



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

**BUDGET ADOPTION MEETING
MAY 15, 2019**

MINUTES

The Special Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

Present: Mayor Daniel T. Drew
Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta
Councilman Robert Blanchard
Councilman W. Vance Cotten
Councilman Gerald E. Daley
Councilman Grady L. Faulkner, Jr.
Councilman Sebastian N. Giuliano
Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski
Councilman Eugene Nocera
Councilwoman Linda Salafia
Councilman Robert Santangelo

Absent: Councilman Carl Chisem; Councilman Philip Pessina

Also Present: Common Council Clerk, Linda S.K. Reed
Corporation Counsel, Daniel Ryan, Esq.
Board of Education, Christopher Drake (Chair), Sean King, Christine Bourne
Finance, Carl Erlacher, CPA, Director
Mayor's Office, Sara Mendillo, Administrative Assistant
Office of Equal Opportunity & Diversity Management, Faith Jackson, Director
Parking Authority, Geen Thazhampallath, Esq., Director
Technology Services, Bryan Skowera, Director
Youth Services, Justin Carbonella, MPA, Director
Sergeant-at- Arms, Officer Karli Travis

Members of the Public: 30

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Daniel T. Drew calls the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. and leads the public in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor welcomes everyone to the City's annual budget adoption meeting. The Clerk reads the Call of the Meeting and Mayor Drew declares the call a legal call and meeting a legal meeting.

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Drew opens the public hearing at 7:03 PM. He invites anyone wishing to speak on the budget to please come forward, stating their name and address for the record and to keep remarks to five (5) minutes.

Ed McKeon (76 Pearl Street): He supports funding the school budget fully. It will take courage, a bit of help from the State, and some foresight to reach that level of support. He focuses on two (2) phrase that are often shared in the Council Chamber. One is "for the kids," noting that anything can be justified as long as it is being done "for the kids." Install real grass fields for the kids. Provide summer camps and opportunities for the kids. Build a complex inter-departmental security system for the kids. There is nothing more "for the kids" than quality schools, especially for the kids with the greatest barriers to success, who we have been unable or unwilling to reach for so many years. The City now has a Superintendent who wants to achieve success for all kids: top performers and those who are struggling and struggling. The Superintendent has offered a plan to achieve and it and evidence that they have already begun to close the opportunity gap and the achievement gap. He urges the Council to give the Board of Education the money to carry out the plan for the kids. The other phrase that he often hears is that, "We can spend the money as long as it's going to the classroom. As long as it is going to the classroom, we can afford it." He notes that this justification is puzzling because, in looking at the budget, what doesn't go to classroom. The largest budget item is for personnel, adding that most of the personnel are teachers in the classroom. The administration is managing and planning for everything that happens in the classroom. Supplies, hardware, and software are in the classroom. Professional development makes for better teachers in the classroom. Clean floors, clean toilets, plowed driveways, working heating systems, and, in the few schools with cooling systems and cafeteria food make it tolerable for students and teachers in the classroom. He again urges the Council to consider that every penny of the budget makes it into the classroom in one way or another. Any cuts actually hurts what is going into the classroom. Middletown has great schools, not perfect, but schools with a lot of potential one. He ask s the Council to do its best for the kids and for the classroom and provide the district and the Superintendent with the funds needed to get the job done. He makes one other request regarding

presentation. Over the years, there have been no visuals for the public. The Council talks about line items, about what is being cut and what might be moved around, but the public never sees it. He hopes that this year, noting that there are things like spreadsheets that would allow the Council to display that information for the public and he hopes that they will see that tonight.

Geen Thazhampallath (71 Ribera Lane): He supports the Middletown Strategic Plan, labeled *Middletown 20-21*. It is a comprehensive plan that comes to the Council for funding tonight. He recognizes that the Council has a difficult job and a difficult balancing act, adding that here are many facets to the City budget. He encourages the Council to think about what education investment is. He notes that he gave away his answer: it is an investment. In Middletown, for far too long, they have made budgetary decisions as year-to-year decisions. He believes that a mindset change is needed and that they think about things in a more strategic fashion to get us there. Study after study show a direct correlation between investment in a local school system and how that town is vibrant. This is an important moment in Middletown's history, where there is a plan in front of us that is asking for investment by the City to further the goal of closing the achievement gap, which is real. He encourages the Council, as they weigh this budget and make a decision, to remember that, at the end of the day, there is always a kid at the end of that budgetary decision. He adds that he has three (3) kids in the City's public schools. He sees firsthand that there are kids coming to the schools with greater needs. The City needs to continue to address this matter. He encourages the Council to fund this plan to the best of their ability. He reminds the Council that this plan was not created in a vacuum. It not just an educational document; rather, it is a community document. Dr. Conner, when he came on board, had a series of community discussions that brought in people from across the community. He asks the Council to take this into consideration, reiterating that this is not just one piece of paper, but a whole community behind that piece of paper.

Edward Ford, Jr. (78 Hawks Nest Circle): He is speaking as a community member, a recent MPS (Middleton Public Schools) graduate, and a current Board of Education (BOE) member to express his support for adequate BOE funding. Superintendent Conner and the BOE have been making great strides in the City's educational system. Dr. Conner's strategic plan is a comprehensive plan, which is focused on providing equity, productivity, efficiency, and results. This plan was crafted after many hours of community conversations and the inclusion of many different community voices, expressing their kids' needs. As a district, Middletown has reached more and more families with educational resources, such as Footsteps for Brilliance, which is a form of universal Pre-K and helps to prepare 3 and 4 year olds before they enter Middletown public schools. He notes that the Council needs to remember that there is an academic achievement gap and that students of color are on the lower end. With the work now being done, they are on a trajectory not only to close that gap, but exceed beyond that. He wishes that when he was a student that these reforms were taking place. He is glad that they are now making progress. He urges them to let this progress continue going forward. What the Council is voting on tonight is an investment into the kids and into the future and into the City. The City has a prolific education system, attracts families, and property values rise, which benefits the City overall. He cannot stress enough that this is a major investment, which is vital to keep kids out of prison, keep kids off the streets, and making them productive to become leaders, to be members of this society. He asks the Council to adequately fund the education system as it is vital to the lives of Middletown's children. He hopes they make the right investment.

Kellan Atherton (West Lake/ Brayburn Lane): To continue the trend of fully funding education and to double-down on Mr. Ford's comments as it relates to funding for Pre-K/ 3 to 4 year old program funding, as a father of young children and as the spouse of an early childhood educator at one of the State's premier education facilities, he sees, on a daily basis, what it means to invest and educate young children. He regards early childhood education as a cure all issue, something that can improve the quality of life, can improve literacy, and can address incarceration and addiction, and so many other factors. He notes that some studies show that spending \$1 on early childhood education results in saving \$7 down the road. As he understands it, there is some infrastructure in place in the public schools to provide public access to early childhood education. He notes that there are vacant classrooms, which are available to provide early childhood education. It would be an extraordinary investment for the City to double down. A couple of items that he does not want to see lost in this conversation: first, a lot of the educators, who would be staffing these classrooms, should we invest in early childhood education, these teachers are primarily working women, working mothers, and working women of color. These provide a lot of employment opportunities, which are important. The other reason, which he believes is important, speaking as a young father with young children, ages 4, 6, & 12 weeks, he sees that the time spent educating is not time lost. There is a myth, especially among younger people, that children don't comprehend conversations or books that we read or the puzzles that we play, which are some ways to educate a child. He notes that young children learn, noting that when they learn, they internalize things differently, which feeds into things like closing the achievement gap. He believes that if we value educating young children, we are not just valuing the children, but also identifying that these working mothers, working women, and women of color, who primarily staff these positions, are educators, not just caregivers, their work is valuable to the community, to their own professional development, and to the children.

Bishop McKissick (47 Norfolk Street): He is the pastor of New Jerusalem Baptist Church. As those who have already spoken, he notes that children are the most important investment. He recalls when Dr. Conner came to town, there was excitement about his plan and what he was looking to do, not just for children of color, but for all children. He notes that there is particularly an achievement gap that needs to be addressed. As he listened to others, who spoke before him, we need to remember that children are our future and that we cannot wait until later. We need to do something now, even with the Pre-K for 3 to 4 year olds. There is a sense that, if we don't help them early on, we may lose them as they move thru the school system. We do not want to lose the, People are excited by the Town Meeting that we have had with Dr. Conner as he

opened up and shared his thoughts and plans with the community. We need to give the schools what it needs for all children to be successful. He reminds the Council to consider what is important when we see how much money we put into education in the community. He asks that the Council not leave the children behind and to give Dr. Conner the opportunity to do what needs to be done, noting that Dr. Conner has a track record of success, which we want to continue.

Christopher Drake (414 High Street): He is the Board of Education Chair. He echoes the comments of Ed McKeon. It feels like we are talking into a void because the only factual information that the public has is based on the Mayor's budget. Based on what he knows, and being a person of faith, he believes that the Council is prepared to make an unprecedented investment in the future of the City's public schools. He asks each Councilmember to cast a favorable vote. He thanks Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta, having witnessed her trying to bridge the gap of what we need and what we have. Councilwoman Bartolotta has worked tirelessly with Superintendent Conner to ensure that the various programs and initiatives that we have will continue while balancing other things that the Council must balance. This year, in particular, is challenging year for the Council to set a budget and tax rate. He believes that what the Council is about to do will allow the Board of Education to continue the Pre-K program, *Footsteps to Brilliance*. There is also an investment in the middle schools to continue innovations in math and to dramatically increase minority student participation in Advanced Placement courses at the high school among other initiatives. He appreciates what the Council is about to do and looks forward to receiving the budget and being stewards of the budget as the Board of Education.

3. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSING

There being no further public comment, the Chair closes the public hearing at 7:19 PM.

4. RESOLUTIONS

A. Adopting the General Fund Budget

APPROVED, AS AMENDED

RESOLUTION No: 30-19; K: review/resolution/CC general fund FY19-20 RES 30-19 – 15 May 2019

SUBSTITUTE/AMENDED RESOLUTION

Be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Middletown: That the City of Middletown General Fund Budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as prepared by the Mayor and advertised in the Hartford Courant on April 19, 2019 is hereby approved and adopted, as amended:

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - EXPENDITURES
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020

03000 FINANCE		
54220 ELECTRICITY - BUILDINGS		
1000-03000-54220-0030-00000-0000-0000	FIN: ELECTRICITY-BUILDINGS & ST	
1 ELECTRICITY - BUILDINGS & STREET LIGHTS		-180,000
	NET DECREASE - ELECTRICITY - BUILDINGS	-180,000
	NET DECREASE - FINANCE	-180,000
05000 OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL		
55135 ARBITRATION SERVICES		
1000-05000-55135-0170-00000-0000-0000	HUMRES: ARBITRATION SERVICES	
1 STATE FILING FEES/ARBITRATOR SERVICES		-22,000
4 AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION/STATE LABOR COSTS		-10,000
	NET DECREASE - ARBITRATION SERVICES	-32,000
	NET DECREASE - OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL	-32,000
18000 POLICE		
51340 OVERTIME		
1000-18000-51340-0180-00000-0000-0000	POLICE: OVERTIME	
4 DETECTIVE BUREAU		-3,930
7 PATROL		-9,860
8 STREET CRIME UNIT		-2,913
11 ERT		-797
	NET DECREASE - OVERTIME	-17,500
51357 REPLACEMENT OT		
1000-18000-51357-0180-00000-0000-0000	POLICE: REPLACEMENT OT	
1 PATROLMEN		-7,087
2 SUPERVISORS		-10,079
	NET DECREASE - REPLACEMENT OT	-17,166
51950 UNIFORM ALLOWANCE		
1000-18000-51950-0180-00000-0000-0000	POLICE: UNIFORM ALLOWANCE	
5 INITIAL OUTFIT FOR REPLACEMENT HIRES		-10,000
	NET DECREASE - UNIFORM ALLOWANCE	-10,000

57110 CLAIMS PAID			
1000-18000-57110-0180-00000-0000-000	POLICE: CLAIMS PAID		
1 CLAIMS PAID (2 DEDUCTIBLES)			-9,999
	NET DECREASE - CLAIMS PAID		-9,999
	NET DECREASE - POLICE		-54,665
22000 PUBLIC WORKS			
51230 SALARIES, PT SEASONAL			
1000-22000-51230-0320-00000-0000-000	PARKS: SALARIES & WAGES, PT SEA		
1 SEASONAL WORKERS - TR FROM SAL/WAGES, PT PERM			10,000
	NET INCREASE - SALARIES, PT SEASONAL		10,000
55185 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES			
1000-22000-55185-0229-00000-0000-000	BLDG & GRN: CONTRACTUAL SERVICE		
9 ENERGY EFFICICENY AUDITS CITY & SCHOOL BUILDINGS			130,000
	NET INCREASE - CONTRACTUAL SERVICES		130,000
55471 SNOWPLOWING PRIVATE CONTRACTOR			
1000-22000-55471-0226-00000-0000-000	HWAY: SNOWPLOWING PRIVATE CONTR		
1 SNOWPLOWING PRIVATE CONTRACTORS			-10,000
	NET DECREASE - SNOWPLOWING PRIVATE CONTRACTO		-10,000
	NET INCREASE - PUBLIC WORKS		130,000
27000 SPECIAL ACCOUNTS			
57030 MISC EXPENSE			
1000-27000-57030-0011-00000-0000-000	SPEC: SPECIAL PROGRAMS		
1 4TH OF JULY - ARTS-YOUTH CONCERT			-6,775
1000-27000-57030-0708-00000-0000-000	COMMTY: MISC EXPENSE		
18 PRIDE PARADE			-8,110
	NET DECREASE - MISC EXPENSE		-14,885
	NET DECREASE - SPECIAL ACCOUNTS		-14,885
28000 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS			
51530 HEALTH INSURANCE			
1000-28000-51530-0000-00000-0000-000	EMPL BEN: HEALTH INSURANCE		
3 HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS			-2,038,892
	NET DECREASE - HEALTH INSURANCE		-2,038,892
	NET DECREASE - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		-2,038,892
33000 EDUCATION			
57010 EDUCATION CONTRIBUTION			
1000-33000-57010-0000-00000-0000-000	EDUCATION CONTRIBUTION		
1 REDUCTION \$1055968, CARRY OVER 2019 \$250000, INS SAVINGS \$91			-2,216,405
	NET DECREASE - EDUCATION CONTRIBUTION		-2,216,405
	NET DECREASE - EDUCATION		-2,216,405
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND			-4,406,847

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - PERSONAL SERVICES
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020

Account Position	Account Description	Change
1000-06000-51110-0000-00000-0000-000	YOUTH: SALARIES & WAGES, FT PERM	
06000-19700-01 YOUTH WORKER		53,621
1000-18000-51110-0180-00000-0000-000	POLICE: SALARIES & WAGES, FT PERM	
18000-12101-01 MANAGER OF ACCRED, RESEARCH &		-78,082
1000-22000-51110-0320-00000-0000-000	PARKS: SALARIES & WAGES, FT PERM	
32000-13600-06 PARK MAINTAINER II*****propose		-44,990
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND		-69,451
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND		-4,476,298

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - REVENUES
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020

1000-03000-41110-0033-00000-0000-000	COLL: TAXES-REAL ESTATE/MOTOR VEH	-7,876,298
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1000-03000-43110-0030-00000-0000-000	FIN: PILOT-COLLEGES & HOSPITALS	3,400,000
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND		-4,476,298

Be it further resolved: That the mill rate be set as 36.0 to cover this budget, and said rate shall be due and payable in two (2) equal installments on July 1, 2019 and January 1, 2020, in accordance with the Charter of the City of Middletown, Chapter VI; and

Be it further resolved: That the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized to collect said taxes.

Councilman Gerald Daley reads substitute resolution 4A, noting that this replaces the resolution, which was distributed with the agenda and was an approval of the Mayor's budget, as submitted and advertised. Councilman Daley reads the substitute resolution in its entirety. Councilman Daley moves to approve.

Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta seconds the motion.

Initial Substitute Resolution:

Be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Middletown: That the City of Middletown General Fund Budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as prepared by the Mayor and advertised in the Hartford Courant on April 19, 2019 is hereby approved and adopted.

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - EXPENDITURES
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020

03000 FINANCE		
54220 ELECTRICITY - BUILDINGS		
1000-03000-54220-0030-00000-0000-000	FIN: ELECTRICITY-BUILDINGS & ST	
1	ELECTRICITY - BUILDINGS & STREET LIGHTS	-180,000
	NET DECREASE - ELECTRICITY - BUILDINGS	-180,000
	NET DECREASE - FINANCE	-180,000
18000 POLICE		
51340 OVERTIME		
1000-18000-51340-0180-00000-0000-000	POLICE: OVERTIME	
4	DETECTIVE BUREAU	-3,930
7	PATROL	-9,860
8	STREET CRIME UNIT	-2,913
11	ERT	-797
	NET DECREASE - OVERTIME	-17,500
51357 REPLACEMENT OT		
1000-18000-51357-0180-00000-0000-000	POLICE: REPLACEMENT OT	
1	PATROLMEN	-9,087
2	SUPERVISORS	-11,027
	NET DECREASE - REPLACEMENT OT	-20,114
51950 UNIFORM ALLOWANCE		
1000-18000-51950-0180-00000-0000-000	POLICE: UNIFORM ALLOWANCE	
5	INITIAL OUTFIT FOR REPLACEMENT HIRES	-10,000
	NET DECREASE - UNIFORM ALLOWANCE	-10,000
57110 CLAIMS PAID		
1000-18000-57110-0180-00000-0000-000	POLICE: CLAIMS PAID	
1	CLAIMS PAID (2 DEDUCTIBLES)	-9,999
	NET DECREASE - CLAIMS PAID	-9,999
	NET DECREASE - POLICE	-57,613
22000 PUBLIC WORKS		
51230 SALARIES, PT SEASONAL		
1000-22000-51230-0320-00000-0000-000	PARKS: SALARIES & WAGES, PT SEA	
1	SEASONAL WORKERS - TR FROM SAL/WAGES, PT PERM	10,000
	NET INCREASE - SALARIES, PT SEASONAL	10,000
55185 CONTRACTUAL SERVICES		
1000-22000-55185-0229-00000-0000-000	BLDG & GRN: CONTRACTUAL SERVICE	
9	ENERGY EFFICICENY AUDITS CITY & SCHOOL BUILDINGS	130,000
1000-22000-55185-0320-00000-0000-000	PARKS: CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	
7	PEST CONTROL, SANDBLASTING, ORGANIC FERTILIZATION	-10,000
	NET INCREASE - CONTRACTUAL SERVICES	120,000
55471 SNOWPLOWING PRIVATE CONTRACTOR		
1000-22000-55471-0226-00000-0000-000	HWAY: SNOWPLOWING PRIVATE CONTR	
1	SNOWPLOWING PRIVATE CONTRACTORS	-10,000
	NET DECREASE - SNOWPLOWING PRIVATE CONTRACTO	-10,000
	NET INCREASE - PUBLIC WORKS	120,000
27000 SPECIAL ACCOUNTS		
57030 MISC EXPENSE		
1000-27000-57030-0011-00000-0000-000	SPEC: SPECIAL PROGRAMS	

1 4TH OF JULY - ARTS-YOUTH CONCERT	-6,775
1000-27000-57030-0708-00000-0000-000 COMMTY: MISC EXPENSE	
18 PRIDE PARADE	-8,110
NET DECREASE - MISC EXPENSE	-14,885
NET DECREASE - SPECIAL ACCOUNTS	-14,885
28000 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	
51530 HEALTH INSURANCE	
1000-28000-51530-0000-00000-0000-000 EMPL BEN: HEALTH INSURANCE	
3 HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS	-2,038,892
NET DECREASE - HEALTH INSURANCE	-2,038,892
NET DECREASE - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	-2,038,892
31000 HEALTH	
51215 SALARIES & WAGES, PT PERM	
1000-31000-51215-0000-00000-0000-000 HEALTH: SALARIES & WAGES, PT PE	
1 PART TIME HEALTH DEPT. CLERK	-19,052
NET DECREASE - SALARIES & WAGES, PT PERM	-19,052
NET DECREASE - HEALTH	-19,052
33000 EDUCATION	
57010 EDUCATION CONTRIBUTION	
1000-33000-57010-0000-00000-0000-000 EDUCATION CONTRIBUTION	
1 REDUCTION \$1055968, CARRY OVER 2019 \$250000, INS SAVINGS \$91	-2,216,405
NET DECREASE - EDUCATION CONTRIBUTION	-2,216,405
NET DECREASE - EDUCATION	-2,216,405
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND	-4,406,847

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - PERSONAL SERVICES
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020

Account Position	Account Description Position Description	Change
1000-06000-51110-0000-00000-0000-000	YOUTH: SALARIES & WAGES, FT PERM	
06000-19700-01	YOUTH WORKER	53,621
1000-18000-51110-0180-00000-0000-000	POLICE: SALARIES & WAGES, FT PERM	
18000-12101-01	MANAGER OF ACCRED, RESEARCH &	-78,082
1000-22000-51110-0320-00000-0000-000	PARKS: SALARIES & WAGES, FT PERM	
32000-13600-06	PARK MAINTAINER II*****propose	-44,990
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND		-69,451

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - REVENUES
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020

1000-03000-41110-0033-00000-0000-000	COLL: TAXES-REAL ESTATE/MOTOR VEH	-7,876,298
1000-03000-43110-0030-00000-0000-000	FIN: PILOT-COLLEGES & HOSPITALS	3,400,000
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND		-4,476,298

Be it further resolved: That the mill rate be set as 36.0 to cover this budget, and said rate shall be due and payable in two (2) equal installments on July 1, 2019 and January 1, 2020, in accordance with the Charter of the City of Middletown, Chapter VI; and

Be it further resolved: That the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized to collect said taxes.

Councilman Daley states that it is unusual, but there are a couple of additional amendments that he would like to offer, making a substitution with an amendment. He proposes to add the following amendments to the initial substitute resolution:

05000 OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL	
55135 ARBITRATION SERVICES	
1000-05000-55135-0170-00000-0000-000	HUMRES: ARBITRATION SERVICES
1 STATE FILING FEES/ARBITRATOR SERVICES	-22,000
4 AMERICAN ARBITRATION ASSOCIATION/STATE LABOR COSTS	-10,000
NET DECREASE - ARBITRATION SERVICES	-32,000
NET DECREASE - OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL	-32,000

To offset that \$32,000 so there will no change in the proposed mill rate, Councilman Daley adjusts the following line:

1000-18000-51357-0180-00000-0000-000	POLICE: REPLACEMENT OT	
1 PATROLMEN		-7,087

2 SUPERVISORS	-10,079
NET DECREASE - REPLACEMENT OT	-17,166

Councilman Daley also proposes to delete the reduction in the Public Works Department and to delete the reduction in salaries for the Health Department of \$19,052, balancing the \$32,000 and leaving the tax rate at 36.0 mills.

1000-22000-55185-0320-00000-0000-000	
7 PEST CONTROL, SANDBLASTING, ORGANIC FERTILIZATION.....	DELETE REDUCTION
31000 HEALTH	
51215 SALARIES & WAGES, PT PERM	
1000-31000-51215-0000-00000-0000-000 HEALTH: SALARIES & WAGES, PT PE	
1 PART TIME HEALTH DEPT. CLERK	DELETE REDUCTION

Councilman Daley moves to accept these amendments.

The Chair states that, having spoken with Corporation Counsel Daniel Ryan, they will treat all of these amendments as part of the original motion -- part of the original amendment -- for parliamentary purposes.

Councilman Daley states that he would like to speak briefly to the amendments.

To be safe, the Chair asks for a motion and a second on these most recent proposed changes.

Councilman Daley moves to approve the amendments. The Chair clarifies, stating the second set of amendments. Councilman Daley concurs.

Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta seconds the motion.

Councilman Daley elaborates on the proposed changes to the Board of Education (BOE) budget as it seems like a large reduction: \$2,216,405. He notes that this includes the \$250K reduction, which is what is projected to be unexpended funds at the end of this year that we have, historically, in accordance with State statutes, agreed to roll over to following year. As a result, that \$250K is being reduced from the budget line from this year's budget, but will be added back, being rolled over under the statute. He explains that a large part of the reduction is a savings of \$910,437K in health insurance costs for BOE employees, who are members of Local 466 and UPSEU bargaining units. There is an additional reduction of \$1,055,968 that represents a real reduction from the Mayor's proposed funding for education. He points out that they are committed to investing in education and providing what is needed to move the school system forward. To put it in perspective, the general fund budget, excluding education, if this is adopted as he read it, would include an overall increase of 0.66%, so that especially the rest of the City budget, excluding education, is essentially flat. He reiterates that it is a six tenths of one percent increase (6/10 of 1%). If these changes are adopted, the BOE budget would realize an additional investment of 5.09%. There are 2 major piece of good fortune that have allowed us to make these adjustment from the mayor's initial budget proposal. The Appropriations Committee of the State legislature increased PILOT funding for colleges and hospitals. For Middletown, that including \$3,400,000 in additional revenue in the general fund budget and \$600K in the fire budget, which had a major impact. The other item, that had a major impact on all of the City budgets except the downtown business district, and in the case of the general fund budget, almost a \$3M reduction in costs – a real cost savings – in going out to bid for health insurance claims administration. The City realized a savings, on the general government side of the budget, of \$2,038,892 and \$910,437 on BOE side. He acknowledges the work of City Risk Manager Nancy Razcka, the Insurance & Claims Committee, and the Mayor's Office in going to bid and realizing this savings. There is an overall on the general government side of 6.5% from what the City is currently paying – a real reduction in costs of 6.4%. This is attributable to the work done seeking new bids. He notes that he does not believe that the City has gone out to bid for claims administration for more than 10 years. Those two factors account for, in terms of the overall reduction, over \$6M in the general fund alone, noting that there will be savings in Fire, Sanitation, and Water & Sewer budgets. He acknowledges the work of the Mayor's staff on the budget as well as the Finance Department, especially Director Carl Erlacher and Deputy Director Diana Doyle, who did yeomen's work. He urges his colleagues to support increase 1.2 mills, noting that no one likes to pay more taxes. The general government side is flat and, in this budget, they are trying to meet the needs of the BOE and Dr. Conner's *Strategic Plan* for investment, making the Middletown school system the best and most progressive in the State.

The Chair calls on Councilman Sebastian Giuliano.

Councilman Giuliano state shat he has an amendment to the amendment, noting that if others want to speak to the amendment on the floor, he will yield.

The Chair calls on Councilman Eugene Nocera.

Councilman Nocera states that he supports the amended budget just presented. It provides the BOE with the kind of financial investment that he personally feels is unprecedented by this Common Council. This proposed budget pleases him as the former BOE chair and as a past school principal in Middletown, he personally worked very hard to close achievement gap for the schools, but it remains a serious threat to success of students in the future. It is important to restate something that Councilman Daley said: what is proposed is essentially, on the City side, no increase or ½% and that the bulk of the money being put forward and which is essential for student success is unprecedented. He does not think anyone will see a budget like this in the State of Connecticut. He supports what this budget is doing and he urges his Common Council colleagues to consider this proposal seriously.

The Chair calls on Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr.

Councilman Faulkner states that he supports this resolution. Like other people and like other budgets, he does not like everything. He notes that the education was paramount this year to give the BOE and Dr. Conner support to implement his program. He emphasizes that our young people do not live in the schools and it is imperative to continue to invest in youth programming in the community. They live in the community and cannot only feel safe, encouraged, and educated in the school building. That must also happen in the community. He is thankful that, after some 5 or 6 years, there is a youth development worker in the budget. In Insurance & Claims, it has gone out to bid before, noting that it is a chore to get bidding done because you need to try to maintain a relationship with the consultants. The other issue that compounds this is the moving ground of the health insurance area, which is the moving ground of the health insurance arena, which, overall, is still not resolved.

The Chair calls on Councilman Robert Blanchard.

Councilman Blanchard states that he support the Daley amendment and urges his colleagues to do so. Although it is only his 4th year on this Council. Putting a budget together is difficult and seems to be getting harder and harder each year. There has been a lot of growth in the City, especially on Main Street and in Westfield with FedEx. There is also growth in classroom. Our budget is a statement of our values and what we think is important, what we are committed to: high quality of life and opportunities for our children are all things that go into our budget. The bond rating that the City gets annually is great, but things like literacy rating, graduation rate, and math scores are far more important. To ensure educational success, it is far more important to invest in the education system. The City's Superintendent has done an incredible job, making strategic decisions and investments, which are working. Math scores are up in the Middle School, minority student participation is up, despite socioeconomic challenges, and words are being read by children at the age of 3 because of *Footsteps to Brilliance*. This is not the time to take the foot off the gas, or make reductions in spending. The City is making the investments and seeing the results. He urges his colleagues to make the right choice and continue to invest in our children and close the opportunity gap.

The Chair calls on Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta.

Councilwoman Bartolotta thanks Councilman Daley for taking the lead, breaking everything down. She thanks the Mayor's office and the City's Risk manager for going out to bid and getting the information needed, which allowed the Council to accomplish a lot of the things that are in this budget. In his budget, a youth worker is added back in, which is very important to highlight, acknowledging that this Council regards this as very important. Councilwoman Bartolotta has worked with Dr. Conner, on behalf of Democratic caucus. In going over the numbers, it is important for people to know that the *Strategic Plan*, his initiatives to close the education gap and provide the resolutions that he needs to move forward will be covered by this budget and allow Dr. Conner to do that. This is very important. Although this is one of the largest investments that the City has made in its children, we have to continue to do this year after year. This is a great starting point, a sign for the future: to have every child with an education where they can attain that is equal and successful.

There being no further discussion, the Chair calls for a vote.

Councilman Sebastian Giuliano ask a question about the amendment (inaudible).

The Chair ask Councilman Giuliano if he is looking to make a new amendment or speak on the amendment.

Councilman Giuliano replies (inaudible).

The chair states that he believes that they need to dispose of the amendment and then have an underlying vote. The Chair consults Corporation Counsel Daniel Ryan and defers to him.

Corporation Counsel Ryan states that he understands that Councilman Giuliano is about to amend Councilman Daley's amendment. He rules that the Council should vote on everything.

Councilman Giuliano states that it is his understanding that the Council would vote on his amendment. If that passes, then the amendment is amended. If it does not pass, then Councilman Daley's amendment is on the floor, as presented.

Corporation Counsel Ryan replies, "That is correct." He adds that it needs a second.

Councilman Giuliano states that he must first read the proposed amendment.

The Chair states that Councilman Giuliano has the floor.

Councilman Giuliano has the following amendment to the amendment. Councilman Giuliano reads the proposed language. Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski seconds the motion

Proposed Republican Amendment to the Amendments to the Initial Substitute Resolution:

Be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Middletown: That the City of Middletown General Fund Budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as prepared by the Mayor and advertised in the Hartford Courant on April 19, 2019 is hereby approved and adopted.

. CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - EXPENDITURES
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020

0500 OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL	
0170 HUMAN RESOURCES	
55135 ARBITRATION SERVICES	
1000-05000-55135-0170-00000-0000-000	HUMRES: ARBITRATION SERVICES
1 State Filing Fees/ Arbitrator Services	-22,000
4 American Arbitration Association/State Labor One	-10,000
	NET DECREASE - ARBITRATION SERVICES -32,000
	NET DECREASE OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL -32,000
06000 YOUTH SERVICES	
51110 SALARIES & WAGES, FT PERM	
1000-06000-51110-0000-00000-0000-000	+53,622
501 06000-19700-01 YOUTH WORKER	
	NET INCREASE - SALARIES & WAGES, FT PERM +53,622
06000 YOUTH SERVICES	
51220 SALARIES & WAGES, PT PERM	+53,622
1000 06000-51220-0000-00000-000-01	
1 Summer Student Work Program	-15,000
	NET DECREASE - SALARIES & WAGES, PT FERM -15,000
	NET INCREASE - YOUTH SERVICES +38,622
01800 POLICE	
51110 SALARIES & WAGES, FT PERM	
1000-18000-51110-0180-00000-0000-000	POLICE: SALARIES & WAGES, FT PERM
512 18000-12101-01 MANAGER OF ACCRED, RES. & SPE.	-78,083
	NET DECREASE - SALARIES & WAGES, FT PERM -78,083
	NET DECREASE POLICE -78,083
28000 EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	
51576 EMPL BEN: PENSION CONTRIBUTION	
1000-28000-51576-0000-00000-0000-000	
	EMPL BEN: PENSION - TEACHERS' RETIREMENT -261,814
	NET DECREASE - EMPL BEN: PENSION CONTRIB. -261,814
51530 HEALTH INSURANCE	
1000-28000-51530-0000-00000-0000-000	EMPL BEN: HEALTH INSURANCE
1 Health Insurance Costs	-2,038,892
	NET DECREASE - HEALTH INSURANCE -2,038,892
	NET DECREASE - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS -2,300,706
31000 HEALTH	
51215 SALARIES & WAGES, PT PERM	
1000 31000-51215-0000-00000-0000-000	
1 Part Time Health Dept. Clerk	-24,052
	NET DECREASE - SALARIES & WAGES, PT FERM -24,052
	NET DECREASE - HEALTH -24,052
0708 COMMUNITY - CULTURAL EVENT	
57030 MISC EXPENSE	
1000-27000-57030-0708-00000-0000-000	COMMITY: MISC EXPENSE
1 Holiday Lighting	-10,000
10 Holiday on Main Street	-20,000
12 Chamber Christmas Lights	-9,000
13 4th of July Fireworks	-84,000
14 Promotional Materials	-11,000
15 Annual Womens Conference Banner	-600
16 Hunter's Ambulance - 4th of July	-2,000
17 Generator Backup - 4th of July	-600
18 Pride Parade	-60,000
19 Miscellaneous Events - ALL EXPENSES & OVER TIME ALL DEPT.	+260,000
	NET INCREASE - MISC EXPENSE +62,800
	NET INCREASE - COMMUNITY CULTURAL EVENT +62,800
0180 POLICE	
51365 SPECIAL EVENT OVERTIME	
1000-18000-51365-0180-00000-0000-000	POLICE - SPECIAL EVENTS OVERTIME
1 5K Road Race	-3,485
2 Cruise Night	-3,432
3 Holiday on Main Street	-1,728
4 Kids Health and Safety Fair	-13,671
5 Motorcycle Mania or Replacement Event	-7,670

6 Regatta	-8,175
7 St. Sebastian's Festival	-1,429
8 Westfield Memorial Day Parade	-708
10 Fourth of July	-14,945
11 Mud Volleyball Traffic Only	-2,112
12 Law Enforcement Memorial Run	-850
NET DECREASE - POLICE SPECIAL EVENTS OT	-58,207
NET DECREASE - SPECIAL EVENT OVERTIME	-58,207
22000 PUBLIC WORKS	
51340 OVERTIME	
1000-22000-51340-0320-00000-0000-0000 PARKS: MISCELLANEOUS OVERTIME	
1 Spec. Evts - 4th July, Motorcycle Mania Car Show	-10,000
NET DECREASE - PARKS: MISC. OVERTIME	-10,000
NET DECREASE - PUBLIC WORKS	-10,000
33000 EDUCATION	
57010 EDUCATION CONTRIBUTION	
1000-33000-57010-0000-00000-0000-0000 EDUCATION CONTRIBUTION	
1	-6,455,968
NET DECREASE - EDUCATION CONTRIBUTION	-6,455,968
NET DECREASE - EDUCATION	-6,455,968
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND	-8,857,594

**CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - REVENUES
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020**

1000-03000-41110-0033-00000-0000-0000 COLL: TAXES-REAL ESTATE	-7,571,101
1000-03000-43110-0030-00000-0000-0000 FIN: PILOT-COLLEGES & HOSPITALS	3,400,000
1000-03000-49030-0030-00000-0000-0000 FIN: FUND BAL BUDGET CONTRIB	-4,686,493
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 1000 GENERAL FUND	-8,857,594

Be it further resolved: That the mill rate be set as 35.8 to cover this budget, and said rate shall be due and payable in two (2) equal installments on July 1, 2019 and January 1, 2020, in accordance with the Charter of the City of Middletown, Chapter VI; and

Be it further resolved: That the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized to collect said taxes.

Submitted by: Councilman Sebastian J. Giuliano
Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski
Councilwoman Linda Salafia

Councilman Giuliano states that there some things in this amendment that are drastic, noting that education stands out most. In looking at the education budget, he feels that he is driving an old car and sees the new one and wants to have the new one, but when he asks himself how to make payments, there is no answer. The City does not have an answer. The answer is: (1) raise taxes; (2) hit the general fund balance; (3) borrow more money and grad the bond premium contribution. To pay for these things is completely unsustainable. It is a process that will end badly. Unlit the Council sits down and determines how it will pay for these commitments in the future, it is irresponsible to make them just as it would be to buy the car when I cannot make the payments. The Council needs to understand how it will do that. Sitting and hoping that something good will happen is not the answer. Hoping that the State will bail us out is not the answer. The State is not in good shape and will have all it can do to bail itself out. When the State does bail itself out, most of it will be on the backs of the towns and cities. The State has already shifted a portion of cost of teacher pension to the local level, noting that it is 25% this year and will be 50% next year. Eventually the local level will be saddled with the whole thing. The State will solve its problems before it solves ours. The City needs to be prepared to solve its own problems. Another thing that has been done in this budget, this Council declares all kinds of things as special events, leaving department scrambling to cover these events. This proposed amendment puts everything in one, big pot. When something is declared a special event, we will need to know what it will cost and it will come from that pot to pay for it. When that fund is exhausted, it is done. The City cannot keep doing open ended special events as that is a back door hit on the departments. Finally, it puts \$4M+ back into the General Fund Balance. All departments are asked to come up with a Capital Non-Recurring (CNR) Plan and they did it. The result was that it would take \$3M to fund that CNR Plan. What did the Council do with that? We did nothing. Putting money back in the Fund balance will allow us to address those Capital obligations that we have. He asks what haves the City been doing: it has borrowed money to pay for capital assets that, historically, we have never borrowed for. That has raised the debt load and the debt service load. These are things that must be changed, noting that, if we don't change, there will la budget next year and the year after that and the year after that. What the Council decides to do today will affect those. Until we can answer the questions as to how to meet those obligations in the future, especially in regards to education, we will need to drive the old car another year. The average house in Middletown, according the comprehensive annual fiscal report, is \$229K, which he believes is a little high. The average house has been worth \$200K, which means it pays taxes on an assessed value of \$140K. At the mill rate of the current year – 34.8 mills – that house is paying \$4,800 per year. That is \$400 per month to that family. That is a modest house with a family of modest income. That is \$400 a month that does not go towards groceries, kids' clothes, heat and electricity. That money is coming to the City. Before he is asking them to dig deeper into their pockets, we have to be able to say that we have done all we can to alleviate that burden. This is drastic, but we have to get the revenue house in order before we start spending. We cannot continue to write checks that we cannot cash, which is what we are doing here. He urges his colleagues to support this amendment.

The Chair calls on Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski.

Councilwoman Kleckowski states that, for those who may not have been adding all of the activities in one pot that totals \$260K. They decide to do this so that activity are in one specific area. What people have done previously is to come before the Council with a great idea. The Council agrees for the City to support the event and then everyone scrambles to pay for it. It is something that we have been asking to do for some time. In case people do not realize, the commitment – the investment – that people are talking about is not for one year. She explains that there is a minimum budget requirement, so whatever is allocated to the Board of Education in this fiscal year is the minimum allocation next year. This amount becomes the starting point for next year. As stated, the State is not in good shape, so we are looking at enormous taxes coming down in this budget so we need to look at our own fiscal house to be able to pay for what we need. This budget is important because it shows fiscal responsibility, not only for this year, but something we talk about, planning for future years. This budget does that planning so that we are not millions of dollars in the hole for the next year. People have talked about families and the importance of education. It is true, but how will families pay for basic needs? A 1.2 mill increase is very substantial. When people have to pay rent, which will go up as taxes go up. Heating costs go up; food bills are enormous. This is a responsible budget with a strong foundation and, moving ahead, will allow us to meet the needs of the community, all needs of the community. We need to remember that we have many members of the community, who are on fixed incomes. A 1.2 mill increase is devastating on this portion of the community. We have all heard stories about senior not being able to get medication, food. She reiterates that there are a lot of City residents on fixed incomes. She encourages her colleagues to consider this amendment, to approve this amendment, since we are preparing, not only for this year, but setting a foundation for years to come. For those who may believe that taxes are not high enough, that we should pay more, by all means, those people are welcome to pay more. The tax bill is just the minimum requirement. There are other options, noting that the school district does swell with grants, but she encourages her colleagues to consider not only this year, but years ahead and the minimum budget requirement obligation.

The Chair calls on Councilwoman Linda Salafia.

Councilwoman Salafia agrees with Councilman Giuliano and Councilwoman Kleckowski. She has been looking at the financial statements and the last bond issue, noting that both are full of statistics on Middletown. These statistics are depressing. The median income is \$35K, which means that the middle of the lowest paid person and the highest paid person. That is not the average, but the middle. The Grand List saw a change because of FedEx, but most of the City's taxes are from real estate taxes. There is not a lot of new growth of buildings, of people coming in to grow that tax base. We are asking a lot of people in the community. In Rhode Island, kids cannot pay for lunches. Our schools give free lunches and we are now asking parents to pay more for the schools. It seems backwards. We need to support families, give them a tax break so they can give more to their children. She supports the amendment. Relative to the previous amendment, something that she would remove is that the City has a new parks bond of \$34M, which has been, and is being, used to make changes to our parks; however, Public Works has proposed a new park maintainer. If this goes thru, we are taking out the park maintainer, noting that the whole point of the park bond was because we were unable to sustain our parks to the proper level. She would not have taken out that position. She adds that . . .

The Chair interjects, stating that right now the Council is dealing with Councilman Giuliano's amendment. If she has comments regarding Councilman Daley's amendment, he asks that she hold those comments for that debate, which will occur after Councilman Giuliano's amendment has been dealt with.

Councilwoman Salafia states that she supports Councilman Giuliano's amendment because there is new bonding coming up for a new school, which will affect the bottom line for the Board of Education.

The Chair states that, for the public's edification, some of the information that Councilwoman Salafia cited is deeply incorrect especially as to economic development and median income. He suggests she re-read the bonding prospectus and look at the last several years grand lists. The economic growth, especially in the commercial sector, was significantly greater than described.

The Chair calls on Councilman Gerald Daley.

Councilman Daley states that he is not able to support the republican amendment. He understands and appreciates Councilman Giuliano's comments, particularly about the difficulty that some in the community face in absorbing increased taxes. That is an issue. We need to look at ways to achieve cost savings and reduction first and, if necessary, a reassessment of the need for certain programs and services. In the long term, we do need to address capital non-recurring items and need to provide tax relief to keep community vital and be competitive with other communities for development, both residential and commercial. We need to be sensitive to the tax rate. However, as he calculates, what is proposed here is untenable. In the Mayor's budget, there was \$6,455,968 increase for the Board of Education (BOE) from the funding that they received this year. The Republican amendment proposes to eliminate that entire increase, giving the BOE Zero Dollars. The arguments might be that we are saving all of this money from health insurance, which gives them some money. They have an anticipated rollover of \$250,000, so they will have some money. They also propose eliminating funding of the contribution to the State Teacher pension, which is in the Governor's proposed budget, adding that, somewhere, that has to be paid. In netting out, his calculations of the savings of the health insurance costs and rollover, less the funding of the teacher pension, which is what Republican amendment proposes to put on the BOE rather than in the General Fund, which is contrary to keeping the NBR down, arguable, the BOE would have \$898,623 to spend in addition to what they had this year. In the BOE budget shared at the March workshop, contractual obligations of their budget, without any improvement in programs and services, is \$2,472,824. So they are \$1.6M behind where they are this year for ability to provide programs and services. It is a real cut to education, not even keeping them level. That is simply unacceptable. The

other major objection he has to the Republican amendment is the proposal to eliminate the contribution from Fund Balance to fund operating expenses, reducing the \$4,868,493 contribution from the Fund Balance, which is included in the mayor's budget. In his mind, this is irresponsible. When you consider that, although we appear to be the beneficiary of \$3,400,000 of additional PILOT funding, as approved by the proposed by the General Assembly Appropriations Committee, the State has yet to adopt its budget. The fund balance is our savings account, our reserve. If we take that money out now to achieve a *de minimus* tax increase, as proposed by Republicans, what happens if the General Assembly budget does not include that additional PILOT money, or make other changes to State aid, or there are other unanticipated demands on the City budget. This Council has adopted a policy that says that we will maintain an Undesignated Fund Balance of at least 12%. This type of reduction, while he has not had time to assess how close this gets us to that level, but, if we take other things out, such as the \$3.4M in PILOT funding, we could be approaching a situation where we need to put corrective measures in place to get back above that 12% level. He urges that the Council vote against this proposed amendment as offered tonight. He understands that the Council must look at long-term needs and cost reduction opportunities that may present themselves. One piece of good news is some areas of major cost reduction, which are reflected in the budget. He urges City departments, including the BOE, to look at ways to achieve cost reductions in ways that do not affect the quality and level of services being provided. This year, on the General Government side, we have achieved a \$969,470 in actual reductions -- 6.4% -- from what is being spent in FY19. Our salary reserve went down 5.15% and Workers' Compensation budget went \$766,540, which is a 22% decrease from the current fiscal year. These are the ways, being more efficient and getting the health insurance saving, where we saved almost \$3M in the general Fund, that is how we can best serve the taxpayers, keeping taxes as low as possible while maintaining programs and services that the public values. We cannot make draconian cuts that are simply untenable.

The Chair calls on Councilman Robert Blanchard.

Councilman Blanchard states that he will not support the proposed Republican amendment. To use Councilman Giuliano's car analogy, he has driven a lot of cars and they need maintenance. He has sometimes deferred maintenance and that has cost more in the end. The amount of money that he put into that care probably amounted to the down payment on a new car. If we make deep cuts now, or we don't live up to our commitment to education, we will pay for it in the future. Whether it is by families not coming to Middletown because we don't value education, or make the right investments in education, which will lower property values, whether that is not setting up our children for success after graduation, whether at technical schools, college, or a career, we are cutting our noses off despite our face, which will cost more in the end. He sympathizes with taxpayers that taxes are going up while wages are staying stagnant. He hopes that the Board of Education understands that \$5M is unprecedented and that it cannot become accustomed to \$5M each year. He believes that, as government, we need to look for ways to be more efficient, ways to tighten our belts and figure out how to do more with less. We also need to make the right investment in education while we can.

The Chair calls on Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta.

Councilwoman Bartolotta states that she appreciates Councilman Blanchard's comments. We have made the board of Education do more with less for a long time and it has now shown its ugly head. It is time to address it and have equity in our schools, which is the first major step. We have to make sure that we do it. She will not support the amendment. Investing in our children and in our schools is the best economic development we can possibly make. It will be the best turnover to keep supporting the programs that we need to support our schools. She also breaks down what the 1.2 mil increase means. With the average house value of \$150K, this is an increase of \$180 per year which is . . .

The Chair interjects and asks that Councilwoman Bartolotta hold these comments for the underlying amendment.

Councilwoman Bartolotta states that she will hold that information for later. She reiterates that she will not be supporting this amendment, adding that it will decimate every initiative that Dr. Conner has put forward and it will force them to cut back on programs that are already in place. As Councilman Daley mentioned, the contractual obligations of the Board of Education alone in this budget is \$2.4M and this proposes adding only \$898K. She asks where this money will come from. It will come from our children, our classrooms, our teachers. It comes back to these families and our kids not getting what they need. She reiterates that she will not support the Republican amendment.

The Chair calls on Councilman Eugene Nocera.

Councilman Nocera states that he will not support the Republican amendment. He focuses on other issues. They did point out that this was a very drastic approach. He commends the Mayor's staff, which assisted the Council in this process. They were in the middle of deliberations when they learned of the health benefit savings, which opened a door to make this budget a win-win: for taxpayers because it is a moderate increase and for the Board of Education. As was said earlier, the achievement gap is a serious one for our students. We have been struggling with that for a long time. We have a commitment like never before to turn the page. It is time to move forward. He congratulates the caucus for moving this and encourages the Council to reject this amendment.

The Chair calls on Councilman W. Vance Cotten.

Councilman Cotten states that, as the new Councilmember, he is on the fast track for learning tonight. He is not able to support Councilman Giuliano's amendment. When it comes to children, as parents and as adults, we need to make sacrifices to put children first. The Council wants to do what is right. Sometimes we have to sacrifice, noting that the children deserve it. He reiterates that he will not support the Giuliano amendment. He adds that everyone has done a great job preparing this budget.

The Chair calls on Councilman Robert Santangelo.

Councilman Santangelo states that he will continue the car theme. Small used cars are the most dangerous. They have issues and problems. Stepping away from debate on a flat education budget and looking at community, our Grant List grew about three percent (3%) this year.

The Chair interjects, saying, "Last year also."

Councilman Santangelo continues, saying that people come to Middletown because it is attractive. It is attractive for many reasons. In the winter, he is told that Middletown streets are clean. What makes it attractive will make people come. He has been on the Economic Development Commission for 26 years. What makes the City attractive are our schools and the attractions that we have. These things bring people and businesses to the community. What her daughter saw on Main Street in 1990 were people standing on the streets, prostitution and drug deals, which we don't see today. This is the progress because we have invested. Investments have helped the community. AARP states that, when you retire, you want to be in a town with a university, good health care with a Top 100 hospital, in a town with a lot of activities. Middletown has all of these. He recounts that, last week, someone came up to him and said that they wanted to go to a park for a picnic, swim, and play horseshoes. They were in walking distance to that park. This is the community that we are. It costs to maintain, but it is an investment in the community. Going flat is not enough, so he will not support the amendment.

The Chair calls on Councilman Sebastian Giuliano.

Councilman Giuliano states that he wants to correct something that Councilman Daley said. The Republican amendment does not take \$4M out of the General Fund; rather, it puts \$476,298 back into the General Fund. It reduces the Fund Balance contribution. Both proposals show that \$3.4M PILOT increase. It is the majority proposal that double hits the Fund Balance and, if that \$3.4M does not materialize, that will come out of the Fund Balance. The minority proposal leaves \$4,476,000 in so that, if the \$3.4M does not materialize, that \$4,476,000 covers it and still leaves us \$1M to the good. The goal was to protect the Fund Balance from that eventuality. To stick with the car analogy, if you can't make the payments, if you get rid of the old car and buy the new one and default on the payments, the car is repossessed. He does not want to put the City in that position. He wants to be sure that when we commit to the programs that the school district want, we have the ability to pay for them without the same old methods, which will eventually bankrupt us, if we don't stop. Our priorities are different: our priority is to stabilize the City's financial position and put us in a better position to do the things we want to do, and not to make a commitment now that we cannot meet, or will have trouble meeting, in the future. Unfortunately, the budget as presented, or as amended by the majority caucus amendment, sets the City up for another tax increase next year, and another the year after that and another the year after that. If the goal is to drive retirees away, keep doing that. If we want to drive investment away, keep doing that because they will look at the picture and say that there is a never ending increase here. No one has a handle on things; no one is stabilizing things here. It is not a good place to go. We need to take some take steps now before we go on the hook for large expenditures. We need to stabilize the situation that we have and then make the payment. That is what we are proposing to do: take a breath and figure out how we are going to pay for all of this. To do less is just wishful thinking and he does not think that that is responsible government.

The Chair calls on Councilwoman Debora Kleckowski.

Councilwoman Kleckowski states people have been saying that the \$5M is unprecedented, which is correct. She reminds the Council that, due to the minimum budget requirement, next year we will begin at \$5M. That unprecedented amount will continue.

Councilman Giuliano interjects, saying, "So, it won't be unprecedented."

Councilwoman Kleckowski continues, noting that it's not a one year investment, but it is perpetual. Each year's minimum is the allocation from the prior year.

Seeing no further discussion on Councilman Giuliano's amendment, the Chair calls for a vote on that amendment only. The Chair states that the matter fails with three (3) affirmative votes (Councilmembers Giuliano, Kleckowski, and Salafia) and seven (7) nay votes (Councilmembers Bartolotta, Blanchard, Cotten, Daley, Faulkner, Nocera, and Santangelo). The motion to approve the Giuliano amendment fails.

The Chair calls for a vote on Councilman Daley's amendment for which discussion has closed. Once the amendment is disposed, there is the underlying resolution and, at that point, if anyone wishes to comment, that will be the appropriate time. Councilman Giuliano states that that he is voting to approve the Daley amendment because the net effect on the taxpayer is still 0.2 mill. The Chair asks Councilman Giuliano to wait until the underlying resolution to go into the logic. The Chair states that the matter is approved with eight (8) affirmative votes (Councilmembers Bartolotta, Blanchard, Cotten, Daley, Giuliano, Faulkner, Nocera, and Santangelo) and two (2) nay votes (Councilmembers Kleckowski and Salafia). The motion to approve the Daley amendment is approved.

The Chair explains that the Council now has before it the amendment resolution for the General Fund Budget. The Chair asks if anyone wishes to spec to this matter. The Chair calls on Councilman Grady L. Faulkner, Jr.

Councilman Faulkner states that his colleagues have discussed many issues and that is good. This gap has been with us for a long time and this community has suffered from it for a long time. Doing something now is not doing something ahead of time, but it is behind the time. He also notes that, in talking with Dr. Conner, the Council learned

that there are two (2) State bills, which will require schools to increase number of credits for graduation. This means more classes and more teachers. Dr. Conner also pointed out that the City has been using the Alliance Grants to pay for administrators and, the second bill says that those funds cannot be used that way. It is not just Middletown, but other towns will also be facing this. We are getting ahead of the curve on that by moving those administration dollars out of that grant, which is part of the Board of Education budget increase. These are two things that are important. The MBR (Minimum Budget Requirement) will be up anyway; we have just been hiding it in the grants.

The Chair explains that Councilman Faulkner has referred to the Alliance District Funds. The State requirements regarding supplanting these funds. Since the bill passed in 2012, creating this pot of money, we have been trying to get a straight answer from the State about what actually defines "supplanting" and we have received different definitions over the years from different State agencies, including the Department of Education and the Office of Policy & Management (OPM). We have not been able to get a straight answer in seven (7) years. The Chair calls on Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta.

Councilwoman Bartolotta states that she wants to break down the impact of the 1.2 mill increase for a homeowner in town. Based on assessments: \$150,000 assessment, the impact is \$180/year or \$15/month; \$175,000 assessment is \$210/year or \$17.50/month; \$200,000 assessment is \$240/year or \$20/month and \$250,000 assessment is \$300/year or \$25/month. She understands that no one wants to pay more taxes, but when there is this much inequity in the school system, as has been stated numerous times tonight, if don't invest now ... our children are our priority. We need to ensure that every child has the opportunity for equal education. That is what this budget does. She understands it is difficult to put the hand in the pocket, but this will bring us down a path to improve our community and will make homes worth more. It will make a better investment for our children, first, and our homes, second. The two go together, making it a successful duo in the end. She adds that the City has programs for our veterans and our seniors, offering a tax discount for their homes so they do not feel the full impact. There is also an outreach program at City Hall for anyone in need of help. She urges her colleagues to vote for this budget this evening and for these changes because it is the best investment that we can make.

Seeing no further discussion, the Chair calls for a vote on the General Fund Budget resolution, as amended. The Chair states that the motion passes unanimously with 10 affirmative votes. The matter is unanimously approved.

B. Adopting the Middletown Fire District Budget

APPROVED, AS AMENDED

RESOLUTION No: 31-19; K: review/ resolution/ CC fire budget FY19-20 RES 31-19 – 15 May 2019

Be it Resolved by the Common Council of the City of Middletown: That the Middletown Fire District Budget for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, as prepared by the Mayor and advertised in the Hartford Courant on April 19, 2019, is hereby approved and adopted, as amended; and

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - EXPENDITURES
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020

50000 FIRE		
51530 HEALTH INSURANCE		
2010-50000-51530-0500-00000-0000-000	FIRE: HEALTH INSURANCE	
1 NUMBER SUPPLIED BY RISK		-441,220
	NET DECREASE - HEALTH INSURANCE	-441,220
	NET DECREASE - FIRE	-441,220
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 2010	FIRE	-441,220

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - REVENUES
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020

2010-50000-41110-0500-00000-0000-000	FIRE: TAXES-REAL ESTATE/MOTOR VEH	-1,041,220
2010-50000-43110-0500-00000-0000-000	FIRE: PILOT-COLLEGES & HOSPITALS	600,000
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 2010	FIRE	-441,220

Be It Further Resolved: That the mill rate be set as 8.4 to cover this budget and said rate shall be due and payable in two (2) equal installments on July 1, 2019 and January 1, 2020, in accordance with the Charter of the City of Middletown, Chapter VI; and

Be It Further Resolved: That the Tax Collector be and is hereby authorized to collect said taxes.

Councilman Robert Santangelo reads the resolution, as amend, and moves for approval. Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr. seconds the motion.

The Chair calls on Councilwoman Linda Salafia.

Councilwoman Salafia asks a technical question regarding language in the 1st paragraph. It seems that the language should include the phrase "as amended" on this and all of the subsequent amended resolutions.

Councilman Santangelo apologizes and agrees.

The Chair calls on Councilman Gerald Daley.

Councilman Daley states that there is good news for taxpayers in the central Fire District because this proposed 8.4 mil rate actually represents a ½ of 1 percent mill reduction. It is the result of the PIOT funding and the savings in health insurance.

Seeing no further discussion, the Chair calls for a vote on the proposed amendment. The Chair states that the motion passes unanimously with 10 affirmative votes. The amendment is unanimously approved.

The Chair calls for a vote on the underlying resolution, as amended. He asks for Councilman Santangelo to move the resolution, as amended.

Councilman Santangelo moves to approve the resolution, as amended. Councilman Grady Faulkner seconds the motion.

Seeing no further discussion, the Chair calls for a vote on the Fire Budget, as amended. The Chair states that the motion passes unanimously with 10 affirmative votes. The Fire Budget, as amended, is unanimously approved.

C. Adopting Sanitation Collection District Budget

**APPROVED, AS AMENDED
RESOLUTION No: 32-19;**

Be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Middletown: That the budget of the Sanitation Collection district for the fiscal year July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020 as presented by the Mayor and advertised in the Hartford Courant on April 19, 2019 is hereby approved and adopted, as amended:

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - EXPENDITURES			
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020			
40000	SANITATION		
51530	HEALTH INSURANCE		
2020-40000-51530-0000-00000-0000-000		SANIT: HEALTH INSURANCE	
	1 HEALTH INSURANCE - SANITATION	-39,994
		NET DECREASE - HEALTH INSURANCE	-39,994
		NET DECREASE - SANITATION	-39,994
	TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 2020	SANITATION	-39,994

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - REVENUES			
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020			
2020-40000-44715-0000-00000-0000-000		SANIT: SERVICE CHARGES	-39,994
	TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 2020	SANITATION	-39,994

Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr. reads the resolution, as amend, and moves for approval. Councilman Gerald Daley seconds the motion.

Seeing no discussion, the Chair calls for a vote on the proposed amendment. The Chair states that the motion passes unanimously with 10 affirmative votes. The amendment is unanimously approved.

The Chair calls for a vote on the underlying resolution, as amended.

Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr. moves to approve the resolution, as amended. Councilman Gerald Daley seconds the motion.

Seeing no further discussion, the Chair calls for a vote on the Sanitation Budget, as amended. The Chair states that the motion passes unanimously with 10 affirmative votes. The Sanitation Budget, as amended, is unanimously approved.

D. Adopting Water Pollution Control Authority Budget for the Sewer Department

**APPROVED, AS AMENDED
RESOLUTION No: 33-19; K; review/ resolution/ CC sewer budget FY 19-20 RES 33-19 – 15 May 2019**

Be it Resolved by the Common Council of the City of Middletown: That the budget prepared and adopted by the Water Pollution Control Authority for the Sewer Department of the City of Middletown for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 as advertised in the Hartford Courant on April 20, 2019 is hereby approved and adopted, as amended; and

Be It Further Resolved: That the rate of sewer use charges as adopted by the Water Pollution Control shall be due and payable effective July 1, 2019; and

Be It Further Resolved: that the Tax Collector, he, and she is hereby authorized to collect said sewer charges.

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - EXPENDITURES			
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020			
65000	SEWER		
51530	HEALTH INSURANCE		
2050-65000-51530-0000-00000-0000-000		SEWER: HEALTH INSURANCE	
	1	-116,280

NET DECREASE - HEALTH INSURANCE	-116,280
NET DECREASE - SEWER	-116,280
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 2050 SEWER	-116,280

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - REVENUES
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020

2050-65000-44715-0000-00000-0000-000 SEWER: SERVICE CHARGES	-116,280
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 2050 SEWER	-116,280

Councilman Eugene Nocera reads the resolution, as amend, and moves for approval. Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr. seconds the motion.

Seeing no discussion, the Chair calls for a vote on the proposed amendment. The Chair states that the motion passes unanimously with 10 affirmative votes. The amendment is unanimously approved.

The Chair calls for a vote on the underlying resolution, as amended.

Councilman Eugene Nocera moves to approve the resolution, as amended. Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr. seconds the motion.

Seeing no discussion, the Chair calls for a vote on the Sewer Department Budget, as amended. The Chair states that the motion passes unanimously with 10 affirmative votes. The Sewer Department Budget, as amended, is unanimously approved.

**E. Adopting Water Pollution Control Authority Budget for the Water Department
APPROVED, AS AMENDED**

RESOLUTION No: 34-19; K: review/ resolution/ CC water budget FY19-20 RES 34-19 – 15 May 2019

Be it Resolved by the Common Council of the City of Middletown: That the budget prepared and adopted by the Water Pollution Control Authority for the Water Department of the City of Middletown for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 as advertised in the Hartford Courant on May 2, 2019 is hereby approved and adopted, as amended; and

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - EXPENDITURES
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020

60000 WATER	
51530 HEALTH INSURANCE	
5000-60000-51530-0000-00000-0000-000 WATER: HEALTH INSURANCE	
1	-142,662
NET DECREASE - HEALTH INSURANCE	-142,662
NET DECREASE - WATER	-142,662
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 5000 WATER	-142,662

CITY OF MIDDLETOWN - REVENUES
COUNCIL ADJUSTMENTS TO BUDGET FOR YEAR ENDING 2020

-60000-44715-0000-00000-0000-000 WATER: SERVICE CHARGES	-142,662
TOTAL NET DECREASE IN FUND 5000 WATER	-142,662

Be It Further Resolved: That the rate of water use charges as adopted by the Water Pollution Control Authority and approved by the Common Council on May 6, 2019 shall be due and payable effective July 1, 2019; and

Be It Further Resolved: that the Tax Collector, he, and she is hereby authorized to collect said water charges.

Councilman Robert Blanchard reads the resolution, as amend, and moves for approval. Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr. seconds the motion.

Seeing no discussion, the Chair calls for a vote on the proposed amendment. The Chair states that the motion passes unanimously with 10 affirmative votes. The amendment is unanimously approved.

The Chair calls for a vote on the underlying resolution, as amended.

Councilman Robert Blanchard moves to approve the resolution, as amended. Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr. seconds the motion.

Seeing no discussion, the Chair calls for a vote on the Water Department Budget, as amended. The Chair states that the motion passes unanimously with 10 affirmative votes. The Water Department Budget, as amended, is unanimously approved.

**F. Adopting the Special Business District Budget
APPROVED**

RESOLUTION No: 35-19

Whereas, the Business Improvement District Board of Commissioners has met and in accordance with the ordinance, Sec. 272-14, Subparagraph G, has set the budget and proposed a mill rate on the assessed value of taxable real estate property within the district for fiscal year 2019-2020.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Middletown: That the mill rate be set as 2.18 mills to cover this budget, and said rate shall be due and payable in two (2) equal installments on July 1, 2019, and January 1, 2020, in accordance with the Ordinance Section 272-14 Subparagraph G, 2 (a) of the City of Middletown; and

Be it further resolved: That the Tax Collector, he and she is hereby authorized to collect said taxes.

Councilman W. Vance Cotten reads the resolution and moves for approval. Councilman Grady Faulkner, Jr. seconds the motion.

Seeing no discussion, the Chair calls for a vote on the Special Business District Budget. The Chair states that the motion passes unanimously with 10 affirmative votes. The Special Business District Budget is unanimously approved.

5. MEETING ADJOURNED

The Chair thanks everyone for their collaboration, thoughts, and hard work. Given conditions at the State level, this has been one of the most difficult budgets in the past nine (9) years. Everyone worked collaboratively. Regardless of ideas, everyone was considerate in their thoughts and with the public. He the Chair acknowledges the City staff, including, but not limited to, the Mayor's Administrative Assistant Sara Mendillo, Chief Management Analyst Rohan Manning, former Chief Management Analyst Tina Gomes, who consulted as needed, the entire Finance Department staff, including Director Carl Erlacher and Deputy Directors Diana Doyle and Tanya Oliver-Perry, Risk Manager Nancy Conway Razka, and the entire Office of General Counsel staff. Without their collective work, this budget would have been more difficult.

The Chair calls on Councilman Gerald Daley.

Councilman Daley notes that savings in Workers' Compensation is also under Risk Management with health insurance saving of \$3.68M and Workers' Compensation savings of \$969K, a total of \$4.7M in reduction from this year's costs to next year, which is about 1.5 mills.

The Chair calls on Councilwoman Mary Bartolotta.

Councilwoman Bartolotta acknowledged the mayor and Councilman Daley for their efforts. She adds that there is a new Park Maintainer position in this budget, as promised.

The Chair adds that this position is a promised made to the public as part of the Parks Bond.

The Chair states that he will entertain a motion to adjourn. Councilman Robert Blanchard moves to adjourn. Councilwoman Deborah Kleckowski seconds the motion.

There being no discussion, the Chair calls for the vote. It is approved unanimously by a vote of 10 to 0. The Chair states the matter passes with 10 affirmative votes.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:56 PM

ATTEST:

LINDA S.K. REED,
COMMON COUNCIL CLERK

K: review/minutes/ 19 May 15 -- budget meeting 15 May 2019