



Borough of Middlesex
Mayor and Council Regular Meeting
~ Minutes ~

1200 Mountain Ave
Middlesex, NJ

Linda Chismar
732 356-7400 x238
www.middlesexboro-nj.gov

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

7:00 PM

Municipal Building

MAYOR'S STATEMENT

UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 ET SEQ., NOTICE OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF THIS MEETING WAS GIVEN BY WAY OF AN ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE TO THE STAR LEDGER, COURIER NEWS AND HOME NEWS, AND POSTED AT BOROUGH HALL.

SALUTE TO FLAG

ROLL CALL

Mayor Jack Mikolajczyk
Council President Michael Conahan
Councilman Jeremiah Carnes
Councilman Robert Dessino
Councilman Kevin Dotey
Councilman Martin Quinn
Councilman Douglas Rex

Also Present:

Michael La Place Administrator
Christopher Corsini Borough Attorney

Others Absent:

PRESENTATIONS

1. Pillars of Middlesex - John Fuhrmann

Mayor Mikolajczyk gave an overview of the Pillars program.

John Fuhrmann expressed appreciation for the award and emphasized the need in our community for individuals to volunteer their time and the effects they have within the Borough.

2. Pillars of Middlesex - Sheila Fuhrmann

Sheila Fuhrmann expressed her thanks for being acknowledged for the award and spoke upon her experience within the municipality and the importance of volunteers.

3. Swim Pool Commission - Mark Kranz

Mark Kranz, Chairman of the Swim Pool Commission made the following comments:

- The updates proposed by the Commission include revisions to ages requirements, membership descriptions, date changes and a couple vocabulary corrections.
- Changes have been made to the roles of the pool.
- When the manager opened the pool this year, minor issues with the boiler were found.
- The pool covers were taken off, most of the pools are filled and the filters are being run.
- The pool will open Memorial Day weekend.
- Open house will be May 18th.
- Registration is open for residents, out of town resident registration will begin May 1st.
- Membership is down.
- The majority of applications are now paid through credit cards.
- The Snack Bar will accept credit cards starting this year.

APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointment of Todd Nicolay to the JLUB as a Class IV Member

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Conahan, Council President
SECONDER:	Robert Dessino, Councilman
AYES:	Conahan, Carnes, Dessino, Dotey, Quinn, Rex

2. Appointment of Spencer Durkin as Alternate I & Rich Gianchiglia as Alternate II to the JLUB

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Conahan, Council President
SECONDER:	Robert Dessino, Councilman
AYES:	Conahan, Carnes, Dessino, Dotey, Quinn, Rex

PROCLAMATIONS

1. Sexual Assault Awareness Month

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the observance of “Denim Day” draw attention to the fact that sexual violence - including sexual assault, sexual harassment, and sexual abuse - is widespread; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence has mental and physical health implications for survivors, as well as public health consequences for the Middlesex Borough, community; and

WHEREAS, statistics indicate that every 68 seconds someone is sexually assaulted in the U.S.A. and every 9 minutes the victim is a child; and

WHEREAS, violence and abuse decrease in supportive and connected communities that promote respect, health, safety, and well-being for everyone; and

WHEREAS, by building connected communities we ensure the spaces in which we live, learn, work, and play are inclusive and equitable so that sexual violence can be stopped; and

WHEREAS, anti-violence and prevention programs of Middlesex County, including the Center for Empowerment and Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition, promote challenging norms and practices linked to a culture of violence, increasing all forms of equity, and prioritizing the health and well-being of survivors and the rest of the community; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Sex Crimes Officers Association and the Middlesex County Sex Crimes Liaison Officers in connection with the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and Middlesex Borough Police Department are dedicated to ensuring the effective investigation and prosecution of sex crimes through interagency collaboration and training; and

WHEREAS, with commitment, we can reduce sexual violence in Middlesex Borough by: raising awareness; cultivating healthy individuals, relationships, spaces, and communities; challenging all form of oppression; increasing all forms of equity; supporting survivors; and holding perpetrators of violence accountable; and

WHEREAS, throughout the month of April, Middlesex Borough supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, as well as encourages every citizen to understand the realities and root causes of sexual violence, support survivors in culturally specific ways, and join prevention efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John "Jack" Mikolajczyk, Mayor of the Borough of Middlesex, along with the members of the governing body do hereby proclaim April, 2024 as:

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

And promote the observation of Denim Day on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, joining advocates and support service programs in urging all community members to help end sexual violence.

Councilman Conahan read the Proclamation proclaiming April, 2024 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

2. Arbor Day - 2024

WHEREAS, in 1949 the legislature set aside the last Friday of April as Arbor Day to promote the planting of trees and to encourage the protection of our forests from fires and pests that destroy the beauty and usefulness of our woodlands; and

WHEREAS, half of New Jersey's total land area is forested or tree covered; and

WHEREAS, trees play an important role in the ecosystem in which we live, and trees reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil caused by wind and water, clean the air we breathe and the water we drink, produce oxygen, provide habitat for birds and wildlife and reduce heating and cooling costs by moderating temperature; and

WHEREAS, trees are renewable resource giving us paper for fine literature, wood for homes, fuel for fires, and countless other wood products; and

WHEREAS, trees provide increased property value, enhanced economic viability, and pleasing aesthetic qualities along streets and properties in municipalities; and

WHEREAS, trees planted in yards and farms, in school yards and parks, and along street and highways creates an enduring heritage for generations that follow; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JACK MIKOLAJCZYK, Mayor of the Borough of Middlesex, do hereby proclaim April 26, 2024, as

ARBOR DAY

In the community of Middlesex, and urge all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands to support our Borough's Urban Forestry Program, and

FURTHER, I urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden hearts and promote the well being of present and future generations.

DATED: April 23, 2024

Councilman Dotey read the Proclamation proclaiming April 26, 2024 Arbor Day.

ORDINANCE(S) FOR INTRODUCTION

ORDINANCE(S) FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the April 9, 2024 Regular & Executive Meeting Minutes

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Conahan, Council President
SECONDER:	Robert Dessino, Councilman
AYES:	Conahan, Carnes, Dessino, Dotey, Quinn, Rex

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mikolajczyk made the following comments:

- The Pillars of Middlesex will continue throughout the year.
- The Borough did not receive any funding from the Resiliency Grant.
- The weather is starting to improve which will allow the DPW to start working on Heather Lane.
- Highlights of the findings from the Audit and recommendations made to the Borough.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Conahan

Council President Conahan made the following comments:

- I want to again congratulate John and Sheila Fuhrmann, as our first Pillars of Middlesex. Thank you Michael, for sourcing and designing the crystal award, and thank you Michael and Linda for coordinating the presentation this evening.
- Thank you Mark, for representing the Middlesex Swim Pool Commission and your presentation this evening.
- My biggest thank you yet, along with my deepest appreciation, goes to Barbara Benson, as well as Lee Poandl, for delivering a fantastic volunteer fair this past Saturday. For the last 3 months, Barbara has led the overall coordination, organization and ultimate flawless execution of our first ever volunteer fair. Out of a total of 20 organizations, 19 participated and exhibited at the fair. These organization included the American Red Cross, our American Legion Post 306, Middlesex County, the Police Department, Fire Department, Rescue Squad, OEM, Library, Recreation and DPW. All of our Borough Boards, Committees and Commissions participated as well. The Rescue Squad secured 11 new applications, OEM secured 5, the Fire Department secured 4. Over 50 existing volunteers exhibited at their respective tables, pridefully, engaging with perspective new volunteers, handing out informational materials and even connecting with other Borough organizations when down-time allowed. Roughly 100 plus residents attended, including 56 whom signed in with an email address. Some additional thank you's go to:
 - Jay Amin, owner of the Middlesex Dunkin Donuts next to Mauger Middle School, who donated lots of bagels and donuts for breakfast.
 - John Ellery, owner of Ellery's Neighborhood Pub, who donated lots of pizza's for lunch.
 - Many from the Governing Body volunteered and helped throughout the entire event.
 - A special thank you to Chrissy George, our Library Director who worked seamlessly with Barbara and Lee, helping plan the event in the Library's Community Room. Everything looked great.
 - One last thank you to Barbra and Lee who truly made this event possible.
- Thanks to Lenny and his DPW team, the Victor Crowell Park Annex looks great.
- Our new Environmental Commission is off to a great start - I attended, along with Councilman Dessino, their tree giveaway on Saturday, April 13th, which was well organized and well attended by our residents. The tree seedlings were free. Congratulations Bobby, who is on the Commission.
- Please support our Fire Department and their Carnival all of this week, which ends Saturday night. I attended last night: it was busy, good food and great weather.
- I am very disappointed that NJ DCA did not award us any funding for the Heather Lane Bank Stabilization through the Resilient Communities Grant Program. Apparently, projects catering to low to moderate income individuals were prioritized.
- Recreation, along with our American Legion Post 306, is planning our annual Memorial Day Parade, which is on Monday May 27th - rain or shine. It starts at 10am in Victor Crowell Park with a ceremony and then the parade kicks off at 10:45am. Hot dogs and Birch Beer will be served at the Legion following the Parade.
- Save the date: Community Day is Saturday, June 8th from 2-7pm in Mountain View Park.

Councilman Carnes

Councilman Carnes made the following comments:

- The volunteer fair was a success.
- Thank you to the volunteers for all your work.

Councilman Carnes expressed his disappointment on the lack of communication from the councilmanic Finance Committee. He stated his desire for more transparency, and inclusion from and for council members. He showed his appreciation for the continuation of the Cultural Committee and stated that he will continue to strive for honesty and integrity in his position.

Councilman Dessino

Councilman Dessino made the following comments:

- JLUB's April 24th meeting is cancelled.
- The Environmental Commission met last week.
- 150 trees were distributed at the tree giveaway.
- On May 19th the Green Brook clean up will be in 4 locations.
- Thank you to the members of the Environmental Commission who are in attendance tonight.
- DPW has cleaned up and fixed the Victor Crowell Annex and will be painting next week.
- Work on the Heather Lane project should commence next week if the weather cooperates.
- A demonstration on the Hydro Rake can be scheduled for any council members wishing to attend.
- 25 shade trees were received.

Councilman Dessino read a letter from Jennifer Coffey thanking the Borough for reestablishing the Environmental Commission.

Councilman Dotey

Councilman Dotey made the following comments:

- Shade Tree:
 - The Shade Tree Commission is working on the tree replacement.
 - Spring planting is in progress.
 - On Arbor Day, a tree will be planted at Borough Hall.
 - The Commission is working on an Ordinance to enforce the penalty for cutting shade trees.
- Highlights of the Police Report.
- Highlights of the Fire Report.
- Highlights of the Court Report.

- Please come and support the Fireman's Carnival this week.
- The Rescue Squad received 11 applications for membership from the Volunteer Fair.

Councilman Dotey read a letter from the Arbor Day Foundation Naming Middlesex a 2023 Tree City USA.

Councilman Quinn

Councilman Quinn made the following comments:

The Board of Health did not have any County employees in attendance at their last meeting.

The Board will be meeting with another vendor tomorrow.

Councilman Rex

No report was given.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. The successful sale of the old Fire Headquarters property on Grove Avenue is moving ahead, with the purchaser having made the downpayment on the property last week. Staff is ready to work on the next sale of surplus property and we are recommending the vacant lot on Wilton Avenue. It is Lot 27 in Block 274 and it measures 50'x100'. The property is located in the IND Industrial Zone. A consensus of council was obtained to reach out for an appraisal of Block 274, Lot 27 for the next sale.
2. On the agenda for the May 14th Council Meeting, we have scheduled the Police Awards and the hearing for the 2024 Municipal Budget. At the request of the Tax Collector, we will also be introducing an ordinance to amend Section 332-43 of Sewer Ordinance 2017-22 to reduce the wastewater discharge subject to a service charge, from 120,000 gallons to 100,000 gallons. And the Council will be considering an ordinance to vacate a portion of Factory Lane. Pipeline Realty received preliminary and final site plan approval on September 25, 2019, to tear down and reconstruct a warehouse and it was determined that a portion of Factory Way was of no use to the public and should be vacated. The Joint Land Use Board concluded that there is no need for the Borough to maintain ownership of this section. Once the vacation is completed, an emergency access and utility easement (already approved by the Borough Council) will be recorded.
3. The Department of Public Works (DPW) continues to be busy with early Spring beautification and maintenance projects throughout Middlesex. New trees are being planted and general clean-up of the parks and other public sites is under way. At Victor Crowell Park, a contractor has made repairs to the trim on the Annex building and it will soon be painted. DPW has completed work on the site such as smoothing out the gravel parking area, marking parking spaces and painting the guard rails. And a new tree farm has been developed on Rock Lane, in partnership with the Environmental Commission.
4. You may recall that I presented a draft Request for Proposal (RFP) to the Parks Improvement Committee for their review and I hope to complete the RFP this week. As a reminder, this RFP is for selecting a professional planning and engineering firm to work with the community on a master plan for Victor Crowell Park and the Annex site.
5. Borough Clerk Linda Chismar has worked very hard on the next issue of the Borough's newsletter. The May 1st edition of the newsletter will be posted on the municipal website and printed copies will be available at Borough Hall, the Recreation and Seniors Center and the Library.
6. Council resolutions on the agenda this evening include the hiring of a substitute Fire Inspector, the authorization of a Memorandum of Agreement with Middlesex County regarding the installation of video

surveillance cameras at major entrances to the Borough and a resolution to acknowledge the completion and review of the Borough's annual audit.

7. Please complete your Cyber Security Training as soon as possible. Instructions are in the emails you have received and if you need assistance, please let me know.
8. Reminder, the state Financial Disclosure updates for 2024 are due no later than April 30th.
9. Regarding the Bound Brook Road/Route 28 Streetscape Beautification project, the wiring for the light fixtures has been installed by PSEG. We hope that the fixtures will be installed shortly.
10. Topics for discussion during the Agenda Workshop session this evening are the erosion of properties in the Heather Lane area, revisions to the Swim Pool Ordinance and a Personnel matter involving the CFO.
11. Executive Session this evening will involve the discussion of public safety and code enforcement, potential litigation with the MCMJIF, the DPW Union Contract and real estate located at 1190 Mountain Avenue.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mayor Mikolajczyk opened the Privilege of the Floor for anyone wishing to comment.

John Madden, 39 Ramsey Road, commented on the Volunteer Fair. He thanked Caroline Benson on her work for the Audit, and Chief Geist for his work on making Middlesex a safe place to live. He thanked the Council for adding members to the JLUB. Mr. Madden also requested the status on the DEP Report for Phase 2 at the church property.

Dave Polakiewicz, 240 Hazelwood Avenue, asked for clarification on the attorney fees on the bill list. Additionally, he questioned the budget process and what happens to left over funds that roll over into the following year and what they can be used for.

Seeing that there were no further public comments, Mayor Mikolajczyk closed the public portion of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS/CONSENT AGENDA/RESOLUTIONS

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Conahan, Council President
SECONDER:	Robert Dessino, Councilman
AYES:	Conahan, Carnes, Dessino, Dotey, Quinn, Rex

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex that:

RESOLUTION 128-2024

ACCEPTANCE OF STANDING REPORTS

The Governing Body hereby accepts the following Reports itemized below:

1. Acceptance of the March, 2024 Cash Receipt Totals
2. Approval of the March 2024 Fire Chief's Report

3. Approval of the March 2024 Fire Dept. Call Report
4. Approval of the March, 2024 Court Report

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex that:

RESOLUTION 129-2024

**THE GOVERNING BODY HAS COMPLIED WITH N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 AND HAS
REVIEWED THE ANNUAL AUDIT**

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-4 requires the governing body of every local unit to have made an annual audit of its books, accounts and financial transactions, and

WHEREAS, the Annual Report of Audit for the year 2023 has been filed by a Registered Municipal Accountant with the Municipal Clerk pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A: 5-6, and a copy has been received by each member of the governing body; and

WHEREAS, R.S. 52:27BB-34 authorizes the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey to prescribe reports pertaining to the local fiscal affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Local Finance Board has promulgated N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5, a regulation requiring that the governing body of each municipality shall, by resolution, certify to the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey that all members of the governing body have reviewed, as a minimum, the sections of the annual audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have personally reviewed, as a minimum, the Annual Report of Audit, and specifically the sections of the Annual Audit entitled "Comments and Recommendations, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, such resolution of certification shall be adopted by the Governing Body no later than forty-five days after the receipt of the annual audit, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5; and

WHEREAS, all members of the governing body have received and have familiarized themselves with, at least, the minimum requirements of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey, as stated aforesaid and have subscribed to the affidavit, as provided by the Local Finance Board; and

WHEREAS, failure to comply with the regulations of the Local Finance Board of the State of New Jersey may subject the members of the local governing body to the penalty provisions of R.S. 52:27BB-52, to wit:

R.S. 52:27BB-52: A local officer or member of a local governing body who, after a date fixed for compliance, fails or refuses to obey an order of the director (Director of Local Government Services), under the provisions of this Article, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, may be fined not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or imprisoned for not more than one year, or both, in addition shall forfeit his office.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Governing Body of the Borough of Middlesex, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.A.C. 5:30-6.5 and does hereby submit a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to said Board to show evidence of said compliance.

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex that:

RESOLUTION 130-2024

AUTHORIZING THE 2024 MUNICIPAL BUDGET TO BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-8 provides that the budget be read by title only at the time of public hearing if a resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full governing body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of hearing a complete copy of the approved budget as advertised has been made available for public inspection and have been made available by the Clerk to persons requesting them; and

WHEREAS, these conditions have been met;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the 2024 municipal budget shall be read by title only.

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex that:

RESOLUTION 131-2024

AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO ISSUE TAX TITLE LIEN REDEMPTIONS ON BLOCK 333.01, LOT 2

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:5-54, a lien has been redeemed by the owners or those persons having an interest, and the purchasers of said property are legally entitled to receive redemption funds in the following specific amounts, and;

WHEREAS, the interest and payments on the following Tax Title Lien Redemptions were calculated for April 23, 2024, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to issue a check to the lien holder in the following amount(s):

<u>Date of Sale:</u>	11/16/2023
<u>Block/Lot:</u>	333.01 / 2
<u>Amount:</u>	\$22,657.12
<u>Premium:</u>	\$30,000.00
<u>Certificate:</u>	22-00008

Payable To: Xueliang Zhu
248 Brower Ct.
West New York, NJ 07093

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex that:

RESOLUTION 132-2024

**ACKNOWLEDGING THE CHANGE IN STATUS FOR CERTAIN PROPERTIES UNDER
THE SENIOR CITIZEN/DISABLED PERSON TAX DEDUCTIONS**

WHEREAS, certain Senior Citizens/ Disabled Persons were the owners of the property in the Borough of Middlesex on or before October 1, 2023, and

WHEREAS, said Senior Citizens / Disabled Persons did file their claims for the Senior Citizen/ Disabled Person deduction with the proper official of the Borough of Middlesex, Middlesex County prior to December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has disallowed the following Senior Citizen/ Disabled Person deduction for the 2023 year totaling \$750.00.

Name:	Schley, Quentin L & Beverly Ann
Block/Lot:	78 / 24
Amount:	\$250.00
Reason:	Form Not Returned
Year:	2023
Name:	Ghanim, Jamal R & Aida
Block/Lot:	79 / 2.01
Amount:	\$250.00
Reason:	Over Income
Year:	2023
Name:	Jones, Alexandira
Block/Lot:	209 / 72
Amount:	\$250.00
Reason:	Form Not Returned
Year:	2023

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex that:

RESOLUTION 133-2024

APPROVAL TO SURPLUS THE 2006 TORO LINE PAINTER 1200

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works of the Borough of Middlesex has determined that the 2006 Toro Line Painter1200, Serial #260000160 has been rendered obsolete, broken, and no longer serviceable and declared surplus; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Middlesex Department of Public Works intends to scrap the equipment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Middlesex, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the 2006 Toro Line Painter1200, Serial #260000160 is hereby declared surplus and will be scrapped.

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex that:

RESOLUTION 134-2024

**AUTHORIZING THE TAX COLLECTOR TO ISSUE TAX TITLE LIEN REDEMPTIONS ON
BLOCK 262, LOT 1.01 / C0026**

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:5-54, a lien has been redeemed by the owners or those persons having an interest, and the purchasers of said property are legally entitled to receive redemption funds in the following specific amounts, and;

WHEREAS, the interest and payments on the following Tax Title Lien Redemptions were calculated for April 23, 2024, and;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to issue a check to the lien holder in the following amount(s):

Date of Sale: 11/30/2022
Block/Lot: 262 / 1.01 / C0026
Amount: \$421.49
Premium: \$1,800.00
Certificate: 21-0009
Payable To: Pro Cap 8 FBO Firsttrust Bank
P.O. Box 774
Fort Washington, PA 19034-0774

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex that:

RESOLUTION 135-2024

**HIRING OF KARL W. MCALEER AS THE SUBSTITUTE FIRE SUBCODE INSPECTOR
FOR THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX**

At the request of the Director of Code Enforcement, the Governing Body approves hiring Karl W. McAleer, as the substitute Fire Subcode Inspector to cover in the event of emergencies, conflicts, or vacations at \$55.00 per hour with four (4) hour minimum per day.

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex that:

RESOLUTION 136-2024

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY PROSECUTORS' OFFICE AND THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX REGARDING THE INSTALLATION OF AND RESPONSIBILITIES ASSOCIATED WITH AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION (ALPR) DEVICES AND/OR VIDEO SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS OWNED BY THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX - *Item Removed from Consent*

The Governing Body hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute the Memorandum of Agreement by and Between the County of Middlesex, the Middlesex County Prosecutors' Office and the Borough of Middlesex regarding the installation of and responsibilities associated with automated license plate recognition (ALPR) devices and/or video surveillance cameras owned by the County of Middlesex.

By execution of the Memorandum of Agreement, the County and the Middlesex County Prosecutors' Office will establish a partnership for collaborative efforts with the Borough of Middlesex and the State of New Jersey to provide for the detection and deterrence of crime and promote the safety and welfare of the citizens of Middlesex Borough.

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Conahan, Council President
SECONDER:	Robert Dessino, Councilman
AYES:	Conahan, Carnes, Dessino, Dotey, Quinn, Rex

NON-CONSENT AGENDA/RESOLUTIONS

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex that:

RESOLUTION 137-2024

PAY ALL CLAIMS

THE DISBURSING OFFICERS BE AND THEY ARE HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO PAY THE ATTACHED CLAIM LIST AS PRESENTED, IF FOUND CORRECT, AND APPROVED BY THE FINANCE COMMITTEE. EXCLUDED VOUCHERS MAY BE PAID UPON BEING FOUND ACCEPTABLE.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [5 TO 0]
MOVER:	Michael Conahan, Council President
SECONDER:	Robert Dessino, Councilman
AYES:	Conahan, Dessino, Dotey, Quinn, Rex
ABSTAIN:	Carnes

AGENDA WORKSHOP ITEM

1. Heather Lane Property Erosion

Council discussed the delivery of materials to be this week, as long as the weather cooperated.

2. Swim Pool Ordinance Revisions

A consensus of Council was obtained to introduce the Swim Pool Ordinance Amendment at the meeting of May 14, 2024.

3. Personnel - CFO

Mayor Mikolajczyk read email correspondence between Councilman Carnes and CFO Caroline Benson.

Council discussed the adoption of the 2023 Capital Budget and the digitalization of Joint Land Use files. Concerns were discussed by the Council regarding the adoption process and the missing line item.

The CFO gave an overview of the process each department goes through to add items to the budget and the process overall.

Council discussed concerns over the missing digitalization funds at the time of the adoption and spoke upon the events leading to the exclusion as well as if there was any possible intent.

The CFO expressed her concerns on the lack of communication and inclusion she received in regards to this matter.

Administrator La Place expressed his concern for the reputation of the department heads that might be harmed during this discussion when all he has experienced when dealing with them is honesty and integrity.

Council discussed the roles of councilmanic committees.

Councilman Carnes made a motion to investigate the circumstances that involved the three employees, seconded by Councilman Quinn followed by unanimous vote of the council.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR ON AGENDA WORKSHOP ITEMS

Mayor Mikolajczyk opened the Privilege of the Floor on Agenda Workshop Items for anyone wishing to comment.

Dave Polakiewicz, 240 Hazelwood Avenue, expressed his concerns over the personnel issue with the CFO urging the council to handle the situation as soon as possible.

Leonard Vidal, DPW Superintendent, expressed his concerns over the working environment. He urged the Council to look into the personnel issue.

Chrissy George, Library Director, stated that her reputation has been damaged, and her disappointment over the actions that have been taken.

James Benson, 445 Harris Avenue, expressed his support of the Library Director. He stated that the issue has continued for two years, and a resolution must be found, and action taken.

Joe DeScenza, 321 Salvatore Avenue, questioned why there is still an issue if the majority of those in attendance side one way while the minority is opposing.

Councilman Carnes called a point of order, stating he had no intention for there to be an issue.

Councilman Carnes made a motion to remove his previous motion to investigate, seconded by Councilman Quinn followed by unanimous vote of the council.

Seeing that there were no further comments, Mayor Mikolajczyk closed the Privilege of the Floor on Agenda Workshop Items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex that:

RESOLUTION 138-2024

EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 allows for a Public Body to go into closed session during a Public Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Middlesex has deemed it necessary to go into closed session to discuss certain matters which are exempted from the Public including Potential Litigation - MCMJIF, DPW Union Contract, Real Estate - 1190 Mountain Ave. & Public Safety - Code Enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the regular meeting of this Governing Body will reconvene.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Borough of Middlesex will go into closed session for the following reason listed below as outlined in N.J.S.A. 10:4-12 and the minutes will be kept, and once the matter involving the confidentiality of the items no longer require confidentiality, the minutes can be made public.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Conahan, Council President
SECONDER:	Robert Dessino, Councilman
AYES:	Conahan, Carnes, Dessino, Dotey, Quinn, Rex

Public Safety - Code Enforcement

Potential Litigation - MCMJIF

DPW Union Contract

Real Estate -- 1190 Mountain Ave.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Meeting will be May 14, 2024

Respectfully yours,

Linda Chismar, RMC
Borough Clerk