



**MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR WORK SESSION
MINUTES
December 10, 2012**



PENDING APPROVAL

PRESENT: Mayor Betsy A. Davis
Vice Mayor C. Darlene Kirk
Councilmember Trowbridge Littleton
Councilmember Catherine “Bundles” Murdock (left early)
Councilmember Mark T. Snyder
Councilmember David B. Stewart

STAFF: Martha Mason Semmes, Town Administrator
Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk
Angela K. Plowman, Town Attorney

ABSENT: Councilmember Kevin Hazard
Councilmember Kathy Jo Shea

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held their regular monthly work session on Monday, December 10, 2012 in the Town Hall Council Chambers, located at 10 W. Marshall Street. Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Discussion of Legislative Priorities with Delegate Minchew

Delegate Minchew reminded Council that 2013 was a short session for the General Assembly as it was not a budget year. He noted that 2012 was a long session that did not end until April; and, included a special session to address the budget. Mr. Minchew reminded Council that there were only two areas of law where the Lieutenant Governor could not break a tie in the Senate – one being the budget. He noted that the budget vote was tied up for three weeks.

Delegate Minchew opined that this coming year would be interesting; and, noted that it was the last one in which Governor McDonnell could put forward something on which to work. He advised that the Assembly would learn what the Governor’s legacy projects included; and, noted that he has expressed an interest in preserving four hundred thousand acres of land in Virginia. Mr. Minchew advised that thus far, only one hundred ninety have been preserved. He reminded Council of the Land Conservation Tax Credit; and, opined that people were not using it due to aggressive actions by the State’s audit department. Mr. Minchew reported that there was \$94 million sitting in a tax credit pool that had not yet been taken; and, advised that the reason was that a large number of land preservation easements were being set aside due to conflicts related to their values. He suggested the General Assembly needed to do something to make people more inclined to participate in the program. Mr. Minchew noted that the Governor also wanted to work on public education and transportation. He opined that Delegate May, who used to represent Middleburg, would address transportation. Mr. Minchew noted that a number of ideas have been raised for doing so, such as indexing or increasing the gas tax and providing a flat fee for electric vehicles. He reminded Council that there was a large “hole” in maintaining roads; and, reported that eighty percent (80%) of the State’s transportation monies were being used toward maintenance, which must be the first priority.

Delegate Minchew reported that he submitted twenty-one bills for drafting. He advised that the ideas for some of those bills came from the Towns Association of Northern Virginia meeting that he attended. Mr. Minchew noted that the Town of Herndon suggested a bill to clarify that in situations where there were joint town/county powers and a town opted to use the power, it could advise the county that it did not want the county to apply its power in the town. He advised that likewise under this legislation, if a town did not choose to use a power, its residents would not get shortchanged. Mr. Minchew cited the example of Loudoun County who had a building department. He noted that Leesburg asked for a clarifying statute to make it clear that if a town exercised authority to have certain powers, this did not mean the County could shortchange the town in other areas. Mr. Minchew reported that he put in a bill for Leesburg regarding building code enforcement; and, noted that Middleburg had the same problem in that the County Building Officer has stated that he would not exercise building code review and enforcement in towns unless the Board of Supervisors told him to do so. He noted that town residents paid county taxes; and, opined that they should get the same services. Mr. Minchew advised that the bill he was proposing would focus specifically on building code enforcement.

Town Administrator Semmes noted that Loudoun County would not enforce building code violations in the town, even if a building was falling apart. She further noted that they have told other jurisdictions that they needed an agreement with the County for enforcement; and, advised that there was no requirement that the County put such an agreement in place. Ms. Semmes suggested the need for clarification that if the County retained the authority to enforce the building code, it was their obligation to do so in the town limits.

Delegate Minchew reiterated that the County Building Officer has said he would be glad to do so if there was an agreement between the Town and County. He advised that Leesburg was asked for another bill that applied to Middleburg. Mr. Minchew explained that a few years ago, enabling legislation was adopted related to local arts and cultural districts; and, advised that there was a question as to whether it granted localities the authority to provide real estate tax rebates and/or reductions. He noted that he was proposing to broaden the legislation to make it clear that this could be done.

Delegate Minchew advised that another idea for a bill that came from the Town of Leesburg was related to an old dilapidated structure, which was very unsightly. He noted that the landowner would love to tear it down; however, it contained asbestos and he did not have the money to deal with it. Mr. Minchew noted that the Building Official has said he could not declare the structure to be a public nuisance.

Town Administrator Semmes explained that the County Building Code Official must make the structure safe. She suggested that localities wanted to tear these structures down; and, did not want them left boarded up and in limbo.

Delegate Minchew explained that there was a hole in the law that did not allow code officials to use their spot blight abatement power for a boarded up structure, as it may not be a "public nuisance". He advised that the legislation he was proposing would allow the County, with the permission of the land owner, to take down the structure and place a lien on the property. Mr. Minchew advised that this would be a tool to eliminate unsightly buildings.

Delegate Minchew reported that another bill he planned to submit was related to local fines collected by the district courts. He reminded Council of the bill that was adopted last year that was geared toward the Town of Hopewell, which had the "mother of all speed traps". Mr. Minchew noted that one-fifth of Hopewell's budget came from fines; and, advised that their town attorney was taking tickets written by State troopers and rewriting them under the town's ordinance so the money came back to Hopewell. He reminded the Council that the Governor

inserted language into the State Code that said that when over fifty percent (50%) of total fines collected came from a city ordinance, a portion of the collected revenue would come to the State's Literary Fund. Mr. Minchew opined that this would not affect Middleburg. He advised that due to this budget amendment, monies collected locally were going to Richmond and not coming back. Mr. Minchew reiterated that he asked for a bill that would require local fines and fees collected by district courts to be returned in a timely fashion, along with the math that showed how far a locality's revenues were under the fifty percent figure.

Delegate Minchew noted that those were the bills he planned to submit that dealt with local governments. He asked what he could do for Middleburg during this session.

Councilmember Murdock noted the legislative reports from other towns. She advised that one item that jumped out at her that could apply to Middleburg was related to tree preservation. Ms. Murdock asked for the staff's thoughts on this item.

Town Administrator Semmes advised that the Town of Leesburg was seeking amendments to Section 15.2-961 to allow localities to require developers to save existing trees during a development project and to change VDOT's road standards to save trees during road construction projects. She cited a situation on Federal Street where such a bill would help the Town.

Councilmember Murdock advised that when she built her house, a very old elm tree was located on the property. She further advised that if the Town had said she must ensure the construction trucks did not park within xxx feet of the tree, she would not have had to spend thousands of dollars to save the tree.

Town Administrator Semmes advised that such legislation would not apply to the construction of single-family homes, but rather would apply to subdivisions. She explained that the legislation would allow localities to require a developer to mark tree areas that must be saved; and, to make sure the tree save area was large enough to actually save the trees.

Councilmember Littleton noted that the tree in front of the National Sporting Library was a focal point. He further noted that he mentioned to Turner Reuter that the tree would die if the ground around it was cut. Mr. Littleton advised that the roots were all removed; and, the tree died.

Councilmember Murdock opined that this legislation would not just affect Middleburg; and, noted that the entire State cared about trees.

Councilmember Murdock opined that legislation related to electronic legal ads would save everyone money.

Delegate Minchew noted that a similar bill was submitted last year. He advised that he supported it; however, it was opposed by the newspapers, including Leesburg Today and the Loudoun Times Mirror. Mr. Minchew opined that public notice could be accomplished through electronic advertisements. He noted that the Virginia Press Association had considerable muscle; and, last year, was able to kill the bill in committee.

Councilmember Murdock advised that she respected the newspapers' position; and, noted the need to keep them alive.

Mayor Davis noted that there were still plenty of people who did not use the Internet. She suggested that in fairness to those individuals, public notices should be in the newspapers.

Town Administrator Semmes noted that the Town of Leesburg was asking for more water quality funding. She advised that Middleburg was lucky in that it was given a new treatment plant, whereas others were struggling to develop one. Ms. Semmes noted that Middleburg needed to fix its utility infrastructure, both water and sanitary sewer, as it had some very old lines that needed to be updated.

Councilmember Snyder noted that consent orders from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) carried large fines that were counterproductive. He advised that the Town was trying to fix the issues that drove its consent order; however, it was struggling to put money in the budget to do so. Mr. Snyder noted that the proposed fine was almost \$12,000.

Town Administrator Semmes advised that the Town was hoping DEQ would reduce it; and, also hoped they would let the Town put the money aside to be used to fix the system. She noted that the Town has worked with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) for grants; however, there was not much grant money available other than planning grants. Ms. Semmes advised that localities did not hear about grant money for infrastructure improvements. She noted that it was great that the Town could get grants to fix its roads; however, it was not good if it could not also repair the water lines. Ms. Semmes advised that this impaired the Town's ability to do economic development.

Councilmember Murdock advised that if one asked the residents and businesses what their number one complaint was, it was their water bill.

Councilmember Snyder noted that the Town was also still struggling to improve its water quality.

Town Administrator Semmes noted that the burden was on a small customer base.

Councilmember Murdock opined that the Town was too small to have a water system; however, it did.

Delegate Minchew noted that there was a proposal being discussed to put money in the State's budget that could be drawn upon, in the form of low interest loans, to deal with total maximum daily load issues. He opined that the problem was this was a federal, unfunded mandate. Mr. Minchew noted that this unfunded mandate was the result of a court case in which an environmental group sued the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the EPA signed a consent order. He noted that the consent order required the EPA to keep elements out of the Chesapeake Bay; and, advised that their regulations applied to anyone that put water into it. Mr. Minchew noted that there were towns that did not know the Chesapeake Bay was part of their watershed that must deal with these issues.

Town Administrator Semmes noted that the Department of Conservation and Resources tried to convince the Town that it needed to address its storm water management program. She further noted that she told them the Town did not have the staff to do so; therefore, they would have to enforce it. Ms Semmes advised that this was going to fall to Loudoun County. She opined that it would be helpful to have legislation to clarify joint town/county powers. Ms. Semmes advised that in Middleburg, VDOT maintained the streets; however, it did not do much to deal with storm water. She suggested it would be helpful if the State could provide money to address inflow & infiltration (I&I) control; and, noted that Hurricane Sandy provided evidence of how bad the Town's I&I was as the flows at the wastewater treatment plant tripled.

Delegate Minchew questioned the source of the DEQ fine. Town Administrator Semmes explained that it was the result of an overflow at the pump station due to grease build up in the system, as well as a problem with the measurement of nutrients. She further explained that together this resulted in a violation at the wastewater treatment plant.

Mayor Davis noted that the Town of Leesburg was opposed to any reduction in local taxing authority, in particular with regard to BPOL and meals taxes. She agreed with this position. Ms. Davis advised that she was also opposed to the eminent domain clean-up legislation.

Delegate Minchew reminded Council that the eminent domain legislation was a constitutional amendment that passed. He advised that there were two components to it, the first of which was that the land being secured through eminent domain must be used for a public purpose. Mr. Minchew noted that the second component was related to compensation for lost profits and access. He advised that when the General Assembly approved the constitutional amendment language on its second reading, the Attorney General asked for a bill to define "lost profits and access". Mr. Minchew noted that he spent a lot of time working on that bill; however, he was not completely happy with it. He advised that it covered utilities but not local governments. Mr. Minchew reiterated that the Attorney General indicated the legislation was needed in the event the constitutional amendment was approved. He noted that the Town of Leesburg was expressing a fear of the unknown, as it was seeking to extend lines outside of its limits in order to sell its purple water to industries. Mr. Minchew explained that they were concerned whether they could use the power of eminent domain in that case in order to extend their water lines. He opined that they could; however, their town attorney has noted a number of cases testing similar exercises of power. Mr. Minchew suggested the General Assembly could adopt legislation clarifying the term "lost access". He noted that he has also told Leesburg that he would ask the Attorney General for an opinion as to whether they could use their power of eminent domain outside of their corporate limits; however, they have asked him to wait until they decided whether they were going to do the project.

Mayor Davis noted that the Virginia Municipal League raised the issue that if a town closed a street for a town event, the owner of a business could claim it lost profits due to the street closure. She asked how the owner would prove what was lost.

Delegate Minchew opined that this could be fixed with legislation. He noted that patrons could not buy gas when a road was closed, which could fall under the area of profits. Mr. Minchew opined, however, that it was different if a street was closed for a couple of hours versus six months. He suggested the development of legislation would have to wait until there was case law regarding lost profits. Mr. Minchew opined that there were bound to be a number of incidents that would arise that the General Assembly would have to fix by statute as the result of the new legislation.

Councilmember Murdock advised that she worked the polls during the national election; and, spoke to two people who had opposite opinions regarding the constitutional amendment. She opined that most people who voted on the issue did not understand it as the language was very confusing. Delegate Minchew agreed it was not well written on the ballot; and, advised that he had to read it a couple of times.

Councilmember Murdock asked how the public was supposed to vote on something they did not understand. She noted that it was scary if even Delegate Minchew had to read it repeatedly.

Delegate Minchew noted that the main thrust of the amendment was that localities should not use the power of eminent domain for economic development purposes. He advised that there was a statute on the books that already prohibited this in Virginia. Mr. Minchew noted that he would

see about the elements related to lost profits and access. He advised that he could see the application of this law in an instance in which a median was closed on a four lane road, which could result in lost profits for a business on the other side. Mr. Minchew reiterated that the law would be tested; and, advised that the Assembly was bound to work on the legislation again.

Town Administrator Semmes advised that it would be nice if the General Assembly restored the 599 funding and removed the Line of Duty Act (LODA) mandate from localities. She explained that LODA coverage was created and operated by the State in order to provide an extra benefit for law enforcement officers. Ms. Semmes noted that localities had no say in the program; however, they were now being required to pay for it. She advised that the Town went with VML's program; however, it was costing the Town for each officer for extra coverage for a program the Town did not create.

Councilmember Snyder advised that water quality funding was his biggest issue. Town Administrator Semmes noted that this was different than infrastructure funding. She explained that water quality was related to wastewater treatment plant upgrades; and, advised that there was nothing the Town could use money for in that area at this time.

Councilmember Snyder explained that he was looking at this as an infrastructure issue. He advised that he would appreciate anything that could be done to improve the system. Mr. Snyder noted that there were many water quality issues that the State was not addressing.

Delegate Minchew opined that it was a great time to work on that; and, agreed that money must be provided by the State to deal with these issues, as some localities had no way of doing so. He noted that he did not know how much money would be made available. Mr. Minchew opined that it sounded like the Town had a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment plant, but the concern was the existing infrastructure.

Town Administrator Semmes advised Delegate Minchew that another issue the Town had was related to online travel companies that were avoiding paying the occupancy tax. She noted that the local bed & breakfasts and resort had to pay the tax when someone purchased a room online.

Mayor Davis opined that everyone should have to pay the tax; and, advised that this was something that would help the businesses.

Delegate Minchew noted the legislation that was adopted last year that was referred to as the "Amazon legislation". He explained that this bill said that if a business was sited in Virginia, even if the activity was conducted on the Internet, the business must pay sales tax. Mr. Minchew noted that this would not apply to an Internet provider that had no physical stores in Virginia. He opined that this rule would apply to the occupancy tax.

Councilmember Snyder noted that the product being purchased was located in Virginia.

Delegate Minchew asked whether the collection of this tax was a problem in Middleburg.

Councilmember Murdock asked why the tax would not show up when someone settled their bill even if they booked their room online, unless they pre-paid for the room. Town Attorney Plowman noted that this was how some of the Internet sites worked.

Councilmember Murdock suggested the tax should apply even if someone paid for their room in advance. Mayor Davis agreed everyone should pay the tax.

Town Administrator Semmes noted that she had booked rooms through Internet sites; and, when she asked the hotel for a receipt, was told they did not know what she paid for the room.

Councilmember Littleton opined that if the room was in Virginia, the occupancy tax should be paid.

Delegate Minchew noted that he had used such companies to book rooms; and, advised that he did not know whether the price he paid included the local tax. Mayor Davis opined that it should.

Councilmember Snyder reiterated that the product was located in Virginia.

Mayor Davis advised that this could be a large amount of money to lose.

Delegate Minchew agreed to look into this. He invited the Council to visit him in Richmond or to contact him if there was a bill introduced that concerned them.

Mayor Davis thanked Delegate Minchew for representing Middleburg.

Review of Regular Meeting Agenda of December 13, 2012

Vice Mayor Kirk reported that the recommendation for donations from the Health Center Fund were very basic. She noted that the Board did propose to increase a few of the amounts.

Town Administrator Semmes noted that the issue arose as to how the Board determined who was selected to receive a donation; and, whether they should be required to apply and explain why they wanted the money.

Vice Mayor Kirk reminded Council that the recipient must have an impact on the Town. She opined that the Town did not want to have people just apply.

Town Administrator Semmes asked whether they should be required to apply and state the purpose of the donation. She asked how the Town knew much money was needed.

Vice Mayor Kirk noted that most of the organizations needed a lot of money, which Middleburg was not in a position to provide. She advised Council that she recently thought about giving a donation to A Place To Be. Ms. Kirk noted that the Board did not think of them when they were discussing the donations.

Town Administrator Semmes advised that until last year, she did not know about Middleburg FISH. She noted that the Town Treasurer referred people to them when they could not pay their utility bill. Ms. Semmes advised that this was a huge help for the Town.

Mayor Davis recommended that some of the funds from the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter be used instead for a donation to A Place To Be. She noted that the shelter was a county organization, whereas A Place To Be was a Town charity.

Vice Mayor Kirk recommended that \$500 be given to the shelter and \$500 be given to A Place To Be. The remainder of Council concurred.

Councilmember Littleton inquired as to the donation amount for Seven Loaves. Mayor Davis noted that they were proposed to receive \$7,500.

Councilmember Snyder recommended a time frame be set for Middleburg-based charities to send an application for a grant so the Committee would have a list from which to choose.

Councilmember Murdock disagreed; and, suggested the Town would be swamped with requests.

Councilmember Murdock reported that the Christmas in Middleburg Committee was meeting this evening. She noted that she sent the Economic Development Coordinator an e-mail expressing her feelings that everything went great and raising two topics for consideration. Ms. Murdock noted that the first topic was that there were not enough buses. She advised that she used her car to give rides to people. Ms. Murdock reported that during the height of the departure, she and the Police Chief found one bus driver taking a cigarette break. She noted that the Middleburg Exxon was also not notified that they would be a departure location; and, advised that people were lined up around their parking lot waiting for the bus. Ms. Murdock suggested the bus situation needed to be better addressed. She noted that she asked the Chief to put an officer at the intersection as the buses could not get out onto Route 50 once they were loaded due to the traffic.

Mayor Davis suggested an officer was also needed at the Mickey Gordon Park to help cars get out onto Route 50.

Councilmember Murdock suggested a volunteer was needed to help load the buses.

Councilmember Murdock advised that the second item was a suggestion she heard from the restaurants, based upon the fact that they were swamped with requests for restrooms, which was the need for a simple map, similar to the one used for the scavenger hunt.

Town Administrator Semmes suggested the need for more bathrooms. Vice Mayor Kirk agreed.

Mayor Davis suggested that people were needed who were strictly assigned to empty the trash bins.

Councilmember Murdock expressed appreciation to the Streets Department, who cleaned up the streets quickly following the event.

Town Administrator Semmes advised that she would like for the Town to accept responsibility for keeping the restrooms clean. She noted that a citizen had to unstop a toilet in the Liberty Street Restroom after it overflowed.

Councilmember Littleton suggested the Town hire a helper for the afternoon to check the facilities. He further suggested they be provided with equipment to unstop the toilets if needed.

Mayor Davis suggested that someone be assigned to each location; and, that there be more bathrooms. She further suggested the individuals make sure the units were clean and stocked with paper supplies.

Councilmember Murdock opined that it was great that twenty thousand people attended the event; however, she suggested that at some point, there were too many. She opined that the Town needed to say “you’re doing a great job but let’s not reach out any more”.

Mayor Davis noted that there was an article in *Southern Living Magazine* this year about the event. She expressed hope that it has “maxed out” and the problem would correct itself. Ms. Davis suggested that some people were overwhelmed by the fact that the town was so crowded.

Town Administrator Semmes reported that Manassas' parade brought out sixty thousand people. She noted, however, that their parade route was a mile long.

Vice Mayor Kirk noted that people were parking in front of Tim Dimos' house on Washington Street. She suggested this be stopped next year. Ms. Kirk advised that it was difficult to get by on Route 50 due to the parked cars.

Vice Mayor Kirk advised that she did not want to be "squished" next year on the parade float. She noted that Street Superintendent Simms has suggested the Council use his truck. Councilmember Murdock suggested this would honor the Town employees.

Mayor Davis suggested the Town secure Harmon's wagon for the Council.

Town Administrator Semmes suggested the Town truck be used for the Town staff.

Councilmember Murdock opined that the parade was great; and, that everyone was happy. She advised that the people she transported in her car to the Mickey Gordon Park were thrilled. Ms. Murdock noted that the parking lot was slippery; and, advised that if there was any weather, their cars would have had to be towed.

Town Clerk North noted that she witnessed people walking from town to the Mickey Gordon Park, which was unsafe. Councilmember Murdock noted that the Chief was also concerned about having people walking on the side of Route 50; and, advised that they could not be seen as it was getting dark. She opined that more police help was needed.

Vice Mayor Kirk suggested that people be assigned walkie talkies so they could alert someone of these problems. Councilmember Murdock noted that they did have walkie talkies. She suggested that a couple be allocated to the Town staff.

(Councilmember Murdock left the meeting at 8:55 a.m.)

Councilmember Snyder suggested there be a raffle at the end of the parade in order to give the Town a more accurate count of the attendees.

Councilmember Littleton suggested the Town get an aerial photograph that could be used for estimating the count. Councilmember Snyder agreed; and, noted that there were computer algorithms that could conduct a fairly accurate count using an aerial photograph. He suggested the Town explore the cost for doing so.

Mayor Davis noted that people asked about making the parade route longer; however, she advised that this could not be done due to the location where the parade entered Route 50. She opined that the attendance at this year's event was at its ultimate due to the weather, the build up and the *Southern Living* article. Ms. Davis opined that the crowd would thin out in the future as some people would say "that was nice but it was too crowded". She suggested the businesses did as much as they could; and, could not do more. Ms. Davis advised that people could not shop as the stores were too crowded.

Town Administrator Semmes asked when they had time to shop; and, noted that many were lined up along the parade route saving their spots.

Mayor Davis noted that people have suggested the stores open at 9:00 a.m. She further noted that some people came early only to find the stores were not yet open.

Vice Mayor Kirk asked whether there was enough food. Councilmember Stewart reported that a number of people asked him where they could get breakfast. Town Administrator Semmes suggested that emphasis be placed on providing breakfast next year; and, noted that the restaurants focused on providing lunch. Mayor Davis suggested the restaurants be encouraged to provide a quick breakfast item, even if it was just a donut.

Councilmember Littleton reported that the owner of Julien's told him that he did his largest lunch ever that day, serving four hundred lunches.

Town Administrator Semmes reported that she talked to people that day. She advised that everyone was very positive; and, seemed to have a good time.

Vice Mayor Kirk noted that as the Hunt came through, some men jumped forward and stood in front of the children. She advised that she asked them to move back.

Mayor Davis noted that some people came early and put out chairs, only to find when the parade started that people moved in front of them.

Town Administrator Semmes suggested that barriers be erected to define the parade route. She noted that the Town did not have enough officers to do so; and, advised that they were reluctant to push people back. Ms. Semmes noted that this would allow people to put a seat at the barrier.

Mayor Davis noted that the Council has discussed this in the past. She advised that the problem was that people would move the barriers.

Town Administrator Semmes suggested it was worth trying in order to have some type of crowd control. She opined that currently, the situation was dangerous.

Vice Mayor Kirk noted that the cost was also high; and, the units could be a trip hazard.

Town Administrator Semmes suggested that another option was to get a lot more police officers to keep people out of the street. She opined that it was dangerous given the horses and other animals in the parade.

Councilmember Stewart advised that he rode in the police vehicle with Senior Officer Prince. He advised that after the Hunt, there was no street left as people just bombarded it. Mr. Stewart noted that they spent an hour moving the crowd back onto the sidewalk, only to find that they returned to the street after their vehicle passed.

Mayor Davis opined that people thought the road would be closed for the entire day. She noted that people have suggested the Town do so; however, she advised that VDOT would not allow it.

Town Administrator Semmes asked whether there was a law to prohibit it. Mayor Davis noted that there was as this was a main thoroughfare. She advised that the Town explored this in the past; and, was told it could not be done.

Town Administrator Semmes recommended the time between the parades be shorter. Mayor Davis noted that idea was to keep people in town to shop. She noted, however, that if they were sitting in chairs, they were not shopping.

Town Administrator Semmes opined that three hours was a long time for parents to walk around with their children. She suggested the second parade be held at 1:30 p.m.

Vice Mayor Kirk opined that it would be nice if the two parades were held together; however, she noted that this would not work.

Town Administrator Semmes opined that it would be nice if the horses would slow down. Councilmember Littleton explained that the problem was the dogs moved quickly.

Mayor Davis opined that everyone did a fantastic job. She advised that she was amazed at how well the event turned out given the number of people in town.

Vice Mayor Kirk opined that the detour worked better than it had in past years. Town Administrator Semmes opined that it helped that some of the cars were kept out of town. She noted the gridlock that occurred last year.

Mayor Davis noted the agenda item related to the resolution for a stop sign. Town Administrator Semmes reminded Council that this resolution was to place a stop sign on North Madison Street headed southbound.

Vice Mayor Kirk noted that the Council previously discussed making this a four-way stop.

Town Administrator Semmes advised that this would create a three-way stop. She opined that it was not good to have traffic stop at the triangle. Ms. Semmes noted that traffic on North Madison Street headed southbound could not see around the corner; and, advised that this was scary for pedestrians crossing the street. She suggested that motorists should have to stop before making the turn.

Councilmember Snyder noted the agenda item related to the Source Water Protection Brochure. He advised that he was happy with the job the Wellhead Protection Advisory Board did; and, noted that there was a lot of good expertise on the committee. Mr. Snyder advised that they produced a nice handout that would be helpful. He reported that the Board also wanted to influence the Wellhead Protection Plan; and, was working with Tetrattech and the State to update it. Mr. Snyder advised that he wanted the Council to buy into the plan and send it to the Planning Commission so they could review it as well. He noted that the Committee wanted to look at the action items recommended in the Plan.

Town Administrator Semmes asked whether there were any legislation priorities items that the Council wanted assembled as the Town's legislative packet. She suggested they could approve it during their January meeting. Mayor Davis asked that the staff prepare something for the December 13th meeting, which could then be forwarded to Delegate Minchew and Senator Vogel.

There being no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

APPROVED:

Betsy A. Davis, MAYOR

ATTEST:

Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk