

**RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
AMENDED**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN: That, the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, as applicable and when not in conflict with any standing or special rule/procedure enacted by the Common Council, be adopted as the manual for the conduct of business and affairs of the Common Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the following special rules and procedures be adopted:

- I. Agenda and General Meeting Procedures:
 1. All meetings shall begin with the Pledge of Allegiance.
 2. All proposed resolutions must be filed with the Council Clerk no later than the 21st day of each month preceding the Common Council meeting in order to be included on the agenda for the meeting.

Items may be placed on the agenda after they have been through the appropriate committee or commission and shall have a line at the bottom of the resolution indicating the date it went through committee and a statement as to the financial impact of the action on the City's general fund and future indebtedness.

Individual Council Members may place resolutions on the agenda whether it has been through committee or not and such resolution shall contain the name or names of the members proposing the resolution. The resolution shall include a financial impact statement of the action on the City's general fund and any future indebtedness.

The Mayor may place resolutions on the agenda whether it has been through committee or not and shall have a member of the Council's name sponsoring the resolution along with the Mayor. The resolution shall include a financial impact statement of the action on the City's general fund and any future indebtedness.

3. Any proposed resolutions and ordinances must be reviewed by the appropriate committee and/or commission before being included on the agenda. Items that have been through committee and/or commission shall have a line at the bottom of the resolution indicating the date it went through committee and a statement as to the financial impact of the action on the City's general fund and future indebtedness. The Clerk of the Council shall ensure that each resolution shall have these statements prior to submittal to the Council.

In case of an emergency where an item cannot go through committee and/or commission, an individual member of the Council may sponsor the item or the item may come through the Mayor's Office.

4. Any resolution proposed by an individual member or members shall contain the name or names of the members proposing the resolution (e.g. submitted by:)

5. All appropriations shall be published in a newspaper with general circulation in the city of Middletown prior to the meeting.

6. There shall be a one (1) hour meeting of the Council prior to each regularly scheduled Council meeting called "Questions to Directors Workshop." The workshop will not be televised but a record of the workshop will be provided by audio equipment. Minutes will be maintained by the Common Council Clerk as a public record. The workshop will be made available to any Council Members seeking information on agenda items only prior to the start of the regular business meeting. The workshop does not require a quorum. Robert's Rules of Order will apply except for the quorum. The workshop will be chaired by the Mayor or his/her designee. The workshop will serve as an opportunity for Council members to obtain necessary information prior to the business portion of the meeting. Directors may leave after the workshop unless specifically requested to stay for the business portion.

Special Common Council meetings, with agenda items, shall have an item entitled "Questions to Directors."

7. The Order of Business for this Council shall be as follows:
 - a. Call to order
 - b. Pledge of Allegiance
 - c. Mayor Declares the call and meeting legal
 - d. Acceptance of the agenda
 - e. Approval of minutes

- f. Public Hearing on Agenda Items
 - g. Appropriation Request Notice and Certificate of Director of Finance read by Clerk
 - h. Votes on appropriation request
 - i. Old business (items postponed)
 - j. Department, Committee, and Commission Reports and Grant Confirmation and Approvals
 - k. Payment of City Bills
 - l. New Business, resolutions, ordinances, etc.
 - m. Mayor's Appointments
 - n. Contingency Fund Transfers
 - o. Adjournment
8. Only those resolutions and ordinances received by the members of the Common Council at least four (4) days prior to a regular monthly meeting of the Common Council and having the appropriate financial statement (see Item 3) shall be considered as additions on the Agenda of that Regular Monthly Meeting.
9. Only ordinances that have been reviewed as to form by the Ordinance Study Committee shall be considered for adoption by the Common Council.
10. The agenda for any meeting of the Common Council shall be made available to members of the public at the same time as it is made available to members of the Common Council.
11. The public hearing on agenda items, for regular and special meetings, will occur before the conduct of business and is for the public to speak on any and all items on the agenda that they wish to address, as long as rules of conduct and decorum are followed. Members of the public will be ruled out of order when they stray from the agenda item or no longer conduct

themselves in an appropriate manner. Each member of the public will be afforded five (5) minutes per speaker with the public hearing portion of the agenda to last no more than thirty (30) minutes. The public hearing can be extended by thirty (30) minute increments with a supermajority (9) votes of the Council.

12. When the Council holds a workshop, it is informational and open to the public. No public hearing will be held at these meetings.

II. Council's Community Public Meeting

1. The Council will hold community-wide public meetings for any and all items previously considered non agenda items. **The public hearings will be held at the following locations on a monthly and rotating basis: Westfield Fire Station, South Fire Station, City Hall, MacDonough School, Middletown High School, and Snow School.**

The Community Public Hearings will be held at various locations in the City.

2. The community-wide public meeting is to be an opportunity for the public to raise issues of concern before the Council. The public will be able to raise or express any issue(s) of concern within the bounds of proper public discourse and decorum. The Mayor or his/her designee will chair the meeting. Robert's Rules of Order **and the Council rules of decorum** will apply for the conduct of the public meeting.
3. The recording of the public meeting will be by audio equipment and issues raised will be maintained by the Council Clerk

through the Council minutes. Items the Council feels can be handled through the appropriate committee, commission or department shall be forwarded to them for response or action. The item is to be handled in a timely manner with a report made to the Council under the appropriate agenda item at a regular Council meeting.

4. The public will be afforded ten (10) minutes per speaker to raise any issue before the body.

III. DECORUM OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER AND THE COUNCIL:

1. Council Members shall not engage in debate with other members or members of the public during any public hearing.
2. All remarks from Council members must be confined to the merits of the pending question. All statements made by members of the Council must have bearing on whether the pending matter should be adopted.
3. Members shall refrain from attacking another member's motives. When a question is pending, a member is permitted to condemn the nature or likely consequences of the proposal, but must avoid personalities and under no circumstances can he or she attack or question the motives of another member. The question is before the assembly, not the member.
4. No member having the floor shall be interrupted by another member unless a point of order is being sought.

5. All remarks must be made through the Chair. Members of the Council shall not address one another, except with permission of the Chair.
6. The Chair shall immediately call out of order any speaker whose speech has a direct tendency to inflict injury or to cause acts of violence or a breach of the peace, as that term is defined in the Connecticut General Statutes, by the person or persons to whom said speech is directed. The Chair shall further direct said speaker to conclude his or her remarks immediately, and yield the podium to any remaining speakers.
7. **The presiding officer of the Council, by Charter is the Mayor; when presiding as Chair, the Mayor is not a member of the Council and as Chair will remain impartial and can take no position or debate any item on the Council agenda during the Council meeting. The Chair is afforded the right to speak or debate when a motion to appeal the Chair's Ruling is on the floor. By Charter, the Mayor may resolve tie votes of the Common Council.**
8. **In the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor becomes the presiding officer of the body; as a member of the body and by Charter he retains the right to vote on matters. When presiding as the Chair of the meeting the Deputy Mayor will remain impartial and if he wishes to take part in the debate of the matter, will relinquish the chair until the matter is voted on.**
9. **In the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the Majority Leader may preside over the meeting. In the absence of**

these individuals, the Common Council will follow Robert's Rules of Order and elect a presiding officer for that meeting.

IV. OTHER MATTERS:

1. The Chief of Police or his/her designee shall be the Sergeant-of-Arms and shall be present at all meetings, including the meeting for Questions to Directors and the Community Meetings, and in uniform.
2. The City Attorney or the Deputy City Attorney shall be present at all meetings.
3. The Corporation Counsel shall serve as Parliamentarian. In the absence of the Corporation Counsel, the Chair may appoint a Parliamentarian who shall not be a member of the Common Council.
4. Any Director or his/her designee whose department, who has an item of business (e. g. resolution, ordinance, appropriation, grant, report, etc) pending before the Common Council and has been asked to remain after the Questions to Directors discussion at 6 p.m., shall attend the Council meeting to answer questions regarding the pending matter and remain until action on all agenda items concerning his/her department has taken place.
5. Any Council member wishing to address questions to a director on non-agenda items should notify the Mayor's Office with the Director's name and purpose of questions; the Mayor's Office will notify the Director of the request.

6. The Common Council may establish whatever subcommittee it deems appropriate. Such subcommittees shall expire with the term of office of the Council under which they were established.

7. Seating of Council members in the Council Chamber shall begin to the right of the Mayor with the member who has received the highest number of votes and continue in the same manner alternating from right to left.

8. All matters not addressed by these rules and procedures shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Status: APPROVED
by Common Council, City of Middletown
at its meeting held on: NOVEMBER 17, 2009