

June 1, 2011 - 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 Wednesday, June 1, 2011 at 6:00 P.M.

Council President Arthur S. Weber, Jr., Presiding

Vice President Bruce J. Long, arrives at 6:03 pm

Councillor Richard Cambra

Councillor Christopher T. Semonelli

Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr.

Councillor Antone C. Viveiros

Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present

POSTED – May 27, 2011

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., 42-46-5. 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:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

Also present were Town Administrator Shawn Brown, Town Solicitor Michael Miller, Finance Director Lynne Dible, Deputy Finance Director Marc Tanguay and Accounting Manager Deborah Barrett.

Vice President Long requested that item #2 be moved to the top of the agenda.

Town Solicitor Michael Miller recused himself from acting on the following petition, due to a possible conflict of interest.

ACTING AS A BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSION

1. Formerly Item #2. Petition of Olin D. Gambrell, President and Beverly J. Travis, Secretary, All-Vets Club, 985 Aquidneck Avenue, re: Request for expansion of Class D Alcoholic Beverage License to provide outdoor service on June 5, 2011, Viking Riders Blessing of the Bikes fundraiser.

On motion of Councillor Semonelli, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said petition.

Olin Gambrell, President of the All-Vets Club, noted the request is for the Blessing of the Bikes which is a fundraiser for the club.

Ray Abraham, 999 Aquidneck Avenue, abutter to the All-Vets Club, noted his opposition to liquor being allowed outside of the club. Mr. Abraham explained concerns with poor language and vandalism to his property.

Mr. Gambrell noted the installation of a video camera at the club and willingness to resolves issues with the club's abutter.

Council President Weber requests Mr. Gambrell to supervise the event and work with Mr. Abraham to improve relations.

Vice President Long noted the close proximity of the house to the club, inquiring the necessity for outdoor service of alcohol.

Mr. Gambrell, responding to Vice President Long, explained the bar will not be outside; patrons would be allowed to bring beverages outside while eating.

On motion of Councillor Silveira, duly seconded, it was voted to grant said request; Councillors Cambra, Semonelli, Silveira, Viveiros, and VonVillas voted YES; Council President Weber and Vice President

Long voted NO.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2. Formerly #1. Pursuant to provisions of RIGL, Sections 42-46-2., 42-46-4., and 42-46-5. (a) (5) land acquisition (West Main Road), (5) land acquisition (Wave Avenue) and (2) collective bargaining (Police, Fire, Public Works and Town Hall Unions).

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to recess to executive session at 6:28 P.M.

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reconvene in open session at 7:28 P.M.

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to approve the economic conveyance process to

acquire the West Main Road property.

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to seal the minutes of the executive session pursuant to Section 42-46-7. RIGL.

Town Solicitor Michael W. Miller left the meeting at 7:30 pm.

BUDGET

3. Final Review of FY 2011–2012 Proposed Budgets and matters related thereto.

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said final review of FY 2011-2012 proposed budgets.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained the finance office prepared proposed changes to the budget based on feedback from the Council. Mr. Brown noted the proposed change in the tax rate moved from 3.15% to 2.99%; explaining a loss of funding from the State, debt service, contractual obligations.

Councillor Silveira noted increasing civic appropriation for sports programs, which benefit local youth.

Council President Weber noted the previous discussion was to level fund civic appropriations for the FY 2011-2012 budget.

Councillor VonVillas expressed the need to level fund to be fair to all civic appropriations.

Councillor Cambra noted his opposition to the proposed increase in

civic appropriations. Mr. Cambra suggested that civic appropriation recipients, who receive tax relief, should not be eligible for a civic appropriation.

On motion of Councillor Silveira, duly seconded, it was voted to increase funding to increase funding for the Hockey Boosters by \$1,000., Middletown Little League by \$3,000., Middletown Youth Football and Cheerleading by \$500., to appropriate \$2,000 to Middletown Babe Ruth (New); all funding to be allocated from Parks and Recreation; Vice President Long, Councillors Semonelli, Silveira, and Viveiros voted YES; Council President Weber, Councillors Cambra and VonVillas voted NO.

Council President Weber thanked the Finance Office for a good budget in a difficult year.

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn said meeting at 7:40 P.M.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk

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