

August 24, 2011 - 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 on Wednesday, August 24, 2011 at 6:00 P.M.

Council President Arthur S. Weber, Jr., Presiding

Vice President Bruce J. Long

Councillor Richard Cambra

Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present

Councillor Christopher T. Semonelli, Absent

Councillor Edward J. Silveira, Jr.

Councillor Antone C. Viveiros

POSTED – August 22, 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. 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

- 1. Resolution of the Council, re: Commendation/Proclamation - Major General Promotable Michael T. Flynn - Proclaiming September 6, 2011 General Flynns' Day within the Town.**
- 2. Resolution of the Council, re: Commendation/Proclamation - Colonel Promotable Charles A. Flynn - Proclaiming September 6, 2011 General Flynns' Day within the Town.**
- 3. Joint Meeting with Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) to Review the Reconstruction of the intersections of West Main Road at East Main Road (Two Mile Corner) and West Main Road at Coddington Highway.**

This public meeting will provide an opportunity for the public and surrounding property owners to view traffic simulation models and provide feedback on two alternate design options proposed:

1) Redesign existing signalized intersections to include exclusive left turn lanes, or

2) Roundabouts to replace the signalized intersections.

Said meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 24, 2011, at 6:00 P.M. at the Gaudet Middle School, Aquidneck Avenue - Meeting located in Cafeteria, Turner Road Entrance, Middletown, Rhode Island 02842.

Arthur S. Weber, Jr., President

Middletown Town Council

cc:

Town Council

Public Library

Finance Director

Town Administrator

Town Solicitor

Town Planner

Public Works Director

Town Engineer

Middletown 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 President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.

1. Resolution of the Council, re: Commendation/Proclamation - Major General Promotable Michael T. Flynn - Proclaiming September 6, 2011 General Flynns' Day within the Town.

Council President Weber read the commendation/proclamation entered here:

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to pass said resolution.

2. Resolution of the Council, re: Commendation/Proclamation – Colonel Promotable Charles A. Flynn - Proclaiming September 6, 2011 General Flynn's Day within the Town.

Council President Weber read the commendation/proclamation entered here:

Enter resolution

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to pass said resolution.

3. Joint Meeting with Rhode Island Department of Transportation

(RIDOT) to Review the Reconstruction of the intersections of West Main Road at East Main Road (Two Mile Corner) and West Main Road at Coddington Highway.

This public meeting will provide an opportunity for the public and surrounding property owners to view traffic simulation models and provide feedback on two alternate design options proposed:

- 1) Redesign existing signalized intersections to include exclusive left turn lanes, or**
- 2) Roundabouts to replace the signalized intersections.**

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to proceed with said presentation.

Also present representing RIDOT, were Lambri Zerva, Supervising Civil Engineer, Francisco Lovera, Traffic Design Engineer, Anita Marshall, Principal Chief Engineer, Robert Smith, Deputy Chief Engineer, Susan Howe, Property Management and Robert Rocchio, Managing Engineer, representing VHB Robert Clinton, Transportation Engineer Project Manager, Peter Pavao, Traffic Engineer and James M. Pisano, P.E., Senior Project Manager.

RIDOT Lambri Zerva, Supervising Civil Engineer, and Francisco Lovera presented a power point presentation concerning the two alternate design options proposed:

- 1) Redesign existing signalized intersections to include exclusive left turn lanes, or**
- 2) Roundabouts to replace the signalized intersections.**

The presentation is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk.

When the presentation ended there was a question and answer period, along with comments from the public.

J. Robert Mello, 53 Beacon Street, addressed the Council noting that roundabouts are good in rural areas, however, not good for Middletown.

Manuel T. Mello, Jr., 31 Beacon Terrace North, noted that the residents should decide whether or not to have roundabouts or signalization. Mr. Mello explained that roundabouts are not good for the proposed areas.

Chris Mello, 60 Beacon Street, suggests that timing the lights may solve the traffic issues in the proposed areas to be upgraded.

Brent Boston, 131 Corporate Place, addressed the Council explaining that he is unsure of the best option for the area. Mr. Boston noted his

concern for the pedestrian traffic plan.

John Bagwill, 587 Tuckerman Avenue, noted concern that the roundabouts will be too close together.

Kevin Johnson, 143 Trout Drive, addressed the Council explaining he is a professional traffic engineer that designs roundabouts. Mr. Johnson noted the roundabouts are not the right solution for the two areas.

Michael Murphy, 102 Ridgewood Road, noted apprehension with the installation of roundabouts at the two intersections. Mr. Murphy is concerned with out-of-Town drivers, gridlock and the use of his neighborhood as a way to avoid the roundabout intersections.

Peter Van Steeden, 10 Continental Drive, addressed the Council explaining the potential for an increase in traffic accidents.

Jeromy Foberg, 17 Underwood Lane, addressed the Council explaining he is a bicyclist who supports signalized intersections, noting safety reasons.

Sherryl Pond, 299 West Main Road, noted the difficulty with taking a left-hand turn from her property. Ms. Pond also stated that it will be dangerous for pedestrians to cross the streets if roundabouts were to be installed.

Richard Price, 9 JH Dwyer Drive, addressed the Council explaining that he would be pleased with either improvement of the area.

Richard Adams, 240 Island Drive, noted that roundabouts improve safety and are fine in many areas. Mr. Adams explained that he is unsure of which option is best for the areas.

Merle Goter, 30 Bliss Mine Road, addressed the Council in support of

signalization, noting that stop lights are universal.

Jean MacCormick, 52 Allston Avenue, noted her support for roundabouts, however explained that the area is not appropriate for roundabouts.

Sarah McFarland, 116 Ridgewood Road, addressed the Council explaining that a roundabout is not appropriate for the area. Ms. McFarland noted concern that it will be difficult to get out of her neighborhood if there is no signalization.

Deborah Murphy, 102 Ridgewood Road, noted concern that resident insurance rates may increase if roundabouts are installed.

Pauline Peter, 592 East Main Road, addressed the Council explaining that placing a roundabout in the areas proposed will create traffic issues. Ms. Peters noted her support for signalization.

Jane Wilbur, 20 Wood Road, noted her support for signalization and synchronized lights.

Carmella Geer, 10 Wood Road, addressed the Council noting her support for roundabouts stating safety, traffic movements and esthetics.

Fred Gauch, 18 Donald Drive, suggests the solutions for the intersection be studied further.

Elaine Botelho, 14 Stockton Drive, addressed the Council noting her support for improvements of signalized intersections.

Discussion centered around roundabouts verses signalized intersections, pedestrian traffic, timeline of the project, right of way impact and learning curve for roundabouts.

RIDOT Supervising Civil Engineer Lambri Zerva and Managing Engineer Robert Rocchio answered all the public's questions. It was noted that RIDOT is not in favor of one option over the other and will support either option chosen by the Town.

Council President Weber noted that the issue will be revisited at the September 6, 2011 Regular Meeting of the Council.

On motion of Vice President Long, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn this meeting at 8:55 P.M.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk

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