

June 14, 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 14, 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 10, 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)
(Public Hearing remains open)

An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (Second 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)
(Public Hearing remains open)

An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (Second 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)
(Public Hearing remains open)

An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (Second 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)

(Public Hearing remains open)

An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (Second 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 Monday, June 14, 2010, at 6:00 P.M. at the Gaudet Middle School Cafeteria, Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.

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

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, School Committee Chair Michael Crowley, Vice Chair Theresa Spengler, members Kellie DiPalma, Liana Ferreira Fenton and William R. O'Connell.

Public Hearing (Advertised)

(Public Hearing remains open)

An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (Second 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 remains open.

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.

Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger reviewed the funding formula legislation recently passed, noting it is based on the Town's ability to tax capacity and will equalize the schools across the State. Mrs. Kraeger noted areas of service that have been regionalized within the School Department, and explained the administration continues to seek additional revenue sources.

Shannon Lewis, 85 Lighthouse View Drive, questioned if the taxes collected make up the entire budget and if reserves can be used for funding this year. Ms. Lewis requests both the Town and School use reserve funds.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown, responding to Ms. Lewis, noted reserves are not intended to support operations; it would cause a structural deficit.

Superintendent Rosemarie Kraeger noted some of the reserves are restricted for school lunch, grants and the capital improvement program.

Stephanie Joslyn, 16 Murphy Circle, Junior at Middletown High School, noted her support for music. Ms. Joslyn explained that music has helped her leadership and confidence skills.

Penny McGrath, 192 Jones Street, noted the importance of sports to her freshman son. Ms. McGrath offered to volunteer with fundraising and marketing to support sports programs.

School Committee Chairman Michael Crowley explained that Middletown has a variety of sports available to the students. Mr. Crowley supports opportunities for the students.

Manuel Mello, Beacon Terrace North, noted that the school fund balance should be used to support sports and a school nurse.

Megan Daughan, 163 Trout Drive, former Middletown School student, explained that participating in a variety of activities in high school helped her learn time management skills and prepared her for college.

Albert Walker, 106 Admiralty Drive, Junior Middletown High School, explained the importance of chorus and piano, commenting that these activities assist him in learning academics.

Mary Wiley, 4 Toni Lynn Terrace, noted the dedication of the Middletown residents, the importance of all working together for the students and the Town's future.

Antone Viveiros, 110 Indian Hill Road, noted the financial stress on households in the community, requests the Town and School to make a priority list and employees to take a pay freeze.

Carol Cummings, 738 Indian Avenue, requests commercial properties to be reassessed, and noted her belief that the Town budget is padded.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown, responding to Ms. Cummings, noted the proposed budget was intended to address the budget short

fall in the out years.

Jim Teeters, 25 Lighthouse View Drive, sympathized with those on fixed incomes and questioned why the Town was confined to fund the community with Town taxes.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown, responding to Mr. Teeters, explaining that State Statute dictates how Towns can raise funds.

Kathleen Connell, 233 Tuckerman Avenue, noted education needs to be funded differently and the Town needs to address areas where cuts can be made.

Machele Harris, 36 Race Street, noted her support to retain a school nurse and the importance of sports and music in the schools.

Steve Fagan, 5 Toni Lynn Terrace, Middletown High School Teacher, noted his concern with the elimination of a school nurse. Mr. Fagan also fears class size will be over capacity and will directly affect the quality of education.

Paul Mankofsky, 20 Pequot Lane, noted the Town cannot continue to squeeze the taxpayers and requests the Town to cut the budget.

Merri Lade, 23 High Meadow Court, noted concern with the elimination of a school nurse explaining that the children in the Town need to come first.

Nan Heroux, 7 Granada Terrace, requests the Council to continue funding the Middletown Substance Abuse Task Force. Ms. Heroux noted the two Town ordinances that were recently passed to limit the availability of alcohol to teens.

Wendy Lord Harvey, 819 Aquidneck Avenue, member of the

Substance Abuse Task Force, requests the Council to restore funding to the Substance Abuse Task Force. Ms. Harvey read a letter from her son in support of the Task Force and the need for drug and alcohol education.

Dave Huntoon, 7 South Drive, questioned the affect the motor vehicle exemption has on the tax rate and clarification of the education funding formula. Mr. Huntoon noted the importance of public involvement in building a solution for the future.

Councillor Santos left the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown, responding to Mr. Huntoon, explained that legislation presently allows the Town to tax motor vehicles.

Anne Coogan, 31 Wintergreen Drive, Middletown School teacher, explained that extracurricular activities make good citizens and

requests support of the school budget.

Molly Dickinson, 192 Peckham Avenue, suggests the Council involve residents with solutions to the budget in the upcoming years.

Paul Borges, 322 Vauclose Avenue, noted his support of the sports program; explaining that sports are an important part of the culture of the community and sports rewards students for working hard in the classroom.

There being no other persons present desiring to be heard on this matter, the public hearing was declared closed.

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

Public Hearing (Advertised)
(Public Hearing remains open)

An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (Second 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 remains open.

There being no persons present desiring to be heard on this matter, the public hearing was declared closed.

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 second reading.

Public Hearing (Advertised)
(Public Hearing remains open)

An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (Second 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 remains open.

There being no persons present desiring to be heard on this matter, the public hearing was declared closed.

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

**Public Hearing (Advertised)
(Public Hearing remains open)**

An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (Second 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 remains open.

There being no persons present desiring to be heard on this matter, the public hearing was declared closed.

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 second 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 8:45 P.M.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk

June 14, 2010 - Special Town Council Meeting

Published by ClerkBase

©2010 by Clerkbases. No Claim to Original Government Works.