

BOROUGH OF METUCHEN COUNCIL MINUTES
February 22, 2022
7:30 PM

The Regular Meeting of the Borough Council was held in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

The Meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m. by Mayor Busch.

Adequate Notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meeting Act, pursuant to Public Law 1975, Chapter 231. Said notice was sent to the Home News Tribune and Star Ledger on January 7, 2022, posted in Borough Hall, and on file in the Clerk's Office. All requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been satisfied.

Mayor Busch asked all to rise for the flag salute.

Roll Call

Mayor Busch asked for a roll call.

Present were Councilmembers Branch, Hirsch, Kandel, Koskoski, Councilmember Rasmussen, Council President Delia, and Mayor Busch. Also present were Denis Murphy, Borough Attorney, Melissa Perilstein, Borough Administrator, and Deborah Zupan, Acting Borough Clerk.

Agenda Session

Council President Delia made a motion to open the Agenda Session, second by Councilmember Rasmussen, with all in favor, motion carried, 6-0.

Councilmember Koskoski added the EMS monthly report.

With no further actions taken, Council President Delia made a motion to close the Agenda Session, second by Councilmember Rasmussen, with all in favor, motion carried, 6-0.

Awards Honoring Retirements

Awards were presented honoring the retirement of Nancy Goldberg after 32 years of service and Cathy Ostermuller after 12 years of service. Mayor Busch spoke in their honor and presented each with awards.

EMS Report

Peter Fairclough, President of Metuchen EMS, delivered the following summary report for 2021:

During the year we took 255 calls which was 40 more than in 2020.

36 of those calls were in Edison. So a significant part of the increase has come from calls in Edison not Metuchen.

40 different members participated in calls over the course of the year. 10 of those people have moved on. The biggest loss was our former Chief Gary Tyrrell who moved to Boston after 15 years with Metuchen EMS. It is hard to replace that kind of experience and we will miss him.

That also means that we are down one crew chief. We hope to have a former member return in April, and some of our former cadets now have enough experience to run a shift when they are home for the summer.

*I would like to remind everyone that some people are still getting very sick from Covid. The calls are significantly down but we are still getting them
Other than 911 calls we also cover local events and we are looking forward to the return of the spring fair (fingers crossed).*

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our fund raiser, we have enough money to keep us going for the next year or two.

Public Comment

Mayor Busch opened Public Comment to any members of the public wishing to speak.

Stephen Kitsko, 131 Hazelwood Avenue, commented on his treatment by the Governing Body following his remarks at the last council meeting of 2021. Mr. Kitsko stated that, although he will no longer be a candidate for office, he will continue to speak up about his concerns and encouraged other residents to do so as well. Mr. Kitsko also commented on the status of the Forum Theater project and renovation.

Paul Bradley, 22 Center Street, asked if there are any plans to improve the Borough website. Mr. Bradley described several issues he has observed with the website and shared his ideas for improvement.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, Mayor Busch closed the Public Comment.

Proclamation

Mayor Busch read the following Proclamation in recognition of Social Emotional Learning Day:

***WHEREAS**, young people with strong social emotional skills are better able to cope with challenges, build protective factors for mental wellness challenges and resiliency from trauma, engage academically, and experience long-term social, professional, and academic benefits; and*

***WHEREAS**, schools, families and the wider community must be engaged to enhance the strength, depth, and pace of acquisition of SEL competencies; and*

***WHEREAS**, social emotional learning is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions; and*

***WHEREAS**, SEL competencies develop throughout our lives and are essential to success in our schools, workplaces, homes, and communities and allow individuals to contribute meaningfully to society.*

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that I, Mayor Busch, proclaim the second Friday in March as:*

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING DAY

In Metuchen, Middlesex County, New Jersey, and encourage all community members to learn about and share their knowledge of the importance and impact of integrating evidence-based SEL into our schools, organizations, and community.

Executive Session

R2022-66

Resolution Authorizing an Executive Session - Personnel, Contract Negotiations Relating to Redevelopment, and the Proposed Purchase or Acquisition of Real Property with Public Funds

Council President Delia moved to approve Resolution 2022-66 authorizing going into Executive Session, second by Councilmember Rasmussen, with all in favor, motion carried, 6-0. Council went into Executive Session at 8:13 p.m.

Council President Delia moved to reconvene the Regular Meeting, second by Councilmember Rasmussen, with all in favor, motion carried, 6-0. The Regular Meeting resumed at 9:17 p.m.

Additional Agenda Item

Council President Delia made a motion to add Resolution 2022-75 to the New Business Consent Agenda, second by Councilmember Rasmussen, with all in favor, motion carried, 6-0.

Borough Council Meeting Minutes

Council President Delia made a motion to approve Borough Council Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2021, second by Councilmember Rasmussen. Councilmember Branch abstained from voting, with all others in favor, motion carried, 5-0.

Ordinance – Public Hearing

Ordinance 2022-02

Ordinance to Set the Minimum and Maximum Wage Ranges for Certain Borough Employees, Amending Ordinance 2021-18

Council President Delia asked Ms. Zupan, Acting Borough Clerk, to present the affidavit of publication.

Ms. Zupan presented the affidavit of publication stating that said Ordinance 2022-02 had been published one time in the Home News Tribune according to law on February 10, 2022.

Council President Delia moved that the affidavit of publication be received and filed, second by Councilmember Rasmussen, with all in favor, the motion carried, 6-0.

Council President Delia asked that Ordinance 2022-02 be read by title only.

Ms. Zupan read Ordinance 2022-02 by title only.

Mayor Busch opened the public hearing on Ordinance 2022-02.

Seeing no one wishing to speak, Mayor Busch closed the public hearing.

Council President Delia made a motion to pass amended Ordinance 2022-02 on second reading and be published according to law, second by Councilmember Rasmussen.

Mayor Busch asked for a roll call vote.

Roll Call: Yeas: Branch, Hirsch, Kandel, Koskoski, Rasmussen, Delia
 Nays: None

Ordinance 2022-02 was adopted, 6-0.

ORDINANCE 2022-02

*Borough of Metuchen
County of Middlesex
State of New Jersey*

ORDINANCE TO SET THE MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM WAGE RANGES FOR CERTAIN BOROUGH EMPLOYEES, AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-18

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen that Ordinance 2021-18 be repealed and replaced with this ordinance to set the salary authorizations for the calendar year 2022, effective January 1, 2022.

- A. The following official employment designations are hereby confirmed and the range of compensation of each officer and employee of the Borough of Metuchen shall be:

POSITION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	PER
Mayor	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	year
Councilmember	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	year
Borough Administrator	\$ 73,000.00	\$ 170,000.00	year
Director of Special Projects	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	year
Borough Clerk	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	year
Chief Financial Officer/ Tax Collector/QPA	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 160,000.00	year
Tax Assessor	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	year
Public Works Director	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 160,000.00	year
Public Works Supervisor	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	year
Chief of Police	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 220,000.00	year
Police Captain	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	year
Police Lieutenant	\$ 130,000.00	\$ 185,000.00	year
Court Administrator	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	year
Recreation Director	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	year
Director of Recreation/Senior Services	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	year
Program Coordinator of Recreation//Senior Services	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	year
Senior Citizen Director	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	year
Administrative Secretary	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	year
Zoning Officer	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	year
Administrative Officer	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	year
Secretary	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	year
Deputy Court Administrator	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	year
Head Telecommunications Operator	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	year
Telecommunications Operator	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	year
QPA	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	year
Accounting/Tax Clerk	\$ 39,000.00	\$ 65,000.00	year
Senior Accounting Specialist -Finance and Benefits	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	year
Senior Accounting Specialist-Finance and Purchasing	\$45,000.00	\$90,000.00	year
Senior Accounting Specialist -Finance/Payroll	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	year
Accounting Specialist-Finance/ Municipal Alliance Coordinator/Registrar	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	year
Multi-media & Communication Director	\$50,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	year

POSITION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	PER
Bus Drivers	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00	hour
Part-Time Clerk and Secretaries	\$ 15.00	\$ 30.00	hour
Janitors, Firehouse	\$ 15.00	\$ 30.00	hour
Fire Official (Fire Prevention)	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	year
Fire Inspectors (Fire Prevention)	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	year
Office of Emergency Management Director	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	year
Registrar	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 17,000.00	year
Deputy Registrar	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 11,000.00	year
School Crossing Guards	\$ 15.00	\$ 30.00	hour
Municipal Alliance Coordinator C-3 Sanitary Sewer Collection	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	year
System Operator	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	year
Per Diem Dispatcher	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00	hour
Public Works Summer Help	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00	hour
Parking Enforcement Officer	\$ 15.00	\$ 20.00	hour

CONSTRUCTION INSPECTORS/OFFICIALS

POSITION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	PER
Construction Official	\$ 40.00	\$ 65.00	hour
Plumbing Subcode Official	\$ 25.00	\$ 45.00	hour
Plumbing Inspector	\$ 45.00	\$ 65.00	hour
Electrical Subcode Official	\$ 25.00	\$ 45.00	hour
Electrical Inspector	\$ 45.00	\$ 65.00	hour
Fire Subcode Official	\$ 25.00	\$ 45.00	hour
Fire Inspector	\$ 45.00	\$ 65.00	hour
Building Subcode Official	\$ 25.00	\$ 45.00	hour
Building Inspector	\$ 45.00	\$ 65.00	hour
Alternate Subcode Officials	\$ 25.00	\$ 45.00	hour
Alternate Inspectors	\$ 40.00	\$ 65.00	hour
Special Inspections	\$ 20.00	\$ 20.00	hour

RECREATION SEASONAL

POSITION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	PER
Tennis Instructor	\$ 11.90	\$ 15.00	hour
Tennis Director	\$ 75.00	\$ 85.00	hour
Art Director	\$ 50.00	\$ 75.00	hour
Cooking Director	\$ 40.00	\$ 50.00	hour
Camp Director	\$ 35.00	\$ 45.00	hour
Assistant Camp Director	\$ 25.00	\$ 30.00	hour
Camp Counselors	\$ 11.90	\$ 15.00	hour
Field Hockey Director	\$ 30.00	\$ 40.00	hour
Field Hockey Coach	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00	hour
Field Hockey Referees	\$ 12.00	\$ 15.00	hour
Recreation Assistant	\$ 11.90	\$ 15.00	hour
Soccer Camp Director	\$ 35.00	\$ 50.00	hour
Soccer Counselor	\$ 11.90	\$ 15.00	hour
Soccer Trainer	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00	hour
Track Camp Director	\$ 30.00	\$ 40.00	hour
Track Advisor	\$ 25.00	\$ 30.00	hour
Track Specialist	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00	hour
Basketball Director	\$ 30.00	\$ 50.00	hour
Basketball Referee	\$ 25.00	\$ 30.00	hour
Junior Referee	\$ 11.90	\$ 15.00	hour
Umpires	\$ 30.00	\$ 30.00	hour

POOL SEASONAL

POSITION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	PER
Pool Manager	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	season
Assistant Managers	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 10,000.00	season
Aquatics Director	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	season
Head Swim Team Coach *	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,500.00	season
Assistant Swim Team Coach	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	season
Swim Team Assistant	\$ 750.00	\$ 1,300.00	season
Head Diving Coach	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	season
Assistant Diving Coach	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 2,000.00	season
Activities Director	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 4,000.00	season
Pre-Season Rate	\$ 11.90	\$ 11.90	hour
Swim Instructor	\$ 11.90	\$ 11.90	hour
Head Lifeguard	\$ 13.60	\$ 13.60	hour
Lifeguard	\$ 12.05	\$ 12.05	hour
Head Gate Attendant	\$ 12.05	\$ 12.05	hour

Gate Attendant	\$ 11.90	\$ 11.90	hour
Head Maintenance	\$ 12.60	\$ 12.60	hour
Maintenance	\$ 11.90	\$ 11.90	hour

*Position not filled when Aquatics Director position is filled and acts as Head Coach.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

POSITION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	PER
Municipal Court Judge	\$15,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	year
Municipal Public Defender	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 25,000.00	year

LIBRARY PERSONNEL-SALARY ADJUSTMENT AND INCREASE PER LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

POSITION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM	PER
FT Library Director	\$ 85,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	year
FT Principal Librarian	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 81,000.00	year
FT Senior Librarian (Youth/User Services)	\$ 58,000.00	\$ 72,000.00	year
FT Senior Librarian (Adult/User Services)	\$ 58,000.00	\$ 72,000.00	year
FT Librarian	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 64,000.00	year
FT Librarian (Adult/Youth Services)	\$52,000.00	\$ 64,000.00	year
FT Librarian (Adult/User Services)	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 64,000.00	year
FT Librarian (Youth Services)	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 64,000.00	year
FT Principal Library Assistant	\$ 38,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	year
FT Senior Library Assistant	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	year
FT Library Assistant	\$ 27,500.00	\$ 33,000.00	year
PT Senior Librarian	\$ 32.00	\$ 40.00	hour
PT Senior Librarian (Youth Services)	\$ 32.00	\$ 40.00	hour
PT Librarian	\$ 28.00	\$ 35.00	hour
PT Librarian (Youth Services)	\$ 28.00	\$ 35.00	hour
PT Library Bookkeeper	\$ 20.00	\$ 30.00	hour
PT Library Technology Assistant	\$ 20.00	\$ 25.00	hour
PT Senior Library Assistant	\$ 18.00	\$ 25.00	hour
PT Library Children's Service Specialist	\$ 18.00	\$ 25.00	hour
PT Library Technical Services Assistant	\$ 18.00	\$ 25.00	hour
PT Library Youth Services Specialist	\$ 18.00	\$ 23.00	hour
PT Library Assistant	\$ 14.50	\$ 18.00	hour
PT Library Page	\$ 13.00	\$ 15.00	hour

B. The hourly range of compensation for the public works positions hereinafter named shall be as follows, all payable in bi-weekly installments except as otherwise provided for:

POSITION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Parking Maintenance	\$ 31.19	\$ 34.85
Pump Operator	\$ 31.67	\$ 35.38
Maintenance Repairman	\$ 31.44	\$ 35.12
Master Mechanic	\$ 31.19	\$ 34.85
Heavy Equipment Operator	\$ 31.19	\$ 34.85
Head Forestry	\$ 31.19	\$ 34.85
Assistant Equipment Operator	\$ 30.13	\$ 33.69
Forestry	\$ 30.13	\$ 33.69
Assistant Mechanic	\$ 30.13	\$ 33.69
Assistant Pump Operator	\$ 30.13	\$ 33.69
Parks Worker	\$ 31.19	\$ 34.85
Drivers	\$ 29.27	\$ 32.75
Laborer	\$ 28.34	\$ 31.73

Additional compensation by way of holiday pay, longevity, overtime, sick days, personal days, insurance benefits and other matters related thereto are fully set forth in the collective bargaining agreement and are hereby incorporated in this ordinance.

1. The salary range of compensation of all officers of the police department hereinafter named shall be as follows, all payable in equal bi-weekly installments except as otherwise provided for:

POSITION	MINIMUM	MAXIMUM
Sergeant	\$108,066.00	\$126,459.00
Detective	\$102,058.00	\$119,602.00
Patrolman	\$ 45,144.00	\$116,035.00
Academy	\$ 25,500.00	\$ 25,500.00

Additional compensation by way of Corporal assignment, holiday pay, longevity, overtime, sick days, personal days, insurance benefits and other matters related are fully set forth in the collective bargaining agreement and are hereby incorporated in this ordinance.

2. Additional compensation by way of holiday pay, overtime, sick days, personal days, insurance benefits for full time employees not covered in collective bargaining agreements are fully set forth in the Personnel Resolution and amendments thereto previously adopted by the Borough Council and are hereby incorporated in this Ordinance.
3. No officer or employee shall be paid at a base rate which is above the maximum rate for any salary range in any of the aforementioned groups. Unless otherwise provided for all new employees or newly promoted employees shall be paid at the minimum rate of the salary range for the position to which they are hired. However, the Borough Administrator may hire a prospective employee who possesses qualifications that are greater than the minimum qualifications for the position at a rate above the minimum rate, but in no case shall a new employee be hired at a rate which is greater than that of a current employee in the same group.
4. This Ordinance shall supersede and replace any and all prior Salary Ordinances and Amendments thereto. Upon the effective date of this Ordinance, any and all prior Salary Ordinances and Amendments thereto and all salaries and compensation authorized therein shall have no further effect. The within Ordinance represents the salaries and compensation to be received by all current, exiting employees and offices or those anticipated to be filled in the near future. In the event that an existing office or position is currently vacant, and a salary or compensation is not set forth in this Ordinance, this Salary Ordinance shall be amended to create a salary and/or salary range for such position or office prior to said position or office being filled.
5. If any portion of this ordinance is in conflict with any portion of a collective bargaining agreement, then the collective bargaining agreement shall take precedence.
6. All ordinances and parts of ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed.

7. This ordinance shall take effect after its publication according to law and the amendments contained herein shall be retroactive to January 1, 2022.

Ordinance - Introduction

ORDINANCE 2022-03

CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR THE SITE OF A FUTURE EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

Council President Delia made a motion that Ordinance 2022-03 be introduced and be taken up on first reading, second by Councilmember Rasmussen, with all in favor, motion carried, 6-0.

Council President Delia asked that Ordinance 2022-03 be read by title only.

Ms. Zupan read Ordinance 2022-03 by title only.

Council President Delia moved that Ordinance 2022-03 be passed on first reading, be published according to law, and a public hearing be set down for Monday, March 14, 2022, second by Councilmember Rasmussen.

Roll Call: Yeas: Branch, Hirsch, Kandel, Koskoski, Rasmussen, Delia
Nays: None

Ordinance 2022-03 was passed on first reading, 6-0, and will be published according to law.

ORDINANCE 2022-03

*Borough of Metuchen
County of Middlesex
State of New Jersey*

CAPITAL ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR THE SITE OF A FUTURE EMERGENCY SERVICES CENTER IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Borough Council (the “Council”) of the Borough of Metuchen, in the County of Middlesex, New Jersey (the “Borough”) has adopted a budget for the expenditure of public funds for capital purposes to give effect to general improvement programs, including the acquisition of real property; and

WHEREAS, the capital improvement appropriations have not heretofore been earmarked for specific purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Borough has reserved funds in the capital improvement appropriations for the acquisition of real property and needs to make a capital improvement appropriation for the costs of the acquisition of the real property located at 98 Essex Avenue in the Borough (the “Property”), which Property is anticipated to be used by the Borough as the site for a future Emergency Services Center; and

WHEREAS, there is money available for the costs of the acquisition of the Property in the Capital Fund Reserve for Capital Improvements of the Borough (the “Reserve for Capital Improvements”); and

WHEREAS, the Borough has determined to appropriate reserve for capital improvements funds in the amount of \$545,000 towards the costs of the acquisition of the Property.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen (not less than two thirds of all the members thereof affirmatively concurring), as follows:

Section 1. The Borough is hereby authorized to acquire the Property.

Section 2. The Borough hereby appropriates the sum of \$545,000.00 from the Reserves for Capital Improvements for the purpose of financing the costs of the acquisition of the Property.

Section 3. The acquisition of the Property described in Section 1 of this capital ordinance is a lawful capital purpose of the Borough, and no part of the cost thereof has been or shall be assessed against property specially benefited thereby. The period of usefulness of said purpose is 40 years.

Section 4. The capital budget of the Borough is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this capital ordinance to the extent of any inconsistency herewith and the resolutions promulgated by the Local Finance Board of the Division showing all detail of the amended capital budget and capital program as approved by the Director of the Division, are on file with the Clerk of the Borough and are available for public inspection.

Section 5. This capital ordinance shall take effect after final adoption and publication as required by applicable law.

Communication Consent Agenda – Items A - E

Council President Delia made a motion to approve Communication Consent Agenda, Items A - E, second by Councilmember Rasmussen, with all in favor, motion carried, 6-0.

- A. Receive and Accept Human Relations Commission Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2021, April 6, 2021, May 4, 2021, and June 1, 2021
- B. Receive and Accept Library Board Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2022
- C. Receive and Approve letter regarding East Coast Greenway's New York City to Philadelphia Bicycle Ride through Metuchen on May 14th, 2022
- D. Receive and Approve letter regarding Spring Street Fair on May 15, 2022
- E. Receive and Accept Resignation of Danielle McMahan from the Pool Commission

Report of Borough Administrator

No report.

Reports of Councilmembers

Council President Delia

- The Accessibility Committee will be meeting tomorrow and the TV and *Technology* Committee will be meeting on Thursday.
- Restaurant Week is happening now, please go out and support local restaurants.

Councilmember Rasmussen

- The Environmental Commission will report soon on the algae problem at Tommy's Pond.

Councilmember Koskoski

- No report.

Councilmember Kandel

- No report.

Councilmember Hirsch

- No report.

Councilmember Branch

- The Human Relations Commission and Arts Council will present the ‘Windows of Understanding’ Virtual Community Conversation on March 10 at 7 p.m.
- The Human Relations Commission would like to thank everybody who came out for the Lunar New Year Celebration and the screening of ‘The Trial of Adolf Eichmann’ at Temple Emanu-El.

Report of the Mayor

No report.

New Business Consent Agenda – Resolutions 2022-67 to 2022-73 and 2022-75

Council President Delia moved to approve New Business Consent Agenda Resolutions 2022-67 to 2022-73 and 2022-75, second by Councilmember Rasmussen, with all in favor, motion carried, 6-0.

RESOLUTION 2022-67

RESOLUTION APPOINTING FIREFIGHTER

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Borough Council have been notified by Robert Donnan, Chief of the Metuchen Fire Department, that **Vipin K. Singh** has been approved to be a permanent member of the Metuchen Fire Department.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen that in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Code of the Borough of Metuchen, that **Vipin K. Singh** be and hereby is elected, approved, and confirmed as a permanent member of the Fire Department of the Borough of Metuchen.

RESOLUTION 2022-68

RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2022 TEMPORARY BUDGET

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-19 of the Local Budget Act provides that temporary appropriations shall be made for the purposes and amounts required in the manner and time therein provided;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, those the following additional temporary emergency appropriations shall be made for the year 2022, effective February 22, 2022:

Interlocal – 911 Services Rutgers University	.	276,000.00
Group Insurance		200,000.00
Streets & Roads	OE	40,000.00
Emergency Management	OE	2,000.00
FICA		20,000.00
	TOTAL	538,000.00

RESOLUTION 2022-69

**RESOLUTION AMENDING CERTAIN POSITIONS AND SALARIES FOR
CALENDAR YEAR 2022**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen that the pay of each officer and employee whose pay range is established under Ordinance 2022-02 and amendments thereto and who is not covered by a collective bargaining agreement is hereby set for the calendar year commencing January 1, 2022, as follows:

POSITIONS:

Council Members to \$ 5,000 /yr.

Council President	to	\$ 6,500/yr.
Mayor	to	\$ 10,000/yr.

Fire Inspector (Fire Prevention) – Leonard Drumetski only- salary adjustment to \$12,000/yr.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no officer or employee shall be paid at a rate which is above the maximum rate for any salary range in any of the aforementioned groups; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that unless otherwise provided for all new employees or newly promoted employees shall be paid at the minimum rate of the salary range for the position to which they are hired. However, the Borough Administrator may hire a prospective employee who possesses qualifications for the position at a rate above the minimum rate, but in no case shall a new employee be hired at a rate which is greater than that of a current employee in the same range.

RESOLUTION 2022-70

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ENTRY INTO AND THE EXECUTION OF A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN AND RUTGERS, THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE PROVISION OF E9-1-1 EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND RADIO DISPATCHING SERVICES

WHEREAS, the Borough of Metuchen has a need for E9-1-1 Emergency Communications and radio dispatching services and Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey (“Rutgers University”) has the ability to make the services available under certain terms and conditions; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act, *N.J.S.A.* 40A:65-1, et seq. (the “Act”), any local unit may, by the adoption of a resolution of its governing body, enter into an agreement with any other local unit or units to provide or receive any service that each unit participating in the agreement is empowered to provide or receive within its own jurisdiction and that such agreement between the local units for the provision of shared services shall be entered pursuant to the Act; and

WHEREAS, Rutgers University has offered to provide the Borough of Metuchen with E9-1-1 emergency communication and radio dispatching services; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Metuchen has determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough and to obtain the E9-1-1 emergency communication and dispatching services by way of a shared services agreement with Rutgers University; and

WHEREAS, Metuchen and Rutgers have negotiated the terms and conditions of a shared services agreement and an addendum thereto wherein Rutgers University would provide, *inter alia*, E-9-1-1 emergency communication and dispatching services for a period of ten (10) years commencing August 1, 2022 to the Borough of Metuchen; and

WHEREAS, the Borough of Metuchen has determined that it is in the best interest of the Borough to obtain, E9-1-1 emergency communication and dispatching services from Rutgers University at an initial implementation cost of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00), an initial annual cost of two hundred seventy thousand eight hundred fifty-two dollars (\$270,852.00), plus an annual maintenance fee not to exceed forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) in the initial year of the agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer of the Borough of Metuchen has certified that there is sufficient available funds to authorize the within Shared Services Agreement; and

WHEREAS, Mayor and Council find that it is in the best interest of the Borough of Metuchen to enter into the Shared Services Agreement and Addendum to the Shared Services Agreement with Rutgers University to memorialize the provision and receipt of shared services between the Parties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Metuchen that it hereby authorizes the entry into and the execution of a Shared Services Agreement and Addendum A to the Shared Service Agreement by and between the Borough of Metuchen and Rutgers University for the provision of E9-1-1 emergency communication and dispatching services in general conformity with the terms and conditions set out in the proposed Shared Services Agreement and Addendum A to the Shared Services Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Council of the Borough of Metuchen that it hereby authorizes all Borough officials to take all necessary actions in order to effectuate the within resolution and the Shared Services Agreement and Addendum A to the Shred Services Agreement, including but not limited to the Mayor and Acting Clerk are hereby authorized to execute a Shared Service Agreement and Addendum A to the Shared Services Agreement on behalf of the Borough of Metuchen in a final form acceptable to the Mayor and Borough Administrator.

RESOLUTION 2022-71

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH OF METUCHEN THROUGH THE METUCHEN POLICE DEPARTMENT TO FILE AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FEDERAL 1033 PROGRAM TO ENABLE SAID DEPARTMENT TO REQUEST AND ACQUIRE EXCESS DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS, the United State Congress authorized the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Law Enforcement Support Office (LESO) 1033 Program (the 1033 "Program") to make use of excess Department of Defense personal property by making that personal property available to municipal, county and State law enforcement agencies ("LEAs"); and

WHEREAS, DLA rules mandate that all equipment acquired through the 1033 Program remain under the control of the requesting LEA; and

WHEREAS, participation in the 1033 Program allows municipal and county law enforcement agencies to obtain property they might not otherwise be able to afford in order to enhance community preparedness, response, and resiliency; and

WHEREAS, although property is provided through the 1033 Program at no cost to municipal and county law enforcement agencies, these entities are responsible for the costs associated with delivery, maintenance, fueling, and upkeep of the property, and for specialized training on the operation of any acquired property; and

WHEREAS, N.J. S.A. 40A:5-30.2 requires that the governing body of the municipality or county approve, by a majority of the full membership, both enrollment in, and the acquisition of any property through, the 1033 Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE METUCHEN BOROUGH COUNCIL that the Metuchen Police Department is hereby authorized to enroll in the 1033 Program for a one-year period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Metuchen Police Department is hereby authorized to acquire items of non-controlled property designated "DEMIL A," which may include office supplies, office furniture, computers, electronic equipment, generators, field packs, non-military vehicles, clothing, traffic and transit signal systems, exercise equipment, storage devices and containers, tools, medical and first aid equipment and supplies, personal protection equipment and supplies, lighting supplies, beds and sleeping mats, wet and cold weather equipment and supplies, respirators, binoculars, and any other supplies or equipment of a non-military nature identified by the Metuchen Police Department, if it shall become available within the period of time for which this Resolution authorizes, based on the needs of the Metuchen Police Department without restriction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Metuchen Police Department is hereby authorized to acquire the following "DEMIL B through Q" property, if it shall become available within the period of time for which this Resolution authorizes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the property available through the Program, "DEMIL A through Q" is attached hereto; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Metuchen Police Department shall develop and implement a full training plan and policy for the maintenance and use of the acquired property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Metuchen Police Department shall provide a quarterly accounting of all property obtained through the 1033 Program which shall be available to the public upon request; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately and shall be valid to authorize requests to acquire (1) "DEMIL A" property that may be made available through the 1033 Program and (2) "DEMIL B through Q" property both of which that may be made available through the 1033 Program during the time period for which this Resolution authorizes, with program participation and all property request authorization terminating on December 31, 2022.

RESOLUTION 2022-72

RESOLUTION TO GRANT EXEMPTION FOR TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN AND TO REFUND AND CANCEL 2021 AND 2022 TAXES

WHEREAS, the Tax Assessor of the Borough of Metuchen has been provided sufficient proof that the owner of the property known as 6 Park Place, Block 154.3, Lot 23, in the Borough of Metuchen is owned by a 100% Permanently & Totally Disabled Veteran, as noted in a letter from the Department of Veterans Affairs dated September 6, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the property owner Randolph Mojica, being determined to be totally and permanently disabled by the Department of Veteran Affairs applied to the Borough of Metuchen for the tax exemption on December 21, 2021, for Block 154.3, Lot 2, effective December 21, 2021.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen that the Chief Financial Officer/Tax Collector is hereby authorized to refund the homeowner the monies already paid for the 2021 4th quarter taxes, prorated for the period of exemption in the amount of \$227.19, and \$2,271.88 for 1st quarter 2022.

RESOLUTION 2022-73

RESOLUTION APPROVING APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS

WHEREAS, the Mayor of Metuchen has recommended that the following individual be appointed to the following Borough of Metuchen Board, Committee, or Commission.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Borough Council of Metuchen hereby confirms the appointment to the following listed Borough of Metuchen Board, Committee, or Commission.

Lisa Hyman, Member, Arts Council, unexpired term ending 12/31/2022
Heather Utt, member, Pool Commission, unexpired term ending 12/31/2023

RESOLUTION 2022-75

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE LETTER OF RETIREMENT FROM CHIEF OF POLICE DAVID IRIZARRY

WHEREAS, David Irizarry has served the Borough of Metuchen for over thirty (30) years; and

WHEREAS, David Irizarry has served as the Chief of Police of the Borough of Metuchen for over seven (7) years; and

WHEREAS, Chief David Irizarry has submitted his letter of retirement to the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen to be effective June 1, 2022.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen that they hereby accept Chief David Irizarry's letter of retirement to be effective June 1, 2022.

Other New Business

Council President Delia made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-74, authorizing the payment of the Bill List in the amount of \$4,021,656.32, second by Councilmember Rasmussen, with all in favor, motion carried, 6-0.

RESOLUTION 2022-74

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF THE BILL LIST

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen that the proper warrants be drawn and all bills be paid totaling \$4,021,656.32.

Adjournment

Council President Delia made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Councilwoman Rasmussen, with all in favor, 6-0, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Zupan
Acting Borough Clerk