

**Village of Middlefield Council Minutes**  
**March 14, 2024**

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Council met in regular session Mayor Garlich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Ben Garlich, Mr. Rick Seyer, Mr. Carl Hornung, Mr. Scott Klein, Ms. Kaitlyn Arganti, Mr. Sam Morrow, and Mr. Bill Blue.

**Also present:** Ms. Leslie McCoy- Village Administrator, Chief Tucholski, Lt. Graley, Mr. Nick Giardina- Fiscal Officer, Mr. Luke McConville- Solicitor, Mr. Alex Duncan, Ms. Melissa Channel, Ms. Kim Breyley, Mr. John Boksansky- Zoning Inspector, Mr. Roger Hanna, Ms. Ann Wichert, Mr. Cody Naftzger & family, Ms. Brooke Daughters & family, Chris Brook, Jennifer Nugan, and Lt. Tony Yeropoli- Fire Department.

1. **Opening Ceremony:** Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. **Agenda:** No deletions. Additions- need a motion for Mike Soltis' retirement and school task force.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** February 8, 2024 *Mr. Blue made a motion to approve the February 8, 2024 minutes, motion seconded by Mr. Morrow. All in favor: Yeas (6).*
4. **Payment of Bills:** *Mr. Hornung moved to authorize payments totaling \$526,939.75, motion seconded by Mr. Morrow. Roll call: Yeas (6).*
5. **FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Income Tax and Financials** – The report is included in the packet. Mr. Giardina stated income tax, water, and sewer are up 4% compared to a year ago. Total expenses are down compared to a year ago. Mr. Giardina stated this year the Village is to the good financially compared to a year ago.
6. **AMBULANCE REPORT** – Report is included in the packet. Mr. Brook stated Community Care had 168 runs for service for the month of February. Mr. Brook stated everything is going well. Mr. Brook introduced new Middlefield manager Ms. Jennifer Nugan.
7. **FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT** – Report is included in the packet. Mr. Yeropoli stated there was a total of 86 runs for the month of February. Mr. Yeropoli stated the department has been doing live fire trainings and will have another one in Middlefield Township next week sometime. The department has been working with UH Geauga on some training as well.
8. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Report is included in the packet. Ms. McCoy stated she has been working on the Hartville Hardware project and marketing the village properties. Ms. McCoy stated the Storefront Renovation Program just had its final application so those funds have been assigned. Ms. McCoy stated she also attended a hotel meeting last month. Mayor Garlich recommended replenishing the Storefront Renovation Fund.
9. **ZONING REPORT:** Report included is included in packet. Mr. Boksansky stated for the month of February he was able to issue 6 out of 8 zoning permits.
10. **STREETS, SIDEWALKS & UTILITIES REPORT** – Report is included in the packet. Chief Tucholski stated branch chipping starts in April and there has been a lot of park maintenance and clean up.

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**11. POLICE REPORT** – Report is included in the packet. Chief Tucholski stated for February there was 457 calls for service. Chief Tucholski stated there are two new hires tonight that will bring the department back up to full staff. The range is almost completed and ready for use. The two new hires will be completing their gun qualifications at the new range.

**12. PARKS & RECREATION REPORT** – Report is included in the packet. Ms. McCoy stated spring registration is open until April 5<sup>th</sup>. Ms. McCoy stated the new software is up and running. The Huskie Locker will be open Saturday 12 pm- 2 pm at Village Hall.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Eclipse is April 8<sup>th</sup> and eclipse glasses are available to village residents at a limit of 4 per household. Century Village and Geauga Fairgrounds are holding eclipse events.

Voting Day is Tuesday and Mayor Garlich encourages everyone to vote.

**Mayor Garlich swears in new full time police Officers Brooke Daughters and Cody Naftzger.**

Mr. Giardina and Ms. Leslie McCoy have included a packet for a Year in Review for the Village of Middlefield and talk about the finances and economic development in the Village of Middlefield. The finances are much better compared to previous years and the Village is on a very good path. Chief Tucholski also gave an overview of the year 2023 for the service departments and police department and stated everything is going great and on the right track. Mr. Boksansky stated zoning permit applications in 2023 were higher than previous years and requirements are being met. Ms. McCoy stated the sports program has benefited everyone and registration numbers are higher compared to previous years.

Discussion held with Village Council on ways to get more people involved in Local Government. Mayor Garlich would like to figure out ways to get more students at Cardinal to become more involved in the Local Government.

Mayor Garlich would also like to help out the schools get their enrollment rates up so Mayor Garlich is looking to get together a task force from Council to help with that.

**COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:**

**MAYOR APPOINTMENTS (approved by Council)**

Tax Incentive Review Council

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. County Commissioner Appointment
4. County Commissioner Appointment
5. County Commissioner Appointment
6. County Auditor (or designee)
7. Cardinal Board of Education Appointment

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**FIRST READING –**

1. **RESOLUTION 24-04 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mr. Klein introduced Resolution 24-04 by title only. Mr. Klein made a motion to waive the required reading and declare Resolution 24-04 an emergency, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. All in favor: Yeas (6). Mr. Blue made a motion to **PASS** Resolution 24-04, motion seconded by Ms. Arganti. All in favor: Yeas (6).
2. **RESOLUTION 24-05 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A LOAN TO AMISH COUNTRY MARKET LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$130,000.00, FROM THE VILLAGE'S LOCAL REVOLVING LOAN FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mr. Klein introduced Resolution 24-05 by title only. Mr. Hornung made a motion to waive the required reading and declare Resolution 24-05 an emergency, motion seconded by Mr. Blue. All in favor: Yeas (6). Mr. Blue made a motion to **PASS** Resolution 24-05, motion seconded by Mr. Morrow. All in favor (6).
3. **RESOLUTION 24-06 A RESOLUTION APPROVING A MORATORIUM ON THE GRANTING OF ANY PERMIT THAT WOULD ALLOW AN ADULT USE PROGRAM CULTIVATOR, PROCESSOR OR RETAIL DISPENSARY OF MARIJUANA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mr. Klein introduced Resolution 24-06 by title only. Ms. Arganti made a motion to waive the required reading and declare Resolution 24-06 an emergency, motion seconded by Mr. Blue. All in favor: Yeas (Blue, Hornung, Klein, Arganti) No (Morrow, Seyer). Motion did not get enough votes for an emergency clause so this Resolution will be placed on first reading.
4. **ORDINANCE 24-113 AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURE OF THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEFIELD, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mr. Klein introduced Ordinance 24-113 by title only. Mr. Morrow made a motion waive the required reading and declare Ordinance 24-113 an emergency, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. All in favor: Yeas (6). Mr. Hornung made a motion to **PASS** Ordinance 24-113, motion seconded by Mr. Morrow. All in favor: Yeas (6).
5. **ORDINANCE 24-114 AN ORDINANCE HIRING BROOKE DAUGHTERS AS A FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER, CONTINGENT UPON HER COMPLETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 139.01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AT THE PAY RATE OF \$24.87 PER HOUR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mr. Klein introduced Ordinance 24-114 by title only. Brooke Daughters comes from Lakeland Police Academy. Mr. Blue made a motion to waive the required reading and declare Ordinance 24-114 an emergency, motion seconded by Mr. Morrow. All in favor: Yeas (6). Mr. Hornung made a motion to **PASS** Ordinance 24-114, motion seconded by Mr. Blue. All in favor: Yeas (6).

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6. **ORDINANCE 24-115 AN ORDINANCE HIRING CODY NAFTZGER AS A FULLTIME POLICE OFFICER, CONTINGENT UPON HIS COMPLETING THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 139.01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AT THE PAY RATE OF \$33.34 PER HOUR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mr. Klein introduced Ordinance 24-115 by title only. Cody Naftzger attended Kent State University Police Academy and comes from Lake County Sheriff's Office with 2.5 years of experience. **Mr. Morrow made a motion to waive the required reading and declare Ordinance 24-115 an emergency, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. All in favor: Yeas (6). Mr. Hornung made a motion to PASS Ordinance 24-115, motion seconded by Mr. Klein. All in favor: Yeas (6).**
  7. **ORDINANCE 24-116 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A TRAINING REIMBURSEMENT AGREEMENT WITH OFFICER ROBERT HAMILTON, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mr. Klein introduced Ordinance 24-116 by title only. Chief Tucholski stated this is for Robert Hamilton and states if he leaves before 5 years he will have to repay the Village for all equipment, uniforms, and any costs paid by the Village. **Mr. Hornung made a motion to waive the required reading and declare Ordinance 24-116 an emergency, motion seconded by Mr. Morrow. All in favor: Yeas (6). Mr. Morrow made a motion to PASS Ordinance 24-116, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. All in favor: Yeas (6).**
  8. **ORDINANCE 24-117 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE SANCTUARY IN MIDDLEFIELD & MARY YODER'S AMISH KITCHEN 5K RACE, WAIVING THE PROHIBITION OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING SAME.** Mr. Klein introduced Ordinance 24-117 by title only. **Mr. Blue made a motion to place Ordinance 24-117 on first reading, motion seconded by Mr. Klein. All in favor: Yeas (6).**
  9. **ORDINANCE 24-118 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEFIELD, OHIO.** Mr. Klein introduced Ordinance 24-118 by title only. **Mr. Hornung made a motion to place Ordinance 24-118 on first reading, motion seconded by Mr. Morrow. All in favor: Yeas (6).**

**SECOND READING**

1. **ORDINANCE 24-104 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES RELATED TO HIS DAUGHTER'S BACK ALLEY EVENT, WAIVING THE PROHIBITION OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING SAME, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mr. Klein introduced Ordinance 24-104 by title only. **Mr. Blue made a motion to place Ordinance 24-104 on second reading, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. All in favor: Yeas (6).**
2. **ORDINANCE 24-109 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2024 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mr. Klein introduced Ordinance 24-109 by title only. **Mr. Blue**

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made a motion to place Ordinance 24-109 on second reading, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. All in favor: Yeas (6).

**THIRD READING**

1. **RESOLUTION 24-02 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ARCHIVIST TO ACT AS THE DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEFIELD COUNCIL FOR PURPOSE OF REQUIRED PUBLIC RECORDS TRAINING.** Mr. Klein introduced Resolution 24-02 by title only. Mr. Hornung made a motion to **PASS** Resolution 24-02, motion seconded by Mr. Morrow. All in favor: Yeas (6).
2. **ORDINANCE 24-101 AN ORDINANCE REVIEWING THE SCHEDULE OF FEES IMPOSED BY THE VILLAGE PURSUANT TO SECTION 135.09.** Mr. Klein introduced Ordinance 24-101 by title only. Mr. Morrow made a motion to **PASS** Ordinance 24-101, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. All in favor: Yeas (6).
3. **ORDINANCE 24-102 AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE ANNEXATION OF 25.34 ACRES OF LAND IN MIDDLEFIELD TOWNSHIP TO THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEFIELD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mr. Klein introduced Ordinance 24-102 by title only. Mr. Morrow made a motion to **PASS** Ordinance 24-102, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. All in favor: Yeas (6).
4. **ORDINANCE 24-103 AN ORDINANCE IMPLEMENTING SECTIONS 3735.65 THROUGH 3735.70 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, ESTABLISHING AND DESCRIBING THE BOUNDARIES OF COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA IN THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEFIELD AND A TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW COUNCIL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mr. Klein introduced Ordinance 24-103 by title only. Mr. Blue made a motion to **PASS** Ordinance 24-103, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung All in favor: Yeas (6).

**Addition- Motion for Mike Soltis' Retirement:**

Mr. Morrow made a motion to authorize a payment to Mike Soltis of PTO and 25% of his sick time at his current pay rate upon his retirement, motion seconded by Mr. Blue. All in favor: Yeas (6).

**OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Web Site Report – Kim Breyley:** Included in the packet. Ms. Breyley stated users are up and the live camera is viewed regularly.
2. **Council President Position Wage Discussion:**

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**Mr. Hornung made a motion to go into executive session for personnel at 8:55 pm, motion seconded by Mr. Blue. All in favor: Yeas (6).**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS**

**Planning & Zoning (Mayor Garlich/Mr. Klein/Mr. Linberg/Mr. Dietrich/Ms. Shaffer) –** February meeting minutes included in the packet.

**Streets, Sidewalks, & Utilities (Mr. Seyer/Ms. Arganti/ Ben Garlich) –** February meeting minutes included in the packet.

**Economic Development Committee (Mayor Garlich, Ms. Arganti, Mr. Klein, Mr. Michalakes, Mr. Dietrich, Ms. Breyley, Ms. Martin) –** No meeting in February.

**Parks & Recreation (Mr. Blue/ Ms. Arganti/ Mayor Garlich/ Ms. Naples/ Mr. Soltis) –** February meeting minutes included in the packet.

**Finance & Ordinance (Ms. Arganti/ Mr. Klein/Mr. Blue) –** February meeting minutes included in the packet.

**Public Safety (Mr. Morrow/ Mr. Hornung/Mr. Seyer) –** February meeting minutes included in the packet.

**VILLAGE CALENDAR:** (ALL MEETING DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

**MARCH –** (Subject to change)

March 12, 2024 5:00PM STREETS, SIDEWALKS & UTILITIES

March 12, 2024 5:30PM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

March 12, 2024 6:00PM PLANNING COMMISSION

March 14, 2024 5:30PM RECREATION

March 14, 2024 6:00PM FINANCE & ORDINANCE

March 14, 2024 6:30PM SAFETY

March 14, 2024 7:00PM COUNCIL

**APRIL –** (Subject to change)

April 9, 2024 5:30PM STREETS, SIDEWALKS & UTILITIES

April 9, 2024 6:00PM PLANNING COMMISSION

April 11, 2024 5:30PM RECREATION

April 11, 2024 6:00PM FINANCE & ORDINANCE

April 11, 2024 6:30PM SAFETY

April 11, 2024 7:00PM COUNCIL

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Mr. Klein made a motion to adjourn from executive session at 9:10 pm, motion seconded by Mr. Blue. All in favor: Yeas (6).

**ADJOURNMENT**

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Mr. Hornung motioned to adjourn the Council meeting at 9:10 PM, motion seconded by Mr. Klein. All in favor: Yeas. (5)

**PENDING**

Tabled: Resolution 21-08

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
FISCAL OFFICER