



**MIDDLEBURG TOWN COUNCIL  
EMERGENCY MEETING**

**Wednesday, July 2, 2014  
Town Office, 10 W. Marshall Street**



**PRESENT:** Mayor Betsy A. Davis  
Councilmember Kevin Hazard (arrived late)  
Councilmember Trowbridge Littleton  
Councilmember Catherine “Bundles” Murdock  
Councilmember Erik J. Scheps  
Councilmember Kathy Jo Shea  
Councilmember Mark T. Snyder

**STAFF:** Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk  
Cindy C. Pearson, Economic Development Coordinator

**ABSENT:** Vice Mayor C. Darlene Kirk

The Town Council of the Town of Middleburg, Virginia held an emergency meeting on Wednesday, July 2, 2014, in the Town Hall Council Chambers, in order to consider a request from the Salamander Resort to modify the lineal corridor of their zip line. Mayor Davis called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**Council Approval** – Modification of Lineal Corridor for Zip Line – Salamander Resort

*Councilmember Snyder moved, seconded by Councilmember Littleton, that Council approve a request to modify the linear zip line route on the Salamander Resort and Spa property, as shown in the request to the Town dated June 5, 2014.*

Councilmember Snyder reported that the process was working the way it was envisioned when the open space easement was set up. He opined that there was a good process between the Town and the Potomac Conservancy; and, advised that he was very pleased with the way it was working. Mr. Snyder expressed hope that it worked for both the Town and Salamander. He expressed appreciation for why Salamander submitted this request.

Councilmember Murdock questioned whether the reason for the relocation was to save the three Chestnut streets. Trey Matheu, the Manager of the Salamander Resort, confirmed it was.

Councilmember Snyder noted that this was a very minor modification.

Mayor Davis noted that the Potomac Conservancy has already approved the relocation.

Vote: Yes – Councilmembers Littleton, Murdock, Scheps, Shea and Snyder

No – N/A

Abstain: N/A

Absent: Councilmembers Kirk and Hazard

(Mayor Davis did not vote as there was no tie to require her vote)

Mr. Matheu expressed hope to have the first guests use the facility on July 4, 2014. He invited the members of Council to tour it. Mr. Matheu noted that the way the facility was constructed, most of the tree canopy remained.

(Councilmember Hazard arrived at the meeting at 8:03 a.m.)

Councilmember Murdock questioned whether there would be six employees operating this facility. Mr. Matheu confirmed there would be more and noted that his wife was now employed by the zip line tour company. He reported that the operator, who was originally from Connecticut, has moved to this area for at least three years to make sure the process met their requirements.

Mayor Davis inquired as to how the speed of the participants would be controlled. Mr. Matheu reported that the line would be gravity fed and would contain eight platforms, five lines and two suspension bridges. He explained that it would not involve massive speed. Mr. Matheu advised that there would be a hand brake on the apparatus so the individual could control their speed.

Councilmember Murdock inquired as to the point of zipping. Mr. Matheu explained that their program would involve an education component. He noted that some tours simply involved going from station-to-station and while theirs would operate that way for the first two or three days, after that participants would be put into a group with a guide, who would provide a lot of education. Mr. Matheu advised that the guides were required to take thirty hours of education on trees, flora and fauna. He noted that the zip line company would also offer team building opportunities that would involve the performance of different tasks at each station. Mr. Matheu advised that one such task was to gather puzzle pieces and place them together in the trees.

Councilmember Murdock questioned whether the trees would be destroyed in that process. Mr. Matheu explained that the puzzle pieces would be placed on the lines or the existing structures. He reiterated his invitation to the Council to view the zip line even if they did not want to zip.

Councilmember Snyder questioned how the insurance worked. He further questioned whether the participants would be strapped in so they would not fall. Mr. Matheu confirmed they would, with there being two points of clipping at any time. He noted that the company running the program has done so for years with no issues other than a typical scrape. Mr. Matheu reported that all of the guides were CPR and first aid trained, with some also being first responder trained.

There being no further business, a motion was made and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 a.m.

APPROVED:

---

Betsy A. Davis, MAYOR

ATTEST:

---

Rhonda S. North, MMC, Town Clerk