



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT**

**QUESTIONS TO DIRECTORS  
OCTOBER 7, 2019  
AT 6:00 PM**

**MINUTES**

The Special Meeting, the Questions to Directors Workshop of the Common Council of the City of Middletown, was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Monday, October 7, 2019, at 6:00 PM.

Present: Councilman Carl Chisem  
Councilman Gerald Daley  
Councilman Sebastian Giuliano  
Councilman Eugene Nocera  
Councilman Philip Pessina  
Councilwoman Linda Salafia  
Councilman Robert Santangelo

Absent: Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta; Councilman Robert Blanchard; Councilman W. Vance Cotten;  
Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr.; Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski; Council Clerk Linda S.K. Reed

Also Present: Acting Council Clerk – Linda DeSena  
Arts Coordinator – Keisha Michael  
Diversity & Equal Opp.– Faith Jackson, Director  
City & Town Clerk – Ashley Flynn, CCTC  
Energy Coordinator. – Michael Harris  
Finance – Carl Erlacher, CPA  
Fire Department – Chief Robert Kronenberger  
General Counsel – Brig Smith, Esq.  
Health – Kevin Elak, R.S.  
Library – Ramona Burkey, Director  
Police Department – Capt. John Lozefski,  
Public Works – William Russo  
Recreation – Cathy Lechowicz  
Water & Sewer – Joseph Fazzino, P.E., Director  
Water & Sewer – Donald Fisco, Deputy Director  
Youth Services – Justin Carbonella, MPA

Members of the Public: 19

**1. Call to Order**

Deputy Mayor Robert Santangelo, calls the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and leads the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Acting Council Clerk reads the Call of the Meeting and the Chair declares the call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.

**2. Questions to Directors Opens**

The Questions session opens at 6:03 PM. The Chair asks if anyone has questions for any director. The Chair calls on Councilman Eugene Nocera.

Councilman Nocera has a question for Joe Fazzino, Director of Water & Sewer, Chairman Alderi, and Deputy Director of Water & Sewer Donald Fisco.

He asks Director Fazzino to give a brief update on the Francis T. Patnaude treatment plant/pump station.

Director Fazzino: Under construction for over 2 years. Coming close to the finish line. Walsch construction has completed installation of all the equipment. They are doing start up and training. Getting ready for the finishes, concrete sidewalks all coming together. Trying to plan a commemoration for the pump station dedication. Working with contractor and architect and having dedication plaques cast and installed Getting close to accepting flow which is the first part of the startup., where we will be able to take sanitary sewer flow from East Main Street portion of the city and then once we get equipment tested and coordinate with Mattabasset on the startup we will be moving over to river road side to take the flow from the south district and north district that will be coming to the pump station. Once we get that portion completed we will be getting started to do the decommission clean up and get ready for river development. With that we are tentative scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup> dedication ceremony. All are welcome to attend. We will be sending out invitations. With me I have Dale Alderi Commission from Water and Pollution Control Authority. Mr. Alderi wants to thank everyone for your support through the years. I am the chair of the WPCA and one of the member of the Mattabasset Board. I have seen this project through many years a lot of hard work and dedication to all the employees It's not just a pump station this is a significant addition to the Mattabasset district and our flow will come through as the best throughout the whole district. We have put a considerable amount of money and glad to see the construction come to an end and become a regional sewer distribution network completed and wants to thank everyone for their support. Councilman Nocera having served on the WPCA for the past four years I would like to commend the staff and the past leadership. This has been a decade long project that it is tremendous accomplishment for staff and dedication to Dale, prior directors

to get the project where it is today. I would also like to commend Councilman Pessina who is chair of the pumping station piece of it. It is tremendously complicated process that will save tax payers a lot of money. There are so many benefits and I commend the staff to plow through all the red tape and we are close to turning the power on. Director Fazzino said thank you it's a team effort and that Guy Russo lead the race for a long time and passed the baton to Mr. Fazzino the is the last leg of the race. Councilman Nocera congratulates him again and would like to see everyone at the tentatively schedule November 1<sup>st</sup> dedication and celebrate this accomplishment.

The Chair calls on Councilman Philip Pessina.

Councilman Pessina states that the important part is we appreciate our committee. We have put in a lot of hours to do what the taxpayers has asked us to do and you were on our sub committee's when I could not be there and everyone's expertise has been phenomenal this feature is the best in the state with Guy's involvement. What's important here is our team got this done on behalf of the citizens of Middletown. So that the next place the former plant is going to is our outstanding director of Planning, conservation and development to Joe Samolis and our future is bright. This is the key to the riverfront development. When the public sees this plant it will be unbelievable. Testing of the flows will be done this week which is important. Again, to Joe Samolis who is sitting out here, do us proud on this river development. To everyone else great job. See you on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Council Pessina has a point of privilege for Police Captain John Lozefski.

The Chair asks if it has to do with something on the agenda. Chair states this is questions to directors with items on the agenda.

Councilman Pessina says no.

The Chair calls on Councilwoman Linda Salafia.

Councilman Salafia has a question on the resolution Middletown Community Choice Aggregation. Michael Harris, Energy Coordinator steps to the podium.

Hello I am Michael Harris, the city's energy coordinator. I am here on behalf of Clean Energy Taskforce. We as the city are asking to stand up and ask the state to develop a program so all the towns in the state can benefit. It's called Community Choice Aggregation. It will give towns an option to develop an electricity program that they can offer to residents by which they can benefit from the aggregation. There are also other side benefits that accrue with this as well. For example, in this resolution we can take the option to take control of the energy efficiency funds that are generated from the electric bills that currently go and are administered by the utilities. Unfortunately this process is very political and the funds were used in the last two years to balance the state budget. We can use the revenue stream for programs on our own. We can have better access to everyone in the town.

The Chair calls on Councilman Philip Pessina.

Councilman Pessina: the last statement about lower income access jumped out to me personally. Wanted to commend the Energy Task Force for bringing this forward to us for approval because it goes to the heart of the matter and it addresses the individual families and give them an opportunity. Please let the task know for a job well done.

The Chair call son Councilman Sebastian Giuliano

Councilman Giuliano calls Joseph Samolis, Director of Planning, Conservation, and Development to the podium. He asks, just for the record, if the 8-24 referrals for the two items been filed to the Planning and Zoning Commission so action by this Council will be in compliance correct.

Director Samolis responded yes.

### **3. Questions to Directors Closes**

There being no further questions for any director, the Chair closes the Questions to Directors meeting at 6:17 PM.

### **4. Meeting adjourned**

Councilman Gerald Daley moves to adjourn. Councilman Philip Pessina seconds the motion. There being no discussion, the Chair calls for a vote. The vote is unanimous with six (6) votes. The Motion to Adjourn is approved.

The meeting is adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

ATTEST:  
LINDA DESENA, ACTING COMMON COUNCIL CLERK