

Finance and Government Operations Commission Meeting Minutes
Middletown, Connecticut
December 29, 2014
Municipal Building Room 208
6:30 P.M.

SPECIAL MEETING:

Present: Councilman Thomas Serra, Councilman David Bauer, Councilwoman Hope Kasper, Councilwoman Deb Kleckowski, Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta, Bruce Driska, Thomas Marano, George Dunn, Diana Doyle, Michiel Wackers, William Russo, Kori Wisneski, Lee Matterazzo, Kathy Morey, Guy Russo, Attorney Michael Dowley, Jeff Pierce, Shaun Beals, Vincent Loffredo, Sebastian Giuliano, David Roman, Alex Gecan
Carl Erlacher (late arrival 9 pm)

Absent: None

1. Councilman Serra called the meeting to order and requested a motion to approve the minutes from the November 24, 2014 Finance and Government meeting. Councilwoman Kasper made the motion to approve, Councilwoman Bartolotta seconded, unanimously approved.
2. Public Comments from items on the agenda.

Deputy City Attorney Kori Wisneski informed the committee that Attorney Brigham Smith was unable to be here tonight, he was still in route back home from the holiday break. Kori suggested tabling the 7 items located at the bottom of the agenda in which Brig was going to be discussing this evening. Councilman Serra and Councilwoman Kasper asked for the following information for the next meeting:

- All documentation in chronological order pertaining to the Middle Oak property starting back to when the land was purchased by the city and given to Middlesex Mutual.
- Was there an abatement
- Who is collecting the fees for the allocated city spots in the parking garage
- Back-up pertaining to the Cowdery, Ecker & Murphy invoices - \$60K
- Back-up pertaining to the Robinson and Cole invoices for the Pension Board
- As well as all material requested from the last F & G meeting

Guy Russo, Director of Water and Sewer stated that he doesn't have an item posted this evening but would like to speak to the Middle Street item listed under

Planning and Zoning. Would the committee entertain waving the rules and allow him to speak during the general discussion. Councilwoman Kasper made a motion to honor this request and Councilwoman Bartolotta seconded, unanimously approved.

3. Conferences and Training:

Lee Matterazzo requested an approval to attend the 44th Annual Connecticut Tax Collectors' Association Inc., Seminar on March 25, 2015. The cost of attendance is \$105.00. Councilwoman Kasper made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Bartolotta seconded, unanimously approved.

William Russo requested an approval for Rick Romano to attend the 93rd Connecticut Tree Protective Association Seminar on January 15, 2015. Councilwoman Kasper made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Bartolotta seconded, unanimously approved.

4. The following Departments have submitted items to be discussed:

Planning & Zoning – Appropriation Request totaling \$442,250 for the Pierce Property Open Space Acquisition; Resolution authorizing Mayor Drew to sign all documents necessary to effectuate the acquisition (of the Pierce Property)

Councilman Serra requested more information regarding the easement documentation as well as acknowledgment for accessibility for passive recreation. Michiel Wackers spoke on back taxes owed on this property and said that the property owner would pay the back taxes at the closing with the funds they receive from the city. Councilwoman Bartolotta made the motion to postpone to the January meeting with the possibility of an executive session, Councilwoman Kasper seconded, postponement unanimous.

Appropriation Request totaling \$45,000 for the Middle Street Open Space Acquisition; Appropriation Request totaling \$100,000 from the Water Fund Balance for the Middle Street Water Infrastructure Grant

Guy Russo began the discussion by stating subsequent to this meeting the WCPA has explored a limited interconnection with the Town of Berlin for both water and sewer to service this area and to essentially set up as a special water district. Councilwoman Bartolotta made a motion to forgo the \$45K appropriation and the \$100K appropriation request based on the conversation with Director Guy Russo and will wait to hear the final outcome from the WPCA before this committee makes its final decision, Councilwoman Kasper seconded.

Resolution authorizing Mayor Drew to effect a 4 year partial tax abatement for real property improvements located at specified lots on Middle Street, cap the building permit fees at \$20,000 for real property improvements at specified lots, authorize and execute the agreement to purchase 15 acres of open space for \$45,000 and reimburse NADEKA up to \$100,000 from the Water Fund Balance upon receipt of Certificate of Occupancy from the City.

Councilman Bauer made a motion to authorize the four year partial tax abatement per the city ordinance and cap the permit fee of \$20,000 for the real property improvements on this specified lot. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Kleckowski, unanimously approved to forward to the Council Floor.

- Approved to send to the Council Floor -

Resolution authorizing Mayor Drew to execute an agreement for an Economic Development Incentive Proposal for Mixed Use Development at corners of Broad and College Streets

Motion tabled for answers.

Resolution authorizing Mayor Drew to sign and submit amendments to Consolidated Plan and 2014 Annual Action Plan (as stated in the Resolution)

Councilwoman Kasper made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Kleckowski seconded, unanimously approved.

Resolution approving the transfer of \$24,500 for the Planning/Environmental Specialist position

Councilman Bauer made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Bartolotta seconded with an ordinance revision stating that all job posting go through the Finance Department to make sure the funding is available and also stipulating that all new hires start at a step 1. Motion passed, Councilman Serra – yes, Councilwoman Bartolotta – yes, Councilman Bauer – yes, Councilwoman Kleckowski – no and Councilwoman Kasper – no.

- Approved to send to Council Floor as written. -

Emergency Management – Appropriation Request totaling \$10,000 for labor, equipment and materials to run MHS generator under load and address the wet stacking (fuel) issue and purchase air filters

Councilman Bauer made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Kleckowski seconded, unanimous approval.

- Approved to send to Council Floor -

Public Works – Resolution authorizing Mayor Drew to sign & submit an amended application to the State of CT for \$12,253.89 in LoCIP funds for LED Lighting at Harbor Park

Councilwoman Kasper made the motion to approve and Councilwoman Bartolotta seconded, unanimous approval.

-Approved to send to Council Floor –

**Vacancy funding in Planning & Zoning
Discussion of Cowdery, Ecker & Murphy LLC invoices
Discussion of Prescription Drug Survey as proposed at Insurance and Claims Commission
Discussion of cost of Workers Comp Attorney attendance at Pension Board Meetings
Discussion of cost of City Attorney/Mayor's consultation with Pension Attorneys
Discussion of Robinson and Cole invoices for Pension Board
Review of Ordinance 78-10 Contracts for Professional Services
Executive Session: pursuant to Conn. Gen. stat. 1-200(6)(B) – MHS wall update**

These items were tabled.

Regular Reports

- Transfer of Funds/BOE Transfers
- General Fund Appropriations
- City's Investments
- Monthly Expenditure Summary Report
- Tax Collection Recap Report
- Department Overtime Reports

5. Other

7. The next meeting is Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 7:00 pm in Room B19.

Respectfully
Submitted by,

Tracy Vess on behalf of Carl R. Erlacher