

Finance and Government Operations Commission Meeting Minutes
Middletown, Connecticut
November 24, 2014
Municipal Building Room 208
7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING:

Present: Councilman Thomas Serra, Councilman David Bauer, Councilwoman Hope Kasper, Councilwoman Deb Kleckowski, Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta, Carl Erlacher, Robert Dobmeier, Bruce Driska, Donna Imme, Chief Robert Kronenberger, Thomas Marano, George Dunn, Chief McKenna, Sgt. Porter, Captain Lozefski, Eldon Bailey, Judy Yoder, Wayne Bartolotta, Geen Thazhampallath, Alex Gecan

Absent: None

1. Councilman Serra called the meeting to order and requested a motion to approve the minutes from the October 29, 2014 Finance and Government meeting. Councilwoman Kasper made the motion to approve, Councilwoman Kleckowski seconded, unanimously approved.

2. Public Comments from items on the agenda, none.

3. Conferences and Training:

Robert Dobmeier discussed the Recycling Coordinator request to attend the CT Organics Conference. Councilwoman Kasper asked if this was a requirement in her job description. If so, then it would be approved. Councilwoman Kasper made the motion to approve contingent upon the job description requirement, Councilwoman Bartolotta seconded.

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

Ordinance Review/Purchasing – Ordinance 14-14, proposed amendments to portions of Chapter 78 of the Middletown Code of Ordinances changing purchasing threshold to \$10,000.

Councilwoman Kasper moved to refer back to General Counsel, Councilwoman Kleckowski seconded.

Central Communications – Appropriation Request totaling \$20,000 for communications consultant to review radio infrastructure, provide coverage details and make recommendations for improvement & changes.

Councilwoman Kleckowski suggested moving forward to the Council floor, Councilman Serra seconded, unanimously approved.

-Approved to send to the Council Floor-

PCD – Open Space Acquisition items: Grant Confirmation totaling \$243,750 from State of CT to acquire 113 acres of open space on Higby Mountain, Appropriation Request totaling \$442,250 for acquisition of open space on Higby Mountain, Resolution authorizing Mayor Drew to sign documents necessary to acquire open space on Higby Mountain.

Bruce Driska spoke briefly on the purchase of open space on Higby Mountain. Councilman Bauer requested a postponement until the next F & G meeting, December 29th. There are many unanswered questions at this time regarding taxes, easement, contract and title. This commission also requested that the Director be present for the December 29th meeting. Councilwoman Bartolotta asked if there was a timeline on the open space grant funding. Bruce will have the answer for the next meeting. Tabled until the December 29th F & G meeting.

Economic Development items: Appropriation Request totaling \$100,000 for water & sewer infrastructure extension on Middle Street, Appropriation Request totaling \$45,000 to acquire 15 acres of open space on Middle Street, Resolution authorizing Mayor Drew to perform various actions to facilitate the water & sewer infrastructure extension on Middle Street.

Councilwoman Kasper moved to table these requests until the December 29th meeting as well as asked that it be sent before the WCPA Commission. Councilman Bauer seconded, unanimously approved to be tabled. Councilwoman Bartolotta also asked to have the Director, Michiel Wackers contact her.

Emergency Management – update and funding status of MHS Generator re-wiring

George Dunn spoke briefly on the MHS generator. He is newly appointed to this position and asked for an extension before making any decisions about the generator. Councilman Serra stated that he had until the January F & G meeting. Councilwoman Bartolotta moved to postpone until the January 28, 2015 meeting, Councilman Bauer seconded, unanimously approved the postponement.

Public Works – update and funding status of Dog Park

Robert Dobmeier discussed that the intent for the Dog Park has been in the works for the last seven years. He recently became involved with this project and has been researching Dog Parks in the surrounding areas. Councilman Serra suggested that William Russo bring this to the Public Works commission for ideas. Bob also stated that they still intended to use LoCIP funding for this project.

Informational only

Police – update and funding status of Shooting Range; Acoustical Engineering Feasibility Study of Shooting

Chief McKenna discussed the Shooting Range complaints and the feasibility study. He discussed that the FBI as well as Middletown Police Department utilize this facility, the FBI maintains the building and Middletown PD maintains the range. Councilwoman Bartolotta asked Chief McKenna to supply this committee with the working calendar from the Shooting Range. Councilman Bauer requested a financial analysis and asked what would the cost to be to break the lease. The lease to be reviewed by the General Counsel office. Councilman Serra also inquired how this committee could initiate a bond authorization legislatively. Carl Erlacher responded, “Two members, one from each party can contact the Bond Council with the specs and they would draft the authorization.” Councilman Serra also discussed his conversation with Allison from Rosa DeLauro’s office inquiring about assistance in funding totaling \$250,000 for the Shooting Range. Councilwoman Bartolotta made the motion to postpone the vote until the December 29th meeting with regards to hearing back from Rosa DeLauro’s office.

Security Bond \$750,000 City Security Bond \$750,000 BOE

Councilman Serra stated these were both Informational Only and going to be on the Public Safety agenda for December 29, 2014.

BOE-Keigwin Fire Alarm project

Patricia Charles discussed the increase in pricing to replace the original fire alarm system at Keigwin. The total cost for the project will be roughly \$291,000. Councilman Serra informed the committee that the bond in place is inclusive and in order to change it the council needs to go before special legislation. Pat also informed this committee that once that is granted she would be able to apply for the 2/3 reimbursement from the State. Councilman Serra made the motion to change the bond wording in the ordinance and Councilwoman Kleckowski seconded, unanimously approved.

- Approved to send to Council Floor-

Parking – Ordinance 285-17 parking Lots and Meters, discussion of proposed amendments

Councilman Serra asked Geen Thazhampallath to come to the next F & G meeting to discuss the proposed amendments, unfortunately they had to end tonight's meeting early.

Councilman Bauer made a motion to adjourn and Councilwoman Kasper seconded, unanimously approved.

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 Monday, December 29, 2014 at 6:30 pm in Room 208.

Respectfully
Submitted by,

Tracy Vess on behalf of Carl R. Erlacher

Meeting: Track