



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 22, 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 Joseph DeScenza
Councilman Robert Dessino
Councilman Kevin Dotey
Councilman Kenneth Griggs

Councilman Jeremiah Carnes -- **Absent**

Also Present:

Michael La Place Administrator
Christopher Corsini Borough Attorney

Others Absent:

PRESENTATIONS

APPOINTMENTS

1. Appointing Monica Townsend as Alternate 1 to the Cultural & Arts Committee

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

PROCLAMATIONS

1. Pillars of Middlesex - Jason D. Bond

WHEREAS, the Governing Body of the Borough of Middlesex recognizes that in order for a community to thrive and succeed, they must rely on the service, commitment, and passion of others; and

WHEREAS, it is in this spirit that Mayor Mikolajczyk would like to honor and recognize individuals throughout the community whom have made exceptional contributions to the Borough of Middlesex as Pillars of our Community; and

WHEREAS, throughout the years, Jason Bond has consistently demonstrated praiseworthy service, and unprecedented commitment to the Borough and its residents by being an irreplaceable asset to the Shade Tree Commission; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of Jason Bond, the Shade Tree Commission has benefitted since his appointment as a member in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Jason has proved himself a valuable asset to the Commission by utilizing his numerous certifications and licenses in the industry, which include, the International Society of Arboriculture, New Jersey Licensed Tree Expert, New Jersey Pesticide License and Certified Treecare Safety Professional; and

WHEREAS, Jason has devoted his life to ensuring the preservation and health of Shade Trees and the environment through his volunteer service with the Shade Tree Commission, with which he served as Chairman for 10 years; and

WHEREAS, for numerous years, Jason has promoted the Borough's participation in Tree City USA, championed the efforts for a tree inventory and the creation of the Shade Tree memorabilia display at the Public Library for the month of June and also helped plant the historic Salem Oak Seedling, distributed by the NJDEP Big and Heritage Tree Conservation Program to each New Jersey municipality that is now prominently growing in front of the Library; and

WHEREAS, Jason's dedication and accomplishments have been recognized through various projects, including the establishment of the Middlesex Borough Tree Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, Jason Bond has displayed exemplary service, and dedication to the Municipality and has become an integral part of the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jack Mikolajczyk, Mayor of the Borough of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, along with the Middlesex Borough Council and on behalf of the residents of Middlesex, wish to thank Jason Bond for all of his dedication, sacrifice and labor to our community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby set my hand and the seal of the Borough of Middlesex to be affixed this 22nd day of April, 2025.

Jason Bond thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition. He discussed the importance of trees and the need for specialists to work on them, not just the general public. He talked about the support he has received from the Shade Tree Commission.

2. Arbor Day - 2025

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 25, 2025, 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.

Jason Bond, a member of the Shade Tree Commission, read the Arbor Day Proclamation.

3. Denim Day - April 30, 2025

WHEREAS, Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the observance of "Denim Day" are intended to draw attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and has public health implications for every community member of Middlesex County including lifelong mental health impact; and

WHEREAS, sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment impact our community as statistics indicate that every 98 seconds, someone in the USA is sexually assaulted, and every 11 minutes, the victim is a child; and

WHEREAS, prevention is possible so we must work together to educate our community about what can be done to stop sexual violence - such as by asking, accepting, and respecting boundaries - while supporting survivors; and

WHEREAS, staff and volunteers of anti-violence and prevention programs in

Middlesex County including the Middlesex County Center for Empowerment and Sexual Violence Prevention Coalition encourage every person to speak out when witnessing acts of violence, however small, and to challenge the social norms that continue to perpetuate a culture of violence; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Sex Crimes Officers Association and the Middlesex County Sex Crimes Liaison Officers in connection with the Middlesex County Prosecutors Office are dedicated to ensuring the effective investigation and prosecution of sex crimes in our community through interagency collaboration and training; and

WHEREAS, with leadership, dedication, and encouragement, there is compelling evidence that we can be successful in reducing sexual violence in Middlesex County through increased awareness, prevention education focused on increasing gender equity, healthy relationships and bystander intervention, and holding perpetrators who commit acts of violence responsible for their actions; and

WHEREAS, throughout the month of April, Middlesex County strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and of every citizen to actively engage in public and private efforts, including conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address sexual violence.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John “Jack” Mikolajczyk, Mayor of the Borough of Middlesex, along with the members of the governing body do hereby proclaim April, 2025 as:

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

And that we join anti-sexual violence advocates and support service programs in the belief that all community members must be part of the solution to end sexual violence and encourage the observation of Denim Day on Wednesday, April 30, 2025.

4. International Dark Sky Week 2025

Public awareness of the detrimental effects caused by light pollution. It is an impact on our wilderness and human health, as well as an economic impact. International Dark Sky Week is held during the week of the new moon in April, when people worldwide may turn off their lights to observe the beauty of the night sky without light pollution. This year’s International Dark Sky Week is April 21 to April 28.

WHEREAS, light pollution has scientifically established economic and environmental consequences, which result in deleterious impacts on the ecology and human health of all communities; and

WHEREAS, light pollution caused by excessive and irresponsible outdoor lighting represents a waste of natural resources amounting to roughly \$3 billion per year of wasted energy in the United States and contributes to diminished energy security; and

WHEREAS, 80 percent of the world’s population, including the people of New Jersey, live under a dome of light pollution- excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts natural

darkness and may never experience the visual wonder or ecological and health benefits of living under a dark sky; and

WHEREAS, the experience of standing beneath a star-filled night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and may encourage interest in science and nature, especially among young people; and

WHEREAS, Dark Sky International, formerly known as the International Dark Sky Association headquartered in Arizona, with advocates in New Jersey, is the globally-recognized authority on light pollution, as has created International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness of light pollution, providing free education, resources, and solutions to the public to encourage the protection of, and enjoyment of, dark skies and responsible outdoor lighting; and

WHEREAS, Dark Sky International has designated April 21 - April 28, 2025, as the International Dark Sky Week in recognition of the effects of light pollution on our environment; and

WHEREAS, the night sky, like forest, wildlife, soil, and water is a natural resource they should be protected for future generations to experience and enjoy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JACK MIKOLAJCZYK, Mayor of the Borough of Middlesex, do hereby proclaim April 21 - April 28, 2025, as

International Dark Sky Week

ORDINANCE(S) FOR INTRODUCTION

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read Ordinance 2149-25 by title:

ORDINANCE 2149-25

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTERS 332-41 AND 332-52 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING SEWERS

WHEREAS, the existing Chapters 332-41 and 332-52 require amendment to function more effectively; and

WHEREAS, in consideration thereof, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex desires to amend the aforesaid Chapters 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 332-41 and 332-52 of the Municipal Code of the Borough of Middlesex, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey titled are hereby amended pursuant to the provisions hereof:

Section I

Chapter 332-41 (User classes) is hereby amended as follows:

A. "Tax exempt" includes institutions which pay no ad valorem taxes or receive substantial credits in paying such taxes, **including public schools**, except ~~public schools and~~ publicly owned facilities performing local government functions which discharge solely domestic wastes.

Section II

Chapter 332-52 (Exemptions) is hereby amended as follows:

Public buildings **(except for buildings used for public education)**, which are defined as those used solely for local municipal purposes ~~and/or public education~~, are excluded from the user charges called for in this article. The usage of said public buildings shall be treated as extraneous flow, as defined in §332-47 hereinabove. **Buildings used for public education shall not be entitled to an exemption.**

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).

RESULT:	FIRST READING [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 5/13/2025 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Michael Conahan, Council President	
SECONDER:	Kevin Dotey, Councilman	
AYES:	Conahan, DeScenza, Dessino, Dotey, Griggs	
ABSENT:	Carnes	

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read Ordinance 2150-25 by title:

ORDINANCE 2150-25

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 80 (POLICE DEPARTMENT), SECTION 80-9 (QUALIFICATIONS) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX TO AMEND THE AGE OF ELIGIBILITY TO EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex to amend Chapter 80 (Police Department), Section 80-9 (Qualifications) of the Borough's municipal code to lower age of eligibility from twenty-one (21) to eighteen (18); 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 80 (Police Department) of the municipal code shall be amended as follows:

Section I

Section 80-9 ("Qualifications") is hereby amended as follows (struck through portions are to be removed; bolded and underlined portions are to be added):

No person shall be appointed to the Police Department who is not qualified as provided in the New Jersey Statutes. (N.J.S.A. 40A:14-122.) In addition, no person shall be appointed unless:

- A. He or she is a citizen of the United States and the State of New Jersey.
- B. He or she is sound of body and of good health sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the New Jersey Police and Fireman's Retirement System.
- C. He or she is able to read, write and speak the English language well and intelligently.
- D. He or she is of good moral character.
- E. He or she is not less than ~~21~~ **18** years of age.
- F. He or she is physically and mentally sound and emotionally stable and possesses the necessary ability to understand and obey orders and to perform the duties required of the members of the Police Department.
- G. He or she has not been convicted of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude.
- H. He or she has a valid New Jersey driver's license.
- I. He or she has a minimum of a high school diploma and an approved combination of one or more of the following:
 - (1) A minimum of 60 college credits from an accredited college or university; or
 - (2) A minimum of four years of active duty in the United States Armed Forces; or
 - (3) Police certification through the New Jersey Police Training Commission.

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.

RESULT:	FIRST READING [UNANIMOUS]	Next: 5/13/2025 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Michael Conahan, Council President	
SECONDER:	Kevin Dotey, Councilman	
AYES:	Conahan, DeScenza, Dessino, Dotey, Griggs	
ABSENT:	Carnes	

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read Ordinance 2151-25 by title:

ORDINANCE 2151-25

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 375 (TAXATION) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF MIDDLESEX TO CREATE A NEW ARTICLE VI ENTITLED "EXEMPTION POLICY FOR DISABLED VETERANS AND SURVIVING SPOUSES"

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 permits a veteran who is declared by the United States Veteran's Administration or its successor to be 100% permanently disabled to receive a real property tax exemption for their dwelling house and lot; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex to amend Chapter 375 (Taxation) of the municipal code of the Borough of Middlesex to a new Article VI entitled "Exemption Policy for Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouse" in accordance with N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30; 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 375 (Taxation) of the municipal code shall be amended as follows:

Section I:

A new Article VI shall be added to Chapter 375 (Taxation) of the Borough Code of Middlesex and Shall be entitled "Exemption Policy for Disabled Veterans and Surviving Spouses."

Section II:

Chapter 375-21 is hereby created, shall be entitled, "Eligibility," shall be placed in the aforementioned Article IV, and shall contain the following text (all text novel):

The Borough will allow for either a veteran or surviving spouse of a veteran to obtain municipal property tax relief upon proper claim pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30 et seq. An eligible veteran shall be defined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor, who has been or shall be declared by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its successor to have a service-connected disability and to be determined to be 100% permanently disabled. An eligible surviving spouse shall be defined pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-3.30.

Section III:

Chapter 375-22 is hereby created, shall be entitled, "Exemption from Date of Filing," shall be placed in the aforementioned Article IV, and shall contain the following text (all text novel):

In determining a grant of a municipal tax exemption under this section, the Township will pro-rate the exemption from the date the tax exemption application has been approved by the Tax Assessor until the remainder of the year in which application is made and accepted by the Tax Assessor. There shall be no retroactive refund granted, regardless of the disability date determination of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

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: 5/13/2025 7:00 PM
MOVER:	Michael Conahan, Council President	
SECONDER:	Kevin Dotey, Councilman	
AYES:	Conahan, DeScenza, Dessino, Dotey, Griggs	
ABSENT:	Carnes	

ORDINANCE(S) FOR PUBLIC HEARING AND FINAL ADOPTION

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read Ordinance 2148-25 by title:

ORDINANCE 2148-25

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 420 (ZONING) SO AS TO UPDATE THE M-MUNICIPAL ZONE BASED ON CURRENT DEMAND FOR MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

WHEREAS, the Borough's Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 420, reflects the Borough's desired control of parcels within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, on December 20, 2022, the Borough Council adopted Ordinance No. 2077-22, which rezoned Block 219, Lot 1 as designed on the Borough's tax maps, more commonly known as 1190 Mountain Avenue containing the Grace Christian Fellowship Church, into the M - Municipal Zone; and

WHEREAS, at that time, the Borough believed that the property would be used for an expansion of municipally-owned land, but this never occurred; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2025, the Middlesex Borough Joint Land Use Board adopted the 2022 Master Plan Reexamination Report prepared by Borough Consultant Planner Paul N. Ricci, PP, AICP, which recommended alternative zoning for the Church property based on the lack of public need for it to be zoned M - Municipal; and

WHEREAS, the governing body has determined that the following changes be implemented to rezone the property consistent with current needs and demand pursuant to the recommendations contained in the master plan reexamination; and

WHEREAS, the following changes have been cleared by the administration and the Borough attorneys;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the governing body of the Borough of Middlesex, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 420 entitled "Zoning" is hereby amended as follows:

SECTION I.

Section 420-4 entitled "Zoning Map" and, therefore, the map on file in the Borough offices and incorporated in the Chapter 420 is hereby amended by this ordinance as follows:

- 1) Block 219, Lot 1 is hereby amended to reflect its correct designation as within the R-75 - Single-Family Residential Zoning District.

SECTION II.

If any part of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the ordinance.

SECTION III.

Should any section, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reasons, the remaining portions of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect and, to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

SECTION IV.

The Clerk shall cause a copy of this ordinance as adopted to be filed with the County Planning Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-16 and a summary published as required by N.J.S.A. 40:49-2.1.

SECTION V.

Prior to adoption, the Clerk shall forward a copy of this ordinance for a consistency review by the Borough Land Use Board pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26.

SECTION VI.

All Borough of Middlesex ordinances or parts of ordinance inconsistent with enactment are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

SECTION VII.

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. 2148-25. Seeing that there was no public participation, Mayor Mikolajczyk closed the Public Hearing on Ordinance No. 2148-25.

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

ADOPTION OF MINUTES**1. Approval of the April 8, 2025 Regular & Executive Meeting Minutes**

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

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Mikolajczyk requested a moment of silence in honor of Pope Francis.

Mayor Mikolajczyk made the following comments:

- Thank you, Robert Gatewood, for donating the model Ship "U.S.S. Constitution" to the Borough.
- Thank you, Clare and the entire Environmental Commission for your work on the Victor Crowell Clean-up.
- A meeting was held with Councilman Carnes and Mr. Redzinski laying the groundwork for the Film Commission.

COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS

Council President Conahan

Council President Conahan made the following comments:

- I want to extend my deepest thanks to our first Pillar recipient of 2025, Jason Bond. Jason has served as a volunteer on our Shade Tree Commission for over 20 years, including 10 years as Chairman. Like many of our volunteers, Jason has dedicated hundreds, and hundreds and hundreds of hours ensuring the preservation and health of our Borough Shade Trees. Congratulations Jason and Thank You!
- The final Friends of the Library program, for the Spring, will be this Saturday, at 3pm in the Community Room. Vic Lennard, from England, will be giving a free guitar concert.

- We will be dedicating the Victor Crowell Park Annex Building on Thursday, May 6th, at 6pm onsite at the building.
 - Immediately following the dedication ceremony, between 6:20-6:30pm, the Parks Committee will host the 2nd public input meeting for the Master Plan Creation of Victor Crowell Park, onsite at the Annex Building.
 - Our 2nd annual Volunteer Fair is almost here. It is Saturday, May 3rd, from 10-3pm in the Library Community Room as well as outside in front of the Library. It is going to be bigger and better this year. Learn how to get involved. Refreshments will be provided for all.
 - The bathrooms at MVP are slated to be demolished the first week of May. The new bathrooms will be constructed after the demolition. We are hoping the new bathrooms will be opened to the public by the end of May.
 - Councilman Carnes asked that I let everyone know that the now complete Film Commission will have a table at the Volunteer Fair.
 - Senior Report: Senior Medicare Patrol will be giving a fraud presentation in Spanish this Thursday at 1:30pm at the Senior Center. The Mobile Motor Vehicle Commission appointments were filled in less than 10 minutes. We have them scheduled to come back in August. Hopefully, the real ID rush will be over. Middlesex County is hosting their annual 90+ Birthday Celebration & Luncheon on May 15th at 11am at the Piscataway Senior Center. Registration deadline is May 8th. For more information, please call the Senior Center.
-

Councilman Carnes

Councilman DeScenza

Councilman DeScenza made the following comments:

- The Memorial Day Parade will be Monday, May 26th.
 - 21 Hometown Heroes Banners have been sold so far.
 - Highlights of the Recreation Committee Report.
 - The Pool Commission are working to resolve the current issues.
-

Councilman Dessino

Councilman Dessino made the following comments:

- DPW are working on clearing out Creighton Lake.
 - The Environmental Commission would like to move forward with the Invasive Species Ordinance.
 - The Environmental Commission are concerned with what kind of hazardous materials are traveling through Middlesex by train.
 - Planting at the Tree Nursery will happen on Saturday.
 - Last Saturday was the Victor Crowell Clean-up.
-

Councilman Dotey

Councilman Dotey made the following comments:

- Highlights of the Police Report.
 - Highlights of the Court Report.
-

Councilman Griggs

Councilman Griggs made the following comments:

- Thank you, Jason Bond, for your years of service to the Borough.
- The Shade Tree Commission meets the second Thursday of the month at 7pm.
- The Board of Health has received noise complaints.
- The Board of Health meet the third Thursday of the month at 6:30pm.
- Highlights of the Zoning Report.
- Highlights of the Construction Report.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1. The hearing for the proposed 2025 budget, which was introduced on April 8th, is scheduled for the May 13th Council meeting, to be held here in Borough Hall beginning at 7:00 p.m.
2. We have received very good news that Middlesex Borough has maintained its current Standards & Poors Global rating of AA for General Bonds (long-term) and a rating of SP 1+ for Bond Notes (short term). This shows that Middlesex is stable and it is consistent with the rating received by the Borough in 2022. I would like to thank the Mayor & members of the Council for their wise leadership and commitment to sensible spending as well as our Chief Financial Officer, Caroline Benson, for her hard work, financial planning and guidance.
3. A reminder that the public participation phase of the Victor Crowell Park master planning process is under way and the second public work session is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6th at Victor Crowell Park. The event will be in the park's Annex Building at 302 Union Avenue. Please consult the information page devoted to the project which is on the municipal website. We have received many of the park project surveys from members of the community.
4. Public Works has been cutting grass, mulching and doing all kinds of maintenance and beautification projects in our parks and around the Borough. Superintendent Vidal has been in close communication with the Army Corps. representatives here in Middlesex and we understand that South Lincoln Avenue should be open to traffic in Mid-May, following the successful testing of the flood gates and the relocation of utilities.
5. As for activities sponsored by our Seniors and Disabled Services office, the mobile Motor Vehicle Commission will be here in Middlesex on May 9th. All of the appointment slots are booked so we will try to have the mobile unit return to Middlesex in August. The Senior Medicare Patrol will be giving a Spanish presentation on Fraud this Thursday, April 24th at 1:30pm. Finally, Middlesex County is hosting the annual "90 +" Birthday Celebration and Luncheon on May 15th, from 11:00 a.m. at the Piscataway Senior Center. The registration deadline is May 8th. Please call the Senior Center for more details. (732) 356-0414.
6. Public Service Electric & Gas has informed us that they will be installing new utility poles along South Avenue and that traffic control will be coordinated with the Middlesex Police Department.
7. Resolutions this evening include the authorization for reimbursements of Board of Health license late fees that were issued in error, approval of the Correction Action Plan for the 2024 Municipal Audit, approval of the 2024 Recycling Tonnage Application and promotion of Tyler Gronau to full-time Zoning & Code Enforcement Officer effective September 2, 2025.
8. The Agenda Workshop this evening will involve a discussion of the vacation of paper (never built) streets, Aubrey Place and Hale Place, at the site of the former Middlesex Presbyterian Church, 1190 Mountain Avenue, Block 219, Lot 1.
9. In Executive Session this evening there will be discussion of PBA Contract negotiations and pending litigation with NJ American Water.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

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

Kevin Redzinski, 441 Fairview Avenue, expressed his displeasure over the promotion of the Zoning Officer and the hiring process overall. He shared his past experiences with the individual and the lack of response he has received. Mr. Redzinski inquired about the status of the Noise Ordinance and questioned whether any tickets or follow-ups have been made. He expressed his concerns over the delay and stated that illegal activities are taking place.

Dave Polakiewicz, 240 Hazelwood Avenue, commented on the promotion of the Zoning Officer to full-time status. He questioned the Council's decision to promote him when there are numerous complaints and concerns over the quality of the work shown, asking how they justified the hire. He also inquired about the length of time it has taken and the delay of the promotion until September. Mr. Polakiewicz commented on the lack of urgency that the Zoning Officer displays and questioned the office hours.

Paul Maxcy, 521 Decatur Ave, asked the Council to impose an hours of operation Ordinance on the industrial zone. He expressed his concerns over the dangerous health issues and hazardous conditions to residents, commenting on spills into the Ambrose Brook and various violations taking place. Mr. Maxcy commented on the excessive noise and the lack of enforcement by the Zoning Officer. He stated that he has contacted the County and State for aid, however there is no 24 hour service for complaints. Mr. Maxcy expressed his frustration over the lack of help he is receiving from the Borough and implored the Council to take action to resolve the ongoing issues he described.

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, DeScenza, Dessino, Dotey, Griggs
ABSENT:	Carnes

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 117-2025

ACCEPTANCE OF STANDING REPORTS

The Governing Body hereby accepts the following Reports itemized below:

1. Acceptance of the March 2025 Court Report.
2. Acceptance of the March 2025 Police Report.

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 118-2025

AUTHORIZING THE 2025 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 2025 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 119-2025

**APPROVING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF LATE FEES THAT WERE INCORRECTLY
APPLIED TO BOARD OF HEALTH LICENSE RENEWALS**

The Governing Body hereby authorizes the reimbursement of late fees that were incorrectly applied for the following applicants for Board of Health Licenses for 2025-2026:

Little Miracles Childcare Center	303 UNION AVE	\$75.00
Middlesex Supermarket Owners LLC	242 LINCOLN BLVD	\$75.00
Superfood Fresh Supermarket	738 Union Ave	\$75.00
Middlesex High School	300 KENNEDY DR	\$75.00
Papa Johns	710 Union Ave	\$75.00
Pantry One Foodmart	101 LINCOLN BLVD	\$75.00

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 120-2025

**APPROVING THE REIMBURSEMENT OF \$150.00 TO FAMILY DOLLAR STORES OF
NEW JERSEY LLC. FOR A BOARD OF HEALTH LICENSE FEE PAID IN ERROR**

The Governing Body hereby approves the reimbursement of \$150.00 for a Board of Health License to Family Dollar Stores of New Jersey LLC., 215 North Avenue, Dunellen, NJ 08812 as the owner inadvertently applied and paid for a 2025-2026 Board of Health License with the Borough of Middlesex in error.

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 121-2025

**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, 2024; 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, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector has disallowed the following Senior Citizen/ Disabled Person deduction for the 2024 year totaling \$1,500.00.

Name: Schley, Quentin L & Beverly Ann
Block/Lot: 78 / 24
Amount: \$250.00
Reason: Form Not Returned
Year: 2024

Name: Trerotola, M J & J - Living Trust
Block/Lot: 198 / 7
Amount: \$250.00
Reason: Form Not Returned
Year: 2024

Name: Morge, Mary
Block/Lot: 329 /17
Amount: \$250.00
Reason: Form Not Returned
Year: 2024

Name: Ghanim, Jamal R & Aida
Block/Lot: 79 / 2.01
Amount: \$250.00
Reason: Over Income
Year: 2024

Name: Mitterando, Carmella

Block/Lot: 153 / 28
Amount: \$250.00
Reason: Over Income
Year: 2024

Name: Jones, Alexandria S
Block/Lot: 209 / 72
Amount: \$250.00
Reason: Over Income
Year: 2024

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 122-2025

APPROVAL OF THE CORRECTION ACTION PLAN ON THE 2024 AUDIT

The Governing Body hereby approves and accepts the Corrective Action Plan on the 2024 Audit, according to Local Finance Board Directive 92-15.

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 123-2025

APPROVAL OF THE 2024 RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, The Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act, P.L. 1987, c.102, has established a recycling fund from which tonnage grant may be made to municipalities in order to encourage local source separation and recycling programs; and

WHEREAS, It is the intent and the spirit of the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act to use the tonnage grants to develop new municipal recycling programs and to continue and to expand existing programs; and

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection has promulgated recycling regulations to Implement the Mandatory Source Separation and Recycling Act; and

WHEREAS, The recycling regulations impose on municipalities certain requirements as a condition for applying for tonnage grants, including but not limited to, making and keeping accurate, verifiable records of materials collected and claimed by the municipality; and

WHEREAS, A resolution authorizing this municipality to apply for the **2024 Recycling Tonnage Grant** will memorialize the commitment of this municipality to

recycling and to indicate the assent of the Borough of Middlesex to the efforts undertaken by the municipality and the requirements contained in the Recycling Act and recycling regulations; and

WHEREAS, Such a resolution should designate the individual authorized to ensure the application is properly completed and timely filed.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Middlesex that the Borough of Middlesex hereby endorses the submission of the recycling tonnage grant application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and designates David Sliker to ensure that the application is properly filed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the monies received from the recycling tonnage grant be deposited in a dedicated fund to be used solely for the purposes of recycling.

Borough Clerk Linda Chismar read the following resolution:

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

RESOLUTION 124-2025

PROMOTING TYLER GRONAU AS THE FULL TIME DIRECTOR OF ZONING & CODE ENFORCEMENT AT AN ANNUAL SALARY OF \$75,000 EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 2, 2025 - *Item Removed from Consent*

WHEREAS, the Governing Body hereby approves the promotion of Tyler Gronau to the Full Time Director of Zoning and Code Enforcement at an annual salary of \$75,000.00 effective September 2, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gronau's working hours will be Monday through Friday 8:30am-4:30pm as per the Personnel Manual, and will attend Municipal Court as needed;

WHEREAS, Mr. Gronau will qualify for vacation, sick and personal time based upon the Personnel Manual.

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

1. The Governing Body hereby approves the promotion of Tyler Gronau as the Full Time Director of Zoning and Code Enforcement at an annual salary of \$75,000.00 effective September 2, 2025.
2. Mr. Gronau will work the above scheduled hours as per the Personnel Manual and will qualify for vacation, sick and personal time based on the Personnel Manual.
3. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

RESULT:	ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [4 TO 1]
MOVER:	Michael Conahan, Council President
SECONDER:	Kevin Dotey, Councilman
AYES:	Conahan, DeScenza, Dotey, Griggs
NAYS:	Dessino
ABSENT:	Carnes

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 125-2025

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, DeScenza, Dessino, Dotey, Griggs
ABSENT:	Carnes

AGENDA WORKSHOP ITEM

1. Vacating of Aubrey Place & Hale Place

Attorney Corsini gave a background on the sale of the Church and the proposed Ordinance. He stated that there are 2 paper streets that run off Monroe, which are behind the Church property. The owners of the property requested that the streets be vacated. This was originally done in the 70's, however proper documentation was not filed with the correct authorities. After adoption, the County will be notified of the change. The church also requested that the reverter clause, which is expired, be removed as well.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR ON AGENDA WORKSHOP ITEMS

Mayor Mikolajczyk opened the floor for anyone wishing to speaking regarding the Workshop agenda. Seeing that there was no public participation, 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 126-2025**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 - PBA & Litigation - American Water; 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, DeScenza, Dessino, Dotey, Griggs
ABSENT:	Carnes

Contract Negotiation - PBA

Potential Litigation - American Water

ADJOURNMENT

The next Regular Meeting will be May 13, 2025

Respectfully yours,

Linda Chismar, RMC
Borough Clerk