

Committee Members

Chairperson Councilman Darnell Ford

Members Councilman Anthony Gennaro
 Councilman Grady Faulkner
 Councilman Anthony Mangiafico
 Councilwoman Leslie Spatola
 Councilwoman Kelly Sweeney



Staff to the Committee

Robert Russo, Acting Director of Public Works
Brian Gartner, Acting Deputy Director of Public Works
Rohan Manning, Chief Management Analyst

**PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES COMMISSION
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT**

**REVISED SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026 – 6:30 PM**

A Special Meeting of the Public Works & Facilities Commission of the City of Middletown was held on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 6:30 PM. This meeting was held online with access via WebEx.

Committee Members Present: Councilman Darnell Ford, Councilwoman Leslie Spatola, Councilman Anthony Gennaro, Councilman Grady Faulkner, Councilman Anthony Mangiafico

Staff Members Present: Acting Deputy Director Brian Gartner, Chief Management Analyst Rohan Manning, Director of Land Use Marek Kozikowski

Members of the Public Present: One

1. **Call to Order** – Councilman Darnell Ford called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.
2. **Approval of Minutes** – Motion to APPROVE the minutes of the Meeting of January 21, 2026 is made by Councilwoman Leslie Spatola and seconded by Councilman Anthony Mangiafico, and approved unanimously.
3. **Public Comment on Agenda Items:**
Jen Schwartz, 45 Jack English Drive - She inquired if there are any updates concerning her street specifically when the paving is going to be completed, and when the street lights are going to be turned on.

She also inquired if there is a better way of communicating with the City to get solutions to her and her neighbor's problems. Chairman Ford recommended to send an email to himself and the members of this commission. Brian Gartner also recommended to include Acting Director Russo and himself to help address her concerns.

Director Kozikowski was able to provide some additional information – The City has a tentative agreement with the developer pending approval by the appropriate committees and the Common Council. This agreement would be a purchase and sale agreement for the city to take the road as-is. Acting Director Russo is going to allocate the necessary resources to finish the road as soon as possible, weather permitted. The developer had a pending bill to Eversource. The developer has made payment to Eversource, and the lights should be energized once processed.

4. **Correspondence:** None at the moment.
5. **New Business:**
Update from Bobby Russo: Acting Director Russo was not available as he has been attending to emergencies. His priority had been the snow removal in the north end of the city.

In Acting Director Russo's absence, Acting Deputy Director Gartner was able to fill in for him and provide updates concerning the department. The biggest charge right now outside of normal day to day operations is working on the various facilities. The priority for this year is the following – Chiller system at City Hall, Heat and AC at the Green Street Arts Center, and roofing multiple buildings at City Yard and the Parks Department., as well as some additional issues that had been raised over the course of the last few months.

- a. **Russell Street - Partial right of way abandonment:** Director Kozikowski presented the proposed abandonment to the Commission. Included within the Commissioner’s meeting packet was a final version of the resolution, and a completed survey map. Director Kozikowski was also able to provide some background information on why the right of way was so large, and what the City now requires for the revised configuration of the intersection.

Motion to APPROVE was made by Councilman Anthony Mangiafico and seconded by Councilwoman Leslie Spatola, and approved unanimously.

- b. **\$450,000 Appropriation to Storm related expenses** - This was the largest snow event in approximately the last ten years. It required a significant amount of manpower to facilitate the cleanup effort. The staff have been working 17 hours, going home for just 6 hours to rest, this schedule was repeated until the roads were complete. It took a several week period to have the roads open. The staff did the best they could with what they had, but unfortunately the fleet is aging. There was damage incurred to several pieces of equipment during the storm. This appropriation will cover the overtime, and the repairs to one of the broken pieces of equipment.

Salt was in extremely limited supply due to the multiple snow events this season. Vendors prioritize CT DOT over local municipalities. Staff utilized sand to bridge the gap until supplies were replenished. Councilman Mangiafico requested a detailed breakdown. Rohan is going to send that information over to this commission and Finance and Government.

Motion to APPROVE was made by Councilman Anthony Mangiafico and seconded by Councilman Grady Faulkner, and approved unanimously.

- c. **\$6,520 Appropriation for 210 Dripps Road:** This was originally part of the \$50,000 appropriation request that also included Oddfellows, and Green Street from several months ago. This has been broken out into a separate request independent of the other two. Rohan will submit this for review at the March Common Council meeting.

Motion to APPROVE was made by Councilman Leslie Spatola and seconded by Councilman Grady Faulkner, and approved unanimously.

- d. **Bid Waiver’s for: Stahl Holdings, LLC operating as The Pond and Lake Connection, Patriot Marine, Geo-stabilization International, American Fireworks:**

In order to be in compliance with the new purchasing ordinance staff is seeking a bid waiver for the multiple vendors.

Stahl Holdings, LLC – Stahl Holdings have been taking care of Middletown’s lakes and ponds for approximately ten to fifteen years. They ensure we are in compliance with DEEP. They perform testing for algae and bacteria, and they assist with preparing our mandated reporting to DEEP.

Patriot Marine - To find barge for fireworks in Connecticut is very difficult. The previous vendor was Mohawk. Mohawk is based in Mass, and they have indicated to staff that they can’t provide this service anymore. Patriot Marine can provide a barge rental for fireworks located.

Geo-stabilization International – They are the only vendor approved by the state for this work. This work is being funded by a grant from the State.

American Fireworks – Vendor the City has utilized for several years. They are familiar with our requirements and processes. The fireworks show requires significant coordination of local, state, and federal agencies including ATF.

The commission requested that staff indicate the fiscal impact on the resolutions to be able to approve the bid waiver requests. The four requests are all for a period of one year. This staff agreed on make the amendments requested in this meeting and send it to this commission and Finance and Government directly without voting here.

- e. **Emergency Purchase Orders: Freightliner- Plow Engine Repair, Chemical Equipment Lab- Purchase of Salt:** Staff provided information on the several emergency PO's that were required to facilitate the snow storm cleanup.
 - a. *Plow Engine Repair - \$52,000.00*
 - b. *Chemical Equipment Lab - Purchase of Salt - \$65,000.00*

Motion to APPROVE was made by Councilman Grady Faulkner and seconded by Councilwoman Leslie Spatola, and approved unanimously.

- f. **Small Bottles Grant for \$34,010:** This a new initiative that the State instituted several years ago. The deposits collected on small bottles ("Nips") are non-refundable. Those funds go to the state, and then the state distributes a portion of it to the municipalities. We get this twice a year, sometimes three times a year, and it's about \$60,000 per year. This money is being used for recycling initiatives, to cover costs for an intern, and recycling education.

Motion to APPROVE was made by Councilman Anthony Mangiafico made the MOTION to approve the Small Bottles Grant and seconded by Councilman Anthony Gennaro, and approved unanimously.

- g. **Update on financials for sanitation - Organics:**

After the Common Council decided to discontinue the SAYT program the Public Works Department put out an RFP for mixed solid waste and organics. We received two responses. Staff recommended proceeding with the sanitation component, but to wait on the organics component, as the overall strategy for organics needs to be refined.

Last month we approached this commission with the resolution that had two different contracts woven into it. The mix solid waste portion is very clear, we know where we want to take it, we know who we want to do business with, etc. and this is all in response to the RFP we issued before.

For the organics component – DPW was seeking the ability to enter into a contract, but we didn't know how much was going to be allocated and to what scale this would be implemented as that would be up to the sanitation district commission because that is part of their purview to review to allocate the dollars within the sanitation district enterprise fund.

When staff approached the Finance and Government Commission - the organics portion of the resolution was defeated and it had to be split in two different resolutions, once for each portion of it because it was two different contracts with two different vendors. The organics resolution was still on the council agenda, but we were asked by the President of the Common Council if we could pause for just a month so we can go back to the sanitation commission, and then come back to this commission to have a discussion one more time about what took place, where we are at, what are our findings and what is a potential path to move forward.

So we went back to the sanitation commission and had a very long discussion, over an hour. All about merits, benefits and cost of an organics program, which is if we have 250 customers in the sanitation district the cost would be approx. \$68,000, we would save approximately \$8,000 in tipping fees as we no longer have to pay for disposing/sorting the organics. The issue is the \$60,000 that would be spread out among all 1800 customers of the sanitation district at approx. \$30.00 per customer to benefit only 250 of them.

Staff does not believe we are in a position to recommend anything at this point. We need to figure out the merits of this program, how it looks like and benefits, like it helps to remove methane and gas.

The city is currently spending approx. \$15,000-\$17,000 a year on food scraps collection. This includes all of our public schools, the recycling center and the Randolph Road drop-off location. Yearly the city collects between 150-170 tons in food scraps. So, currently we have a program that is working and the question is, do we want to expand on that? Do we want to do collection per neighborhood? Do we want centralized locations? Does make sense to have curbside service for a limited amount of population? Staff is requesting to move forward with the sanitation resolution. Commissioners are in agreement that this matter can move forward without voting.

h. Projects: Crystal Lake: Project is stalled due to the weather. Approximately 750 to 1000 feet of pipe have been laid to date. There is another 1500 feet to go to complete the project. The goal is to the project finished before the summer camp begins.

6. Old Business:

a. Projects:

- i. Green Street:** The project is moving forward, this is one of the projects supported by the recent 2025 infrastructure bond. Our primary focus right now is getting the heating system back online in the building. We are going to put this out for bit shortly and we hope that this starts in a not so distant future. We also have other issues, like elevator, roof, and windows. So we have to do all those improvements in phases.
- ii. Pavement Management:** We are actively working on putting our plan together for this year, we have a pretty aggressive schedule, and we want to tackle several roads in the north end, south end, and Preston Avenue which is the Westfield section of the town.
- iii. Saybrook Road:** The design of the portion of the road from East Main Street to Tryon St continues, Cardinal Engineer is working on the project and we are hopeful to start making some significant progress on that.

b. Sanitation Resolution: The sanitation resolution will be on the March Common Council agenda for review and approval.

7. Other:

- a. Department Updates
- b. January 2026 Monthly Report – Highway Division
- c. January 2026 Monthly Report –Parks Division
- d. January 2026 Public Works Overtime Report
- e. January 2026 Building Permits
- f. January Recycling Coordinators Report

8. Adjournment - Motion to ADJOURN is made by Councilman Anthony Mangiafico, seconded by Councilwoman Leslie Spatola and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.