

April 22, 2008 - Special Town Council Meeting

At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown, RI, held at the Middletown Town Hall on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.

Council President Paul M. Rodrigues, Presiding

Vice Chair Shirley R. Mello

Councillor Barbara A. Barrow, arrives at 6:07 P.M.

Councillor Louis P. DiPalma

Councillor M. Theresa Santos

Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr., Members Present

Councillor Robert J. Sylvia, Absent

POSTED – April 17, 2008

Wendy J.W. Marshall, Town Clerk

Town of Middletown

Town Hall – 350 East Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island 02842

Dear Mrs. Marshall:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article II, Section 203 of the Town Charter and in accordance with Sections 42-46-2. and 42-46-6., RIGL, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Town Council to formally consider, discuss and act upon the following item of business:

**Joint Meeting with the Charter Review Committee – Proposed
amendments to the Town Charter**

**Said meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2008, at 6:00 P.M. at
the Middletown Town Hall, Council Chambers, 350 East Main Road,
Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.**

Paul M. Rodrigues, President

Middletown Town Council

CC:

Town Council

Town Administrator

Town Solicitor

Public Library

This meeting location is accessible to the handicapped. Individuals requiring interpreter services for the hearing-impaired should notify the Town Clerk's Office at 847-0009 not less than 48 hours before the meeting.

On motion of Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.

Present representing the Charter Review Committee were Barbara A. VonVillas, Chair, Lucie-Anne Dionne-Thomas, Secretary and members Francis Forgue, Virgel Blaschke, Liz Bozyan and David Leys.

Town Solicitor Francis Holbrook explained that the committee reviewed the correct charter. Mr.Holbrook, Attorney Roland Chase

and Barbara VonVillas, Charter Review Committee Chair have met and reviewed all the proposed changes of the current charter and the document here tonight shows the current proposed changes.

Barbara VonVillas, Chair of the Charter Review Committee addressed the Council reviewing the process the committee followed when determining revisions to the current charter. The committee met monthly, agreed to be gender neutral throughout the charter, not all votes were unanimous, all meetings were posted, and minutes were taken.

The following sections were reviewed:

- 1. Section 201. Number; selection and term of members**
- 2. Section 202. Qualification of members; vacancy occurs if member becomes disqualified. (gender changed)**
- 3. Section 204. Presiding officer (gender change) – It was mentioned that this section needs more definition to define when the**

President would be elected.

4. Section 205. Compensation of president and members (gender change)

5. Section 207 (g). Power to determine policy; other enumerated powers (Change will give Town Council more flexibility)

6. Section 207 (p). It was noted that this section should contain language as in Section 814.

7. Section 211. Conflicts of interest

It was requested that the Town Solicitor Francis Holbrook revise this section to make it more explicit.

8. Section 301. Status, and responsibilities generally (gender change)

9. Section 302. By whom chosen; qualifications; residence (gender change)

10. Section 303. Appointment, term of office, suspension and removal (gender change)

11. Section 304 (a). Enumeration of power and duties (gender

change)

12. Section 304 (c). (gender change) It was requested to also revise this section using the term department heads and not list specific positions.

13. Section 304 (d). (gender change)

14. Section 304 (e). (gender change)

15. Section 304 (g). (gender change)

16. Section 304 (h). (gender change)

17. Section 305. Non-interference by the council -The change clarifies responsibilities and protects the Town Council.

18. Section 306. Authority to perform duties of other administrative officers, and to assign duties of two or more administrative officers to one person (gender change)

19. Section 307. Who acts in absence to town administrator (gender change)

20. Section 308. Filling vacancy in office; interim town administrator (gender change)

21. Section 404. Recall/Removal –A request was made to the Town Solicitor to add additional language to this section for more clarification.

A meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May 1, 2008 at 6:00 P.M. to finish reviewing the proposed changes to the charter.

On motion of Vice Chair Mello, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 6:50P.M.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk