

**At a Regular Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown,
RI held at the Middletown Town Hall on Monday, April 1, 2013 at 5:30
P.M.**

Council President Christopher T. Semonelli, Presiding

Vice President Robert J. Sylvia

Councillor Richard P. Adams

Councillor Bruce J. Long, arrives at 5:35 pm

Councillor Paul M. Rodrigues

Councillor M. Theresa Santos

Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

RECONSIDERATION

The Middletown Town Council follows the codification of present-day general parliamentary law as articulated in Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised 10th edition (2000), together with whatever rules of order the Council has adopted for its own governance. The motion to reconsider is one of the motions that can bring a question again before an assembly, and is designed to bring back for further consideration a motion which has already been voted on:

If, in the same session that a motion has been voted on, but no later than the same day or the next day on which a business meeting is held, new information or a changed situation makes it appear that a different result might reflect the true will of the assembly, a member who voted with the prevailing side can, by moving to Reconsider [RONR (10th ed.), p. 304-321] the vote, propose that the question shall come before the assembly again as if it had not previously been considered. (From Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised In Brief, Robert, Evans et al., De Capo Press, 2004)

There were no reconsiderations.

Also present, for the Budget discussions, were Town Administrator Shawn Brown, Finance Director Lynne Dible, Deputy Finance Director Marc Tanguay, Deputy Town Clerk Karin Clancey and Town Solicitor Michael W. Miller.

5:30 P.M. – BUDGET

1. Receipt of Town of Middletown Proposed Budgets and Capital Improvement Plan, Fiscal Year 2013-2014.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said Proposed Budgets and Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Year 2013-2104.

2. Review of FY 2013–2014 Proposed Budgets – General

Government, Building & Inspections and matters related thereto.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to being review of General Government Building & Inspections.

Finance Director Lynne Dible reviewed the Budget Binder:

- 1. Proposed Municipal Budget**
- 2. Proposed Capital Improvement Program**
- 3. Human Resources Manual**
- 4. Treasury Manual**

Councillor VonVillas commended all who compiled the information, noting the excellent format and additional supporting information provided.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown thanked the Finance Office and Department Heads for their work in preparing the proposed FY 2013-2014 budget.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown reviewed the Town Administrator's Budget memorandum, entered here:

Discussion centered around the proposed tax rate increase, if the Planning and Zoning departments could be merged, opportunities to reorganize departments, sewer rate, I & I charge, increase in Refuse & Recycling fees, negotiations with Waste Management.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown, Finance Director Lynne Dible and Acting Building Official Christopher Costa, were present to respond to Council inquires regarding the Building Official's proposed budget, entered here:

Discussion centered around mileage of Building Official's vehicle, cost to replace vehicle, contractual increases, health care, pension costs and office staffing.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown and Town Planner Ronald Wolanski, were present to respond to Council inquires regarding the Planning Department proposed budget, entered here:

Town Planner Ronald Wolanski noted functions and ongoing projects in the Planning Department.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown, Finance Director Lynne Dible and IT Director Matthew Wainwright, were present to respond to Council inquires regarding the IT Department proposed budget, entered here:

Discussion centered around an increase in salaries and benefits, reorganizing Town phones, number of department employees, fiber

optics, Town backup systems, software license fees and regional opportunities.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown, Finance Director Lynne Dible and Tax Assessor George Durgin, were present to respond to Council inquires regarding the Finance Department and Tax Assessor Department proposed budget, entered here:

Discussion centered around the reorganization of the Tax Collection and Tax Assessment Offices merging, where the staff will be located, statistical reevaluation, the stabilization of home values and if the evaluation cycle is being amended within state law.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to recess this meeting at 7:05 pm.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reconvene this meeting at 7:10 pm.

PUBLIC FORUM SESSION

3. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Rules of the Council, Citizens may address the town on one (1) subject only, said subject of substantive Town business, neither discussed during the regular meeting nor related to personnel or job performance. Citizens may speak for no longer than five (5) minutes and must submit a public participation form to the Council Clerk prior to the start of the meeting.

No one spoke during this session.

Councillor Santos requested that item #11 be heard under the regular portion of the docket.

CONSENT

- 4. Approval of Minutes, re: Regular Meeting, March 18, 2013.**

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to approve said minutes.

- 5. Memorandum of Finance Director, thru Town Administrator, re: Meeting Request – Pension/OPEB Investment Committee.**

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said memorandum.

- 6. Communication of Rebecca McSweeney, Attorney At Law, re: Notice of Claim.**

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

7. Resolutions and Email Communications from Rhode Island Cities and Towns, re: Request support Contract Continuation – Binding Arbitration – to oppose and reject any and all mandatory binding arbitration legislation being considered for teacher and other school employee contracts, Master Lever – to delete option of single party voting and Amendment to Open Meeting Law. (See Attached List)

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said resolutions and Email Communications.

8. Applications received from the following named persons, firms and corporations for RENEWAL of Holiday Sales Licenses for the 2013-2014 licensing year. (See Attached List)

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to grant said license renewals.

9. Applications received from the following named persons, firms and corporations for RENEWAL of Amusement Licenses for the 2013-2014 licensing year. (See Attached List)

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to grant said license renewals.

10. Applications received from the following named persons, firms and corporations for RENEWAL of Hawkers Licenses for the 2013-2014 licensing year. (See Attached List)

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to grant said license renewals.

11. Application for Special Event Permit from Nancy Aucoin for a Wedding Ceremony to be held at Dunlap Wheeler Park on Sunday, October 12, 2014 beginning at 3:00 pm until 4:00 pm.

Councillor Santos suggested that a stipulation be added to the Special Event Permit requiring the applicant leave the park in the same condition it was found.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted that a restriction to prohibit vehicles on the grass will be added to the permit.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to grant said Special Event Permit.

LICENSES & PERMITS

Councillor Long recused himself from acting on the following item of business, #12, due to a possible conflict of interest.

12. Applications received from the following named persons, firms and corporations for RENEWAL of Peddlers Licenses for the 2013-2014 licensing year. (See Attached List)

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to grant said license renewals.

13. Application of Alex Arteaga dba Palagis Ice Cream, Pawtucket, for a Peddler's License for the 2013-2014 licensing year. (NEW)

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to grant said license.

OTHER COMMUNICATION

14. Memorandum of Robert M. Silva, Chairman, Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee, re: Proposed MEDAC Charge.

Attorney Robert M. Silva, Chairman, Middletown Economic Development Advisory Committee, reviewed the memorandum entered here:

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said memorandum.

Town Planner Ronald Wolanski noted that the change is an effort to bring the charge of the committee to current times.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adopt charge, as presented and pass said resolution, entered here:

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

15. Memorandum of Council President Semonelli, with enclosure, re: Town of Middletown – Strategic Plan.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said memorandum.

Council President Semonelli noted the importance of establishing a Strategic Plan and reviewed the following:

Discussion centered around sending items to the Town Administrator

to collect and forward to the Council, the Town Vision not varying, work on path to long range vision, continue implementing Town projects and possibility of sitting as a group to discuss the Town's Strategic plan.

16. At the Request of Council President Semonelli, with enclosure, Resolution of the Council, re: Supporting House Bill 5137 – Repealing the transfer of authority for the Sakonnet River Bridge and Jamestown Verazzano Bridge.

Council President Semonelli noted his request to place on the docket. The bill repeals the transfer of authority for Sakonnet River Bridge and Jamestown Verazzano Bridge.

Councillor Adams noted that the passage of this legislation does not provide a solution for maintenance of the bridges.

Councillor Long noted two bills submitted by Senator DiPalma; one

addressing the issue of funding for maintenance and the other creating a Board of Directors to oversee operations.

Councillor VonVillas noted that the legislation can easily be defeated and may minimize the value of the resolution.

Councillor Rodrigues noted the need to demonstrate continued support in opposition to the tolls on the Sakonnet River Bridge.

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

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMUNICATION

17. Memorandum of MPC Coordinator, thru Town Administrator, re: Middletown/Salve Regina University Collaborative Partnership.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown reviewed the memorandum, entered here:

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said memorandum.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to appoint Councillor Rodrigues as liaison to the Middletown/Salve Regina University Collaborative Partnership.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to continue items #18 and #19 to the next regular meeting of the Council, held on April 15, 2013.

18. Memorandum of Finance Director, thru Town Administrator, with enclosures, re: Contract Award: Town Hall Bathroom Renovations.

19. Resolution of the Council, re: Award of Contract: Town Hall Bathroom Renovations.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS & COMMITTEES

20. Appointment of four (4) members to the Zoning Board of Review; one (1) vacancy, regular member, term expiring April 2018 and three (3) Alternate members for terms expiring April 2014.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reappoint Stephen J. MacGillivray, as a regular member, to the Zoning Board of Review for a term expiring April 2018.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reappoint James R. Miller, as first alternate, to the Zoning Board of Review for a term expiring April 2014.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reappoint Nicholas P. Pasyanos, as second alternate, to the Zoning Board of Review for a term expiring April 2014.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reappoint Olin D. Gambrell, Sr, as third alternate, to the Zoning Board of Review for a term expiring April 2014.

21. Appointment of two (2) members to the Juvenile Hearing Board for terms expiring April 2016.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reappoint Diana Campagna Skaggs and Lisa C. Ruth to the Juvenile Hearing Board for terms expiring April 2016.

22. Appointment of one (1) member to the Middletown Prevention Coalition to complete a term expiring August 2014.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to appoint Danielle Proulx (Civic Volunteer Slot) to complete a term expiring August 2014.

23. Appointment of one (1) member to the Middletown Committee for the Arts for term expiring April 2016.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to reappoint Sharon Morgera to the Middletown Committee for the Arts for a term expiring April 2016.

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn said meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk

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