

## **June 9, 2010 - Special Town Council Meeting**

**At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown, RI, held at the Gaudet Middle School Cafeteria, Aquidneck Avenue on Monday, June 9, 2010 at 6:00 P.M.**

**Council President Christopher T. Semonelli, Presiding**

**Vice Chairman Richard Cambra**

**Councillor Frank A. Bozyan**

**Councillor M. Theresa Santos**

**Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr.**

**Councillor Robert J. Sylvia**

**Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present**

**POSTED – June 4, 2010**

**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., 42-46-4. and 42-46-6., RIGL, I hereby call a Special Meeting of the Town Council to formally consider, discuss and act upon the following items of business:**

**Public Hearing (Advertised)**

**An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenues of the General Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, as amended”.**

**Public Hearing (Advertised)**

**An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenues of the Parks and Recreation Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, as amended”.**

**Public Hearing (Advertised)**

**An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of**

**Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenues of the Sewer Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, as amended”.**

**Public Hearing (Advertised)**

**An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenue of the Refuse and Recycling Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, as amended”.**

**Said meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 9, 2010, at 6:00 P.M. at the Gaudet Middle School Cafeteria, Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.**

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**Christopher T. Semonelli,**

**President**

**Middletown Town Council**

**cc:**

**Town Council**

**School Department**

**Town Administrator**

**Senior Center**

**Town Solicitor**

**Police Dept.**

**Finance Director**

**Fire Dept.**

**Public Library**

**Public Works**

**Tax Assessor**

**Building Inspector**

**Town Planner**

**IT Director**

**Parks/Recreation**

**Town Engineer**

**Human Resource Director**

**School Department**

**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.**

**Also present were Town Administrator Shawn Brown, Finance**

**Director Lynne Dible, Deputy Finance Director Marc Tanguay and Accounting Manager Deborah Barrett.**

**Present, representing the School Department, were Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger, Assistant Superintendent Linda Savastano, Business Manager Raquel Pellerin, Director of Facilities Edward Collins, School Committee Chair Michael Crowley, Vice Chair Theresa Spengler, members Kellie DiPalma, Liana Ferreira Fenton and William R. O'Connell.**

**Public Hearing (Advertised)**

**An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled "Appropriating Revenues of the General Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, as amended".**

**Council President Semonelli gave an overview of the budget process,**

**explaining the financial difficulties and challenges the Town and School encountered during budget preparation. Mr. Semonelli noted the State Funding Formula for Education will impact the School Budget in the upcoming years.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown reviewed a power point presentation explaining the budget process. A copy of the presentation is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.**

**Public Hearing was declared open.**

**Samantha Corriman, 313 Berkeley Avenue, freshman at Middletown High School, requests the sports program to be funded. Ms. Corriman suggests fundraising to support the sports program.**

**Taylor Gilman, 9 Circle Drive, noted that sports teams are part of her**

**family and participating in sports will help her when applying for college scholarships.**

**Kaylin Maddox, 630 East Main Road, reviewed Middletown High School's mission statement and commented that sports are a privilege that should not be taken away.**

**Grace Eng, 10 Coggeshall Way, noted the importance of activities at the high school and requests the boards and clubs remain in place.**

**Shaylah Morse, 600 Paradise Avenue, explained that she has gained confidence through sports programs and elimination of sports would harm school spirit.**

**Merri Lade, 23 High Meadow Court, addressed the Council noting concern regarding the loss of a school nurse. Ms. Lade explained that the students will be at risk.**

**Emily Daughan, 163 Trout Drive, urged the administration to allow room in the budget for afterschool activities.**

**Molly Dickinson, 192 Peckham Avenue, explained that she understands that in order to reside in a nice Town and maintain services, there will be an increase in taxes.**

**Ella Miller, 150 Forest Avenue, noted support for the sports programs, explaining the elimination may cause an increase in drug and alcohol use.**

**Shannon Lewis, 85 Lighthouse View Drive, noted she is a volunteer and coach in the Middletown School system. Ms. Lewis explained without sports, enrollment may decrease causing an adverse affect in the Town and suggested exploring other avenues to save money.**

**Stephanie Tierno, 28 Harvey Road, addressed the Council noting concern with the cuts to sports and offered to assist with fundraising**

**to support sports programs.**

**Stacey McBride, 66 Atlantic Drive, requests retaining a full time nurse position in each school, noting this is a safety issue.**

**Nancy Chapman, 75 Evelyn Circle, noted she will choose to leave Middletown if sports are cut.**

**MacKenzie Lade, 23 High Meadow Court, noted concern with the elimination of a school nurse, explaining she wants all students to be safe at school.**

**Carmela Geer, 10 Wood Road, addressed the Council explaining you cannot put a price tag on safety, education, and the future.**

**Art Benner, 3 Namquid Drive, noted his concern that older taxpayers**

**cannot afford a tax increase. Mr. Benner requests the Council to take a stand and conserve.**

**Katrina Molenda, 119 Wyndham Hill Road, explained that her family moved to Middletown because of the schools. Ms. Molenda noted her opposition to the elimination of the sports programs.**

**Manuel Mello, 3 Beacon Terrace North, noted the school ended the last fiscal year with a surplus of funds, which should be used to fund the nurse and sports.**

**Annie Tatirosian, 4 Bartlett Road, addressed the Council noting in the current economic climate it is unrealistic to have a 0% tax increase. Ms. Tatirosian requests the Council to fully fund the school to maintain activities.**

**Jacob Hatch, 32 View Avenue, noted he is a diabetic at Middletown High School. Mr. Hatch explained he feels much more comfortable at**

**school with a nurse present.**

**Antone Viveiros, 110 Indian Hill Road, explained the Town is in a predicament due to budget problems at the State level. Mr. Vivieros questioned the amount of funds saved by closing Kennedy School.**

**Superintendent Kraeger, responding to Mr. Viveiros, explained the savings recognized from the closing of Kennedy School. Mrs. Kraeger also noted that school staff did not receive a salary increase during the last fiscal year.**

**Kim Fuller, 150 Forest Avenue, noted the need for everyone to pull together and come up with some creative solutions to balance the Town budget.**

**Jane Serenska, 119 Niagara Street, commented she is proud of the school, the community and would like to continue at Middletown High School.**

**Laura Peters, 5 Caswell Avenue, requests the Council to reconsider increasing the civic appropriation to the Healing Co-Op.**

**Chris Epperson, 390 Indian Avenue, explained the importance of the Substance Abuse Task Force and requests the Council to restore funding.**

**Samantha Richard, 350 Compton View Drive, noted that many people have come forward with good ideas to help balance the budget. Ms. Richard commented that most residents have indicated the willingness to accept a tax increase to maintain services.**

**Bruce Long, One Winfield Court, requests the Council to restore funding to the Substance Abuse Task Force.**

**David Kilroy, 182 Boulevard, noted that everyone needs to learn to live with a little less and make scarifies.**

**There being no other persons present desiring to be heard, public hearing remains open.**

**On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said FY11 General Fund budget ordinance, as amended, on its first reading.**

**Public Hearing (Advertised)**

**An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenues of the Parks and Recreation Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, as amended”.**

**Public Hearing was declared open.**

**There being no persons desiring to be heard, public hearing remains open.**

**On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said FY11 Parks and Recreation Fund budget ordinance, as amended, on its first reading.**

**Public Hearing (Advertised)**

**An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenues of the Sewer Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, as amended”.**

**Public Hearing was declared open.**

**Josie Rock, 194 Kane Avenue, addressed the Council expressing concern with funds to be used for infrastructure improvements, noting the need to cease building within the Town.**

**There being no other persons present desiring to be heard, public hearing remains open.**

**On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said FY11 Sewer Fund budget ordinance, as amended, on its first reading.**

**Public Hearing (Advertised)**

**An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)**

**An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown entitled “Appropriating Revenue of the Refuse and Recycling Fund for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011, as amended”.**

**Public Hearing was declared open.**

**Antone Viveiros, 110 Indian Hill Road, suggests increasing the PAYT bag fee rather than the participation fee. Mr. Vivieros noted this gives the resident the opportunity to reduce their trash.**

**Art Benner, 3 Namquid Drive, noted the potential funding short fall for the Pay as You Throw Program for the upcoming fiscal year and suggested to wait on increasing the participation fee.**

**Payson Fugitt, 1 Kent Road, explained the Pay As You Throw program is an expensive system with many deficiencies. Mr. Fugitt suggests the permit fee be set at half price for summer residents.**

**Theresa Spengler, 1111 Wapping Road, noted increasing the bag price and doubling the participation fee is not a good idea.**

**Janice Sullivan, 140 Meadow Lane, questioned if doubling the participation fee would make the program fully funded. Ms. Sullivan noted that the proposed participation fee is not unreasonable.**

**Town Administrator Shawn Brown, responding to Ms. Sullivan, explained the increase in the PAYT participation fee will support the program.**

**There being no other persons present desiring to be heard, public hearing remains open.**

**On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted to**

**receive said FY11 Refuse and Recycling Fund budget ordinance, as amended, on its first reading; Councillor Sylvia voted NO to said motion.**

**On motion of Vice Chairman Cambra, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 8:25 P.M.**

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**Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC**

**Council Clerk**

**June 9, 2010 - Special Town Council Meeting**

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