



COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF MIDDLETOWN
January 2, 2024 Minutes
City Hall
16 James Street
Middletown, New York 10940

J. Miguel Rodrigues, President
Ald. Jude Jean-Francois
Ald. Andrew Green
Ald. Paul Johnson
Ald. Gerald
Kleiner Ald.
Sparrow Tobin Ald.
Kevin Witt Ald.
Kate Wray
Ald. Joseph Masi (NOT PRESENT)

ALSO PRESENT:

Richard McCormack, City Clerk
Joseph M. DeStefano, Mayor

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COMMON COUNCIL MEETING - 01.02.2024

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1 **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

2 (Pledge of Allegiance.)

3 **2. Oath of Office**

4 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right. At this
5 time, I will call the Mayor up to do the Oath of Office.
6 Start by first ward. Bring up your family.

7 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Since Mr. Masi is not here,
8 do we have a volunteer to take his place? Anyway, all
9 right.

10 Well, first, welcome everyone to the bi-annual
11 swearing in of our City Councilmen. We have eight
12 Councilmen to be sworn in tonight, and along with the
13 Middletown professional -- our volunteer firefighters,
14 they're line officers, so be patient. When they get
15 here, we'll swear them in.

16 And we'll start with the First Ward with
17 Alderman Kevin Witt.

18 (Oath of Office administered to Alderman Kevin
19 Witt.)

20 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Congratulations.

21 ALD. WITT: Thank you, sir.

22 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Congratulations.

23 Kevin, you have got to sign the book.

24 Next would be Second Ward, Alderman Kleiner
25 and Alderman Green.

1 Welcome, gentlemen and lady.

2 (Oath of Office administered to Alderman

3 Gerald Kleiner and Alderman Andrew Green)

4 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Congratulations.

5 Welcome back one more time. Sign your names,
6 guys.

7 Next will be Third Ward.

8 (Oath of Office administered to Alderman Paul
9 Johnson and Alderwoman Kate Wray)

10 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Congratulations.

11 You have got to sign.

12 Next will be Fourth Ward. All set, gentlemen?

13 (Oath of Office administered to Alderman Jude
14 A. Jean-Francois and Alderman Sparrow Tobin)

15 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Congratulations.

16 When the fire company gets here, we'll do
17 them.

18 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Green, any
19 updates?

20 (Inaudible)

21 **5. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATION AND REPORTS**

22 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right.
23 Correspondence?

24 MR. MCCORMACK: Nothing this evening.

25 **6. FOR THE GOOD OF THE CITY**

1 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: For the Good of the
2 City, anyone like to address the Council? Please step
3 forward.

4 Kevin Gomez: Good evening,
5 Mr. President, distinguished members of the Common
6 Council, your Honor, the Mayor. First, I want to
7 congratulate every member of the Common Council on your
8 re-election and sworn in, and this -- of course Happy
9 New Year, this occasion, and for great things to come
10 for our City.

11 I rise on this occasion as a common member of
12 our larger Middletown community in support of the
13 initiative recently unveiled by Mayor DeStefano and
14 State Senator Skoufis allowing -- I believe it was free
15 transit Orange bus service from for Middletown residents
16 up to the month of April through a grant obtained from
17 the state.

18 When we look at our City, we see a Middletown
19 reborn, with visionary leadership alongside a renewed
20 spirit of our entrepreneurship of our people as many new
21 shops and businesses bring renewed life to our downtown
22 and beyond.

23 We see a strong community partnership between
24 our police with our school board and other members of
25 our community united for public safety, while new

1 families continue to move into our wards. Like those of
2 generations old, in love with the idea of calling home a
3 community where you can raise a family, worship God,
4 work and play.

5 Despite the many challenges New York State
6 faces, our Middletown does stand out as a bright spot
7 for leadership and a partnership with residents in the
8 right direction. If we are to continue this, I do
9 believe, and I think all of you will agree with me, that
10 a regional mass transit system is a must.

11 Today, Westchester, Dutchess and Rockland
12 Counties have established bus systems allowing residents
13 to travel to school, work, medical appointments, or for
14 recreational purposes in safe, low-cost and
15 environmentally friendly and efficient manners from one
16 end of the respective counties to the other end.
17 However, the same cannot be said of Orange County where
18 some of our residents must board, when a car is not
19 available, a cab paying \$40 to \$80 round trip or more to
20 get to their place of destination.

21 With so many families moving into our City, I
22 think a transit system of the likes of Westchester or
23 Rockland is not only past due, I think it's about time.
24 And this is why I'm hopeful that the initiative put
25 forward by our Mayor and State Senator for improving bus

1 service within the City will serve as a catalyst or a
2 lightening rod for greater things down the road. With a
3 a model bus system within our City, we can set division
4 for one that will connect all the different towns and
5 villages of Orange County, and with our downtown serving
6 as a transit hub, which I know it's an issue the Mayor
7 has addressed or a vision put forward on many prior
8 occasions. And not only do I see a bus system in our
9 County's future as a must, but I do -- and maybe I'm a
10 little too idealistic -- see in the future, we can have
11 a light rail system connecting the major cities of the
12 Hudson Valley, from Middletown to Port Jervis to
13 Kingston to New Paltz and beyond. Okay.

14 I do believe that the initiative put forward
15 sets us in the right direction as a foundation for
16 greater opportunities for the future. And I do believe
17 for -- it will be something worthy of our residents that
18 we move forward continuing to expand mass bus service.
19 This is an issue not just for cities like New York, but
20 also important for the Hudson Valley. And in the words
21 of President Franklin Roosevelt: It can be done. It
22 must be done. And it will be done.

23 Thank you.

24 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Thank you.

25 Anyone else who like to address the Council?

1 Okay.

2 **7. REMARKS OF THE MAYOR**

3 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Remarks of the Mayor.

4 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Pass.

5 (Inaudible)

6 **8. REMARKS OF THE DEPARTMENT HEADS**

7 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right, I will go
8 over the departments. Economic Development.

9 MS. BRUNI: I just want to wish everyone a
10 Happy New Year, and congratulations to you all. And I
11 don't have anything this evening.

12 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right. Any
13 questions? Thank you, Maria.

14 MS. BRUNI: Thank you.

15 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: DPW Commissioner.

16 MR. TAWIL: Good evening. I just want to wish
17 everybody a Happy New Year, and if you have any
18 questions for me.

19 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: No questions.

20 MR. TAWIL: Thank you.

21 (Inaudible)

22 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: We have our assessor.

23 MS. FEELY: Good evening. I don't have
24 anything tonight, but I wanted to congratulate you all
25 on your new terms, and Happy New Year.

1 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right. Thank you.
2 City Clerk.

3 MR. MCCORMACK: Congratulations to everybody
4 and welcome back. Happy New Year.

5 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Superintendent of
6 Recreation.

7 MS. BERTOLF: Hello. Congratulations to
8 everyone and Happy New Year. I'm looking forward to
9 your support of our new Recreation Commission member,
10 Jaycee Galdamez. She's going to be a wonderful
11 addition. She's very big into the community and to her
12 kids' lives, and her children are a part of many of our
13 programs. And we're looking forward to your support in
14 passing the resolution to get her on to our Recreation
15 Commission. Nothing else to report.

16 (Inaudible)

17 MS. BERTOLF: Jaycee?

18 This is Jaycee Galdamez. I first met her a
19 few years ago. One of her -- four kids, one of them
20 was in our program. Her kids are very involved in the
21 community, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts. She's involved --
22 any program that her kids are in, she's highly involved
23 in, on PTO's, the Diversity Committee with the school
24 district.

25 Any time we're looking for someone to join the

1 Recreation Commission, it's someone's who's involved,
2 who's a supportive parent, and who's able to get our
3 information out to the community. And being Jaycee is
4 a part of numerous committees and volunteers everywhere
5 that she can, she would be a great asset to our
6 Recreation Commission in giving us feedback from the
7 parent point of view and from her children's point of
8 view as well.

9 Thank you.

10 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Awesome. Welcome.

11 MS. GALDAMEZ: Thank you.

12 MS. BERTOLF: Any questions?

13 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right. Thank you.

14 MS. BERTOLF: Happy New Year.

15 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right, Mayor. I
16 think the Fire Department showed up.

17 Still missing one.

18 **9. PUBLIC HEARINGS**

19 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right. Let's go to
20 Public Hearings.

21 MR. MCCORMACK: We just need to close the
22 public hearing that was opened on December 19th for the
23 Tobacco License, Retail Tobacco License.

24 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Do I have a motion to
25 close the Public Hearing?

1 ALD. JOHNSON: So moved.

2 ALD. WITT: Second.

3 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Johnson,
4 seconded by Alderman Witt. All in favor?

5 (Chorus of aye.)

6 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Aye. All right.

7 Let's do remarks -- no, we'll do -- I'll wait.
8 Give it a couple of minutes. How far is he out?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He doesn't live far.
10 He can walk.

11 (Inaudible)

12 **13. NEW BUSINESS**

13 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right. We'll do new
14 business, then we'll go back to remarks of Aldermen.

15 All right. New business.

16 MR. MCCORMACK: Good evening. We have a
17 resolution sponsored by Alderman Tobin establishing
18 committees and membership for the 2024 year.

19 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Resolution sponsored by
20 Alderman Tobin, seconded by Alderman Johnson. Any
21 discussion?

22 Roll.

23 MR. MCCORMACK: Tobin?

24 ALD. TOBIN: Aye.

25 MR. MCCORMACK: Jean-Francois?

1 ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Aye.
2 MR. MCCORMACK: Johnson?
3 ALD. JOHNSON: Aye.
4 MR. MCCORMACK: Wray?
5 ALD. WRAY: Aye.
6 MR. MCCORMACK: Kleiner?
7 ALD. KLEINER: Aye.
8 MR. MCCORMACK: Green?
9 ALD. GREEN: Aye.
10 MR. MCCORMACK: Witt?
11 ALD. WITT: Aye.
12 MR. MCCORMACK: President Rodrigues?
13 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Aye.
14 MR. MCCORMACK: Carries.
15 A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Johnson
16 adopting a procurement policy.
17 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Resolution sponsored by
18 Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Wray. Any
19 discussion?
20 Roll.
21 MR. MCCORMACK: Tobin?
22 ALD. TOBIN: Aye.
23 MR. MCCORMACK: Jean-Francois?
24 ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Aye.
25 MR. MCCORMACK: Johnson?

1 ALD. JOHNSON: Aye.
2 MR. MCCORMACK: Wray?
3 ALD. WRAY: Aye.
4 MR. MCCORMACK: Kleiner?
5 ALD. KLEINER: Aye.
6 MR. MCCORMACK: Green?
7 ALD. GREEN: Aye.
8 MR. MCCORMACK: Witt?
9 ALD. WITT: Aye.
10 MR. MCCORMACK: President Rodrigues?
11 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Aye.
12 MR. MCCORMACK: Carries.
13 A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Johnson
14 adopting an investment policy.
15 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Resolution sponsored by
16 Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Jean-Francois.
17 Any discussion?
18 Roll.
19 MR. MCCORMACK: Tobin?
20 ALD. TOBIN: Aye.
21 MR. MCCORMACK: Jean-Francois?
22 ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Aye.
23 MR. MCCORMACK: Johnson?
24 ALD. JOHNSON: Aye.
25 MR. MCCORMACK: Wray?

1 ALD. WRAY: Aye.
2 MR. MCCORMACK: Kleiner?
3 ALD. KLEINER: Aye.
4 MR. MCCORMACK: Green?
5 ALD. GREEN: Aye.
6 MR. MCCORMACK: Witt?
7 ALD. WITT: Aye.
8 MR. MCCORMACK: President Rodrigues?
9 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Aye.
10 MR. MCCORMACK: Carries.
11 Resolution sponsored by Alderman Johnson
12 adopting a fee schedule.
13 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Resolution sponsored by
14 Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Green. Any
15 discussion?
16 Roll.
17 MR. MCCORMACK: Tobin?
18 ALD. TOBIN: Aye.
19 MR. MCCORMACK: Jean-Francois?
20 ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Aye.
21 MR. MCCORMACK: Johnson?
22 ALD. JOHNSON: Aye.
23 MR. MCCORMACK: Wray?
24 ALD. WRAY: Aye.
25 MR. MCCORMACK: Kleiner?

1 ALD. KLEINER: Aye.

2 MR. MCCORMACK: Green?

3 ALD. GREEN: Aye.

4 MR. MCCORMACK: Witt?

5 ALD. WITT: Aye.

6 MR. MCCORMACK: President Rodrigues?

7 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Aye.

8 MR. MCCORMACK: Carries.

9 Resolution sponsored by Alderwoman Wray

10 appointing a 207A Officer.

11 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Resolution sponsored by

12 Alderwoman Wray, seconded by Alderman Johnson. Any

13 discussion?

14 Roll.

15 MR. MCCORMACK: Tobin?

16 ALD. TOBIN: Aye.

17 MR. MCCORMACK: Jean-Francois?

18 ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Aye.

19 MR. MCCORMACK: Johnson?

20 ALD. JOHNSON: Aye.

21 MR. MCCORMACK: Wray?

22 ALD. WRAY: Aye.

23 MR. MCCORMACK: Kleiner?

24 ALD. KLEINER: Aye.

25 MR. MCCORMACK: Green?

1 ALD. GREEN: Aye.

2 MR. MCCORMACK: Witt?

3 ALD. WITT: Aye.

4 MR. MCCORMACK: President Rodrigues?

5 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Aye.

6 MR. MCCORMACK: Carries.

7 A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Witt
8 appointing Jaycee Galdamez to the Recreation
9 Commission.

10 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Resolution sponsored by
11 Alderman Witt, seconded by Alderman Kleiner. Any
12 discussion?

13 Roll.

14 MR. MCCORMACK: Tobin?

15 ALD. TOBIN: Aye.

16 MR. MCCORMACK: Jean-Francois?

17 ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Aye.

18 MR. MCCORMACK: Johnson?

19 ALD. JOHNSON: Aye.

20 MR. MCCORMACK: Wray?

21 ALD. WRAY: Aye.

22 MR. MCCORMACK: Kleiner?

23 ALD. KLEINER: Aye.

24 MR. MCCORMACK: Green?

25 ALD. GREEN: Aye.

1 MR. MCCORMACK: Witt?

2 ALD. WITT: Aye.

3 MR. MCCORMACK: President Rodrigues?

4 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Aye.

5 MR. MCCORMACK: Carries.

6 A Resolution sponsored by Alderman Wray
7 reappointing Maria Bruni as the Director of Economic and
8 Community Development.

9 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Resolution sponsored by
10 Alderman Wray, seconded by Alderman Kleiner. Any
11 discussion?

12 Roll.

13 MR. MCCORMACK: Tobin?

14 ALD. TOBIN: Aye.

15 MR. MCCORMACK: Jean-Francois?

16 ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Aye.

17 MR. MCCORMACK: Johnson?

18 ALD. JOHNSON: Aye.

19 MR. MCCORMACK: Wray?

20 ALD. WRAY: Aye.

21 MR. MCCORMACK: Kleiner?

22 ALD. KLEINER: Aye.

23 MR. MCCORMACK: Green?

24 ALD. GREEN: Aye.

25 MR. MCCORMACK: Witt?

1 ALD. WITT: Aye.

2 MR. MCCORMACK: President Rodrigues?

3 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Aye.

4 MR. MCCORMACK: Carries.

5 Resolution sponsored by Alderman Green re-
6 appointing the members of the Industrial Development
7 Agency as follows: Joseph M. DeStefano, Andrew Britto,
8 Anthony Cantoli, David Madden, Wayne Hawkins, Elizabeth
9 Nemeth and Brian Seigerman.

10 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Resolution sponsored by
11 Alderman Green, seconded by Alderman Johnson. Any
12 discussion?

13 Roll.

14 MR. MCCORMACK: Tobin?

15 ALD. TOBIN: Aye.

16 MR. MCCORMACK: Jean-Francois?

17 ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Aye.

18 MR. MCCORMACK: Johnson?

19 ALD. JOHNSON: Aye.

20 MR. MCCORMACK: Wray?

21 ALD. WRAY: Aye.

22 MR. MCCORMACK: Kleiner?

23 ALD. KLEINER: Aye.

24 MR. MCCORMACK: Green?

25 ALD. GREEN: Aye.

1 MR. MCCORMACK: Witt?

2 ALD. WITT: Aye.

3 MR. MCCORMACK: President Rodrigues?

4 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Aye.

5 MR. MCCORMACK: Carries.

6 Resolution sponsored by Alderman Kleiner
7 reappointing of Peter Laskaris as the City Historian.

8 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Resolution sponsored by
9 Alderman Kleiner, seconded by Alderman Green. Any
10 discussion?

11 Roll.

12 MR. MCCORMACK: Tobin?

13 ALD. TOBIN: Aye.

14 MR. MCCORMACK: Jean-Francois?

15 ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Aye.

16 MR. MCCORMACK: Johnson?

17 ALD. JOHNSON: Aye.

18 MR. MCCORMACK: Wray?

19 ALD. WRAY: Aye.

20 MR. MCCORMACK: Kleiner?

21 ALD. KLEINER: Aye.

22 MR. MCCORMACK: Green?

23 ALD. GREEN: Aye.

24 MR. MCCORMACK: Witt?

25 ALD. WITT: Aye.

1 MR. MCCORMACK: President Rodrigues?

2 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Aye.

3 MR. MCCORMACK: Carries.

4 A Resolution sponsored by Alderman

5 Jean-Francois authorizing a contract amendment with the
6 County of Orange for the Senior Transportation Services.

7 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Resolution sponsored by
8 Alderman Jean-Francois, seconded by Alderman Tobin. Any
9 discussion?

10 Roll.

11 MR. MCCORMACK: Tobin?

12 ALD. TOBIN: Aye.

13 MR. MCCORMACK: Jean-Francois?

14 ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Aye.

15 MR. MCCORMACK: Johnson?

16 ALD. JOHNSON: Aye.

17 MR. MCCORMACK: Wray?

18 ALD. WRAY: Aye.

19 MR. MCCORMACK: Kleiner?

20 ALD. KLEINER: Aye.

21 MR. MCCORMACK: Green?

22 ALD. GREEN: Aye.

23 MR. MCCORMACK: Witt?

24 ALD. WITT: Aye.

25 MR. MCCORMACK: President Rodrigues?

1 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Aye.

2 MR. MCCORMACK: Carries.

3 Resolution sponsored by Alderman Jean-Francois
4 reappointing the members of the Electrical Licensing
5 Board as follows: Jerry Caliendo, Tom Murtaugh, Walter
6 Welch, Bob Metz and Mark Fellenzer.

7 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Resolution sponsored by
8 Alderman Jean-Francois, seconded by Alderman Tobin. Any
9 discussion?

10 Roll.

11 MR. MCCORMACK: Tobin?

12 ALD. TOBIN: Aye.

13 MR. MCCORMACK: Jean-Francois?

14 ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Aye.

15 MR. MCCORMACK: Johnson?

16 ALD. JOHNSON: Aye.

17 MR. MCCORMACK: Wray?

18 ALD. WRAY: Aye.

19 MR. MCCORMACK: Kleiner?

20 ALD. KLEINER: Aye.

21 MR. MCCORMACK: Green?

22 ALD. GREEN: Aye.

23 MR. MCCORMACK: Witt?

24 ALD. WITT: Aye.

25 MR. MCCORMACK: President Rodrigues?

1 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Aye.

2 MR. MCCORMACK: Carries.

3 **15. AUDIT OF CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS**

4 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Johnson, can
5 you do the audit?

6 ALD. JOHNSON: Yes, sir. Mr. President, I
7 move the accounts be audited, the claims be adjusted and
8 the City Treasurer be authorized to issue warrants for
9 their payment.

10 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Resolution sponsored by
11 Alderman Johnson, seconded by Alderman Witt.

12 Roll.

13 MR. MCCORMACK: Tobin?

14 ALD. TOBIN: Aye.

15 MR. MCCORMACK: Jean-Francois?

16 ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Aye.

17 MR. MCCORMACK: Johnson?

18 ALD. JOHNSON: Aye.

19 MR. MCCORMACK: Wray?

20 ALD. WRAY: Aye.

21 MR. MCCORMACK: Kleiner?

22 ALD. KLEINER: Aye.

23 MR. MCCORMACK: Green?

24 ALD. GREEN: Aye.

25 MR. MCCORMACK: Witt?

1 ALD. WITT: Aye.

2 MR. MCCORMACK: President Rodrigues?

3 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Aye.

4 MR. MCCORMACK: Carries.

5 (Inaudible)

6 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: That was the first
7 resolution.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who's going to appear?

9 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: (Inaudible) Randy.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's not snowing yet.
11 He lives on Lake Avenue.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Here he is.

13 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right. Let's bring
14 up the Fire Chief.

15 Do they want to bring up their family?

16 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Yeah, they got their
17 families here.

18 Do you want your families up here with you?

19 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Do them as a group.

20 You have got to bring up the secretary, too.

21 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Do you want to go first or
22 last, Chief?

23 FIRE CHIEF: Whatever you want, Mayor.

24 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: We'll do them one at a time.

25 And the two sons come up, stand by your dad.

1 (Oath of Office administered to the Fire
2 Chief.)

3 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Congratulations.

4 (Inaudible)

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: First Ward, he does
6 live in the first ward.

7 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Okay, Chief, raise your
8 right hand.

9 (Oath of Office administered to First
10 Assistant Fire Chief.)

11 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Congratulations.

12 Whose next? All right. You guys all have to
13 sign too after, okay.

14 Welcome.

15 (Oath of Office administered to Second
16 Assistant Fire Chief.)

17 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Congratulations.

18 There's the newbie, right? Welcome.

19 (Oath of Office administered to Third
20 Assistant Fire Chief.)

21 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Congratulations.

22 Again. You get two signatures today.

23 (Oath of Office administered to Secretary of
24 the City of Middletown Fire Department.)

25 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: We need you all to sign

1 the book.

2 MAYOR DeSTEFANO: Miguel, while we're waiting,
3 can we just acknowledge the former chiefs that are here
4 tonight, Chief Duggin, I think Chief Barone came in.
5 Who else? Chief Winter. I didn't see you here, Chief.
6 When did you come in? And also acknowledge the presence
7 of our County Legislator Mike Paduch here with us this
8 evening.

9 **11. REMARKS OF THE ALDERMEN**

10 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: All right. Remarks of
11 Alderman. We'll start with Alderman Tobin.

12 ALD. TOBIN: I'd just like to thank the people
13 for electing Jude and I another two years to serve on
14 the Council. It's an honor to serve the people and work
15 for, you know, our constituents in the Fourth Ward, and
16 help be part of this great team to move the City
17 forward. Thank you.

18 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Jean-Francois.

19 ALD. JEAN-FRANCOIS: Good evening. Happy New
20 Year to everyone. We had an exciting year this year.
21 Looking forward to another exciting year coming up.
22 Looking forward to work with every one of us, you guys.
23 Looking forward to. Thank you.

24 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Johnson.

25 ALD. JOHNSON: Thank you. Congratulations to

1 all new leadership. As they say: Let the good times
2 roll.

3 Thank you.

4 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Wray?

5 ALD. WRAY: Good evening. I just want to
6 congratulate everyone on their successful elections.
7 Congratulations to our new Chiefs. I look forward to
8 working with you all again for the next two years.
9 Onward and upward.

10 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Kleiner?

11 ALD. KLEINER: Yes. Good evening and Happy
12 New Year to everyone. And I thank you to all the board
13 members that we have appointed and will appoint, our
14 City Historian, our I.D.A. Board and others. We
15 couldn't function as a City without them. So we really
16 owe them a measure debt.

17 Two little commercials quickly. At the Orange
18 Hall Gallery, there is a -- and it didn't get the
19 publicity it should have, but there is the students --
20 this is the 75th year, the anniversary, 75th year
21 anniversary of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights, and
22 that was on December 10th. But there is a show at
23 Orange Hall Gallery, and it's by a lot of the Orange
24 County students and it's their reaction. And some of
25 the artwork is amazing, and some of the things and the

1 problems they know we face, it's really great to see.
2 So that's only through Friday, January 5th. So if you
3 get a chance to see it.

4 Tonight we're all sworn in for the next two
5 years. Hopefully we don't get sworn at too much, but
6 that's -- that's -- you know, we're open to any
7 suggestions, any criticisms. Again, we're not going to
8 have our Second Ward Constituent Meeting in January and
9 February. We do expect some snow. So we'll start up
10 again in March.

11 One quick commercial for the Historical
12 Society. We have -- too late for Christmas, but this is
13 our new yearbook this year, written by our just
14 reappointed City Historian Peter Laskaris. And it's a
15 lot of photos that we have never published before. So
16 they will be available every Wednesday from 1:00 to 4:00
17 at the Historical Society.

18 I take my oath to the Constitution very
19 seriously, of the United States and the State of New
20 York. And so Happy New Year.

21 Thank you.

22 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Green?

23 ALD. GREEN: Yes. Thank you. Happy New Year
24 to everyone and congratulations everyone who was sworn
25 in and on their reelections, and I look forward to

1 working with you all again.

2 Thank you.

3 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Alderman Witt?

4 ALD WITT: Thank you very much.

5 Congratulations to all our new chiefs, good luck with
6 everything you do. And certainly, you know, you are now
7 another chapter in the history of this great city of the
8 people who have served in your offices. And it means
9 something because there is three former chiefs who are
10 here, and it meant something to them. So think about
11 that sometimes. And good luck with what you guys do.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to do this again
13 for another two years. I really enjoy it. I enjoy this
14 team. And I just want to acknowledge my family here, my
15 wife Gretchen, my daughter Madison.

16 I think everyone who was sworn in today
17 understands the impact that our families have on all of
18 this. This is not just our gig. You know, it sort of
19 affects everybody. And so thank you to my family and
20 all the other families who are here supporting your
21 people.

22 Thank you.

23 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Thank you. I just want
24 to congratulate everyone. I look forward to working
25 with everyone. Rick and his team put refreshments out

1 there, so after we close we'll have some refreshments.
2 That's all I have.

3 **16. ADJOURNMENT**

4 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: Move for adjournment?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So moved.

6 PRESIDENT RODRIGUES: So moved.

7 (Meeting adjourned.)

8 C E R T I F I C A T I O N

9 I, LAURIE A. PELLITTERI, certify that the foregoing
10 transcript of the January 2, 2024 Middletown City Council
11 meeting was prepared using the required transcript equipment
12 and is a true and accurate transcript of the recording.

13

14 Signature: Laurie A. Pellitteri (Electronically signed.)

15

16 AMERICAN LEGAL TRANSCRIPTION

17 11 Market Street, Suite 215

18 Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

19 Dated: January 22, 2024

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK COMMON COUNCIL RECORD OF VOTE

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Tobin

Sec'd by Ald. Johnson

Date of Adoption 01.02.24

Index No: 1-24

NAMES	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ald. Tobin	X			
Ald. Jean-Francois	X			
Ald. Johnson	X			
Ald. Wray	X			
Ald. Kleiner	X			
Ald. Green	X			
Ald. Witt	X			
Ald. Masi				X
Pres. Rodrigues	X			
TOTAL	8			1

Resolution Establishing Committees and Membership for 2024

Resolved, that the Common Council of the City of Middletown hereby establishes the following committees and their membership as Standing Committees of the City of Middletown Common Council:

Finance
Planning & Economic Development
Public Safety
Recreation & Parks
Community Communication &
Historical Society

Legislative
Public Works, Traffic
Revenue
Recycling
Quality of Life/Code Enforcement City Wide

And be it further resolved, that the Common Council declares that the Treasurer, Leonora Liz, and the Chairman of the Finance Committee, Joseph Masi, are hereby authorized and directed to sign all checks, drafts, acceptances, undertakings or other orders on bank accounts of the City of Middletown by personal or by facsimile signature.

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN COMMON COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
2024**

FINANCE COMMITTEE Masi, Chairperson Johnson, Vice-Chair Jean-Francois Green Wray	LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE Johnson, Chairperson Masi, Vice-Chair Green Tobin Wray
PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT Green, Chairperson Johnson, Vice-Chair Jean-Francois Witt Wray	PUBLIC WORKS/TRAFFIC Jean-Francois, Chairperson Kleiner, Vice-Chair Green Wray Witt
RECREATION & PARKS Witt, Chairperson Tobin, Vice-Chair Wray Kleiner Masi	PUBLIC SAFETY Tobin, Chairperson Masi, Vice-Chair Wray Jean-Francois Johnson
REVENUE Wray, Chairperson Masi, Vice-Chair Jean-Francois Johnson Green	RECYCLING Jean-Francois, Chairperson Green, Vice-Chair Kleiner Tobin Johnson
COMMUNITY COMMUNICATION AND HISTIOICAL SOCIETY Kleiner, Chairperson Tobin, Vice-Chair Witt Green Jean-Francois	QUALITY OF LIFE/CODE ENFORCEMENT ENTIRE CITY Entire Council on Committee

Updated: 12/29/2023

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Johnson

Sec'd by Ald. Wray

Date of Adoption 01.02.24

Index No: 2-24

NAMES	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ald. Tobin	X			
Ald. Jean-Francois	X			
Ald. Johnson	X			
Ald. Wray	X			
Ald. Kleiner	X			
Ald. Green	X			
Ald. Witt	X			
Ald. Masi				X
Pres. Rodrigues	X			
TOTAL	8			1

Resolution Adopting a Procurement Policy

Whereas, New York State General Municipal Law, Section 104-b, states that a municipality should annually adopt a Procurement Policy, and

Whereas, the Corporation Counsel of the City of Middletown has advised the Council that it must look at, revise, if necessary, and adopt the Procurement Policy on an annual basis in accordance with New York State statute,

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Common Council of the City of Middletown does hereby adopt the attached written policies and procedures for procurement of goods and services for the City of Middletown.

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Johnson

Sec'd by Ald. Jean-Francois

Date of Adoption 01.02.24

Index No: 3-24

NAMES	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ald. Tobin	X			
Ald. Jean-Francois	X			
Ald. Johnson	X			
Ald. Wray	X			
Ald. Kleiner	X			
Ald. Green	X			
Ald. Witt	X			
Ald. Masi				X
Pres. Rodrigues	X			
TOTAL	8			1

Resolution Adopting an Investment Policy

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown does hereby adopt the attached Investment Policy for the City of Middletown.

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Johnson

Sec'd by Ald. Green

Date of Adoption 01.02.24

Index No: 4-22

NAMES	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ald. Tobin	X			
Ald. Jean-Francois	X			
Ald. Johnson	X			
Ald. Wray	X			
Ald. Kleiner	X			
Ald. Green	X			
Ald. Witt	X			
Ald. Masi				X
Pres. Rodrigues	X			
TOTAL	8			1

Resolution Adopting a Fee Schedule

RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown does hereby adopt the attached Fee Schedule for services for the City of Middletown.

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Wray

Sec'd by Ald. Johnson

Date of Adoption 01.02.24

Index No: 5-22

NAMES	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ald. Tobin	X			
Ald. Jean-Francois	X			
Ald. Johnson	X			
Ald. Wray	X			
Ald. Kleiner	X			
Ald. Green	X			
Ald. Witt	X			
Ald. Masi				X
Pres. Rodrigues	X			
TOTAL	8			1

Resolution Appointing 207A Officer

WHEREAS. for the purpose of both efficiency, and experience in administering General Municipal Law 207-a and 207-c claims, the Mayor recommends that the Common Council confirm the appoint and terms of said appointment of Marshall & Sterling and its representative Gregory Townsend to assist the City in managing, supervising and determining the eligibility of General Municipal Law 207-a and 207-c claims.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown, concurs with the recommendation of the Mayor to appoint Marshall & Sterling and its representative Gregory Townsend to determine and or recommend to the City whether a firefighter is eligible to receive GML 207-a benefits in accordance with Appendix B, the Procedure of the Administration of Section 207-a of General Municipal Law for Paid Firefighters for the City of Middletown included in the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Middletown and the Middletown Professional Firefighters, Inc.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown, concurs with the recommendation of the Mayor to appoint Marshall & Sterling and its representative Gregory Townsend as the Claims Manager with the responsibility of administering the GML 207-c procedures for City Police officers in accordance with Article 29, General Municipal Law Section 207-c Procedure negotiated in the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Middletown and the City of Middletown Police Benevolent Association, Inc.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Middletown determines that said appointment is effective retroactive to January 1, 2023, and said appointment can be rescinded at any time by the Common Council.

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Witt

Sec'd by Ald. Kleiner

Date of Adoption 01.02.24

Index No: 6-24

NAMES	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ald. Tobin	X			
Ald. Jean-Francois	X			
Ald. Johnson	X			
Ald. Wray	X			
Ald. Kleiner	X			
Ald. Green	X			
Ald. Witt	X			
Ald. Masi				X
Pres. Rodrigues	X			
TOTAL	8			1

Resolution Appointing Jaycee Galdamez to the Recreation Commission

BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Mayor's appointment of Jaycee Galdamez to the Recreation Commission to fill the unexpired term of Wayne Hawkins, expiring on December 31, 2025.

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Wray

Sec'd by Ald. Kleiner

Date of Adoption 01.02.24

Index No: 7-24

NAMES	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ald. Tobin	X			
Ald. Jean-Francois	X			
Ald. Johnson	X			
Ald. Wray	X			
Ald. Kleiner	X			
Ald. Green	X			
Ald. Witt	X			
Ald. Masi				X
Pres. Rodrigues	X			
TOTAL	8			1

**Resolution Reappointing of Maria Bruni as the Director of
Economic & Community Development**

RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Mayor's reappointment of Maria Bruni as the Director of Economic & Community Development for a 1 year term, expiring on December 31, 2024.

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Green

Sec'd by Ald. Johnson

Date of Adoption 01.02.24

Index No: 8-24

NAMES	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ald. Tobin	X			
Ald. Jean-Francois	X			
Ald. Johnson	X			
Ald. Wray	X			
Ald. Kleiner	X			
Ald. Green	X			
Ald. Witt	X			
Ald. Masi				X
Pres. Rodrigues	X			
TOTAL	8			1

Resolution Reappointing Members of the Industrial Development Agency

RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Mayor's reappointment of the following individuals to the Industrial Development Agency for a 1 year term expiring on December 31, 2024:

Joseph M. DeStefano
Andrew Britto
Anthony Cantoli
David Madden
Wayne Hawkins
Elizabeth Nemeth
Brian Seigerman

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Kleiner

Sec'd by Ald. Green

Date of Adoption 01.02.24

Index No: 9-24

NAMES	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ald. Tobin	X			
Ald. Jean-Francois	X			
Ald. Johnson	X			
Ald. Wray	X			
Ald. Kleiner	X			
Ald. Green	X			
Ald. Witt	X			
Ald. Masi				X
Pres. Rodrigues	X			
TOTAL	8			1

Resolution Reappointing of Peter Laskaris as City Historian

RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Mayor's reappointment of Peter Laskaris as city historian, for a December 31, 2024.

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Jean-Francois

Sec'd by Ald. Tobin

Date of Adoption 01.02.24

Index No: 10-24

NAMES	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ald. Tobin	X			
Ald. Jean-Francois	X			
Ald. Johnson	X			
Ald. Wray	X			
Ald. Kleiner	X			
Ald. Green	X			
Ald. Witt	X			
Ald. Masi				X
Pres. Rodrigues	X			
TOTAL	8			1

**Resolution Authorizing A Contract Amendment with the County of Orange for
Senior Transportation Services**

BE IT RESOLVED; that the Common Council of the City of Middletown, NY, concurs with the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and accepts additional funding of \$23,200.50 from the Orange County Office for the Aging for 2023 Goldenarea Transportation within Senior Department Operating Budget and also review and accept amendments to accept funding for 2024 Fiscal year toward Golden Area transportation from Orange County Office and authorization for the Mayor to sign it.

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Jean-Francois

Sec'd by Ald. Tobin

Date of Adoption 01.02.24

Index No: 11-24

NAMES	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ald. Tobin	X			
Ald. Jean-Francois	X			
Ald. Johnson	X			
Ald. Wray	X			
Ald. Kleiner	X			
Ald. Green	X			
Ald. Witt	X			
Ald. Masi				X
Pres. Rodrigues	X			
TOTAL	8			1

Resolution reappointing Members of the Electrical Licensing Board

RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Middletown concurs with the Mayor's reappointment of members of the electrical licensing board for a term expiring on December 31, 2024.

Jerry Caliendo
Tom Murtaugh
Walter Welch
Robert Metz
Mark Fellenzer

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN, NEW YORK
COMMON COUNCIL
RECORD OF VOTE**

THE FOLLOWING WAS PRESENTED

By Ald. Johnson

Sec'd by Ald. Witt

Date of Adoption 01.02.24

Index No: 11-24

NAMES	AYES	NOES	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ald. Tobin	X			
Ald. Jean-Francois	X			
Ald. Johnson	X			
Ald. Wray+	X			
Ald. Kleiner	X			
Ald. Green	X			
Ald. Witt	X			
Ald. Masi				X
Pres. Rodrigues	X			
TOTAL	8			1

**I MOVE THE ACCOUNTS BE AUDITED, THE CLAIMS ADJUSTED AND THE
TREASURER BE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE WARRENTS FOR THEIR PAYMENTS**