



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

**COMMUNITY MEETING
APRIL 11, 2109**

DRAFT MINUTES

The Special Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown, also known as the Community Meeting, was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Thursday, April 11, 2109 at 7:00 PM.

Present: Mayor Daniel Drew
Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta
Councilman Robert Blanchard
Councilman Carl Chisem
Councilman W. Vance Cotton
Councilman Gerald Daley
Councilman Grady L. Faulkner, Jr.
Councilman Sebastian Giuliano
Councilman Eugene Nocera
Councilman Philip Pessina
Councilwoman Linda Salafia
Councilman Robert Santangelo

Absent: Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski

Also Present: Linda DeSena, Clerk of the Common Council (Substitute)

Members of the Public: 32

1. Call to Order

Mayor Daniel Drew calls the meeting to order at 7:14 PM. He invites those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Clerk reads the warrant. The Chair declares the call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting. The Chair welcomes the public to the community meeting.

2. Public Comment

The chair opens the public comment session at 7:16 PM. He invites anyone wishing to speak to come to the podium, asking that they state their name and address for the record. He reminds the public that the Councilmembers are here to listen and will not be taking any action. Speakers are asked to limit comments to five (5) minutes.

Edward McKeon (Pearl Street): He states the he is here to speak about public comment. He has heard a lot of speeches about public comment and how it is a reflection of our democracy. It is great when large crowds come to these meetings and speak. What is disturbing to him is that the people, who speak, are not always knowledgeable. They don't always have all the facts. They don't always have all the information that Councilmembers have in front of them, but they come and speak anyway. They speak from their hearts. They speak from their experience. When at a meeting, people on this dais turn around and scold those people and say that they are vomiting garbage. He reiterates the phrase: "vomiting garbage, vomiting garbage," adding that they should know better and they are telling lies. That is just the opposite of encouraging democracy, of encouraging public comment. Shame on anyone, who would do that, and shame on the rest, who do not speak up when you hear. What we should be is encouraging people to come here and talk to the Council because you might hear something that you don't know, feel something that you don't feel. Please act dignified. Play your part. Let people speak and do not admonish them.

Bill Wilson (Woodbury Circle): He is here to speak on two (2) items.

The first is the bag ordinance. He went to a number of businesses earlier this week. Not one knew about the fine. Not one knew about the 10 cent charge. If the Council is going to do something, it must let the public know. This cannot be a last second thing that is thrown out there. When he told one shop owner that the Council cut the fine from \$90 to \$45, the gentleman asked, "How is that helping my business?" The Council is basically telling people to go across the bridge, go to Durham, Meriden, and Cromwell. This should be rescinded. Poole have no probe going from plastic to paper, which is a wonderful thing. Middletown should lead in that way. One retailer is even getting paper straws, he feels so good about this, but he does not feel good charging 10 cents per bag and a \$50 fine if he doesn't go thru with this. He asked, "Is the Council is trying to make me lose business?" This was not one person, this was a number of people from the South Side to the West Side, reiterating that he spoke to a number of businesses. Not one was in favor do the fines of the 10 cent charge. He believes that this should be undone. It is not something that the Council should have done.

Everyone is fine with getting rid of plastic bags, but there are not fine with having to charge 10 cents per paper bag when it is recyclable item and it is something that can always be recycled.

He asks that the name of Woodrow Wilson Middle School. There was an outcry last night that there is talk about changing the school name. You will lose votes if this happens, there are a lot of people, who have heard about this, and they are mad: people who taught there; people who went to school there. If you change the name, remember November.

Tanya Jackish (High Street): She as not planning to speak. She was at the YMCA and heard about the meeting. She supports opposition to the tolls especially to stop the socioeconomic impact on the people, whom it will hurt the most.

3. Public Comment Closes

The Chair state states that, seeing no additional members of the public wishing to speak, the public comment session is closed. The public comment session closes at 7:21 PM.

4. Meeting adjourned

Councilman Gerald Daley moves for adjournment. Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta seconds the motion. The Chair calls for the vote. It is approved unanimously with 11 aye votes. The Chair states the motion passes with 11 affirmative votes.

The meeting is adjourned at 7:22 PM

ATTEST:

LINDA S.K. REED,
COMMON COUNCIL CLERK