



Borough of Middlesex
Mayor and Council Special Meeting
~ Minutes ~

1200 Mountain Ave
Middlesex, NJ

Linda Chismar
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Tuesday, October 29, 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 A SPECIAL 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 -- **Absent**

Also Present:

Michael La Place Administrator
Christopher Corsini Borough Attorney

Others Absent:

Department Heads Attending:

Linda Chismar - Borough Clerk
Darcy DelVecchio - Tax Collector
Toni Kisly - Human Resource Manager
Robert Klein - Construction Official
Craig Comiskey - PD Captain
Melissa DeMarino - Senior/Recreation Director
Merari Gaud - Court Administrator (Remote)

Caroline Benson - CFO
Dawn Guttschall - Tax Assessor
Lenny Vidal - Superintendent of DPW
Tyler Gronau - Code/Zoning Officer
Ken Bartok - Fire Chief
Chrissy George - Library

DISCUSSION/PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE FOLLOWING:

The following items were discussed in regard to the Borough:

What do you see or think when coming to Middlesex?

- Small strong community

- No identity – lousy branding
- No downtown
- Urban Sprawl - over expansion of sewer system
- No legacy
- Pride in home and community

What do we want to see?

- Develop a town center
- Lack of community events
- Development of underutilized properties
- Forensic audit
- Infrastructure upgrades – road maintenance
- Traffic concerns by High School
- Abandoned property maintenance – Industrial and Residential

S.W.O.T. Analysis

Strengths:

- Lots of volunteers
- Strong Police
- Small town feel
- Terrific Borough Employees/Departments
- Good services
- Good school system

Weaknesses:

- Volunteers – more needed
- Communication
- Shared services
- County and State support
- Property maintenance
- Park passive uses
- Creighton Lake
- Train tracks
- Grants
- Economic Development

Opportunities:

- Parks – open space
- Redevelopment
- Code Enforcement
- Youth engagement
- More green infrastructure
- Skate park – pump track
- Filming industry
- Newsletter

Threats:

- Flooding

- Lack of volunteerism
- Traffic – speeding / unsafe driving
- Availability of space
- Taxes
- Turnover
- McDonalds
- School district
- Environmental
- Lack of Police Department Funding
- Advocacy
- Loss of services
- Social media
- Enforcement of excessive noise/disturbance of peace

Concerns/ comments to be brought to the School System:

- Top heavy
- Reregistration needed
- In person communication at meetings poor
- Sustainable New Jersey for Schools – Grant Money Opportunities
- Budget voting
- DEI philosophy vs merit
- Communication between liaisons
- Budget transparency
- Budget constraint
- Staying away from the max cap
- Newsletter availability

Departmental Reviews:

Police Department:

- More Police presence during school hours
- More traffic enforcement
- Bring back the cop trading cards

DPW:

- Start an adopt a spot program
- Furniture exchange area
- We need donation/drop off control

Recreation:

- Need more volunteer opportunities
- Creation of a teen IT program
- Need more adult summer programs

Construction/Code Enforcement:

- Need to be more active in the industrial and residential code enforcement

- Permit fees are excessive

Administration:

- Phones go unanswered
- Thermostat control during closed hours
- Implementation of delivered receipts on all emails
- Appointments should not be missed

Courts:

- Well run

Library:

- Doing a great job

OEM/Cert/ Fire/ Rescue:

- There needs to be a better system for real time information during emergencies
- Need flooding alert system
- Notification should be sent out if Bound Brook closes the flood gate
- More community outreach on preparedness
- Volunteers needed

Mayor Mikolajczyk talked about what the Borough needs to focus on, and gave his closing remarks.

ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Meeting will be November 26, 2024

Respectfully yours,

Linda Chismar, RMC
Borough Clerk