



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, March 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

APPOINTMENTS

PROCLAMATIONS

ORDINANCE(S) FOR INTRODUCTION

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read Ordinance 2146-25 by title:

ORDINANCE 2146-25

**ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND
TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK (N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget to 2.5% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.5% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2025 budget by up to 3.5% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council hereby determines that a 1.0% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$171,930.66 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council hereby determines that any amount authorized herein above that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to the final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Middlesex, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2025 budget year, the final appropriations of the Borough of Middlesex shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40 A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.5%, amounting to \$601,757.31 and that the CY 2025 municipal budget for the Borough of Middlesex be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years: and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

RESULT:	FIRST READING [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 3/25/2025 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

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read Ordinance 2143-25 by title:

ORDINANCE 2143-25

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX,
COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY, CHAPTER 62, MUNICIPAL ALLIANCE
COMMITTEE ON ALCOHOLISM AND DRUG ABUSE**

WHEREAS, the by-laws of the Middlesex Borough Municipal Alliance are found in Chapter 62 of the Borough's municipal code; and

WHEREAS, the Borough Council of the Borough of Middlesex seeks, in consultation with the Municipal Alliance, to make amendments to this chapter to clarify certain provisions;

BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Middlesex in the County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey that Chapter 62 (Bylaws of the Municipal Alliance) of the Municipal Code of the Borough of Middlesex, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey shall be amended as follows:

SECTION I.

Section 62 is hereby amended as follows (struck through portions are to be removed; bolded and underlined portions are to be added):

62-1 Name.

The name of this organization shall be the "Middlesex Borough Municipal Alliance ~~Committee.~~"

62-2 Authorization.

As authorized by the governing body of the Borough of Middlesex through a resolution, this group shall serve as the Alliance of the above said municipality in accord with P.L. 1989, c. 51.

62-3 Purpose ~~and function.~~

~~In accord with P.L. 1989, c. 51 (N.J.S.A. 26:2BB-8), the Middlesex Borough Municipal Alliance Committee on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse's purpose is:~~ **In accord with the above authorization, the purpose of the Alliance is:**

A. ~~To~~ organize and coordinate efforts involving school, law enforcement, business and community groups for the purpose of reducing ~~alcoholism, drug abuse~~ **substance use** and crime.

B. ~~To~~ develop comprehensive ~~alcoholism and drug abuse~~ **substance use** education, outreach and support efforts for parents.

C. ~~To~~ develop a comprehensive ~~alcoholism and drug abuse~~ **substance use** community awareness program.

~~D. To develop a community watch program.~~

~~E. To develop and submit a plan for the expenditure of funds derived from the Drug~~

~~Enforcement and Demand Reduction Fund pursuant to N.J.S.A. 2C:35-15.~~

62-4 Membership.

Membership on the Municipal Alliance Committee shall be appointed by the ~~Municipal Alliance Chairperson~~ **Mayor and Council** and shall include but not necessarily be limited to representatives of the following groups:

~~A. Membership:~~

~~(1) Council member.~~

~~(2) Police officer.~~

~~(3) Municipal employee.~~

~~(4) Representative of local religious groups.~~

~~(5) Youth representative.~~

~~(6) At least two residents of the Borough of Middlesex.~~

~~B. Requirements:~~

~~(1) Members shall be legal residents within Middlesex Borough.~~

~~(2) A quorum of 8 is necessary to conduct an Alliance meeting. The majority of the quorum is required for a decision making vote.~~

~~(3) Any member employed by or on the governing board of an agency which has an interest or may potentially profit from a particular municipal plan shall advise the Alliance Committee of such interest and may refrain from voting on that individual municipal plan.~~

A. Mayor and/or Governing Body

B. Chief of police (or designee) and other law enforcement agencies

C. School district administrative staff and/or school board member

D. Youth representatives

E. Student Assistance Coordinator or other student support services staff member

F. Representative of Parent-Teacher Association or Home School Association

G. Parents and/or guardians

H. Representatives of local faith based organizations

I. Individuals who have been affected by substance use disorder, including have been affected by their own or family members use or addictions

J. Private citizens with interest in issues concerning alcohol, substance use, addiction, and juvenile delinquency

K. Representatives of local civic or volunteer groups

L. Representative from Youth Services Organizations

M. Representative of the Chamber of Commerce or local business

N. Older Adult Representatives

O. Health and Human Services agencies/professionals; especially health care professionals including pharmacists, physicians, or therapists

P. Representatives of public and private organizations involved in the prevention and treatment of substance use and/or the regional coalition

Q. Representatives of the local communications media or public relations

62-5 Functions.

The functions of the Municipal Alliance Committee shall be:

A. To create a network of community leaders, private citizens, and representatives from public and private human service agencies who are dedicated to promoting and supporting alcohol and other drug and crime prevention and education programs.

- B. To conduct an assessment of community-wide needs pertaining to alcohol and other drug abuse issues.
- C. To identify existing efforts and services acting to reduce alcohol and other drug abuse.
- D. To assist in the development of programs at the municipal level that accomplish the purposes of the Alliance efforts.
- E. To assist the municipality in acquiring funds for Alliance programs.
- F. To cooperate with the Governor's Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Substance Use Disorder, as well as the County Municipal Alliance Committee, to provide data, reports, or other information that may be needed to assist in the Alliance effort.

62-6 Meetings.

Meetings shall be held as the schedule is adopted at the last meeting of the calendar year, each year, which will include the time and place of the meeting. ~~A quorum shall consist of 1/3 (eight members) of its current membership. All meetings shall be open to the public and conducted in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.[1] All official actions shall be in the form of motions, duly seconded, and carried by a majority of the membership present, provided a quorum is present. Robert's Rules of Order shall be followed, unless herein modified, regarding all meetings.~~

62-7 Funding.

The Alliance shall develop a comprehensive plan to provide matching funds at least equivalent to the amount of monies received from ~~DEDR~~ GCSUD Grant funds. These matching funds shall be a minimum of 25% cash and 75% in-kind services. All decisions of the MACADA Municipal Alliance Program involving the use and expenditure of funds require a vote of a simple majority of members of the Alliance.

62-8 Voting procedures and adoption.

All decisions require a quorum to be present, a quorum being defined herein as at least ~~1/3~~, one third (1/3); eight members, of the appointment membership. Each appointed member of the Alliance shall have one vote.

62-9 Conflicts of interest.

~~A.~~ A conflict of interest may exist if a MAC member can reasonably expect that his or her conduct will directly result in a financial benefit to himself or herself, his or her family members, his or her business associates, his or her employers, or to businesses that the member represents. In a situation where a conflict of interest may exist, the MAC member must recuse himself or herself. All Municipal Alliance Committees must have their members sign conflict of interest statements annually, to be made available for review by the county and/or GCADA. GCSUD (see the County Alliance Coordinator for a sample conflict of interest statement).

~~B.~~ "Recusal" means that the individual is not participating in deliberations or debates, making recommendations, giving advice, considering findings, voting or in any other way assuming responsibility for or participating in any aspect of the decision making regarding the matter where there are potential conflicts of interest.

~~C.~~ Consultants or providers who are directly or indirectly involved in providing prevention services to the Municipal Alliance are subject to the recusal requirements.

62-10 Amendments; ~~mission statement~~.

A. All proposed amendments or proposed changes to the ~~mission statement~~ **Bylaws** shall be presented to the Alliance one month prior to the formal voting meeting. All decisions on amendments or changes to the ~~mission statement~~ **Bylaws** require a majority vote of the attending voting membership.

B. The ~~mission statement~~ **Bylaws** were duly adopted with a majority vote and with the issuance of a Borough ~~resolution~~ **Ordinance**, dated March 13, 1990; ~~revised~~ and by Borough Resolution No. 50-13, dated January 22, 2013.

SECTION II.

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

SECTION III.

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 IV.

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

Mayor Mikolajczyk opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2143-25. Seeing that there was no public participation, Mayor Mikolajczyk closed the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2143-25.

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

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read Ordinance 2144-25 by title:

ORDINANCE 2144-25

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTERS 420-7 AND 420-59 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING CONTRACTOR STORAGE YARDS

WHEREAS, the existing Chapters 420-7 and 420-59 require amendment to function more effectively; and

WHEREAS, in consideration thereof, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex desires to amend Chapter 420-7 and 420-59 of the Municipal Code; and

NOW, BE IT THEREFORE ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Middlesex in the County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey that Chapters 420-7 and 420-59 of the Municipal Code of the Borough of Middlesex, County of Middlesex, State of

New Jersey titled "Registration, Landlord" is hereby amended pursuant to the provisions hereof:

Section I

Chapter 420-7 (Definitions) is amended to add the following definition:

CONTRACTOR STORAGE YARD

A secure, designated area used by contractors for the storage of tools, equipment, and materials required for construction or trade-related work. The yards should be organized in a way that all consumable materials are stored out of public view to maintain security and aesthetics. The site is not intended for the storage of heavy machinery or waste collected from job sites. The storage yard serves as a controlled environment for organizing and staging supplies before they are transported to job sites.

Section II

Chapter 420-59 (Conditional Uses) is amended to add the following:

- M. Contractor storage yards. Contractor storage yards shall be permitted in the IND and HI zones provided that:
 - (1) Only one contractor shall be permitted to occupy a yard at once.
 - (2) If a site abuts a residentially zoned property, the sites must be screened sufficiently as to block all contents of the yard from the residential use.
 - (3) The site and its operations must comply with all performance standards outlined within Chapter 420-60.
 - (4) No construction waste is permitted to be stored on the property unless it is in a dumpster that has been approved by the Joint Land Use Board.
 - (5) Light vehicle maintenance is permitted only within the confines of a building designed for such use.
 - (6) The yard may be used to store construction materials that are not hazardous or toxic, such as lumber, cement, pipes, or other non-perishable building materials. All stored materials must be neatly organized and shielded from public view.
 - (7) Contractors may conduct light maintenance or minor repairs on tools or equipment that do not involve heavy machinery. This activity should be conducted in a manner that does not create any safety hazards or

disturbance to the surrounding area such as inside an approved building design for such use.

Section III

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

Section IV

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 V

This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication in the manner required by New Jersey general law but, in no event, less than 20 days after its final passage by the Borough Council and approval by the Mayor, where such approval is required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:69A-181(b).

Mayor Mikolajczyk opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2144-25. Seeing that there was no public participation, Mayor Mikolajczyk closed the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2144-25.

Councilman DeScenza commented that the yards should not be limited to one use.

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

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read Ordinance 2145-25 by title:

ORDINANCE 2145-25

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 19 (CULTURE AND ARTS COMMITTEE) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX TO INCLUDE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex to amend Chapter 19 (Culture and Arts Committee) of the municipal code of the Borough of Middlesex to include the responsibilities currently apportioned to the Beautification Committee; 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 Chapter 19 of the municipal code shall be amended as follows:

Section I:

Section 19-4 ("Organization") is hereby amended as follows (struck through portions are to be removed; bolded and underlined portions are to be added):

- . The duties of the Committee shall consist of engaging and encouraging cultural historic and artistic engagement, events and all related activities. These duties may include, but shall not be limited to, the advancement of the following:
 - (1) Visual arts, including, but not limited to, sculpture, painting, drawing, architectural design, photography, motion pictures, and television.
 - (2) Literary arts, including, but not limited to, the writing of prose, poetry, drama and choreography.
 - (3) Performing arts, including, but not limited to, music, dance, poetry-reading, and theater.
 - (4) The collection and display of art objects.
 - (5) Other activities which the Committee defines as advancing the creativity or culture in the Borough of Middlesex.
 - (6) **Other activities that enhance the beautification and overall visual appearance of our community through programing to encourage property upkeep and community involvement, through activities included but not limited to "Home of the Month" program, "Holiday Homes" program, "Summer Flower" program, the "Hometown Heroes Banner Program," and the coordination with the Borough Administrator for activities allowing the decoration of Borough property for holidays and other appropriate purposes.**
- B. The Committee shall advise the Mayor and the Borough Council on ways and means for the encouragement of creative talent within the Borough of Middlesex, and for the recognition of persons who have made outstanding contributions to the development, expansion, or preservation of culture and history in Middlesex, whether such person is or is not an artist.
- C. The Committee is encouraged to establish cooperative efforts to seek voluntary assistance from other sources of expertise consistent with its purpose, including an anticipated collaboration with the Middlesex Borough Department of Recreation.
- D. The Committee shall be authorized and encouraged to apply for and to accept grants and contributions under the auspices of and through the Borough of Middlesex from public and private sources to finance its initiatives. The Committee shall make no expenditure or commitment of Borough funds without the specific authorization of the Council, except that the Mayor, to the extent of staff availability, may authorize administrative staff support for grant applications and publicity. This includes but is not limited to matching funds for grants, donations, and the like.
- E. The Borough shall set up a dedication by rider account for the Committee to:
 - (1) Deposit monies obtained from donations, grants or from budget appropriations set annually by the Borough through the budgeting process, specifically for the Cultural and Arts Committee.

(2) Pay bills associated with events run by the Cultural and Arts Committee.

- F. All events and estimated expenditures must be approved by resolution of the governing body prior to the scheduling of any event.
- G. A financial report detailing year-to-date deposits and expenditures will be provided to the Committee Chairman prior to the first meeting of each month.
- H. The Committee shall comply with all requirements of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., and shall be required to record minutes of each meeting thereof, with said minutes to be transmitted to the Borough Council and the Department of Recreation within seven days of approval.

Section II:

The prior Borough Committee that was designated as the "Beautification Committee" is hereby incorporated into the Culture and Arts Committee under the terms hereof.

Section III

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

Section IV

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 V

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

Mayor Mikolajczyk opened the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2145-25. Seeing that there was no public participation, Mayor Mikolajczyk closed the public hearing on Ordinance No. 2145-25.

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the February 25, 2025 Regular & Executive Meeting Minutes

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mikolajczyk made the following comments:

- Thank you Council President Conahan for running the last meeting.
- Carmen Modica is acknowledged for her service to the Borough.
- The Boulevard Deli had a grand reopening.
- Decoy dogs are out to help control the geese population.
- No increase in State Aid this year.
- Cedar Ave update: looking into future grants.
- Baseball opening day will be April 5th.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Conahan

Council President Conahan made the following comments:

- I want to congratulate and thank Councilman Dessino for getting the new Hometown Heros program off the ground. Registration info is on the Borough website. I can't wait to see the banners finally up on the new decorative light poles.
- The Parks Committee will host the first Victor Crowell Park Public Input Meeting on Tuesday, April 1st in the Library Community Room from 6:30-8:30pm.
- The annual Recreation Bunny hop will be Saturday, March 29th from 10:am- Noon in the Rec Center.
- The Friends of the Library had a Jazz Program last week that had over 70 people attend.
- Remember that Saturday, May 3rd is our second annual Borough Volunteer Fair in the Library Community Room from 10am-3pm.
- Lastly, I've added an "Emergency Services Volunteer Fee Waiver" as a workshop topic tonight. I think a fee waiver would help our All-Volunteer active members of the Fire Department, Fire Police, OEM and Rescue Squad with relief to some of our Borough only fees like permits. This could help with retaining existing members, as well as recruiting new members, which we drastically need.

Councilman Carnes

Councilman Carnes made the following comments:

- The Board of Education had a special meeting tonight about fencing.
- Senior Freeze booklets will be out mid-April, there are changes to the application process.
- The Film Committee is exploring new ideas.
- The Culture Arts and Beautification Committee have become combined as of the ordinance adopted tonight. Thank you for the support.

Councilman DeScenza

Councilman DeScenza made the following comments:

- Highlights of the Recreation Report.
- Pool registration is open, the fees are the same as last year.
- Summer playground may have a location change to Cook Field.

- Patriots tickets available through recreation.
- The Bunny Hop will be March 29th.
- The Memorial Day Parade will be May 26th.
- Community Day will be September 13th.
- The Parks Committee will meet on April 1st and May 6th.

Councilman Dessino

Councilman Dessino made the following comments:

- A Pre-Con meeting will be held Thursday for the Mountain View Park Project.
- JLUB will meet tomorrow.
- The Environmental Commission wish to proclaim Dark Sky Week the week of April 20th.

Councilman Dotey

Councilman Dotey made the following comments:

- Highlights of the Police Report.
- Highlights of the Fire Report.
- Highlights of the Court Report.
- Court would like to add a day to catch up.
- Captain Comiskey will be retiring effective May 31, 2025.

Councilman Griggs

Councilman Griggs made the following comments:

- Highlights of the Zoning Report.
- Police are doing a great job.
- Shade tree will meet this Thursday.
- The Board of Health will meet March 20th.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. I have a call into our official contact at the Army Corps. of Engineers, asking for an update on the status of South Lincoln Avenue. The last report we received was that the opening of South Lincoln Avenue will take place by the end of this month. If this changes, we will alert the public.
2. Work continues on the development of the 2025 budget. Tomorrow, the Chief Financial Officer and I have the last three preliminary meetings with departments and with the Environmental Commission.
3. The first public event in the upcoming public participation phase of the Victor Crowell Park master planning process is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1st (no fooling!) at the Community Room of the Public Library, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. All are welcome. A second work session with the public is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6th at Victor Crowell Park. A special page devoted to the project is going on the municipal website.
4. The Joint Land Use Board will be discussing amendments to the Redevelopment Plan along Lincoln Boulevard as well as the restoration of R-75 Single-Family Residential zone designation for the property at 1190 Mountain Avenue, Lot 1 in Block 219, at the Board's meeting tomorrow evening.
5. Middlesex County has reached out to the Borough to coordinate our participation in the upcoming State Plan process. Cross-Acceptance, as it is known, requires the participation of state, local and county governments

and agencies in order to better understand and address local and regional land use and economic factors affecting New Jersey, its 21 counties and all 564 municipalities.

6. The departments of Public Works and Recreation and Senior Services are working closely with Councilman Dessino on the "Hometown Heroes" Veterans Banners initiative. Banners will be installed on the ornamental streetlights along Bound Brook Avenue, Lincoln Boulevard and in Victor Crowell Park. Registration is under way and the deadline is April 30th. Interested families can reach out to the Recreation Department for details and assistance.
7. Recreation and Senior Services is also very busy with programming such as the Veteran's Monthly Breakfast, the next one coming up this Thursday at 10:00 a.m. and by providing more appointment slots for AARP Tax Preparation and assistance. Please call to make a Tax Prep appointment (732) 356-0414. And special thanks to DPW for installing an AED Defibrillator machine in the recreation and seniors center.

As for Recreation activities, there will be the popular Bunny Hop, with the Easter Bunny, a petting zoo, activities and crafts, on March 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Legion Place. Parking will be available nearby at Borough Hall. Registration for Summer Playground and Happy Campers will open this week. You can register through MyRec.com.

8. Resolutions this evening include approval for the hiring of Mayensi Recinos as the new administrative assistant in the Clerk's office, the promotion of Police Officer Daniel Gurell and the hiring of Timothy Kinery to serve as part-time Electrical Subcode Official. There are also resolutions to allow for the purchase of safety gear and clothing for the Fire Department and the purchase of a large frame tent by the Recreation Department for various activities.
9. Tonight's Agenda Workshop will include a discussion of an invasive plants ordinance proposed by the Environmental Commission and consideration of a waiver of municipal fees for Emergency Services volunteers.
10. In Executive Session this evening, contract negotiations with the Middlesex Rescue Squad will be discussed.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

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

Kevin Redzinski, 441 Fairview Avenue, stated that the Film Industry are filming productions in New Jersey and that the Borough needs to be proactive and get ahead of the trend. He discussed the benefits that it would bring to the Borough.

Dave Polakiewicz, 240 Hazelwood Avenue, commented on Somerset County's film initiative and inquired about the status of the property that had fill placed in the yard that is in a floodplain, showing concerns over contamination.

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 83-2025

ACCEPTANCE OF STANDING REPORTS

The Governing Body hereby accepts the following Reports itemized below:

- . Acceptance of the January, 2025 Court Report.
- . Acceptance of the February 2025 Fire Report.
- . Acceptance of the February 2025 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 84-2025

**REIMBURSEMENT OF DOG LICENSE FEE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10.00 TO
CHRISTOPHER FILIK DUE TO INSUFFICIENT RABIES VACCINATION**

The Governing Body hereby approves the reimbursement fee for Dog License in the amount of \$10.00 to Christopher Filik, 222 Fairview Ave, Middlesex, NJ due to insufficient rabies vaccination date.

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 85-2025

**APPROVAL TO CLOSE LEGION PLACE FOR THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO
HOLD A BUNNY HOP ON MARCH 29, 2025 FROM 9AM - 1PM**

WHEREAS, the Recreation Department has requested to have a "Bunny Hop" on Legion Place on March 29, 2025 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, all the designated officials have given approval to close Legion Place for this Bunny Hop.

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

1. The Governing Body hereby grants approval to the Recreation Department to close Legion Place to conduct a "Bunny Hop" on March 29, 2025 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.
2. 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 86-2025

AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF SAFETY GEAR AND CLOTHING FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT UNDER NJ STATE CONTRACT #17-FLEET-00810

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Middlesex wishes to purchase Safety Gear and Clothing under the NJ State Contract #17-FLEET-00810 for the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of goods and services by local contracting units is authorized by the Local Contracts Law, 40A:11-12; and

WHEREAS, Skylands Area Fire Equipment and Training, LLC is under the NJ State Contract #17-FLEET-000810 for equipment; and

WHEREAS, the cost for the purchase of Safety Gear and Clothing is \$109,228.24; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Borough Council that the purchase of Safety Gear and Clothing under the NJ State Contract #17-FLEET-00810 be and is hereby approved.

The CFO hereby certifies that the funds in the amount not to exceed \$109,228.24 are available in the FY22 Assist to Firefighters Grant, Account Number G-02-25-526-000-101.

Caroline Benson, CFO

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 87-2025

APPROVING THE PURCHASE OF A LARGE FRAME TENT FROM AMERICAN TENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,621.49 - *Item Removed from Consent*

WHEREAS, the Middlesex Recreation Dept wishes to purchase a Large Frame Tent for various community activities; and

WHEREAS, two (2) quotes were received for the purchase of a 20x60 Large Frame Tent with Sides from the following vendors:

American Tent - \$10,621.49

OHenry Tents - \$11,429.14

WHEREAS, the Recreation Director and the Department of Public Works Supervisor recommend utilizing American Tent for this purchase in the amount of \$10,621.49; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that: based upon the recommendation of the Recreation Director and the Department of Public Works Supervisor, the governing body hereby approves utilizing American Tent for the purchase of the Large Frame Tent in the amount of \$10,621.49.

NOW FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the CFO hereby certifies that funds in an amount not to exceed \$10,621.49 are available from the 2021 Capital Budget, Account No. C-04-21-039-000-080.

Caroline Benson, CFO

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [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 88-2025

AUTHORIZING A TAX TITLE LIEN REDEMPTION FOR BLOCK 300 LOT 5

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 March 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):

Date of Sale: 11/30/2022
Block/Lot: 300 / 5
Amount: \$1,689.94
Premium: \$2,100.00
Certificate: 21-00011
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 89-2025

APPROVAL TO ADVANCE POLICE OFFICER DANIEL GURELL TO POLICE OFFICER CLASS "H" AT AN ANNUAL SALARY OF \$69,130 EFFECTIVE FEBRUARY 24, 2025

WHEREAS, Police Officer Daniel Gurell is eligible for advancement in grade pursuant to Article XV of the Police Department Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, On March 4, 2025 Chief Geist recommended Police Officer Daniel Gurell be advanced in grade.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that Police Officer Daniel Gurell be and is hereby advanced in grade to Patrolman Class "H" effective February 24, 2025 at an annual salary of \$69,130.

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 90-2025

HIRING OF MAYENSI RECINOS OF DUNELLEN, NJ AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT FOR THE CLERK'S OFFICE AT AN ANNUAL SALARY OF \$50,000.00, EFFECTIVE MARCH 31, 2025, PENDING A SATISFACTORY PHYSICAL AND BACKGROUND CHECK

WHEREAS, the Governing Body hereby approves the hiring of Mayensi Recinos of Dunellen, NJ, as the Administrative Assistant for the Clerk's Office; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Recinos will be paid an annual salary of \$50,000.00, effective March 31, 2025, pending a satisfactory physical and background check; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Governing Body of the Borough of Middlesex that:

1. The Governing Body hereby approves the hiring of Mayensi Recinos of Dunellen, NJ effective March 31, 2025, at an annual salary of \$50,000.00
2. 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 91-2025

**HIRING TIMOTHY KINIERY AS THE PART TIME ELECTRICAL SUB-CODE OFFICIAL
AT A SALARY OF \$18,200 FOR 7 HOURS PER WEEK FOR 2025**

At the recommendation of the Construction Official, the Governing Body hereby approve the hiring of Timothy Kiniery as the part time Electrical Sub-Code Official at a salary of \$18,200 for 7 hours per week for the year 2025.

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 92-2025

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. Environmental Commission Recommended Ordinance Regarding Invasive Plants

Claire Levourne, from the Environmental Commission, discussed the need to limit invasive plants within the Borough, describing the Commissions plan to spread awareness to the public and what the Borough can do to control the spread of these invasive plants.

Council discussed the Ordinance proposed by the Environmental Commission, showing concerns over enforcement and implementation.

Council decided not to move forward with the Ordinance at this time, rather to have the Environmental Commission help educate the residents on the issues using invasive plants have on the environment.

2. Emergency Services Volunteer Fee Waiver

Council discussed the need for volunteers and the decline in numbers in recent years. They talked about the benefit waiving certain fees for Volunteers in the Borough would have. Council discussed various fees that could be waived without the need for the Borough to pay the unpaid fees to the State.

Attorney Corsini will create an ordinance reflecting the following:

- Construction fees only.
- Primary residential properties only.
- Only the Borough portion of the fees will be waived.
- Eligible groups will be the Fire Department, OEM, and Rescue Squad.
- Only active members in good standing will be eligible.

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.

Sharon Dumont, 525 Cook Ave, questioned if the Environmental Commission has considered partnering with Rutgers. She also recommended the beautification Committee have an award that is for native species of plants.

Kevin Redzinski, 441 Fairview Avenue, suggested a date to end the education of residents on invasive plants and a date to start enforcement. He stated that invasive plants are an issue.

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 93-2025

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 Negotiation - Rescue Squad; 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 - Rescue Squad

ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Meeting will be March 25, 2025

Respectfully yours,

Linda Chismar, RMC
Borough Clerk