

**ORDINANCE 2025-18**

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

**ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 193 OF THE CODE OF THE BOROUGH OF  
METUCHEN ENTITLED “WRECKERS AND TOWERS”**

**WHEREAS**, the Chief of Police have recommended that the Borough revise and update Chapter 193 of the Code of the Borough of Metuchen entitled, “Wreckers and Towers”;

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have determined based upon the recommendations of the Chief of Police amend Chapter 193, entitled “Wreckers and Towers”.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Metuchen that Chapter 193 entitled “Wreckers and Towers” is hereby amended to state as follows:

**CHAPTER 193**

**WRECKERS AND TOWERS**

**§ 193-1. Purpose.**

The purpose of this chapter is to provide standards, regulations and rates for all police-requested towing and roadside repair services on roadways within the Borough of Metuchen. Police requested services shall be rotated among licensees and provided under the supervision of the Police Department of the Borough of Metuchen.

**§ 193-2. Definitions.**

As used in this section, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**BASIC TOWING SERVICE** — The removal and transportation of a vehicle from a highway, street, or other public or private road, or a parking area, or from a storage facility, and other services normally incident thereto.

**CRUISING** — The operation of an unengaged tow truck along the public streets in any fashion intended or calculated to solicit business.

**EMPLOYEE** — Any person employed by a licensee to operate a wrecker.

**GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT** — The registration weight, the manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating or actual weight.

**WRECKER** — A vehicle used to tow or remove other vehicles usually so damaged or disabled that they cannot proceed under their own power. Class I wreckers are capable of towing or removing a category I vehicle and class II wreckers are capable of removing or towing a category II vehicle.

**§ 193-3. License.**

A license shall be required to perform police-requested towing and roadside repair services on roadways within the Borough of Metuchen. Any person or entity wishing to obtain a license pursuant to this chapter shall submit a license application to the Borough Clerk. Towing operators shall be licensed for placement on one or both of the following: (1) the Light/Medium Duty Tow List, or (2) the Heavy Duty Tow List. Each list shall be separately maintained and administered by the Chief of Police or the Chief's designee, and towers may apply for inclusion on either or both lists based on eligibility and qualifications.

**§ 193-4. Term of license.**

Licenses shall be issued by the Borough Clerk. Each license shall be issued for a maximum term of three (3) years and shall terminate upon the expiration of the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) year. All licensees shall have their facilities and vehicles inspected on an annual basis by a member of the Metuchen Police Department and at that time shall pay their annual fee.

**§ 193-5. Annual License fee.**

A. A fee of \$100.00 per vehicle shall be paid annually by the license applicant in order to obtain a license for light/medium duty towing.

B. A fee of \$200.00 shall be paid annually by the license applicant in order to obtain a license for heavy duty towing.

C. License fees shall be nonrefundable for any reason.

**§ 193-6. Requirements for licenses.**

No person or entity shall be eligible for the issuance of a license unless the following requirements are fulfilled:

A. All towing equipment utilized by applicants shall be in compliance with state, federal and local laws.

B. Applicants shall have the following minimum equipment:

(1) One wrecker capable of removing an automobile.

(2) Safety equipment to be carried on all trucks shall include: A universal towing sling, except flatbeds; J-hooks and chains; one snatch block for three-eighths to one-half inch cable; two high-test safety chains; auxiliary safety light kit to place on rear of towed vehicle; four-lamp or three-lamp revolving amber light or lamp bars of at least 500 candle power pointed to the rear, mounted so as not to be obstructed by the towed vehicle(s) and said lights must be engaged during the removal of the vehicle(s); at least three flares or other suitable warning devices visible for a distance of not less than 1,000 feet from the disabled vehicles; toolbox with assortment of hand tools; rear working lights and rear marker lights; cab lights;

bodysclearing lights located to clear towed vehicle; blocking choke for wrecker while working safety cones; shovels and broom; steering wheel lock or tiedown; and an operational fire extinguisher designed for vehicular fires which must be 25lb BC dry chemical; and five gallons of absorbent granules for cleaning up fluid spills.

(3) All wreckers must be properly and permanently lettered on both sides according to Title 39 of the Motor Vehicle Code of New Jersey.

C. License applicants shall submit a detailed list of all wreckers and service vehicles, as well as supplementary/auxiliary equipment owned or leased which will be used in performance of this chapter. A copy of the vehicle registration, amber light permit(s), certificate of insurance for vehicles and property, insurance cards and leases must also be provided with this list. The list must contain the following information; type of vehicle, year/make, capacity and condition of the vehicle.

D. License applicants shall demonstrate that they maintain a storage facility properly zoned for such use. Each license applicant must have an outdoor storage area large enough to accommodate at least 10 vehicles. Each license applicant may have an indoor, secured storage area sufficient to house at least two vehicles and provide twenty-four-hour security for the same for the storing of impounded vehicles involved in criminal matters. In order for a towing company to be considered for a towing license, their storage facility must be within six (6) miles of the center point of Metuchen (Metuchen Train Station). This shall include both light/medium duty towing licenses and heavy duty towing licenses.

E. License applicants shall maintain the following insurance:

(1) A garage keeper's liability policy covering fire, theft, and explosion in the minimum amount of \$60,000.

(2) A garage liability policy covering the operation of the licensee's equipment or vehicles for an amount of \$300,000 for any one person killed or injured in any one accident; and \$100,000 for all property damage from one accident.

(3) Automobile liability insurance in the amount of not less than \$1,000,000 combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage liability.

(4) Worker's compensation insurance insuring the obligation of the wrecker operator under the New Jersey Workers' Compensation and Occupational Disease Laws.

(5) Insurance policies shall provide collision coverage for vehicles in tow.

F. License applicants shall submit the following for the applicant and all employees: name, address, date of birth, social security number, photocopies of all New Jersey Drivers' licenses (including commercial drivers licenses), signature, name and address of an individual to contact in case of emergency. The Metuchen Police Department shall conduct background investigations of all license applicants and their employees. Any

person with a criminal record will not be allowed to perform Police Department towing and service and/or be issued a license.

G. In order for a towing company to be considered for a towing license, their storage facility must be within six (6) miles of the center point of Metuchen (Metuchen Train Station). This shall include both light/medium duty towing licenses and heavy duty towing licenses.

**§ 193-7. Licensee standards of conduct and performance.**

All licensees shall comply with the following requirements of conduct and performance:

A. Signs in view of the public shall be posted at storage facilities which contain the licensee's license number, business name, phone number, hours of operation, and towing fee schedule as outlined in this chapter in its entirety.

B. Outdoor storage areas must be able to be entirely lit from dusk through dawn and must be entirely enclosed by a sturdy fence at least eight feet in height, unless any statute or regulation requires otherwise. Storage areas shall be kept clean so as to be reasonably accommodating to persons who may come upon said premises.

C. Licensees shall not store towed vehicles on top of one another, shall not park any said vehicles on public roadways or sidewalks, nor shall licensees block any public roadways or sidewalks with towed vehicles.

D. Employees of licensees must be registered with the Metuchen Police Department prior to performing any services for licensees. Information on employees shall be updated every 90 days in order to keep current with changes in personnel.

E. Licensees and/or their employees must possess a valid New Jersey driver's license.

F. Licensees and/or their employees shall be fully trained and knowledgeable in the operation of all required equipment.

G. Licensees and/or their employees must be equipped with and trained in the basic tools necessary to perform minor roadside repairs.

H. Licensees and/or their employees must be equipped with and trained in the necessary tools and equipment to perform all facets of the safe and efficient removal of all types of motor vehicles under this chapter regardless of the physical condition of the vehicle.

I. Licensees are responsible for the removal of all debris from an accident scene, which includes sweeping the roadway. Licensees and/or their employees must be equipped with and trained in the necessary equipment needed to completely remove, and must remove, all nonhazardous debris from the scene of the accident. Debris must be

placed in a container or bag. Any minor fluid spills will be picked up by the wrecker operator and may be put out in the regular trash after 24 hours.

J. Licensees and their employees must wear orange reflective safety vests when engaged in the towing or repair of motor vehicles while on public roadways.

K. Licensees and their employees must follow the directions of law enforcement personnel.

L. Licensees and their employees are expected to always act in a professional manner and at all times to be courteous and respectful towards members of the public. Licensees and their employees shall not represent to any member of the public that they are employees of the Borough of Metuchen.

M. Licensees shall not engage in cruising.

N. Licensees shall be responsible for all vehicles and contents in their custody that were towed off the roadway under the direction of the police.

O. Licensees and their employees shall preserve evidence needed for potential criminal and civil cases at the direction of law enforcement personnel. Vehicles involved in criminal matters which are impounded and stored in a licensee's storage area shall not be removed from such storage area until written permission is obtained from the Metuchen Police Department.

P. Licensees shall notify the Metuchen Police Department on a monthly basis if they are in custody of any unclaimed vehicles. The Police Department will file for titles of abandoned motor vehicles left on a licensee's premises. Any licensee failing to notify the Metuchen Police Department within 30 days that a vehicle has been abandoned shall forfeit storage fees for days in excess of 30 days such vehicle is stored.

Q. Licensees and their employees shall cooperate with other licensees and their drivers in case of emergency services at the scene of the accidents and/or disasters.

R. Licensees shall arrive at the scene within 20 minutes from a police request for service.

S. Wreckers shall be maintained and operated in a safe and prudent manner and in accordance with all existing traffic regulations.

T. Licensees shall maintain an accurate file of all vehicles towed. Such files shall be maintained for three years.

U. Licensees shall make their storage facilities open to the public Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

V. Licensees must post the fee schedule contained in this section in its entirety on each wrecker in easy view of the public.

W. Licensees shall fill out an abandoned vehicle form and bring it to the Metuchen Police Department on the thirty first (31st) day of holding a vehicle. If the vehicle is sold at a public auction, the minimum bid will be the cost of the tow and storage fees unless a lower bid is authorized by the licensee.

X. All licensees must have a phone number where they can be reached 24 hours a day to take calls for police-requested towing and service. Such phone number may not be a beeper number. There will be at least one yearly meeting between all licensees and the Metuchen Police Department. All licensees will have at least one representative present.

Y. If a licensee fails to respond to a towing or service call in a timely manner, the next licensee on the appropriate list shall be called to handle the call. A wrecker which arrives at the site of a towing or service call after the time to respond has expired shall not be allowed to handle that call, in the event a second licensee has already been called to handle the towing or service call.

Z. Licensees may not transfer a license issued pursuant to this chapter under any circumstances.

AA. All towing equipment utilized by licensees shall be in compliance with state, federal, and local laws and shall be inspected by the Metuchen Police Department on an annual basis.

BB. All towing equipment utilized by licensees shall be in compliance with state, federal, and local laws and shall be inspected by the Metuchen Police Department on an annual basis.

CC. Subcontracting. The towing agency shall not assign calls to other tow companies. In the event that the assigned agency is unavailable, the next company on the list will be called until a towing agency is able to complete the request. Subcontracting of any services under this section is only allowed when a towing agency is temporarily in need of an additional tow vehicle or extraordinary circumstances require specialized and unique recovery and transport services. A copy of the subcontractor's invoice must be provided to the patron at the time the vehicle is released. The subcontractor must also follow the fees established in the ordinance. If a vehicle needs to be stored that vehicle must be towed to the originally called towing agency's storage lot.

**§ 193-8. Maximum fees to be charged by licensees; response times.**

A. The following fees are the maximum fees which may be charged by licensees:

<b>Service</b>	<b>Rate</b>
Towing Charge	
Light Duty – up to 10,000 lbs.	\$155.00 for hook-up
Medium Duty – 10,001-16,000 lbs.	\$300.00 per hour
Heavy Duty – 16,001 and above	\$500.00 per hour

Motorcycles	\$155.00
Additional charges	
Recovery/Winching (In addition to Towing)	
Light/Medium Duty vehicles up to 16,000 lbs.	\$3350.00 per hour charged in ½ hour increments of \$175.00 per ½ hour.
Heavy Duty 16,001 lbs. and above	\$650.00 per hour
Storage	
Storage of all towed vehicles except heavy duty	\$50.00 per day/day in-day out
Storage of all heavy duty vehicles 16,001 lbs and above	\$125.00 per unit per day
Administrative charges	
Moving of vehicles	\$50.00 per vehicle
Specialized Recovery Equipment	
Rotator / Crane Recovery Unity	\$1,200.00 per hour
Tractor with Landoll Trailer or Detach Trailer	\$500.00 per hour
Tractor/Transport Hauler	\$350.00 per hour
Refrigerator Trailer W/ Tractor	\$550.00 per hour
Box Trailer W/ Tractor	\$500.00 per hour
Air Cushion Unit	\$1,000.00 per hour
Light Tower	\$250.00 per hour
Pallet Jack	\$200.00 flat rate
Rollers	\$200.00 flat rate
Any Other Specialized Equipment	\$300.00 per hour
Loader/ Backhoe/ Telescopic Handler/ Bulldozer/ Bobcat	\$400.00 per hour per piece of equipment
Forklift	\$400.00 per hour
Dump Truck/ Dump Trailer W/ Tractor	\$400.00 per hour
Roll-Off W/ Container	\$400.00 per hour plus disposal costs
Recovery Supervisor Vehicle	\$150.00 per hour
Scene Safety Equipment, Communication Equipment, Traffic Management Equipment	\$250.00 per hour each type used
Recovery Support Vehicle/ Trailer	\$350.00 per hour
Additional Recovery Equipment	
Additional Services/Notes	

Fuel/ Hazmat/ Cargo Spills Clean-up and Disposal	Time and material costs
Hazmat and Trash Recovery	10% Surcharge
Subcontractor Mark-Up	20%
Administrative Charge After 3rd Visit to Vehicle	\$50.00
After Hours Release	\$85.00
Tarping/ Wrapping Vehicle	\$90.00 per car \$250.00 per truck

B. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:48-2.50, all fees paid to a licensee by the Borough of Metuchen for the storage of motor vehicles shall not exceed the following:

- (1) A limit of \$3 per day for the first 30 days of storage per vehicle;
- (2) A limit of \$2 per day for the 31st day of storage and any day thereafter, and;
- (3) A limit of \$400 per vehicle stored regardless of the duration of the storage, except that a waiver may be granted for good cause upon the request of a municipality by the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs.
- (4) Vehicles stored on the property of the Borough of Metuchen shall be subject to a storage fee of \$20 per day payable to the Borough.
- (5) Licensees may accept Visa, MasterCard, or cash as payment for services. Checks, if accepted, will be by mutual consent of tow company and motorist.
- (6) Mileage fees are not permitted within the borders of Metuchen. No other fees or charges are permitted except as set forth above.

C. Response times. Licensee shall arrive at the scene within 20 minutes of the request made by the Police Department. If a licensee/tower does not respond within the allowed response time, the Police Department may call the next licensee/tower on the approved list and the first licensee/tower shall forfeit all rights to any fees or charges for their failure to meet the response time requirements of this chapter. In addition a licensee who fails to meet the response time requirement may also be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Section 193-9, including not limited to a suspension for up to three days or for repeat offenders license revocation and removal from the list set forth in Section 193-10.

**§ 193-9. License suspension or revocation.**

A. The Police Chief or his designee may suspend or revoke the license of any licensee if the licensee fails to comply with the requirements of this chapter.

B. The Chief of Police or his designee shall hold a hearing prior to suspending or revoking any license, except that the Chief of Police or his designee may order an immediate temporary license suspension in the interest of public health and safety and welfare. Licensees shall be given notice of the hearing at least five business days prior to a

hearing date. Licensees shall be entitled to a hearing within five business days of any temporary suspension to determine whether any further action is necessary.

**§ 193-10. Police-requested towing.**

The Police Department shall maintain current rotational lists of wrecker operators for police requested service calls and towing calls. The Police Department shall maintain a list for service calls and two towing call lists; one for wreckers capable of towing light/medium-duty vehicles and one for wreckers capable of towing heavy-duty vehicles. The Borough of Metuchen Tow List will be a 24-hour rotation between tow agencies for Light/Medium Duty tows. The company's individual day will start at 12:00 a.m. and will end at 11:59 p.m. The Borough of Metuchen Heavy Duty Tow list will be a weekly rotation between tow agencies for Heavy Duty tows. The Rotation will start at 12:00 a.m. on Sunday and will end at 11:59 p.m. on Saturday.

**§ 193-11. Rules and regulations.**

The Chief of Police may promulgate rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this chapter.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Council that all remaining sections of Code of the Borough of Metuchen not specifically amended herein shall not be affected by the within amendments and shall remain in full force and effect.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that should any section, paragraph, sentence, clause, or phase of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reason, the remaining portion of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect, and to that end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that all ordinances or parts of ordinances inconsistent with this amending ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of their inconsistencies only; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that this ordinance shall take effect after final passage, publication as required by law and on January 1, 2026.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** by the Mayor and Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen that all Borough officials shall take all necessary actions to in order to effectuate the within Ordinance.

Introduction: October 27, 2025  
 Date of Publication: October 31, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER	YES	NO	NV	AB	COUNCILMEMBER	YES	NO	NV	AB
BRANCH				X	HYMAN	X			
DELIA	X				JETHWANI	X			
GIAMBOI	X				KANDEL	X			
MOTION	DELIA			SECOND			GIAMBOI		
X - INDICATES VOTE				AB- ABSENT			NV- NOT VOTING		

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of an ordinance introduced by the Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen, Middlesex County, New Jersey, at a regular meeting held on October 27, 2025.

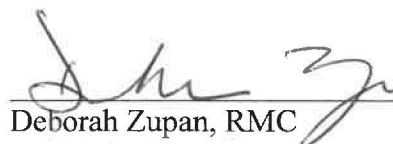
  
 Deborah Zupan, RMC  
 Borough Clerk

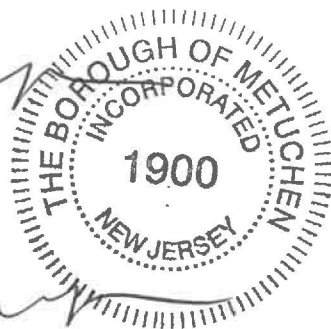


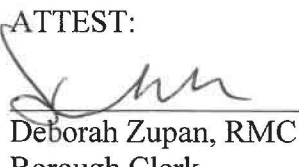
Adopted: November 10, 2025  
 Date of Publication: November 14, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER	YES	NO	NV	AB	COUNCILMEMBER	YES	NO	NV	AB
BRANCH	X				HYMAN	X			
DELIA	X				JETHWANI	X			
GIAMBOI	X				KANDEL	X			
MOTION	DELIA			SECOND			GIAMBOI		
X - INDICATES VOTE				AB- ABSENT			NV- NOT VOTING		

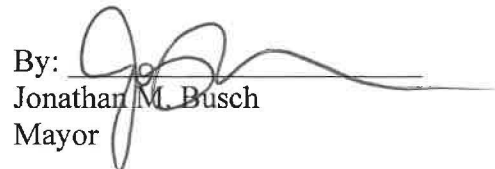
I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of an ordinance adopted by the Borough Council of the Borough of Metuchen, Middlesex County, New Jersey at a regular meeting held on November 10, 2025.

  
 Deborah Zupan, RMC  
 Borough Clerk



ATTEST:  
  
 Deborah Zupan, RMC  
 Borough Clerk

BOROUGH OF METUCHEN

By:   
 Jonathan M. Busch  
 Mayor