

At a Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Middletown, RI held at the Middletown Town Hall, 350 East Main Road, Middletown, RI on Wednesday, May 24, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.

Council President Robert J. Sylvia, Presiding

Vice President Paul M. Rodrigues

Councillor Henry F. Lombardi, Jr.

Councillor M. Theresa Santos

Councillor Dennis B. Turano

Councillor Antone C. Viveiros

Councillor Barbara A. VonVillas, Members Present

AMENDED – MAY 19, 2017

POSTED – May 19, 2017

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)

Public Hearing Remains Open

An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (Second 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, Stormwater Utility Fund and Onsite Wastewater Management Fund, Appropriating revenues for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, as amended on May 15, 2017 and May 17, 2017.

2. Resolution of the Council, re: Levy Resolution.

Said meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2017, 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

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

Prevention Coalition 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.

Council President Sylvia requested all to remember the Men and Women in the Armed Forces with a moment of silence.

1. Public Hearing (Advertised)

Public Hearing Remains Open

An Ordinance of the Town of Middletown (Second 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, Stormwater Utility Fund and Onsite Wastewater Management Fund, Appropriating revenues for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018, as amended on May 15,

2017 and May 17, 2017.

Vice President Rodrigues noted that the public hearing remains open.

Council President Sylvia noted that there are some housekeeping matters with the budget which the Town Council requested at the May 17, 2017 meeting.

On motion of Vice President Rodrigues, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to amend the Parks & Recreation Fund Civic Support amount on page 4 line 44, be increased by \$10,000, and the User & Program Fees - Beach amount on page 5 line 10 be increased by \$10,000, and the Parks & Recreation Fund Civic Appropriations amount on page 5 line 20 be increased by \$10,000, and add the words "Butler Basketball Club \$10,000" on page 5 line 35, and all subtotals and totals be adjusted accordingly.

On motion of Vice President Rodrigues, duly seconded, it was voted

unanimously to amend the Parks & Recreation Fund Civic Support amount on page 4 line 44, be increased by \$3,800, and the User & Program Fees - Beach amount on page 5 line 10 be increased by \$3,800, and the Parks & Recreation Fund Civic Appropriations amount on page 5 line 20 be increased by \$3,800, and add the words “Sail Newport \$3,800” on page 5 line 36, and all subtotals and totals be adjusted accordingly.

On motion of Vice President Rodrigues, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to amend the Parks & Recreation Fund Civic Support amount on page 4 line 44, be decreased by \$2,000 and the User & Program Fees - Beach amount on page 5 line 10 be decreased by \$2,000, and the Parks & Recreation Fund Civic Appropriations amount on page 5 line 20 be decreased by \$2,000, and remove the words “Gaudet Middle School Soccer Club \$2,000” on page 5 line 36, and all subtotals and totals be adjusted accordingly.

On motion of Vice President Rodrigues, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to replace Section 1D. Police Department organization in its entirety, with the following text and table:

Section 1D. Police Department organization: Approve the levels of full-time staffing, divisions, and offices & grades within the Police Department in accordance with Town Charter §701 as follows:

Offices & grades/Divisions

Administration

Animal Control

Detectives

Patrol

Harbormaster

Chief

Major (Deputy Chief)

1

Lieutenant

1

1

4

Sergeant

1

4

Detective

5

Patrol

4

18

Civilian

3

1

On motion of Vice President Rodrigues, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to replace Section 1E. Fire Department organization in its entirety, with the following text and table:

Section 1E. Fire Department organization: Approve the levels of full-time staffing, divisions, and offices & grades within the Fire Department in accordance with Town Charter §702 as follows:

Offices & grades/Divisions

Administration

Dispatch

Fire & Rescue

Fire Prevention

Chief

1

Fire Marshall

1

Captains

1

4

Lieutenant

1

Firefighter

20

Civilian

1

4

Vice President Rodrigues noted that this is his 13th budget, and he always looks at the future and down the road for what is best for the

Town. The Town side came in at zero to give the taxpayers a break and a boost economically for businesses. Mr. Rodrigues noted the decrease in population over the years. Vice President Rodrigues thanked all for input and hard work on the budget.

Councillor Viveiros noted agreement with Vice President Rodrigues. Mr. Viveiros noted that tough decisions must be made in the best interest of the Town.

Councillor Santos encouraged participation for the residents during the budget process. Ms. Santos thanked all who attended the meeting.

Councillor Turano noted that this is his first budget, he agrees with Vice President Rodrigues. Mr. Turano explained he was on the budget subcommittee, during that time he learned a lot about the budget process.

Council President Sylvia thanked the Town Administrator, Finance Director, all of the Department heads and their staffs, as well as his colleagues on the council for all of their hard work on the budget. Mr. Sylvia also thanked the School Superintendent, the staff at the School Department and members of the School Committee for the efforts that they put in on the school side of the budget.

Council President Sylvia noted that putting the budget together requires a tremendous amount of work on top of the day to day work of providing services to our residents and a great education to our students. The Town is fortunate to have such dedicated and hardworking people which is part of what makes Middletown a special place to live. And, it is a special place. Mr. Sylvia explained that it's also an expensive place to live; explaining over the past few years, the Council has worked hard to keep the cost of living here down, by limiting tax increases to around 2%. Even with those efforts, our taxpayers are still having hard time making ends meet. Council President Sylvia noted the population is decreasing, but costs are still going up. At the same time, our median family income is the lowest among other communities of our size and population in the state. While the economy's improved, property values still haven't fully recovered from the Great Recession. We're at a point where our taxpayers need a break, they need a year with no tax increase.

Council President Sylvia noted he truly believes that we can do that and still provide our residents with a high level of service and our students with an excellent education.

On motion of Council President Sylvia, duly seconded, to amend the Education amount on page 2 line 17, be decreased by \$1,049,144, and the Taxes Levied by Municipality amount on page 2 line 22 be decreased by \$1,049,144, and the Appropriation to School Department amount on page 3 line 28 be decreased by \$1,049,144, and all subtotals and totals be adjusted accordingly.

Mr. Sylvia explained that making this motion, he wants to make it clear that he is not trying to cut funding to our schools. This proposal would level fund our schools, even though enrollment continues to go down. Our school enrollment is down over 20% over the past 15 years. This proposal would actually increase the amount of money spent per student over what was spent last year.

A vote was taken at this time, motion repeated:

On motion of Council President Sylvia, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to amend the Education amount on page 2 line 17, be decreased by \$1,049,144, and the Taxes Levied by Municipality amount on page 2 line 22 be decreased by \$1,049,144, and the Appropriation to School Department amount on page 3 line 28 be decreased by \$1,049,144, and all subtotals and totals be adjusted accordingly.

There being no other person present desiring to be heard, public hearing was declared closed.

On motion of Vice President Rodrigues, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adopt said ordinance on its second reading, as amended.

2. Resolution of the Council, re: Levy Resolution.

On motion of Vice President Rodrigues, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to continue said matter to the June 5, 2017, Regular Meeting of the Council.

On motion of Vice President Rodrigues, duly seconded, it was voted unanimously to adjourn said meeting a 6:25 pm.

Wendy J.W. Marshall, CMC

Town Clerk

Published by ClerkBase

©2017 by Clerkbase. No Claim to Original Government Works.