



**SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING**  
**January 9, 2014**  
**7 P.M.**

**Special Meeting**

The Special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Thursday, January 9, 2014 at 7 p.m.

**Present**

Mayor Daniel T. Drew and Council Members Thomas J. Serra, Mary A. Bartolotta, Hope Kasper, , Robert P. Santangelo, Grady L. Faulkner, Jr., Carl R. Chisem, Gerald E. Daley, James B. Streeto, Sebastian N. Giuliano, Sandra Russo Driska, Deborah Kleckowski and David Bauer; Corporation Counsel Daniel B. Ryan; Sergeant-at-arms Officer Haddad; and Common Council Clerk Marie O. Norwood.

**Absent**

Council Members Thomas J. Serra, Mary A. Bartolotta and Sandra Russo Driska.

**Also Present**

Four members of the public.

**Meeting Called to Order**

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 7 p.m. and leads the public in the Pledge of Allegiance. He welcomes everyone to the meeting

**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.

**Public Comment Opens**

The Chair opens public comment at 7:02 p.m., asking if there are any members of the public wishing to address the Council.

Susan Chanko states she realizes the issue is more intended for Planning and Zoning and she hoped coming here will light a fire. What her concern is, is a lack of a City blight ordinance. She is concerned.

**Noted for the Record**

Councilman Daley takes his seat at 7:02 p.m.

She was distressed at having garbage left on lawns and not being picked up and businesses that are overgrown. She is looking for the town to be neat and clean and welcoming to people in Middletown. She looks at Main Street extension. It is not the most welcoming. She looks at South Main Street extension. and the gas station in disrepair, but her biggest concern is especially in the summer, you will see chairs and things piled on front lawns. She sees it in her neighborhood and finds it distressing. She heard that it is difficult to enforce a blight ordinance. We should be looking for ways to overcome obstacles. Farmington can do it, Ann Arbor can do it and she does not know why we feel vulnerable so we can't do it. It should be a high level concern. There are things we can do to beautify this town. She is not the judge and jury but if she goes up and down Ridge Road, the grass is high and not being taken care of. It is the deterioration of the neighborhood. The second issue is people who live in a single family residence and have 17 cars parked in and around their house; they have garages and they are parked in the driveway and on the street and if it is registered car, the Police can't do anything. We should have a view of the street and nice neighborhood.

The Chair thanks her; no one here would disagree with you and we do have a blight ordinance and we enforce it strictly and right now it is extraordinary to enforce; and the gas station was had a lien put on to get the owner to clean it up; they lost money for the clean-up. We can send the Health Department out and there are a whole series of issues they can take care of.

There is a task force involved and they have done a lot of work and have worked aggressively to clean it up. Ms Chanko adds she realizes zoning regulations the way they are and Ridge Road has been a bone of contention about Marino Crane. It is a nice little street and you see the huge cranes and they have to use Ridge Road or someone should talk with them that there should be some screening of the area so we don't see that. The Chair thanks the speaker.

Scott MacDonald comes forward and passes information out to the Council. He is providing the Council with a list of municipalities that have stopped dropping sand on the roads. He has talked with about half of the municipalities and he understands that it is a matter before the Public Works Commission, but wants to make the Council aware of this. He has conducted hours of research on best practices of road use. He has talked to environmental agencies, highway boards, salt institutes and they have tested winter maintenance and in Utah, a local testing program, has as its research road maintenance. He has consulted municipal people about winter road maintenance. He wanted to dispel some myths about salt and sand mixture. One is it provides traction and that is a myth. He quotes the study. With enhanced salt mixture like magnesium chloride, 80% stays after 100 vehicles. With sand, it only happens a short period of time and they have to go out over and over again to

drop more salt. It is a hazard to continue to use salt. He discusses an Idaho study and accidents went down from 16.2 to 2.7 when they went to magnesium chloride and labor costs went down 620 to 240 hours. First myth is sand is better. Magnesium chloride prevents the snow from sticking for nine hours. Second myth is it is worse for the environment; magnesium chloride is better than sand and salt. Third is it costs more; 17 communities he talked to said they saved thousands and thousands of dollars with the use of magnesium chloride. He wanted the Council to be aware of this. He brought this up based on the research, his best guesstimate that the past 5 years the City has wasted close to a quarter of a million of dollars. It doesn't cost more, is better for the environment and is safer.

The Chair asks if anyone else from the public wishes to speak.

**Public Comment Closes**

The Chair, seeing no further speakers, closes public comment at 7:16 p.m.

**Meeting Adjourned**

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

ATTEST:

MARIE O NORWOOD  
Common Council Clerk