next year.

Kimberly Osmundsen clarified that two specs will need to be completed, one is the ADA playground and then the second spec would be for the turf field.

Vince Orlando advised the turf field would be instantaneously playable.

Kimberly Osmundsen asked if Eda can prepare that spec.

Vince Orlando stated they could prepare the spec. discussed the project he is currently completing in Upper Township.

Vince Orlando suggesting completing the ADA playground and pushing the snack stand playground until 2023. Then agreed with setting up a meeting with the County to discuss grant funding options for the snack stand playground and turf field.

Nancy Sittineri asked if any irrigation has been done in the back ten.

Kimberly Osmundsen explained the irrigation that is currently in that area.

Mayor Donohue further discussed the ongoing issues with irrigations they currently face.

Kimberly Osmundsen discussed the water sources that have in that area but advise the issue is currently the infrastructure.

Vince Orlando

Nancy Sittineri spoke of sustainability argument with turf.

Committeeman Gandy explained the turf is like a pool liner that every so many years you just have to update what's currently there.

Update to Gravel Pit Ordinance – Vince Orlando

Vince Orlando gave history of the current gravel pits ordinance. Explained issues with the ordinance as it stands currently. Further explained his proposal to amend the certification process to a three-year license and up the fees associated with the license. Discussed the benefits of this for gravel pit owners. Further recommended them then being due by September 1st instead of December 1st. next recommended requiring a performance guarantee as this is currently not required and explained the benefits of having this requirement. Lastly recommended leaving the depths at 30ft.

Kimberly Osmundsen asked about the slope requirement under 132-4 section H.

Vince Orlando explained this recommendation updates the slope to 3-1. Discussed removing section 132-7 as he does not see the allowance of another gravel pit license.

Kimberly Osmundsen suggested leave it and replacing the language to acknowledging that no further licenses shall be allowed.

Committeeman Gandy discussed the issues he sees with placing that language.

Vince Orlando agreed that the language should state no new licenses shall be issues. Advised he would discuss the language with Matt Rooney.

Vince Orlando suggested removing the agriculture operations section 132-8 as this is not applicable to gravel pits. Commented on section 132-10 Reclamation/Restoration plan. Suggested breaking it into two sections and having a progressive reclamation plan and restoration plan separate.

Kimberly Osmundsen/Vince Orlando continued to go back and forth confirming the sections they are reiterated and need to be removed or updated.

Kimberly Osmundsen asked Vince if he could forward this to her in Word and she would then redline the document with the proposed changes and send it to him for review and confirmation.

Mayor Donohue asked about increasing the fines.

Vince Orlando explained it is highlighted to see if Committee wanted those to be increase. Asked Matt what the maximum fine amount that is allowed.

Matt Rooney explained most violations are up to \$2,000.00 but does not believe that is a statutory maximum.

Mayor Donohue suggested making it \$5,000.00 then \$500.00 a day.

Establishing Business Registration License & Insurance Registration

Mayor Donohue explained that there have been many discussions in the past regarding business registration but no action has ever been taken. Further explained the new requirement by the State requiring businesses to file a copy of their insurance with the local municipality which is now requiring the Township to establish this registration process. Advised the administrative costs involved with the establishment of the registration process will be offset by the \$75.00 fee. He discussed the enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with the new requirement. Explained they updated the ordinance to have a compliance requirement within 60 days after the final reading of the ordinance versus the original language of January 1st. Advised this is the Township's only option to comply the new state requirement.

Committeeman Norris asked about renewal process.

Suzanne Schumann explained everything will be done electronically through GovPilot on the Township website. Further discussed the program.

Kimberly Osmundsen asked about the language in the ordinance as it pertains to short term rentals and if they wanted the people who have already gotten their short-term rentals to apply for this as well.

Suzanne Schumann explained that the insurance documents are already included when a short-term rental application is submitted.

Kimberly Osmundsen asked if language should be added to exclude short term rentals under this code since they already supply this under their short-term rental license.

Mayor Donohue agrees that this would be doubling on the same people and language should be added to exclude individuals who already are applying for the short-term rental license.

Suzanne Schumann stated yes because they require it with their license. Asked about late fee language between December 1st and January 1st.

Kimberly Osmundsen stated the language is correct.

Kimberly Osmundsen/Mayor Donohue discussed effects the local finance notice will have over all businesses.

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:

Motion to Adjourn Meeting – 5:04 PM

1st: Committeeman Gandy 2nd: Committeeman Norris

Roll Call Vote: Committeeman Gandy, Committeeman Norris, Mayor Donohue

Kimberly D. Osmundsen, Township Clerk

Minutes prepared by: E. Bartleson