



SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING  
MARCH 5, 2012  
6 P.M.

- Regular Meeting** The Special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Monday, March 5, 2012 at 6 p.m.
- Present** Deputy Mayor Robert Santangelo, Council Members Thomas J. Serra, Ronald P. Klattenberg, Mary A. Bartolotta, Philip J. Pessina, Joseph E. Bibisi, Linda Salafia, Todd G. Berch, Hope Kasper and Deborah Kleckowski; Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan, Sergeant-at-arms Acting Chief William McKenna, and Acting Common Council Clerk Linda DeSena.
- Absent** Council Members Gerald E. Daley and Grady L. Faulkner
- Also Present** Public Works Director Bill Russo, Assistant Finance Director Diana Doyle, Director of IT William Oliver, Personnel Director Debra Milardo, Planning, Conservation, and Development Director William Warner, City and Town Clerk Sandra Driska, Water and Sewer Assistant Director Bob Young, Parking Director Geen Thazhampallath, Acting City Attorney Timothy Lynch, Acting Chief of Police William McKenna, Park and Recreation Director Raymond Santostefano, Russell Library Arthur Meyers, Youth Services Director Justin Carbonella and 20 members of the public.
- Meeting Called to Order** The Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and Arthur Meyers leads the public in the pledge of Allegiance.
- Call of Meeting Read** The Call of the meeting is read and accepted. The Deputy Mayor declares this call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.
- Workshop Opens** The Chair opens Questions to Directors workshop at 6:05 p.m.
- Councilman Serra asks Geen Thazhampallath, Parking Authority Director an explanation of the parking security video camera system project. Geen replies we are asking for bid waiver for security cameras in the Melilli parking lot to have complete coverage of the lot in terms of security coverage. With the new system Central Dispatch and parking services in the building will be able to view any situation that arises in the lot. After hours central communication will have complete coverage as well as the police department. The cameras were included in the original bonding from the project but were excluded for fiscal reasons. Since that time we have discovered some security gaps that these new cameras will cover. We are adding flexibility. Councilman Serra asks will the police be able to see images on their lap tops in their cars. Geen responded yes I believe the technology does exist, but the police department will be able to have access of what is going on in the lot at their main desks. Councilman Serra asks is the same technology is plan for the arcade, Geen responds not at this time.
- Councilman Bibisi has a question for Justin Carbonella, Youth Services Director. Councilman Bibisi has a question on resolution 10-9 Youth Work program. Can you explain to the council how this program will work, who will be choosing the applicants, where can you get the applications. Justin responds with Jeff from the Chamber. The Applications will be available through the Chamber of Commerce, Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Middletown High School and Youth Services. This program is the chambers program not the city's summer youth program. The money that is being asked tonight will be going towards the Chamber program not the City's program. The thought behind that was specifically because the chamber has the program finance through the workforce alliance program for six year. They received their money through a federal stimulus program. Bibisi asks how we chose our applicants. Jeff responds we chose applicants at random. Every kid has a chance as long as they are eligible under the guidelines. The student that qualifies for the program are eligible under the guidelines of free and reduce lunch program. Councilman Bibisi asks about age limit, Jeff responds Age limit is 14 -21 on state funding age limit is 14-24 on federal funding. Councilwoman Kasper asked Justin is this in addition to the city's summer youth program. Justin replies correct.
- Councilwoman Kasper has a question for Assistant Finance Director Diana Doyle on the matching grant of \$20,000. Ms. Doyle inquired on this last week and had conversation with Bill Warner. According to Bill he had discussions with the Mayor the funding source was not identified ahead of

time, but from my understanding that a source will be forth coming. At this time my recommendation is, if it is an appropriation it should be brought forward simultaneously with the resolution because if the appropriation is voted down the city could potential obligate itself without a funding source. Councilwoman Kasper thanks Diana.

Councilman Berch has a question for Justin Carbonella, Youth Services Director please define the scope of the working duties for these individuals or elaborate on past employers. A student in the chambers work program, specifically they are dispersed through the greater Middletown area and Most of the kids are house in Middletown. Councilman Berch asks what the actual duties of the individuals are. Justin explains that it will vary. Jeff responds we put the student through a comprehensive questionnaire that explains their interest, outside interest, hobbies, future plans and working experience. Will they be comfortable on the phone, transportation on how they will get to work? We only have 6 weeks of work for them and we use this comprehensive questionnaire to help us best fit the individual. Councilman Berch asks - How many employers are picked and are they chamber members? Mainly we use our members list but we have had non-members participate as well. Councilman Berch asks - what are the individuals paid an hour. Jeff replies \$8.25 an hour which is minimum wage.

Councilman Pessina asks Justin do we have an aggressive strong public outreach program. Jeff replies we have a very aggressive outreach program through the chamber to notify and make available to individuals. 2006 was the first year they had about 26 students.

**Noted for the Record**

Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan takes his seat at 6:20 p.m.

Councilwoman Kleckowski asks Justin any intervention and pre-prep arrangement for the students when they arrive at work. Jeff replies that they do, do an orientation for them, dress for success on proper attire. The chamber feels that they really prepare the students for the working environment that they will put them in. Councilwoman Kleckowski did speak to the Walgreens manager and he is very impressed with the students and the program.

Councilman Klattenberg has a question for William Warner, Director of Planning, Conservation and Development regarding resolution 10-8 the settlement of River Road. He feels that the resolution is confusing he doesn't know what the real numbers are being asked by the Council. Mr. Warner handed out a substitute resolution with all financial impact. This is the settlement and the council will have to determine if we will pay it over the next 5 years or we can pay up front. It is a financial decision that needs to be run by the finance department and bond counsel to see what way is good. Councilman Klattenberg asks if EPA has put a deadline on it. Atty. Zimmerman replies EPA is anxious to settle but not in a hurry. Councilman Klattenberg asks if we are capped, Atty. Zimmerman replies yes. Councilman Klattenberg is very pleased.

Councilwoman Bartolotta has a question for the Regatta and Alliance Club insurance policy naming the city as an additional insurer, Acting Atty. Tim Lynch replies it is standard language; we are always on as additional insurers. Dawn Warner our Risk Manager has that language put in there for extra coverage for the city so that the city is always protected.

Councilwoman Kasper has a question for Acting City Attorney Lynch on the United Fathers. Atty. Lynch replies that the language is also standard practice. Director Warner indicates that the insurance is in place.

Councilwoman Kasper has a question for William Warner will we need a bond for River Road. Mr. Warner replies that would be bond counsel to determine.

Councilman Berch has a question on resolution 10-12 United Fathers what do they actually do and what this organization is. Mr. Warner says the entire amount is 40 acres. They are using about 3 acres looking for a longer commitment with the city. They went through EDC. Councilman Berch asks if they have been in contact with VOAG program as well if they need any assistant. Mr. Warner replies yes.

Councilwoman Kasper asks Diana Doyle, Assistant Finance Director about the resolution 10-11 – 10% reserve on arts. If it is such a small amount can they work to transfer from somewhere else? Ms. Doyle responds yes. We can work with them to cover the small amount of money.

**Workshop Closes**

The Chair closes the workshop at 6:38 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn**

Motion made to adjourn by Councilman Pessina seconded by Councilman Klattenberg. Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

**ATTEST:**

**Linda DeSena**  
**Acting Council Clerk**