



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT
FEBRUARY 9, 2012**

Special Meeting A community meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chambers on Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 7 p.m.

Present Mayor Daniel T. Drew, Council Members, Thomas J. Serra, Ronald P. Klattenberg, Mary A. Bartolotta, Gerald E. Daley, Robert P. Santangelo, Hope P. Kasper, Philip J. Pessina, Linda Salafia, Todd G. Berch, and Deborah Kleckowski, Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan, Sergeant-at-arms, Acting Common Council Clerk Linda DeSena.

Absent Council Members Grady L. Faulkner, Jr. and Joseph E. Bibisi.

Also Present Fourteen members of the public.

Meeting Called to Order The Chair calls the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and leads the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Call of Meeting Read The Call of Meeting was read and accepted. The Mayor declares the call a Legal Call and the Meeting a Legal Meeting.

Public Comment Opens The Chair opens public comment at 7:06 p.m. and reminds the public state name and address for the record and time limit is 5 minutes.

Salvatore Caracogila states he used to be a proud citizen of Middletown and doesn't know if he is that proud anymore. He has seen too many shenanigans with the Board of Education and here in the City and he would like to address what has gone on for the past three years with the Board of Education. He attended a meeting in October or November that Nancy Haynes, the person responsible for making up purchase orders and transferring money to the account 9999. That money has disappeared and then the Council and specifically the Mayor you restored \$1.5 million to their funds and you stated that this money was for education programs when the money was dispersed in the Board of Education for raises. Not one teacher got a raise and instead of using it for educational programs, they used it to raise their salaries when you yourself said it was going to educational programs. When you restore \$2.5 million to their account you have increased the budget \$2.5 and it will be doubled for the next year's budget because there is a statute or a policy where the educational budget continues to increase. He states that you and Mr. Serra are democrats and he wants to tell you that you do a good job at it because these problems will continue. For the past 20 years, the Board of Education has done whatever you allow them to do and at the end of 1995, the Board of Education was missing \$6 million. The Chair warns the speaker not to make claims or accusations that are unfounded. We will hear your complaints, but I will not let you make accusations against anyone; there will be accusations and no slander. Mr. Caracoglia responds there was \$6 million missing. The Chair states no unfounded claims will be made and asks Mr. Caracoglia to stick to matters before this body. Mr. Caracoglia states every year they put money in a private account and this money disappears and people don't know nothing. He would like the Board of Education to be more transparent on transfers when and how and why it is necessary. It is not fair that we have the same problem every year. The Chair states your time is up; there is a five minute rule. Mr. Caracoglia states two people need to be fired.

The Chair asks for other members of the public wishing to speak.

Ed Dypa states we lost Phyllis Pollock last week a member of the Senior Services Committee and Bill Wasch wrote a tribute to her and he reads it. She will be missed on the Commission. He would like to pass this out and

asks if a tribute can be done at a chamber meeting. The other item is Tom Cheeseman and he was a big help to the seniors providing transportation and he would like recognition for him. We have been without a Senior Services Director for six years and he knows reorganization is in the works. Ray Santostefano and Stephan Allison have done a wonderful job as Director and Program Manager and you need someone there full time. They would like a manager to handle Senior Affairs in Middletown and he would like to see the position filled as soon as possible. Regarding the Senior Center renovation, we don't know who is moving in there and the architect is working on the floor plan and it is hard not knowing who is going in there. We are spinning our wheels and wasting money because the architect is working and it is like designing a house for a wife and 3 kids and then finding out the in-laws are moving in with them. They would like to know who is moving in and if it is the Parks Department let's make the decision so we can lay out the floor plan.

The Chair asks if there are other speakers. No one comes forward

Public Comment Closes

The Chair closes the public comment at 7:16 p.m.

Motion to Adjourn

Councilman Serra moves to adjourn and his motion is seconded by Councilman Berch. The vote is called and it is unanimous to adjourn with ten aye votes. The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

ATTEST:

MARIE O. NORWOOD
Common Council Clerk