

**At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown,
RI held at the Middletown Town Hall on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at
6:00 P.M.**

Council President Robert J. Sylvia, Presiding

Vice President Robert Kempenaar, II

Councillor Henry F. Lombardi, Jr.

Councillor Paul M. Rodrigues

Councillor M. Theresa Santos

Councillor Antone C. Viveiros

Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present

POSTED – May 11, 2016

Wendy J.W. Marshall, Town Clerk

Town of Middletown

Town Hall – 350 East Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island 02842

Dear Ms. 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. 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, Refuse and Recycling Fund and Stormwater Utility Fund, Appropriating revenues for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Said meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 18, 2016, at 6:00 P.M. at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, Middletown, Rhode

Island 02842.

Robert J. Sylvia, President

Middletown Town Council

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

1. Public Hearing (Advertised)

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An Ordinance in amendment to the ordinances of the Town of Middletown General Fund, Parks and Recreation Fund, Sewer Fund, Refuse and Recycling Fund and Stormwater Utility Fund, Appropriating revenues for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017.

Public Hearing was declared open.

Council President Sylvia explained that the Town Administrator was charged to develop a 2% budget which was accomplished for the Town, due to the ratification of the Teachers contract, the School Department is requesting 4% which brings the tax levy to 3.12%. Mr. Sylvia noted that the budgets have not yet been voted on.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown thanked all who participated in the preparation of the budget.

Sara Churgan, 36 Heritage Drive, representing the Eastern RI Conservation District, which has been in existence since 1944, noted it is a non-profit providing financial and technical assistance to land owners.

Ron Sherman Foberg, 51 and 17 Underwood Lane, addressed the Council noting that he realizes the financial obligations of the Town, but noted concern with the proposed tax rate increase.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown reviewed the following information, entered here:

Council President Sylvia noted that he thinks the budget is fair to all.

Councillor Santos noted the increase in sewer fees for well users and inquired if there would be a refund if meters were installed.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown responded that no resident has been overcharged, the fee is set by ordinance.

Discussion centered around that a meter would be purchased and installed by a licensed plumber.

Councillor Rodrigues inquired what cuts were made to the Town budget.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown, responding to Councillor Rodrigues, explained that the Town Departments which came in at more than 2% were reduced to meet the 2% Council request.

Council President Sylvia explained that the Council requested the Town Administrator to prepare a proposed 2% budget, which was

prepared. Mr. Sylvia noted that at the meeting when the Council ratified the Teachers contract he noted that there would be an increase in the tax rate greater than 2%.

Councillor Rodrigues noted that he believes there is still an opportunity for savings in the budget.

Vice President Kempenaar noted that he reviewed the budget and did not find any reasonable cuts.

Councillor Lombardi explained that further cuts would not have a favorable end result. Mr. Lombardi noted putting projects off would cost more in the end.

Councillor VonVillas noted that she will support the budget. Ms. VonVillas explained that the municipal side of the budget supports the entire Town.

Kathy Davis, 500 Mitchell's Lane, addressed the Council commending all for making their best efforts, noting the budget is good for all citizens.

Councillor Viveiros suggests that everyone work diligently to come up with a level funded budget.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown noted that he has already spoken to the Department Heads regarding next year's budget and developing a strategic plan. Mr. Brown also noted that he has been working with the Superintendent of Schools, the Assistant Superintendent and the Business Manager looking for opportunities for the Town and School to work together.

Councillor Santos inquired how developments are assessed.

Town Administrator Shawn Brown, responding to Councillor Santos, explained that the assessment as of December 31st is based on how

much of the project has been completed and a supplemental tax bill may be issued if necessary.

Council President Sylvia explained that this year there has been good things happening in the Town. There is a solid plan with the bond issues and hopes the residents will support.

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

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

On motion of Vice President Kempenaar, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn said meeting at 6:50 pm.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Council Clerk

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