

Minutes of the Special City of Middleton Common Council and Town of Springfield Board Meeting

December 17, 2019 5:30 p.m.
Middleton City Hall Council Chambers

Call to Order

Mayor Brar called the meeting of the Middleton City Council to order at 5:30 p.m.
Chairperson Pulvermacher called the meeting of the Town of Springfield Board to order at 5:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Middleton City Council

Present: Mayor Brar, Burck, Fuszard, Kuhn, Nelson, Olson, Ramsey, Sullivan, West.

Absent: None

Town of Springfield Board

Present: Pulvermacher, Dresen, Laufenberg, Meinholz,

Absent: Statz

Discussion Only

1.) Overview of the Current City/Town Boundary Agreement

City Administrator Mike Davis provided an overview of the City/Town Boundary Agreement. This agreement was entered into in 2004 with an initial 20-year term. The term has been extended by five years through 2029. The boundary agreement includes several areas that identify potential City growth areas as well as areas for the preservation of farmland and environmental resources.

Chairperson Pulvermacher stated that he would be open to discussing joint zoning with the City of Middleton similar to the arrangement between the City and the Town of Westport.

There was a discussion of the planned North Mendota Parkway and the limitations of state funding for this project.

2.) North Fork of Pheasant Branch Creek Flooding

Water Resources Management Commissioner Warren Gebert provided a presentation on the Upper Pheasant Branch Creek sub-watershed and the impacts of climate change and urbanization on flooding. These changes are causing flood events to become more common and are changing what is considered to be a 100-year storm. Mr. Gebert noted that flood peaks have increased in the South Fork of the Pheasant Branch Creek despite efforts to manage storm water. Mr. Davis noted that as shown in Area B of the City/Town boundary agreement, there is no City growth planned in the Upper Pheasant Branch Creek sub-watershed in the Town of Middleton.

Eric Thompson from MSA Professional Services stated that flooding is a problem now and that additional detention ponds could help to reduce peak flood events.

Supervisor Meinholz asked how much flooding is coming from the North Fork compared to the South Fork. Mr. Thompson stated that increases in development in the South Fork dramatically have increased flows from there, but the North Fork encompasses a larger area by 50%.

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Supervisor Laufenberg asked if it would help to get water through the Pheasant Branch Creek corridor and into Lake Mendota faster. Mr. Thompson said that is a potential strategy but that there is a concern about the impact to those farther downstream.

Chairperson Pulvermacher stated that the Town knows that flooding is an issue. There are farmers in the Town that are concerned that their lands may be taken through condemnation. He hopes that there will be an agreement to only work with willing sellers.

3.) Yahara Materials Quarry

City Attorney Larry Bechler provided an update that the Joint Board of Zoning Appeals upheld the decision of the Town Zoning Administrator to prohibit the quarrying of a 40-acre parcel. This decision could be appealed, or the quarry operator could apply for a conditional use permit.

Chairperson Pulvermacher reported that he will be meeting with representatives of Yahara Materials later this week to look for common ground.

Mr. Bechler noted that there are 120 additional acres that may eventually be quarried.

Chairperson Pulvermacher thanked the City for organizing the joint meeting and suggested scheduling a follow-up meeting. Mayor Brar thanked the members of the Town Board for holding the joint meeting.

Adjourn

Town of Springfield:

Moved by Pulvermacher, seconded by Meinholz, to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. Motion to adjourn passed 4-0.

City of Middleton:

Moved by Burck, seconded by Fuszard to adjourn the meeting at 6:36 p.m. Motion to adjourn passed 8-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Burns, City of Middleton Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director

Note: These minutes were prepared by Bill Burns, Assistant City Administrator/Finance Director, are based on the notes of the recorder, and are subject to change at a subsequent meeting.