

**At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown,
RI held at the Middletown Town Hall on Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at
6:00 P.M.**

Council President Christopher T. Semonelli, Presiding

Vice President Robert J. Sylvia

Councillor Richard P. Adams

Councillor Bruce J. Long

Councillor Paul M. Rodrigues

Councillor M. Theresa Santos

Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present

POSTED – May 16, 2013

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., 42-46-3., 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 vote upon the following items of business:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

1. Memorandum of Finance Director, thru Town Administrator, re: FY2014 Operating Budget Ordinance Amendments.

2. Public Hearing (Advertised)

An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)

An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown General Fund, Parks and Recreation Fund, Sewer Fund and Refuse and Recycling Fund Appropriating revenues for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, as amended”.

Said meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 22, 2013, at 6:00 P.M. at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, 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

Town Engineer

Human Resource Director

School Department

Recycling Coordinator

Substance Abuse Coordinator

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 Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said communication.

1. Memorandum of Finance Director, thru Town Administrator, re: FY2014 Operating Budget Ordinance Amendments.

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

Town Administrator Shawn Brown reviewed the following proposed

budget highlights:

Mr. Brown noted the increase in tax rate would be a 1.6% tax rate increase, residential rate of \$15.40 increases to \$15.63 per thousand and commercial rate of \$20.47 increases to \$20.80.

2. Public Hearing (Advertised)

An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (First Reading)

An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown General Fund, Parks and Recreation Fund, Sewer Fund and Refuse and Recycling Fund Appropriating revenues for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014, as amended”.

Public Hearing was declared open.

Council President Semonelli noted the projected 1.6% increase is the

lowest in the county and maintains reasonable expenses. Mr. Semonelli explained the need to explore efficiencies, the importance of economic development, infrastructure, the BRAC process and the Town's ongoing effort to collaborate with Newport and Portsmouth.

Antone Viveiros, 110 Indian Hill Road, addressed the Council noting that a 1.6% increase is reasonable. Mr. Viveiros expressed the need for all to tighten their belts.

Manuel Mello, 3 Beacon Terrace North, addressed the Council expressing concern that more in depth documentation regarding FY2014 budget is not available.

Councillor Long inquired if the budget information is on the Town's website.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown, responding to Councillor Long noted that the budget is on the Town's website and the Finance Office

will provide copies for the public as well.

William O'Connell, 18 Continental Drive, addressed the Council with the following questions:

- 1. Requesting clarification under Expenditures for Building and Planning line items.**
- 2. Requesting clarification under Anticipated Revenues – Funds Transferred in.**
- 3. Requesting clarification under Anticipated Revenues – Capital Lease Proceeds.**

Town Administrator Shawn Brown responded as follows to Mr. O'Connell:

- 1. Expenditures – Building and Planning are Town Departments.**

2. Anticipated Revenues – Funds Transferred in is an Accounting procedure, transfer of funding from the Special Revenue funds, examples Rescue Wagon Fund and PPV Special Revenue fund.

3. Anticipated Revenues – Capital Lease Proceeds are lease purchase agreements.

Rob Connerney, 9 Renfrew Park, addressed the Council, noting that statistics show that the Middletown School District is not within the top 10 districts. Mr. Connerney explained that he views spending in the Schools as an investment in the future; any cuts to education is short sighted and ill-advised.

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

On motion of Vice President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to receive said ordinance on its first reading.

Councillor Long questioned if the adoption of the budget includes the Capital Improvement plan, construction of a High School in FY2016?

Town Administrator Shawn Brown, responding to Councillor Long, explained that the construction of a High School is included in the CIP. Mr. Brown noted that Council will adopt a plan for CIP and the Budget for the upcoming year FY2013-FY2014.

Vice President Sylvia noted that the CIP Plan is an expenditure for the future, altered yearly.

Councillor VonVillas explained that approval of the CIP plan is not making an actual commitment.

Councillor Adams noted that there is a difference between a plan and enacting the plan.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown reviewed the following:

Councillor Long requests a legal opinion.

Town Solicitor Michael W. Miller reviewed Town Ordinance 35.05 and 35.06 entered here:

Councillor Santos inquired if the FY2014 CIP is reflected in the tax rate?

Town Administrator Shawn Brown responded to Council Santos that the FY2014 CIP is reflected in the tax rate.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted the importance of the CIP document showing how the Town sees its future.

Councillor Long noted that it is time to revisit the CIP plan.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown explained that it is the responsibility of the School Committee to bring forward the School CIP projects.

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

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk

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