



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, February 11, 2025

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 Joseph DeScenza
Councilman Robert Dessino
Councilman Kevin Dotey
Councilman Kenneth Griggs

Also Present:

Michael La Place Administrator
Christopher Corsini Borough Attorney

Others Absent:

PRESENTATIONS

Mayor Mikolajczyk requested a moment of silence from the audience in honor of Jennifer Panek.

APPOINTMENTS

PROCLAMATIONS

ORDINANCE(S) FOR INTRODUCTION

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read Ordinance 2141-25 by title:

ORDINANCE 2141-25

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE IV (STRUCTURES DAMAGED OR DESTROYED BY FIRE) OF CHAPTER 317 (PROPERTY MAINTENANCE) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX TO ADOPT THE PROVISIONS OF N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.32 (UNSAFE STRUCTURES)

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex to amend Article IV (Structures Damaged or Destroyed by Fire) of Chapter 317 (Property Maintenance) of the municipal code of the Borough of Middlesex to adopt the provisions of N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.32 concerning the remediation of unsafe structures; and

BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Middlesex in the County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey that Article IV of Chapter 317 of the municipal code shall be amended as follows:

Section I:

The Title of Article IV of Chapter 317 is hereby renamed and redesignated as “Unsafe Structures”):

Section II:

Chapter 317-21 is hereby repealed in its entirety, renamed and redesignated as “Remediation of Unsafe Structures”, and shall contain the following text (all text novel):

All buildings or structures that shall become unsafe, or unsanitary, or that contain deficient or blocked exitway facilities, or which constitute a fire hazard or are otherwise dangerous to human life or the public welfare (including but not limited to those that have been damaged by fire), or that by reason of illegal or improper use or occupancy shall be deemed unsafe buildings or structures, shall be taken down and removed or made safe and secure. A vacant building that is unguarded or open at door or window shall be deemed a fire hazard and unsafe within the meaning of this chapter.

- . Examination and record of damaged structure. The appropriate subcode official shall examine every building or structure reported as dangerous, unsafe structurally, unsanitary or constituting a fire hazard and shall prepare a report to be filed in a docket of unsafe structures and premises, stating the use of the structure, the nature of the hazard, the nature and estimated amount of damages, if any, caused by collapse or failure.
- B. Notice of unsafe structure. If an unsafe or unsanitary condition is found in a building or structure, the construction official (or their designee) shall serve a written notice describing the building or structure deemed unsafe and specifying the required repairs or improvements to be made to render the building or structure safe and secure, or requiring the unsafe building or structure or portion thereof to be vacated or demolished within a stipulated time. Such notice shall require the person thus notified to immediately declare to the construction official (or their designee) his or her acceptance or rejection of the terms of the order. Such person may seek review before the Construction Board of Appeals within 15 days of receipt of the notice.

- C. Restoration of unsafe structure. A building or structure condemned by the construction official (or their designee) may be restored to a safe condition in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-6, Rehabilitation Subcode. A certificate of approval or certificate of occupancy, as appropriate, shall be obtained prior to reoccupancy of the building or structure.
- D. Posting notice of unsafe structure. If the person addressed with a notice of unsafe structure cannot be found within the municipality after diligent search, then such notice shall be sent by registered or certified mail to the last known address of such person, as on file with the office of the tax collector, and a copy of the notice of unsafe structure shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises; and such procedures shall be deemed the equivalent of personal notice.
- E. Upon refusal or neglect of the person served with a notice of unsafe structure to comply with the requirements of the order to abate the unsafe condition, the construction official (or their designee) shall, in addition to any other remedies herein provided, forward the matter to the legal counsel of the jurisdiction for an action to compel compliance.

Section III:

Chapter 317-21.1 is hereby created and shall be named and designated as ("Emergency Measures") and shall contained the following text (all text novel):

- . When, in the opinion of the construction official (or their designee) and appropriate subcode officials, there is actual and immediate danger of failure or collapse of a building or structure or any part thereof which would endanger life, or when any structure or part of a structure has fallen and life is endangered by the occupation of the building or structure, including but not limited to those that have been damaged by fire, the construction official (or their designee) is hereby authorized and empowered to order and require the occupants to vacate the same forthwith. The construction official (or their designee) shall cause to be posted at each entrance to such building a notice reading as follows: This structure is unsafe and its use or occupancy has been prohibited by the construction official (or their designee), and it shall be unlawful for any person to enter such building or structure except for the purpose of making the required repairs or demolishing the same. The order of the construction official (or their designee) shall be effective immediately.
- B. Temporary safeguards. When, in the opinion of the construction official (or their designee), there is actual and immediate danger of collapse or failure of a building or structure or any part thereof which would endanger life, the construction official (or their designee) shall cause the necessary work to be done to render such building or structure or part thereof temporarily safe, whether or not the legal procedure herein has been instituted. Such work may include such demolition as may be necessary in order to eliminate any actual and immediate danger to human life; provided, however, that any demolition work shall not commence until at least 24 hours following service of notice of the pending demolition upon the owner, unless such service is not possible because the identity or the address of the owner cannot be determined from public records. Upon expiration of the 24-hour period, demolition may proceed unless stayed by order of the Superior Court.

- C. Closing streets. When necessary for the public safety, the construction official (or their designee) may temporarily close sidewalks, streets, buildings and structures and places adjacent to such unsafe structure, and prohibit the same from being used.
- D. Emergency repairs or demolition. For the purpose of this section, the construction official (or their designee) shall employ the necessary labor and materials to perform the required work as expeditiously as possible.
- E. Costs of emergency repairs. Costs incurred in the performance of emergency work shall be paid from the treasury of the jurisdiction on certificate of the construction official (or their designee); and the legal authority of the jurisdiction shall institute appropriate action against the owner of the premises for the recovery of such costs.
- F. Appeals. An emergency order issued by a municipal construction official (or their designee) pursuant to this subsection shall be appealable only to a court of competent jurisdiction.
- G.

Section IV

All ordinances or parts of Ordinances inconsistent with this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

Section V

If any section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to this section, paragraph, subdivision, clause or provision and the remainder of this Ordinance shall be deemed valid and effective.

Section VI

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication in the manner required by New Jersey general law.

RESULT:	FIRST READING [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 2/25/2025 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Michael Conahan, Council President	
SECONDER:	Kevin Dotey, Councilman	
AYES:	Conahan, Carnes, DeScenza, Dessino, Dotey, Griggs	

ORDINANCE(S) FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the January 28, 2025 Regular & Executive Meeting Minutes

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Conahan, Council President
SECONDER:	Kevin Dotey, Councilman
AYES:	Conahan, Carnes, DeScenza, Dessino, Dotey, Griggs

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mikolajczyk made the following comments:

There are a lot of things being worked on in the background, such as landlord registration, school, etc.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Conahan

Council President Conahan made the following comments:

- Our grant writer, Alexa, from Bruno and Associates, successfully submitted a sizeable green acres grant application in the nick of time last week. Special thanks to Linda, Caroline, Paul Woska and especially Lenny Vidal who came in on his day off to help get it finished!
 - Congrats to our High School Boys Varsity Basketball team who are GMC Gold Division Champions!
 - Congrats also to our High School Girls Varsity Basketball team who are GMC White Division Champions!
 - Coffee with a cop this past Saturday was the best one yet – it was packed. Thank you Sgt. Auricchio.
 - Thanks to DPW for clearing our roadways through the night this past Saturday – everything looked great Sunday morning.
 - At our next Council Meeting, I've asked to add an "Emergency Services Volunteer Fee Waiver" as a workshop topic.
 - This Sunday, as part of our Friends of the Library Jazz program "Saboteurs of the PA Railroad with Kenneth Serfuss" will be kicking off at 2pm in the Library Community Room and its free of charge.
 - The green acres grant award survey had 292 responses with walking being the #1 activity with 85% of the response.
 - Lastly, I'd like to take a consensus now to amend and update our existing "contactors storage yard" ordinance which is very out of date and needs tougher language which Chris will prepare. Consensus was received.
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Councilman Carnes

Councilman Carnes made the following comments:**Board of Education:**

I'm honored to have been entrusted with the role of liaison and to serve as the primary communicator with our counterparts on the Board of Education. Thank you for your trust. I look forward to fostering strong collaboration and open communication between both sides.

Disabled & Senior Services:

We remain dedicated to serving our community's most vulnerable members and will continue to pursue every available avenue to ensure their well-being. As winter brings additional challenges, we encourage everyone to keep in mind the dangers posed by icy and snowy conditions. These hazards can be especially difficult for our elderly and disabled neighbors, making it even more important to offer a helping hand when needed.

If you're able to assist, please check on your elderly neighbors and help clear their walkways of snow and ice. Taking these simple steps can greatly reduce the risk of falls and accidents. Homeowners also have a responsibility to keep their driveways and sidewalks safe and accessible. In doing so, we not only protect our most vulnerable but also foster a sense of community where support is always available when we ask for it.

Together, we can ensure that everyone in our community is safe, warm, and well cared for during these colder months.

Film Committee:

As the film industry continues to grow, the Middlesex Borough Film Committee is gaining increasing attention, positioning our community to remain competitive in an ever-expanding market. By attracting film productions, we not only have the opportunity to increase rateables but also to showcase the beauty of Middlesex to the world. We are excited to continue supporting this initiative, and we thank all the volunteers and participants for their contributions in making our Borough a prime location for film and media.

Cultural and Arts/Beautification Committee:

We're excited to continue exploring new ideas and initiatives. We will delve deeper into these concepts during the upcoming workshop, where we'll discuss future opportunities and plans to enhance our community's cultural and aesthetic appeal. A special thank you to the amazing community volunteers who help bring these efforts to life – your dedication is truly appreciated!

Councilman DeScenza

Councilman DeScenza made the following comments:

- The HUD Committee met and submitted the 2025 Grant resolution for this meeting. The projects are the same as last years.
 - A full audit of the swim pool funds should be done.
 - The Recreation Building has numerous programs offered.
 - Community Day may need to be moved to a different date due to work in the park.
 - Possible Farmers Market on the 2nd Sunday of the month from April – September.
 - At the SWAC meeting they changed the hours for Republic. DPW was notified.
-

Councilman Dessino

Councilman Dessino made the following comments:

- The next JLUB Meting will be February 26th.
 - The Environmental Commission is still in discussion of the ERI Mapping.
 - The Environmental Commission are proposing two ordinances, which will be discussed in workshop at a later meeting.
 - Thank you DPW for their work on snow removal.
 - Pot holes are being repaired.
 - DPW during downtime will be completing JIF classes.
-

Councilman Dotey

Councilman Dotey made the following comments:

- Highlights of the Fire Report.
 - Coffee with a cop had a large turnout.
 - The Volunteer Fair will be May 3rd.
-

Councilman Griggs

Councilman Griggs made the following comments:

- Coffee with a cop had a great turnout.
- Residents are happy with the plowing of the roads.
- Shade Tree will meet on Thursday.
- Board of Health will meet next Thursday.

- Highlights of the Zoning Report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. Thanks go to the DPW for keeping the streets clean and safe during the recent snowstorms and to the MPD for handling a tragic case this week with sensitivity and professionalism.
2. Work continues on the 2025 budget. Having received the Police Department budget request, we now have the submittals from all departments.
3. Progress is being made on contract negotiations with representatives of the Police Benevolent Association, the DPW workers union and the white-collar workers union. Meetings are scheduled for tomorrow, weather-permitting.
4. Suburban Consulting Engineers was very helpful in helping the Borough complete an application to the state Green Acres program for future improvements to Victor Crowell Park. The consultants are now working with Borough staff and officials to schedule the public participation phase of the park master planning process.
5. Staff is asking for consensus from the Council to move forward with the following:
 - a. *To draft an ordinance to vacate a 20-foot wide strip of the Grove Avenue Right of Way fronting Lot 25 in Block 265, the former Fire Headquarters site.*
 - b. *To draft an ordinance to amend the bylaws of the Middlesex Borough Code to conform to the County's Drug Alliance Bylaws as mandated by the State of New Jersey.*
6. The Joint Land Use Board will be discussing the restoration of R-75 Single-Family Residential zoning designation for the property at 1190 Mountain Avenue, Lot 1 in Block 219, at the Board's March 12th meeting.
7. Resolutions this evening include approval of the 2025 Housing & Urban Development (HUD) funds, the transfer of a Plenary Retail Consumption Liquor License and the authorization for the Borough to execute a one-year agreement with CivicPlus for agenda and management software.
8. There will be Agenda Workshop discussions this evening regarding two matters: "Hometown Heroes" street banners and the proposed Cultural Arts and Beautification Committee.
9. In Executive Session tonight, there will be a discussion of Police Chief contract negotiations.

Consensus was received to draft an ordinance to vacate a 20-foot wide strip of the Grove Avenue Right of Way fronting Lot 25 in Block 265, the former Fire Headquarters site.

Consensus was received to draft an ordinance to amend the bylaws of the Middlesex Borough Code to conform to the County's Drug Alliance Bylaws as mandated by the State of New Jersey.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

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

Robert Gorr, 160 Farragut Ave, discussed the roots of a tree at 150 Farragut Ave, which roots are growing in the roadway, stating that trimming the tree is no longer sufficient. Mr. Gorr also voiced his concerns over the large geese population at the park, mentioning the safety hazard they create.

DPW Superintendent, Lenny Vidal, discussed what the DPW is doing to help aid in the geese problem.

Jawwad Ahmad, 150 Farragut Ave, expressed his concerns over the tree on his property and the need for the Borough to do more than trim the tree. He also discussed the geese by his property and the park, stating that it is a serious issue that needs to be resolved.

Dave Polakiewicz, 240 Hazelwood Avenue, discussed the following topics:

- The rezoning of the Presbyterian Church property.
- The Swim Pool financials.
- The Victor Crowell Park Project funding, litigation with American Water and project scope.
- The status of the contract negotiations and the effect a change in health benefits would have on them.
- The upcoming budget numbers for each department.

Sandra LaSasso, 360 Voorhees Ave, expressed her concerns over the geese and their fecal excrement being toxic to humans and animals. She also asked the Council for guidance on the issues she is having with the residents of 368 Voorhees Ave, stating they were exceeding its occupancy, discussing the trash and furniture on the yard and the lack of assistance from the Code Enforcer.

Bob Edwards, 243 Hazelwood Ave, gave an overview of the health risks geese cause, and suggested that the Borough seek aid from the County and or State.

Sulma Marino, 202 Farragut Ave, asked the Borough to install a gate at the park to help deter the geese from the playground.

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:	Kevin Dotey, Councilman
AYES:	Conahan, Carnes, DeScenza, Dessino, Dotey, Griggs

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 62-2025

ACCEPTANCE OF STANDING REPORTS

The Governing Body hereby accepts the following Reports itemized below:

1. Acceptance of the January 2025 Fire Report.

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 63-2025**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX AND CIVICPLUS FOR AN AGENDA AND MEETING
MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE FOR A TERM OF ONE YEAR**

The Governing Body authorizes the Mayor to execute a one year Agreement between the Borough of Middlesex and CivicPlus for an agenda and meeting management software.

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 64-2025**AUTHORIZING THE TAX TITLE LIEN REDEMPTION FOR BLOCK 6, LOT 2.02**

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 February 11, 2025, 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>	11/7/2024
<u>Block/Lot:</u>	6/2.02/C0047
<u>Amount:</u>	\$4,286.74
<u>Premium:</u>	\$7,200.00
<u>Certificate:</u>	23-00001
<u>Payable To:</u>	Trystone Capital Assets, LLC PO Box 1030 Brick, NJ 08723

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 65-2025**APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
FISCAL GRANT CYCLE FOR OCTOBER 2020 - JUNE 2026**

WHEREAS, the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder (GCSUD) established the Municipal Alliances for the Prevention of Substance Abuse Disorder in 1989 to educate and engage residents, local government and law enforcement officials, schools, nonprofit organizations, the faith community, parents, youth and other allies in efforts to prevent substance use disorder in communities throughout New Jersey.

WHEREAS, the Middlesex Borough Council of the Borough of Middlesex, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey recognizes that substance use disorder is a serious problem in our society amongst persons of all ages; and therefore has an established Municipal Alliance Committee; and

WHEREAS, the Middlesex Borough Council further recognizes that it is incumbent upon not only public officials but upon the entire community to take action to prevent substance abuse disorder in our community; and

WHEREAS, the Middlesex Borough Council has applied for funding to the Governor's Council on Substance Use Disorder through the County of Middlesex;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Borough of Middlesex, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey hereby recognizes the following:

1. The Middlesex Borough Council does hereby authorize submission of a strategic plan for the Middlesex Borough Municipal Alliance grant for fiscal year 2026 in the amount of:

GCSUD Grant Fund	\$9,978.00
Cash Match	\$2,494.50
In-Kind	\$7,483.50

2. The Middlesex Borough Council acknowledges the terms and conditions for administering the Municipal Alliance grant, including the administrative compliance and audit requirements.

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 66-2025

**APPROVING A PERSON TO PERSON TRANSFER AND PLACE TO PLACE TRANSFER
OF PLENARY RETAIL CONSUMPTION LICENSE NUMBER 1211-33-003 UNCLE
ACTIVO LLC TO HINOS BROS LLC**

WHEREAS, an application has been filed for a Person-to-Person & Place to Place Transfer of Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 1211-33-003-004, heretofore issued to Uncle Activo LLC; and

WHEREAS, the submitted application form is complete in all respects, the transfer fees have been paid, and the license has been properly renewed for the current license term.

WHEREAS, the applicant is qualified to be licensed according to all standards established by Title 33 of the New Jersey Statutes, regulations promulgated thereunder, as well as pertinent local ordinances and conditions consistent with Title 33;

WHEREAS, the applicant has disclosed and the issuing authority reviewed the source of all funds used in the purchase of the license and the licensed business and all additional financing obtained in connection with the license business;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Middlesex Borough Governing Body does hereby approve effective February 11, 2025, the Transfer of the aforesaid Plenary Retail Consumption License to Hinos Bros LLC and does hereby direct the Borough Clerk to endorse the license certificate to the new ownership as follows: "This license, subject to all its terms and conditions, is hereby transferred to Hinos Bros LLC, effective February 11, 2025".

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 67-2025

**RETURNING THE PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES TO 400 MAIN STREET, LLC FOR
THE SUBDIVISION OF 400 MARKET STREET**

WHEREAS, 400 Market Street, LLC is a party for the subdivision of 400 Market Street, real property designated as Block 35 Lots 19 on the official tax map of the Borough of Middlesex, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey (the "**Property**");

WHEREAS, the contractor obtained Preliminary & Final Major Site Plan Approval for the subdivision and in connection therewith posted with the Borough certain cash, surety bonds, and other performance guarantees (collectively, "**Performance Guarantees**");

WHEREAS, the contractor has satisfactorily completed the construction of the Project in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined within the resolution of JLUB application No. P 2022-004.

WHEREAS, the Borough acknowledges the receipt of the maintenance guarantees posted by the Contractor; and

WHEREAS, given the satisfactory completion of the Project, the Borough believes that it is in the best interest of the Borough to release and return the Performance Guarantees to Contractor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Middlesex, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, as follows:

1. The Performance Guarantees shall be released and returned to the Contractor.
2. The Mayor and the Borough Clerk together with all appropriate officers and employees are hereby authorized and directed to take any and all steps necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Resolution.

3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 68-2025

APPROVAL OF THE 2025 HUD FUNDS

The following items have been approved by the Housing and Community Development Committee to be submitted to the Middlesex County Housing & Community Development for approval for the use of the 2025 Grant Funds:

Senior Coordinator Salary	\$23,850
Senior Drivers	\$19,904
Code Enforcement	\$20,100

TOTAL	\$63,854
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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 69-2025

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 [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Michael Conahan, Council President
SECONDER:	Kevin Dotey, Councilman
AYES:	Conahan, Carnes, DeScenza, Dessino, Dotey, Griggs

AGENDA WORKSHOP ITEM

1. Hometown Heroes Banners

Council discussed the Hometown Hero's Banner project.

- There are only about 60 poles available.

- Residents would apply for a banner and pay the fee to cover the banner.
 - The cost of the brackets would be funded under the streetscape project.
 - The new light poles will display the banners.
 - First come first serve.
 - Phase 2 of the streetscape project could incorporate more additional banners.
 - The banners would make the required seven foot clearance over the sidewalk.
 - The canvas on the banners will last for several years without fading.
 - The Beautification Committee could oversee the project.
- Consensus was received to move forward with the Hometown Hero's Banner Project.

2. Culture and Arts/Beautification Committee

Council discussed the incorporation of the Beautification Committee into the Culture and Arts Committee.

- The name of the committee will not be changing.
 - The 9/11 ceremony should be organized by the Library and Sherly.
 - The Committee will not have the power to create ordinances.
 - Instead of listing the projects the committee will host, a mission statement that would cover a larger project scope will be created.
- Councilman Carnes will work with the Borough Attorney to finalize an Ordinance to bring to Council at the next meeting.

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.

Seeing that there were no public 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 70-2025

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 Contract Negotiations - Police Chief; 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:	Kevin Dotey, Councilman
AYES:	Conahan, Carnes, DeScenza, Dessino, Dotey, Griggs

Contract Negotiations - Police Chief

ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Meeting will be February 25, 2025

Respectfully yours,

Linda Chismar, RMC
Borough Clerk