ROLL CALL
Mayor Mulligan called the City Council Meeting to order at 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers on the lower level of the City Building, One Donham Plaza with a moment of meditation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Members Present: Armbruster, Becker, Scott Jones, Marconi, Mulligan, and Schiavone. Staff Present: Staff Present: City Manager Gilleland, Law Director Landen, Clerk Parr, G. Schwarzter, S. Strayer, D. Adkins, M. Robinette, D. Duritsch, V. Hamilton, D. Hamet, C. Dennis, and R. Dalton.

PUBLIC HEARING
Amendment to Supplemental CDBG Funding
Community Revitalization Department Director, Doug Adkins, explained the request for the substantial amendment to the CDBG Annual Action Plan. Additional funding has been made available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The rules for applying came out on May 6 and the deadline for submission is June 5. Rules for program funding were very specific and none can be used for demolitions. The projects recommended for funding include hiring of a Commercial Code Enforcement Officer for CDBG target areas; repaving alleys in CDBG target areas; and replacement of playground equipment in target areas. There has been a seven day comment period from May 26 to June 3rd and they have received no comments from the public. The accompanying legislation will have to be passed as an emergency because of deadlines to file the grant application.

Mayor Mulligan called for proponents to the proposed amendment. Hearing none, he called for opponents to the proposed amendment. Hearing none, the public hearing was closed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS
Tom Rapp, 1101 Baltimore, thanked Mr. Ken Cohen and volunteers for their work at the cemetery. He was disappointed that there was no one there from the City. It is the city’s responsibility. Ms. Scott Jones asked when this was. Mr. Rapp answered it was this past Saturday.

Ms. Ford arrived
At 5:35 p.m. Ms. Ford joined the meeting.

MANAGER’S REPORTS
Business Retention Committee
Ms. Gilleland introduced Ms. Hamet and thanked the members of the Business Retention Committee who do a great job visiting businesses in Middletown.

Ms. Hamet was very pleased to recognize the retention committee stating this committee started last year as an extension of the ED team. She is coordinating the committee with Pete Dobrozsi and it’s another reflection of the City’s open for business commitment. The power of peer-to-peer visits is reflected in the connections made and ideas generated. The information gathered identifies valuable information on things the city can do to assist our current businesses. Some areas of focus are workforce availability and training needs, sales trends, machinery and equipment needs, municipal services, and growth trends. The committee is visiting four to six businesses per month. The types of businesses visited are determined by a variety of factors. They will complete one upcoming visit in conjunction with the Cincinnati USA Chamber volunteer committee. The committee currently has eleven members. The members are people who have owned their own businesses or are in senior positions within companies and are leaders in the community. The skills and background of the members contributes to the success of the committee. Ms. Hamet introduced Mr. Dobrozsi, Committee Chair, who reported that more than half of the team was born in Middletown. He introduced committee members John Sawyer, Mike Scorti, Kelly Cowan, Jim Burke, Scott Richardson (not present) Charlie Disney, Greg Martin, Rachel Lewitt, (not present) Fred DeBiasi and Jack Nenni. The team is excited about the opportunity to work with the City Manager and staff and were glad to answer any questions.

Mr. Mulligan stated his appreciation for all the efforts and commitment of the committee. He felt it a priority to work with the business community.

MRDD Awareness Campaign – Kathy Howell
Kathy Howell from the BC Board of MRDD stated they are in the process of trying to take out the Mental Retardation from title. The campaign theme this year is “Just like You”. Many have the same goals and aspirations that we all do. She showed a video of clients. The point of awareness poster is not to highlight the disabilities of these persons, but to highlight their abilities. BC Board serves about 2000 from birth to death. The oldest is 92. Most live at home with their family. Without the service, persons would be sent to nursing
facilities with much higher costs. Of the 2000 persons receiving service about half receive early intervention. The website is www.butlermrdd.org – volunteers are also encouraged and appreciated.

Charter Review Update – Les Landen

Mr. Landen stated Council is aware every 10 years the charter provides for a review. The current committee began work in February have had eight meetings. There is one more scheduled. They have reviewed thirty-two items and are proposing thirteen changes to the charter. Some are innocuous such as making the charter gender neutral. Some are significant recommendations for change. The magic date is August 20 to put things on the ballot. Council meets June 16, July 7, July 21, and August 6. To have first and second readings, legislation needs to be on for first reading at the next meeting on June 16th. If we go the emergency route, we can go up until August. Referendum is not an issue. Five council members have to vote to approve ballot issues, six for emergency legislation. Charter Review’s next meeting is June 15. They need to sign off on all recommendations. He is proposing printing the report and all the proposals for the committee on June 15th. Council would get them at the Council meeting on the 16th. Council would have three weeks to look at it. Then at the July 7th meeting he plans to bring committee members that want to attend and they can answer any questions that council has. If they are not ready to move on that night, staff can bring back the legislation as emergency issues.

Mr. Mulligan asked council for their thoughts on the time-line with 1st and 2nd readings.

Mr. Schiavone asked if at the June 16th meeting when the recommendations are presented, will there be an opportunity for review of discussions.

Mr. Landen said the report itself will have narrative and wording.

Mr. Schiavone said the minutes have been in council’s packets, but with some of the proposals he didn’t catch how they got to end result.

Mr. Landen said hopefully the report will give enough information. The legislation needs to pass on July 7th so we have 30 days for it to take effect. It is required to have five affirmative votes for passage.

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Mr. Schiavone asked if there are issues that the committee has not hit on that council would like to hit on, when that would occur.

Mr. Landen suggested that if there are others that would want to be added on, those could be added as emergency legislation.

Mr. Mulligan asked if the recommendations would be individual issues.

Mr. Landen responded, yes, there will be thirteen individual issues and thirteen pieces of legislation. The report will go through every issue that they looked at, even if they recommended no change. Council will know where the committee stood on each issue. Council will see the signatures for those that agree, disagree, and abstention.

Ms. Scott Jones stated there is no obligation to honor any recommendations of the Charter Review. Council is not obligated to put issues on this November ballot. She asked if there were a reason the members couldn’t come to the 16th meeting to answer questions.

Mr. Landen explained the concern was Council trying to ask questions when Council was just getting the report at the same time.

Ms. Scott Jones felt it was a catch twenty-two. You don’t want to wait until the 7th and have questions then have to vote the same night.

Mr. Landen said the legislation can be changed to emergency if more time is needed. The goal is to give Council the option to look at the issues the way they want to look at them. If there are additional items to present, as quickly as Council gets that information to him, it can be added.

Mr. Mulligan also suggested Council can adjourn the July 7th meeting to the 14th. They could add an additional meeting.
Mr. Becker said there are other options. Council is recommending putting the issues on the ballot. He doesn’t see emergency legislation as an issue. The final say comes from the people and not the council.

Mr. Landen said his final point was Council has no obligation to put issues on this November ballot. They can work on them as long as they want, but no less than 60 days once the ordinances are passed.

Ms. Gilleland said Council can also schedule a work session on another night. She urged council to do whatever it takes to get the issues on the ballot this November. The committee has worked long and hard to bring forth recommendations in time for the election this year.

Ms. Scott Jones said she doesn’t think, if we don’t make this ballot, she doesn’t want to rush discussions. Council’s schedules are already tight. If needed, set a date, set a date where individuals can come and have input on the issues.

**Miscellaneous Updates**

- Ms. Gilleland said thanks to the State, work has begun on the Dixie Hwy Bridge project.
- A staff Task Force has been established to insure reputable business dealers that are popping up. Hopefully, there will be a report at the first meeting in July
- Doug Adkins, CONSOC staff and the City Manager met with HUD regarding the Section 8 program. HUD was overall pleased with the record keeping of CONSOC. They stated we are in the top 300 in housing authorities. Vouchers are currently at 1604 which is under the limit of 1663 set by council a few years ago.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Matters listed under the Consent Agenda were presented:

**Approve City Council Minutes:** May 5, 2009 and May 19, 2009

**Receive and File Board/Commission Minutes:**
- Library Board of Trustees – March 17, 2009 and April 21, 2009
- Park Board – March 3, April 7, June 2, July 7, August 18, 2008 and April 6, 2009 and May 4, 2009
- Board of Health & Environment – April 14, 2009
- Housing Subcommittee of Council – May 8, 2009
- Finance Subcommittee – May 13, 2009
- Tree Commission – May 20, 2009

**Confirm Personnel Appointment:**
- Comm. Revitalization Director – Doug Adkins

**MOTION**

Mr. Marconi moved for the approval of the issues and actions as presented on the consent agenda. Ms. Scott Jones seconded and the motion carried: Ayes: Armbruster, Becker, Ford, Scott Jones, Marconi, Mulligan, and Schiavone.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

**J. Armbruster**

Mr. Armbruster announced that Sunset Pool opens June 13. There is water in the pool. Hours of operation will be from 1 to 6. He thanked a group from Cincinnati that came up and did volunteer work painting the pergolas at Sunset Park. He said Sunset is looking the best it has in years. The pride and volunteerism in the community is great. He encouraged all to go swimming.

**A. Scott Jones**

Ms. Scott Jones sent condolences to the Alyss Baldwin family; also to Judge Heath’s and Kevin Aldridge’s family on the loss of his father Larry Aldridge. She reported that Saturday, she and Dr. Bronston presented a proclamation to the Aldridge family. She participated in the prayer march. Volunteers are in the process of painting the Community Center. She showed a couple of photos of the work at the Community Center. Volunteers are hopeful to finish the work for the multi-cultural festival the next weekend.

**T. Marconi**

Mr. Marconi said there was talk again about volunteerism and he recognized Ken Cohen and sixteen to twenty volunteers who worked Saturday at the Middletown Pioneer Cemetery. It is looking the best it has looked in years. Also, around town, the McDonalds on Breiel has completely painted and put new pavement down. It’s great to see businesses get behind the city’s effort in cleaning up. We need to continue to clean up the city, buildings, and houses. He is also glad we are going to keep pressure on criminals. We are open for business and will keep the heat on with the crime issue too. He congratulated Doug Adkins for his new position as the Community Revitalization Director. He thinks Doug is a no
nonsense guy. He can take a hard stance, but has a heart. He commended Ms. Gilleland for putting him in this position. He appreciates the passion and concern that Doug has shown.

B. Becker

Mr. Becker commented on the retention committee. He stated these business men volunteer because they care about this city. Their work is a great opportunity for us to get out and talk to our existing businesses. It is a very important piece of development and they do it for no compensation and do it because they care about the city. He thanked them for their efforts.

L. Ford

Ms. Ford echoed Ms. Scott Jones sympathy condolences, and she also offered condolences to the family of Mary Mulcher. Ms. Ford said that Larry Aldridge was a teacher and a maverick in the school system when the city was going through some changes. He was a champion of kids.

L. Mulligan

Mr. Mulligan announced the Housing Sub-committee meeting this Friday. He echoed Mr. Becker’s comments. He too stated the efforts of the Retention Committee are very important. Getting their feed back is important. On signs and crime enforcement, he stated those are important areas. There are some unsavory businesses that pop up and he was encouraged to see the City Manager has staff working on that. Mr. Mulligan said they’ll have the first half of the year budget figures soon. They continue talks about budget issues and he doesn’t want to lose sight of budget issues. The Finance Sub committee meeting is coming up in July, the picture in many communities is not the best and many have some challenges ahead. On a positive note, he reported the second Broad Street Bash tomorrow evening. It appears there will be good weather and the organizers need to be commended. He announced another fine Main Street Music and Art Festival and upcoming Multicultural Event. Volunteers make a difference in the community.

Res. No. R2009-16

Resolution No. R2009-16, a resolution declaring the necessity of repairing certain sidewalks, curbs, gutters and driveway aprons in the City of Middletown, requiring that abutting property owners repair the same was presented for second reading and action.

Ord. No. O2009-42

Ordinance No. O2009-42, an ordinance authorizing the CDBG-R substantial amendment to the 2008 Annual Action Plan and declaring an emergency was presented.

Res. No. R2009-17

Resolution No. R2009-17, a resolution to make adjustments to appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Middletown, Counties of Butler and Warren, State of Ohio, for the period ending December 31, 2009, for the Police Grant Fund was presented for the first reading.

Ord. No. O2009-43

Ordinance No. O2009-43, an ordinance adopting the 2007 Residential Code of Ohio and amending Section 1402.01 of the Codified Ordinances was presented for first reading.

ADJOURNMENT

At 6:34 p.m. Mr. Mulligan declared the meeting adjourned.