

At 5:30 p.m., Mayor Condrey called the City Council Meeting to order in Council Chambers, Lower Level of the City Building.

ROLL CALL

City Council Members present: Z. Ferrell, M. Nenni, T. Moon, R. Muterspaw, N. Condrey.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Condrey presented Susan Cohen the following Certificate of Appreciation for her service to the City of Middletown.

Susan Cohen

WHEREAS, Susan Cohen began her career with the City of Middletown in 2013 as the Assistant Prosecutor and was promoted to Assistant Law Director in 2015. On January 1, 2018 she was reclassified as General Counsel for the City of Middletown and was named the Administrative Services Director on January 1, 2019; and

WHEREAS, in November 2019, Susan Cohen was named Acting City Manager and she demonstrated incredible strength and wisdom as she guided our City through the unique challenges caused by the global COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. She has served the City well as the Assistant City Manager since April 6, 2021. Susan’s friendly, approachable style has earned the respect and admiration of all those with whom she has worked and the City of Middletown is grateful for her dedicated leadership; and

WHEREAS, Susan Cohen’s hard work and dedication have positively impacted the quality of life for residents throughout her career and the City of Middletown is a better place for her service.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Nicole Condrey, by the powers vested in me as Mayor of the City of Middletown, on behalf of the City Council, City Staff and Citizens of our City, do hereby present this certificate of appreciation and to extend best wishes in all her future endeavors to

Susan Cohen

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereby set my hand and affixed the seal of the City of Middletown this 15th day of March, 2022.

**PRESENTATION
Adam Johnson**

Mayor Condrey presented Adam’s Johnson’s family the following Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding community service.

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS THAT

Adam Johnson

**has been presented with this Certificate of Appreciation for
OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE**

Adam Johnson diligently served the citizens of our community as a Park Board member for 2 years and as Park Board Chairman for one year. Mr. Johnson’s experience, leadership, and local perspective were instrumental in many successful accomplishments of the Park Board.

He courageously accepted the Chairman position as a newer member, showed genuine interest and participation in the Tree Commission Academy, and confidently represented Park Board at City Council meetings and shared his experience and knowledge. His efforts helped direct and strengthen our City’s park system and urban forest and will continue improving every citizens’ quality of life. The City of Middletown is proud to acknowledge his outstanding contributions and recognizes that because of his service the City of Middletown is a better place to live, work and raise families. The City of Middletown and City of Middletown Park Board extends our deepest thank you to Mr. Johnson’s family for his service and contribution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto set our hand this 15th day of March, 2022.

Park Board member Steve Lewis commented that Adam was one of my heroes because he was just a citizen that wanted to be involved. He was not too pleased when I nominated him to be chair of the Park Board but I felt that just a taxpayer, a normal citizen needed to be the chair. We needed someone that was interested in their community and immediately Adam jumped right on. When he got onto Tree Academy, I think it opened his eyes up to how much a tree canopy in the City means to the citizens, how much the parks mean to the citizens. To have their home where Adam grew up and where Barb and the children live they moved back in. It's a great love story, to have a family that's involved in Middletown. It was a just a perfect setup. It absolutely broke my heart. Within five weeks it made it very, very real to me just how evil Covid could be. It absolutely put me back in my place with the seriousness and what the country had to go through and what our City had to go through. The plaque that you have there is some local walnut that a good friend, Jeremy Loukinas made the gavel and engraved that just for you guys for a little bit of remembrance. Jeremy, is also part of the Board and has been a big advocate that people get involved and help your community. We need as much participation as possible. But to you guys, you will be remembering your father and anything we can do to help we're there for you and again we appreciate his service.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Condrey welcomed several Vietnam Veteran’s to the podium and presented the following proclamation recognizing March 29, 2022 as Vietnam Veterans Day.

Vietnam Veteran's Day

WHEREAS, on January 12, 1962, United States Army pilots lifted more than 1,000 South Vietnamese service members over jungle and underbrush to capture a National Liberation Front stronghold near Saigon. Operation Chopper marked America's first combat mission against the Viet Cong, and the beginning of one of our longest and most challenging wars; and

WHEREAS, through more than a decade of conflict that tested the fabric of our Nation, the service of our men and women in uniform stood true. Fifty-eight years after that fateful mission, we honor the more than three million Americans who served, we pay tribute to those we have laid to rest, and we reaffirm our dedication to showing a generation of veterans the respect and support of a grateful Nation and City: and

WHEREAS, the Vietnam War is a story of service members of different backgrounds, colors, and creeds who came together to complete a daunting mission. It is a story of Americans from every corner of our Nation and Middletown, Ohio who left the warmth of their families to serve a country that they loved. It is a story of patriots who braved the line of fire, who cast themselves into harm's way to save a friend, who fought hour after hour, day after day, to preserve the liberties we hold dear. From Operation Chopper to Hue, they won every major battle of war and upheld the highest traditions of our Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, eleven years of combat left their imprint on a generation. Thousands returned home bearing shrapnel and scars; missing limbs and spirits broken and still more were burdened by the invisible wounds of post-traumatic stress, of Agent Orange, of memories that would never fade. More than 58,000 laid down their lives in service to our Nation and Middletown. Now and forever, their names are etched into two faces of black granite, a lasting memorial to those who bore conflicts greatest cost; and

WHEREAS, our Middletown veterans answered our country's call and served with honor, and on March 29, 1973, the last of our troops left Vietnam. Yet, in one of the war's most profound tragedies, many of these men and women came home to be shunned or neglected – to face treatment unbecoming their courage and a welcome unworthy of their example. We must never let this happen again; and

WHEREAS, today, we reaffirm one of our most fundamental obligations: to show all who have worn the uniform of the United States Armed Forces the respect and dignity they deserve, and to honor their sacrifice by serving them as well as they served us. More than a half a century after those helicopters swept off the ground and into the annals of history, we pay tribute to the fallen, the missing, the wounded, the millions who served and the millions who awaited their return. Our Nation and the City of Middletown stand stronger for their service, and on Vietnam Veterans Day, we honor their proud legacy with our deepest gratitude.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Nicole Condrey, Mayor of the City of Middletown, Counties of Butler and Warren, State of Ohio, do hereby recognize and celebrate March 29, 2022, as

Vietnam Veterans Day 2022

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I, hereunto set my hand and cause this seal to be affixed this 15th day of March, 2022.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Jeff Payne, DMI

Jeff Payne, Executive Director of Downtown Middleton Inc., 1050 Central Avenue, Middletown, Ohio announced the ninth annual Women's Wine and Chocolate Walk event will be on May 14th. Tickets are on sale for the event.

Steve Lewis

Steve Lewis, 4614 Wicklow Drive, Middletown Ohio congratulated Chief Lolli on his new position and assured him that we're all behind you. It would be wonderful if you might be able to visit for one meeting all the different commissions and boards just so they can get to meet you and you can get a glimpse of what all these volunteers are doing. You all will be getting some information about a project that's been going on or being discussed up at the old hospital site. I would hope that all of you do some due diligence and look at it very intensely. I will certainly be back to discuss it.

DeAngela McKnight

DeAngela McKnight, 700 20th Avenue, Middletown, Ohio stated that on January 31st, my mom called me she had let her dog out to use the bathroom. Unfortunately, a pit bull came in our yard attacked him and mauled him to death. I called the police between 12:30 and 1 p.m. They never showed up. I called again at 4:30. They said she had left for the day. So, the dispatcher said she would take the message and give it to her. Officer Morgan was the one who initially answered the phone and she said he didn't give her the message but anyway the next morning the police dog warden called us and she took my information and said she'll get back with us or whatever, but she didn't. She never followed up. My mom is 83 years old, this was her protector, this was her companion. We've having problems since this happened but the problem I'm having is I called the Police department and they didn't come. Then we showed up for court on February 18th, we weren't on the docket, we still haven't heard anything. We don't know what the status is. Is this a city that has police to help citizens or not? I would like for you all to take this follow up give me the answers. I need to know what the City is going to do because this was a dog that was murdered and we don't have any information

and we shouldn't have to keep going through this. When I was here for court on February 18th and found out we weren't on the docket, I went downstairs to talk to the Police Chief about it. He was in a meeting, that's when I talked to Officer Morgan. If they would have come when they were supposed to they would have got the dog, now there is a dangerous dog running loose probably going to kill another one in that block. There are senior citizens, people in wheel-chairs, we would like someone to personally contact us and let us know what's going on because you're not doing anything right now.

Monique Patterson

Monique Patterson, 510 14th Avenue also spoke about the dog mauling incident. On January the 31st the dog went into my mom's yard and attacked our family dog. I had reached out to the dog warden. I'm concerned with how it was handled. It was never handled professionally. I called her, she never called me back. I finally came down here to the City Building to speak with her. Now this is what I didn't understand. The process of her taking the police report when she came out was that she wrote the information on her hand. I guess that's the form for a police report! She said you'll have to show up in court on the 18th, she never gave me a time or any details. I've only been in court probably with traffic violations, I didn't know the process. I didn't know how to handle this. I called back and it was a very nice police dispatcher she was able to go into the computer and tell me what time and where to go. So, my sister and I show up for court and we weren't even on the docket, they couldn't even find the police report! Supposedly somebody was going to talk to the young lady about it but that wasn't good enough for me you. I pay my tax dollars and I don't feel like this was handled correctly. You all need to know what kind of staff you are hiring.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Muterspaw

Mr. Muterspaw thanked the Vietnam Veterans who came down today, hats off to you, thank you for coming. Congratulations to Susan Cohen on her new job. I worked with her for years in the building and I wish her the best as she moves on. I want to encourage people to get involved in their community. You don't have an official title or work in the City Building and I think Adam Johnson is a great example. That is how City government is supposed to be, it's supposed to be run by the people. We're just here to help and I think people need to understand that. I'm excited for Paul Lolli, we go way back. We have so much confidence in Paul and his ability to unite and bring it home for us. You know he's a Middletown guy and he's very well respected in the City so we're just excited to have him. I know that he's happy to be here and hopefully he'll continue to stay with us.

Mr. Moon

Mr. Moon commented to the Johnson family, I'm so sorry for your loss can't imagine what you've been through losing your dad and your husband but this City is certainly better off for having had him on Parks Board. Thank you for being here and I'm glad we were able to recognize him tonight. Susan, thank you for your service to the City, for being that steady hand as we made the transition a couple years ago. I can't wait to see the great things you're going to do in Union Township and I appreciate our friendship and all that you've done. Best of luck. Paul, I don't know if you're Chief, Manager or Manager Chief, I haven't figured out what I'm going to call you yet but thank you for stepping up and helping us out. I know you're going to do a great job and you're exactly what this building and the City needs. Whatever you need we are here to support you.

Ms. Nenni

Ms. Nenni recognized the family of Adam Johnson. I've stepped in on the Park Board this year and for the previous two meetings and the sentiment about how much he contributed to Park Board and how much he meant to the members there is something that I can't even put into words. Thank you to his family for being here to help us recognize him and thank you for sharing him with us for the for the time that that you did. I'm so sorry for your loss. I know that Jeri Lewis who has stepped up in his position feels the weight of that very much. Susan, you were my very first point of contact as a new member of City Council and really helped me understand so much about what we're capable of and what we're responsible for. You have just a breadth and depth of knowledge about the City that was invaluable to me at that time. Thank you so much and I wish you the best of luck in your in your continued career in city government. Thank you so much to the Vietnam veterans for your service. My father was a Vietnam veteran. The sacrifice that you made for our country is something that is beyond words. Thank you so much for coming to the City and helping us recognize the Vietnam Veterans Day. Chief Lolli, we're just so happy to have you here, you're a staple of our community and someone who is born and raised Middletown and understands the tone of our community and what we're looking for and the direction that we'd like to go in. I'm looking forward to your steady hand as our Acting City Manager and want you to know that you have my full confidence.

Mr. Ferrell

Mr. Ferrell thanked all the veterans and expressed his appreciation living in a safe country. Susan Cohen, I appreciate your time at Middletown and wish you the best in your new position. To the family of Adam Johnson, I know what it's like to lose your dad at a young age and what I can tell you all these years later is that you will see the things that your dad did now you will see them years later and that's something that can't be replaced, I wish you guys all the best. Congratulations to Chief/ Manager Lolli. You've known my grandpa for years; both of my grandpas are firemen so you have to be somewhat of a good guy. This Friday Berachah Church is having One Special Night which is Middletown's premier special needs prom. There are 70 participants that will be crowned kings and queens as they dance the night away. These participants will be dressed in beautiful outfits, they will have their hair, makeup and nails done.

We are really excited for all the community partners that are sponsoring this powerful event that has 10 school districts participating. I go to Berachah Church and it's something special for me and we continue to give back to the community and this is one of our favorite things that we sponsor and we are so looking forward to it.

Ms. Condrey

Ms. Condrey commented that a friend reminded me that all things work together for good and I'm really pleased that you're here with us Chief and you're willing to take up this position. The path to greatness, success and happiness isn't straight and if you're on a path to somewhere new and great you can prepare all you want for each turn but you're never going to fully be prepared or predict what's around the bend and progress is a mentality and we have to embrace challenges and see them as opportunities hurdles as ways to make it stronger and more equipped to take on the next unknown. No great entity achieved greatness without challenges and in many ways, I think that Mr. Palenick's time here in Middletown brought about a lot of long-term needed changes that brought us to where we are right now. Middletown has a lot of major opportunities some of which directly in front of us, a lot of which are just around the next bend in our path and I know City Council came to the decision to have Chief Lolli sitting here today from unique and different angles. Certainly, I think we can't argue that part we came to it at different paces and each very strongly though united in the end, which is a really good sign for the City's future. I'm confident his leadership and his motivations and I'm excited to take on the next steps of this path to greatness for our City. Middletown definitely turned a corner the sun is shining very brightly. I've already used more metaphors about fire in the last 36 hours than probably Lolli would ever care to admit or even knows. Drinking from a fire hose, hair on fire, putting out fires. Chief Lolli has invited each of the council members to attend one of the senior staff meetings and I thought that was a really great idea and one of his goals is to break down the barriers between City staff and City Council we can work more in unison. I knew when he showed General McRaven's graduation speech as the first thing he showed his staff that we had a real leader and I am really excited for what you're going to do for this City in that role.

CITY MANAGER

Acting City Manager Lolli thanked the family of Adam Johnson and commented that its citizens who step up to the plate and serve that make Middletown a special place. Thank you to the Vietnam vets, when I first started in the fire service, for the first five- seven years my old timers in the fire service were Vietnam veterans, they molded me into what I am today. They taught me a lot about trust and loyalty especially and together with that my dad was a World War II veteran. Thank you for your service and for your sacrifice. Susan Cohen, I can't say enough, you've been there when I was Fire Chief and guided helped me get through the early years of my tenure as Fire Chief and the last two days you've just been remarkably helpful to me and I hate to see you go but I wish you nothing but the best in success in the future and from the bottom of my heart thank you very much. Thank you to Council for your trust in me and your confidence in me. I think we're going to move forward and do great things together.

CONSENT AGENDA

Receive and file the following board and commission minutes:
Board of Zoning Appeals- February 2, 2022
Board of Health- February 8, 2022
Receive and file an Oath of Office for Michelle Knight

Mr. Moon moved to approve the issues and actions listed on the Consent Agenda. Ms. Nenni seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Ms. Nenni, Mr. Moon, Mr. Muterspaw, Ms. Condrey, Mr. Ferrell.

**MOTION AGENDA
Local Gov
Consultants, LLC**

To enter into a professional services contract with Local Gov Consultants, LLC for assistance with organizational communications at a cost not to exceed \$39,600.

Ms. Nenni moved to enter into a professional services contract with Local Gov Consultants, LLC for assistance with organizational communications at a cost not to exceed \$39,600. Mr. Moon seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Mr. Moon, Mr. Muterspaw, Ms. Condrey, Ms. Nenni, Mr. Ferrell.

**Jacobs Engineering
Aeronca Property**

To enter into a professional services agreement with Jacobs Engineering to conduct additional sampling to characterize potential contamination at the former Aeronca property.

Ms. Nenni moved to enter into a professional services agreement with Jacobs Engineering to conduct additional sampling to characterize potential contamination at the former Aeronca property. Mr. Ferrell seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Mr. Muterspaw, Ms. Condrey, Mr. Ferrell, Ms. Nenni, Mr. Moon.

**WSP USA Central Ave
Improvement Project**

Authorize the City Manager to enter into a professional services contract with WSP USA to provide construction administration and inspection services for the Central Avenue Improvement Project.

Ms. Nenni moved to authorize the City Manager to enter into a professional services contract with WSP USA to provide construction administration and inspection services for the Central Avenue Improvement Project. Mr. Ferrell seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Ms. Condrey, Mr. Ferrell, Ms. Nenni, Mr. Moon, Mr. Muterspaw.

Waive Charter	<p>Ms. Nenni moved to suspend the Charter provision that requires reading on two separate days and to declare Resolution No. R2022-08, Ordinance No. O2022-21, Ordinance No. O2022-22 and Ordinance No. O2022-23, Ordinance No. O2022-24, Ordinance No. O2022-26 emergency measures to be read one time only. Mr. Moon seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Mr. Ferrell, Ms. Nenni, Mr. Moon, Mr. Muterspaw, Ms. Condrey.</p>
Ord. No. O2022-21 Police Vehicles	<p>Ordinance No. O2022-21, an ordinance establishing a procedure for and authorizing a contract with Statewide Ford Lincoln for the purchase of 10 Ford Interceptor utility vehicles for the Division of Police and declaring an emergency was read.</p> <p>Mr. Moon moved to approve Ordinance No. O2022-21, an ordinance establishing a procedure for and authorizing a contract with Statewide Ford Lincoln for the purchase of 10 Ford Interceptor utility vehicles for the Division of Police and declaring an emergency. Mr. Muterspaw seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Ms. Nenni, Mr. Moon, Mr. Muterspaw, Ms. Condrey, Mr. Ferrell.</p>
Res. No. R2022-08 Fund BC Landbank	<p>Resolution No. O2022-08, a resolution to provide funding to the Butler County, Ohio Land Reutilization Corporation in the form of deposit for cooperative efforts between the City and Landbank and declaring an emergency was read.</p> <p>Ms. Nenni moved to approve Resolution No. O2022-08, a resolution to provide funding to the Butler County, Ohio Land Reutilization Corporation in the form of deposit for cooperative efforts between the City and Landbank and declaring an emergency. Mr. Ferrell seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Mr. Moon, Mr. Muterspaw, Ms. Condrey, Ms. Nenni, Mr. Ferrell.</p>
Ord. No. O2022-22 Contract with Water Solutions Unlimited	<p>Ordinance No. O2022-22, an ordinance authorizing a contract with Water Solutions Unlimited for the purchase of sodium hexametaphosphate for use at the Water Treatment Plant for the year 2022 and declaring an emergency was read.</p> <p>Ms. Nenni moved to approve Ordinance No. O2022-22, an ordinance authorizing a contract with Water Solutions Unlimited for the purchase of sodium hexametaphosphate for use at the Water Treatment Plant for the year 2022 and declaring an emergency. Mr. Muterspaw seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Mr. Muterspaw, Ms. Condrey, Ms. Nenni, Mr. Ferrell, Mr. Moon.</p>
Ord. No. O2022-23 Amend JCI Jones Contract	<p>Ordinance No. O2022-23, an ordinance establishing a procedure for and authorizing an amendment to a contract with JCI Jones Chemical, Inc. for the purchase of sodium hypochlorite and declaring an emergency was read.</p> <p>Ms. Nenni moved to approve Ordinance No. O2022-23, an ordinance establishing a procedure for and authorizing an amendment to a contract with JCI Jones Chemical, Inc. for the purchase of sodium hypochlorite and declaring an emergency. Mr. Ferrell seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Ms. Condrey, Mr. Ferrell, Ms. Nenni, Mr. Moon, Mr. Muterspaw.</p>
Ord. No. O2022-24 Warren County 2022 Resurfacing Project	<p>Ordinance No. O2022-24, an emergency ordinance authorizing the City's participation in the Warren County 2022 Resurfacing Project with respect to the portion of the project occurring within the municipal boundaries of the City of Middletown, and declaring an emergency was read.</p> <p>Mr. Moon moved to approve Ordinance No. O2022-24, an emergency ordinance authorizing the City's participation in the Warren County 2022 Resurfacing Project with respect to the portion of the project occurring within the municipal boundaries of the City of Middletown, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Muterspaw seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Mr. Ferrell, Ms. Nenni, Mr. Moon, Mr. Muterspaw, Ms. Condrey.</p>
Ord. No. O2022-26 SBG Ballard Beauty LLC	<p>Ordinance No. O2022-26, an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for a small business grant with Ballard Beauty, LLC and declaring an emergency was read.</p> <p>Ms. Nenni moved to approve Ordinance No. O2022-26, an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement for a small business grant with Ballard Beauty, LLC and declaring an emergency. Mr. Ferrell seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Ms. Nenni, Mr. Moon, Mr. Muterspaw, Mr. Ferrell. Nay: Ms. Condrey.</p>
Ord. No. O2022-28 CGBG Funds	<p>Ordinance No. O2022-28, an ordinance authorizing the submission of an application for federal assistance, an Action Plan and a Projected Use of Funds, under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended for Program Year 2022 was read for the first time.</p>
Ord. No. O2022-29 Sidewinder Electric City Building Generator	<p>Ordinance No. O2022-29, an ordinance establishing a procedure for and authorizing a contract with Sidewinder Electric for the replacement of the City Building generator was read for the first time.</p>

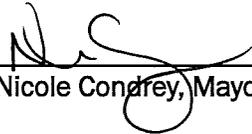
<p>Res. No. R2022-09 Amend Appropriations Police Grant Fund</p>	<p>Resolution No. R2022-09, a resolution to make adjustments to appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Middletown, Counties of Butler and Warren, State of Ohio, for the period ending December 31, 2022 was read for the first time. (Police Grant Fund)</p>
<p>NEW BUSINESS Recording Board & Commission Meetings</p>	<p>Ms. Nenni opened discussion about televising the Planning Commission and Park Board meetings. She spoke to both boards and they were supportive of having their meetings recorded and posted to the City's YouTube page. She encouraged everyone else and all of our other boards and commissions to consider the same.</p>
<p>RFP vs. RFQ. Process</p>	<p>Ms. Condrey opened discussion about the RFP versus the RFQ process. It was her request or desire to use the RFP process more than the request for proposals that is instead of using a request for qualifications when we know the scope of the project. I feel like we may be using the RFQ to use a specific vendor that we want to use but as stewards of our tax paying dollars the more we can do an RFP we can actually find the lowest bidder on things.</p>
<p>Small Business Grants</p>	<p>Ms. Condrey opened a discussion about small business grants. I feel like they are dividing the City more than helping. Ms. Condrey discussed other ways to support small businesses. Maybe the Community Foundation could be an authority that can run the grant process and perhaps payment could go through the Chamber in some fashion. I want to start thinking outside of the box for a way to do this with less stress that still gets us to the goals that we're trying to meet but doesn't put the City in a position where we're just constantly having to choose one business over another in Middletown. We want to support all small businesses and be small business friendly and we want to do it in the right way. Maybe we want to talk about it in a work session. Discussion ensued among the Council about inviting these businesses to engage with the City and letting them know what resources are available to them and also what requirements, permitting, signs and other intricacies are necessary when opening or expanding a business to make sure that they are in full compliance with the City. At the strategic planning session there was a lot of discussion about these small business grants and how we wanted them to be and what policies we wanted to set for the standards for the grants that we wanted to see. There was discussion about bringing in the Community Foundation, the SBA, the Chamber, the Visitor's Bureau, DMI and other community partners and organizations for a work session to talk about the process and what other resources are available to promote small businesses in Middletown. Mr. Muterspaw commented that we need to do a better job of vetting these businesses and that's what staff is for. I have total confidence that it's going to get done with who we have in leadership. I've lived here my whole life other than going to college, Middletown has a horrible reputation of being not business friendly. Sometimes we don't want to look at that and admit it but we do. With that in mind, small business is the backbone of all communities like this. If we don't help out and take care of our neighbors and the people whose kids go to school here and do what we can within reason, I think we're failing our small businesses. I think we can have better requirements but I also think we were elected to do a job on Council and not pass the buck to the foundation or another organization to make the decision. Mr. Moon concurred that we didn't always have the funds to do the small business grants. When I started these would just be one-offs. There was no qualifying, the contracts were kind of made at that point. We're not going to get out of the middle. Maybe we would ship it off to somebody else but then we're still going to get applications because they're still going to be the one-off business that is looking at leaving town but now they're coming back to the City. We're always going to end up in the middle and I agree that's what we're here to do. If we have a questionable one then Council will have to decide to support it or not. Mr. Muterspaw commented that the faces that come in this crowd and I know some of these are small business owners like the one we just voted on tonight and these are our neighbors if we can help them in any way possible. We will drop \$250K on a Hollywoodland study but we won't give somebody a \$6,000 grant without questions. We need to take care of our people the best way we can. Yes, they need to be vetted. I have a passion for the people who are opening these businesses. Mr. Ferrell commented that they're creating jobs. Ms. Nenni commented that the success rate for small businesses is so low and I think that's really the biggest challenge right now. It's about giving the opportunity to the people that need it and keeping the small businesses that we have with their doors open and the lights on and that's for us to decide. Getting community partners involved is a benefit that can go above and beyond if they have resources available as well. We should point people to all resources available to them. Mr. Muterspaw agreed with the Mayor, the rules and requirements need to be followed. I just don't want to hand that off to somebody else and say make that decision for us, that's what we were elected to do, to make the tough decisions. Ms. Condrey commented in our strategic planning session we did ask for certain things to be done and they weren't, so staff needs to listen to council. We put a lot of time and effort into the comments and suggestions that we make and I want to have faith that that's how it's going to be executed instead of having to make phone calls and ask more questions because what we agreed to wasn't done.</p>
<p>EXECUTIVE SESSION</p>	<p>At 6:51 p.m. Mr. Moon moved to adjourn to executive session under the authority of O.R.C. 121.22 (G) (1) To consider the appointment or dismissal of a public official and to discuss the investigation of complaints against a public official. Ms. Nenni seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Mr. Moon, Mr. Muterspaw, Ms. Condrey, Ms. Nenni, Mr. Ferrell.</p>

RETURN At 7:30 p.m. Mr. Moon moved to return to regular session. Ms. Nenni seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Mr. Muterspaw, Ms. Condrey, Mr. Ferrell, Ms. Nenni, Mr. Moon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION At 7:31 p.m. Mr. Moon moved to adjourn to executive session under the authority of O.R.C. 121.22 (G) (3) Conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action. Ms. Nenni seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Mr. Moon, Mr. Muterspaw, Ms. Nenni, Mr. Ferrell. Abstain: Ms. Condrey. Ms. Condrey did not attend the executive session.

RETURN At 8:10 p.m. Mr. Moon moved to return to regular session. Ms. Nenni seconded. Motion carried. Ayes: Mr. Muterspaw, Mr. Ferrell, Ms. Nenni, Mr. Moon.

JOURNMENT At 8:10 p.m., the meeting was declared adjourned until April 5, 2022 at 5:30 in Council Chambers.



Nicole Condrey, Mayor

Attest: 