

Resolution 2019-31: Airport Master Planning Process

WHEREAS, through Resolution 1998-20, the Middleton Common Council articulated the City's vision for Middleton Municipal Airport at the time it purchased the property from the Morey family; and

WHEREAS, that resolution expressed the City's intent to restrict airport improvements to a runway length of 4,000 feet with no construction of a crosswind runway, and it furthermore stated that "when and if there is a need to make improvements to the airport, the City will welcome further public input and will hold, at a minimum, one public hearing on the proposed improvements;" and

WHEREAS, upon opening the new airport facilities in 2004, the City rapidly leased all available hangar spaces, and there continues to be strong demand for additional hangar space as well as periodic requests for runway improvements; and

WHEREAS, the airport serves a broad range of users, including MedFlight, flight training, and delivery services; is an important component of the area's storm water management system; and accommodates numerous community-oriented events and activities each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the Common Council decided to prepare an airport master plan—the first since the City's acquisition of the airport—and authorized the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics to enter into an agreement with Mead & Hunt to undertake this work; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2019, the Common Council established an ad hoc Airport Master Plan Advisory Committee (AMPAC) to help guide the master planning process, with the understanding that the committee is advisory to the Airport Commission and Common Council and therefore does not have any decision-making authority; and

WHEREAS, the advisory committee's 12 members were selected to reflect a range of perspectives about the airport and to help serve as a conduit for information among various interest groups.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Middleton's desired outcome of this planning process is for a master plan defining an airport that meets the general aviation needs of the city and nearby communities for the next 20 years without significantly changing the mix of small aircraft currently using the airport; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council encourages Airport Master Plan Advisory Committee members to suggest topics they feel should receive greater analysis but at the same time directs that they adhere to the scope of services and timeline agreed to between the City, the Bureau of Aeronautics, and Mead & Hunt, recognizing that any future decision to proceed with a major project will necessitate further study and environmental analysis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that because AMPAC members serve only in an advisory capacity, the Council deems that none of the members has an inherent conflict of interest prohibiting them from serving as equal members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council reiterates its commitment to conduct a community survey of residents of the City and the Towns of Middleton and Springfield after the airport master plan has been drafted and before it is adopted, and to hold a series of public hearings before deciding whether to proceed with any potential airport expansion project.

This resolution was adopted at a regular Council meeting on the ___ day of August, 2019.

By: _____
Gurdip Brar, Mayor

Attest: _____
Michelle Marx, Acting City Clerk

VOTE: Ayes: _____ Noes: _____ Not Voting: _____ Published: _____