Public Hearing Closes

The Chair closes the public hearing on agenda items at 8:12 p.m.

Point of Information

Councilman Serra states under old business he recommends leaving resolution 102-12 on the table and take up 11-1.

Agenda Item 11

Councilman Berch states I have resolution 11-1 and he reads it into the record. Councilwoman Pessina seconds the motion. Councilman Klattenberg thanks the members of the public for bringing the issue forward and stated our democracy is at a serious risk because as soon as money takes over how politics are handled and it becomes an auction and he worries a lot about the huge sums of money spent on the presidential election. I know it is symbolic but we need to send a message out and then talk about specific ways to solve the problem.

Councilman Pessina thanks them for bringing this forward. It is needed and it is being done symbolically. It is also more. It is what the public feels about public financing. People are fed up with politicians buying elections. This should stop and we should protect against this. When the country wasn’t started it should be elected. You didn’t need money. It should not be that because I have more money I get the office. We need to stop it now. It is a message. We need to listen to Main Street and the neighborhoods and all facets of people.

Councilman Berch applauds the people for bringing this forward. It is grass roots offered and asks the Council to consider its passage and we want to push this to the people who govern the rest of CT. It is a bipartisan effort. The teeth move forward to the State. He will support this.

Councilman Faulkner states he appreciated the changes made and he wants the point made that none of what we do substitutes for we the people being in action and the concern he has with resolutions like this he doesn’t want people to get a false sense we are a substitution to them. People have to get engaged and you are the primary source of making change.

The Chair thanks and congrats them; it is an important issue. Tip O’Neil said money is the mother’s milk in politics and too much makes it corrosive. Massive corporate interests funneling billions trying to influence how the public sees issues and the only way is to get the grass roots movements going.

The Chair, seeing no further discussion, calls the vote. It is unanimous with eleven aye votes. Councilwoman Kleckowski is absent. The Chair states the matter passes unanimously with eleven affirmative votes and one absent and not voting. The Chair notes for the record the resolution submitted was bipartisan and was sponsored by every single Council person.

Resolution No. 12-013

File Name: ccelectionfunding

Description (Approved)

Approving a resolution regarding election funding.

Whereas, the Citizen’s United v. Federal Election Commission, Buckley v. Valeo and SpeechNow v. FEC legal decisions have changed the national landscape on how elections are financed, and

Whereas, the Supreme Court’s Citizen’s United decision has led to a flood of money from individuals, corporations and special interest groups being used for political purposes, and

Whereas, Super Political Action Committees (“Super PACs”) now enjoy unlimited spending from wealthy individuals and corporations, and

Whereas, outside spending by Super PAC’s, corporations, special interest groups, and others totaled over $900 M or 2.5 times as much as spent during the same period in 2008 and six (6) times as much as in 2004, and

Whereas, huge sums of money are now being decried as securing elections to ensure allegiance to a specific political agenda, and

Whereas, the influence of excessive and anonymous money in political campaigns can lead to corruption, limit political discourse, subject the citizenry to unlimited and extensive “spin” which shadows the facts for any political campaign; and

Whereas, a coalition of groups throughout the United States are working to pass over 100 new local resolutions during Resolutions Week in June calling for a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United, challenge corporate power and eliminate unlimited campaign spending.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by The Common Council of the City of Middletown: That we join in the efforts of groups and organizations throughout the Unites States to remove the overt influence of money on our political system and stand with other communities across America to protect our democratic system by supporting public funding of elections, reducing the unnecessary time required to select candidates and conduct elections and make any and all political spending to be open and transparent.
Be It Further Resolved: That we hereby instruct our State and Federal Government Representatives to end the influence of money in politics by enacting resolutions, legislation and constitutional amendments to advance these principles.

Agenda Item 12

Description

Appropriation and Bond Ordinance Requests

The Chair asks that the Clerk read the appropriation request and Certificate of Director of Finance.

Notice of Appropriations and Bond Ordinance Requests

MAYOR’S OFFICE
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown will be held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on June 4, 2012, at 7p.m. to consider and act upon the following:

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING $3,000,000 TO FUND THE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT REGARDING THE REMEDIATION OF THE FORMER OMO MANUFACTURING SITE AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF $3,000,000 BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING $450,000 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE KEIGWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL PARKING LOT AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF $450,000 BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING $165,000 FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE KEIGWIN MIDDLE SCHOOL FIRE ALARM SYSTEM AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF $165,000 BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING $435,000 FOR ASBESTOS ABATEMENT AT WOODROW WILSON MIDDLE SCHOOL AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF $435,000 BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

The complete text of each proposed Ordinance is on file and open to public inspection in the office of the City Clerk.

ATTEST:
Daniel T. Drew
Mayor

Certificate of Director Of Finance

To: His Honor Mayor Daniel T. Drew
and Members of the Common Council
From: Finance
Date: June 4, 2012
RE: Certification of Funds

This is to certify that funds for the appropriations requested at your meeting of June 4, 2012 are available as follows:

Remediation of the Former OMO Manufacturing Site Ordinance Bond Issue $3,000,000

Replacement of the Keigwin Middle School Parking Lot Ordinance Bond Issue $450,000

Replacement of the Keigwin Middle School Fire Alarm System Ordinance Bond Issue $165,000

Asbestos Abatement of Woodrow Wilson Middle School Ordinance Bond Issue $435,000

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Erlacher
Director of Finance

Agenda Item 12-1

Councilman Daley reads the Ordinance through Section 1 for appropriating $3 million for OMO.

Motion to Waive Rules

Councilman Serra moves to waive the rules to waive the reading of the rest of the Ordinance. Councilman Klattenberg seconds the motion. The vote is called