



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT  
APRIL 7, 2014**

**1. Mayor calls meeting to order.**

**Special Meeting**

The Special meeting Questions to Directors of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Monday, April 7, 2014 at 6 p.m.

**Present**

Mayor Daniel T. Drew and Council Members Thomas J. Serra, Hope Kasper, Carl R. Chisem, Gerald E. Daley, James B. Streeto, Sebastian N. Giuliano, Sandra Russo Driska, Deborah Kleckowski and David Bauer; Sergeant-at-arms Deputy Police Chief Michael Timbro; and Common Council Clerk Marie O. Norwood.

**Absent**

Deputy Robert P. Santangelo; Council Members Mary A. Bartolotta and Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., and Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan,

**Also Present**

Public Works Deputy Director Robert Dobmeier, Finance Director Carl Erlacher, Director of IT William Oliver, Water and Sewer Director Guy Russo, Parking Director Geen Thazhampallath, City Attorney Brig Smith, Deputy Chief of Police Michael Timbro, Acting Recreation and Community Services Director Deb Stanley, Tax Assessor Damon Braasch, Acting Fire Chief Robert Kronenberger, Director of Communications Wayne Bartolotta, Director of Human Relations Faith Jackson, Director of Health Joseph Havlicek, MD, Arts Coordinator Stephan Allison, City and Town Clerk Linda Bettencourt, Emergency Management Director Bruce Driska, Russell Library Director Arthur Meyers, Youth Services Coordinator Justin Carbonella, Planning, Conservation, and Development Director William Warner, Joseph Samolis Administrative Aide to the Mayor and six members of the public.

**Meeting Called to Order**

The Chair, Mayor Daniel T. Drew calls the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. and asks Councilwoman Kleckowski to lead the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Call of Meeting Read**

The Call of the meeting is read and accepted. The Acting Chair declares this call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.

**(Council Clerk Reads the Call of the Meeting and Mayor declares call a legal call and meeting a legal meeting.)**

**2. Questions to Directors Opens**

The Chair opens Questions to Directors at 6:06 and recognizes Councilman Bauer. Councilman Bauer asks to address questions to Guy Russo, Director of Water and Sewer. He states there is old business on our agenda asking the Mayor to sign a Certificate of Acceptance agreement; it is an old agreement. He asks to be brought up to date. Mr. Russo states they were working on restructuring the contract favorable to the City and Kleen Energy. They have traded proposals on how to structure the payments. The arrangement is set; it was anticipated the Water Department would run the wells and it would be the cost of service and they can't make more money than what it costs. If they overpriced it one year, it would be reduced the following; it would be trued up year to year. After some discussion with Kleen Energy, he hasn't found an arrangement that would add value. If they proceed the way the contract is written, any labor would be offset in the budget by reduction of the labor in the Water budget. Trying to change it out because it is not a Water Department function; this is a venture that belongs to the general fund. The finances would not warrant a benefit by the offer that was made. Councilman Bauer appreciates the distinction, but in this agreement, are there anything or any possible advantages to the City in the future by integrating this.

Mr. Russo responds it was our intention to qualify it as a potable source; the DEEP has regulations and it has to be so far from the river; when its time, they will let the science dictate and it would require a change in regulations and they have agreed to entertain the discussion. This is a multi-year project.

Councilman Streeto is recognized asks about agenda item 7C, a Bond authorization. Can you give us what it is?

**Point of Information**

Councilman Serra asks it be done diplomatically.

Mr. Russo states the Regionalization Building Committee, in completing the design, engineering, and force main for the pump station have been apprised that the original estimate of \$37 million would not be enough to complete the pump station to be dependable and save. It will be near the waterfront and we want something durable. In order to get a station that met the original design concept, the budget could not be met. The assurance was given that \$37 million would be sufficient, but it is not. It is not a problem created by myself or the Building Committee, but a woeful inadequate bid estimate. It is under the \$3 million and talking to the Chair they will add some alternates and the WPCA will have to manage it and will look at cash reserves. Councilman Streeto states the WPCA is in favor of this. Mr. Russo responds yes; it had to be done that way. Councilman Streeto states the original alternatives for joining Mattabassett there is a \$6 million difference. Mr. Russo replies it would be more than that; to replace the plant would be in the low \$100 million, so this is still less. Councilman Streeto states the project is more expensive than the original guesstimate. Mr. Russo replies the engineers should have been more diligent in their estimates. The pipeline portion has come in under target. Councilman Streeto states the pump station will be solid and will be there for the next 30 to 40 years. Mr. Russo replies yes. The structural shell must be done right. Councilman Streeto states how old is the present facility. Mr. Russo replies it was built in 1971.

There are no further questions for this director. Mr. Russo, before leaving the podium, states for all UCONN alums, go Huskies.

**3. Questions to Directors Closes.**

The Chair, hearing no further comments from the Council members, closes Questions to Directors at 6:16 p.m.

**4. Meeting adjourned.**

The Chair asks for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Bauer moves to adjourn and is seconded by Councilman Streeto. There is no discussion. The Chair calls for the vote and it is unanimous to approve with nine aye votes. The Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

ATTEST:

MARIE O. NORWOOD  
COMMON COUNCIL CLERK