

Kristen Krenzer announced the Unofficial Election Results of the March 2, 2026 Municipal Election for three Council positions. The candidates are elected at-large.

<b><u>Position (3 seats)</u></b>	<b><u>Candidates</u></b>	<b><u>No. of Votes</u></b>
<b>Town Council</b>	<b>Bruce Orr</b>	<b>253</b>
	<b>Craig Sherman</b>	<b>294</b>
	<b>David W. Thomas</b>	<b>275</b>
	<b>Michelle Williams</b>	<b>174</b>

No. of Votes Cast:                   402  
 Absentee Ballots:                     3    
**Total No. of Votes Cast:       405**

The Middletown Election Board will meet Wednesday March 4, 2026 to certify the election results.

The swearing-in of elected Councilmen will take place at the regular meeting of Mayor and Council scheduled March 9, 2026.

The regular meeting of Mayor and Council was held on the above date with Councilmen Aaron Blythe, Drew Chas, Jim Royston, Bruce Orr, Craig Sherman and David Thomas. Mayor Kenneth Branner presided. Town Manager Morris Deputy was also present.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Election Results and Swearing-In Ceremony for Council members**

Per the Department of Elections and the Town Charter, Mayor Branner announced the certified election results of the March 2, 2026 Election for three Council positions:

- **Craig Sherman           294**
- **David Thomas           275**
- **Bruce Orr               253**
- **Michelle Williams      174**

Total Votes Cast: 405

Mayor Branner administered the Oath of Office to Craig Sherman, David Thomas and Bruce Orr, incumbent Councilmen re-elected to serve two-year terms.

**4. Appointment of Council positions**

Mayor Branner announced the following Council appointments:

<b><u>Councilman</u></b>	<b><u>Department</u></b>
Aaron Blythe	Vice-Mayor, in charge of Municipal Services

Craig Sherman	Secretary, in charge of Maintenance
Drew Chas	Treasurer, in charge of Electric
Jim Royston	IT and Permits & Inspections
Bruce Orr	Water and Wastewater
David Thomas	Police
Mayor Branner	Billing, Finance, Project Management and Administration

**5. Minutes Approval:** Moved by Aaron Blythe and seconded by Mr. Sherman to approve the Minutes of February 2, 2026 as presented in printed form. Motion Carried Unanimously.

**6. Treasurer’s Report:** Moved by Mr. Orr and seconded by Mr. Sherman to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented in printed form. Motion Carried Unanimously.

**7. Bills Payable:** Moved by Mr. Chas and seconded by Mr. Blythe to approve the Bills Payable as presented in printed form and pay as funds become available. Motion Carried Unanimously.

**8. Police Report: Chief William Texter**

The MPD responded to 1,056 calls for service during the period of January 15 through February 15, 2026.

- 1 District: Nothing significant to report.
- 2 District: 1/23/26 – Hardees - burglary
- 3 District: Nothing significant to report.
- 4 District: Nothing significant to report.
- Dispositions: Traffic Summonses: 200 (3 DUIs); Criminal Arrests: 46 (Felony-7, Misdemeanor-34, Civil Penalty-1, Violation-4); Warnings: 108; Reports Written: 206; FSR/CPC: 287
- Calls for Service: 1 District: 152; 2 District: 109; 3 District: 77; 4 District: 54
- Community Services: Collaborative meetings: SN4C, Criminal Justice Advisory Board; Nonprofit Checks; Business Checks; Recruitment; Mediations with residents; a heroin/fentanyl overdose save with Narcan
- Reminder: Silver Lake and other communities are busy with Little League – be mindful of children in the area; obey stop signs and speed limits.
- Crash Investigations: Inattentive driving continues to be the main cause of crashes.

***Moved by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Royston to approve the Police Report as presented by Chief Texter. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**9. Middletown Main Street Update – Kate Rokosz**

- A puzzle and game swap event was held last month.
- Public Assembly Requests will be presented later this evening; all requests are listed separately on the agenda.

***Moved by Mr. Royston and seconded by Mr. Chas to approve the Middletown Main Street Report as presented by Kate Rokosz. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**10. Public Hearings:**

**10-A. Delaware Opioid Settlement Commission Funding Update/Presentation.**

Bradley Owens, Director of the Delaware Prescription Opioid Settlement Distribution Commission announced Middletown is one of ten local jurisdictions who signed the settlement agreement with the State against the pharmaceutical companies. A portion of the funds will be distributed every year for the next twelve years to local governments – Middletown will receive approximately \$94,000, based on overdose rates, referral rates, poverty levels, population size, etc. Local governments have discretion on the use of the funds under the Commission's guidelines. Grant applications will go out March 24 and due May, 2026.

Mayor Branner added the seven municipalities are a sub-committee of the Commission. The areas that have the most issues get a higher amount – the Town gets the least amount because the numbers are lower. Council, the public, fire company and police department will decide the best way to use the funding.

**10-B. Motion to approve the M.O.T. Little League Parade Permit for April 18, 2026 at 10 a.m.**

Tom Peters, on behalf of MOT Little League, requested approval for the Annual Opening Day Parade Permit for April 18, 2026 at 10 a.m. The parade route starts from Silver Lake Elementary School, west on E. Park Place to S. Cox Street, north on S. Cox to E. Redding Street, west on E. Redding to S. Broad Street, north on S. Broad to E. Cochran Street and east on Cochran to Silver Lake Park.

***Moved by Mr. Chas and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the MOT Little League Parade Permit for April 18, 2026 starting at 10 a.m. Motion Carried 5 – 0. Aaron Blythe abstained.***

**10-C. Motion to approve the Stone Square Lodge #22 Memorial Day Parade Permit for May 25, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.**

On behalf of Stone Square Lodge, Kristen Krenzer presented the Memorial Day Parade Permit request for May 25, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. The parade will start from Redding Middle School, take E. Lake Street to Catherine Street, follow Catherine to Main Street, Main to Broad Street, right on Broad Street and E. Lake back to the school yard.

***Moved by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Orr to approve the Stone Square Lodge #22 Memorial Day Parade Permit for May 25, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. as requested. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**10-D. Public Assembly Request for a Charcuterie Crawl downtown June 4, 2026, from 5 to 7 p.m.**

Kate Rokosz requested approval for a Charcuterie Crawl downtown on June 4, 2026 from 5 to 7 p.m. This will be the fifth Charcuterie Crawl involving downtown businesses, with food courses and beer and wine tastings. About 200 people usually come out for the event.

***Moved by Mr. Royston and seconded by Mr. Sherman to approve the Public Assembly Request for a Charcuterie Crawl downtown on June 4<sup>th</sup>, from 5 to 7 p.m. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**10-E. Public Assembly Request for a Flag Day Event on Cochran Square on June 14, 2026, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

Kate Rokosz requested approval for the Third Annual Flag Day Event on Cochran Square, June 14, 2026. The event will be similar to previous events with speakers, music, etc.

***Moved by Mr. Orr and seconded by Mr. Chas to approve the Flag Day Event on Cochran Square, June 14, 2026, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**10-F. Public Assembly Request for a Family Fun Fest event in the Town Hall Parking Lot, 19 W. Green Street, on July 18, 2026, from 3 to 7 p.m.**

Kate Rokosz requested approval for a Family Fun Fest event in the parking lot at Town Hall on July 18<sup>th</sup>, from 3 to 7 p.m. Food vendors and various children's activities will be available.

Kristen Krenzer will inform the businesses that no parking will be permitted in the lot at that time.

***Moved by Mr. Royston and seconded by Mr. Blythe to approve the Family Fun Fest event in the parking lot at Town Hall on July 18<sup>th</sup>, from 3 to 7 p.m. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**10-G. Public Assembly Request for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling on Cochran Square on November 27, 2026, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

Kate Rokosz requested approval for the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting and Caroling on Cochran Square, November 27<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. The community is invited to join school choirs singing Christmas carols; Mayor Branner will officially light the Christmas tree.

***Moved by Mr. Chas and seconded by Mr. Thomas to approve the Christmas Tree lighting and Caroling event November 27<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**10-H. Public Assembly Request for the Great Middletown Cookie Crawl at downtown merchants December 5, 2026, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Kate Rokosz requested approval for the Great Middletown Cookie Crawl at downtown merchants December 5<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event has been very successful with keeping people downtown filling their tins with cookies after the parade.

***Moved by Mr. Orr and seconded by Mr. Royston to approve the Cookie Crawl at downtown merchants December 5<sup>th</sup>, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**10-I. Public Assembly Request for a Community Yard Sale on December 5, 2026, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, throughout the downtown district.**

Kate Rokosz requested approval for a Community Yard Sale December 5<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, to be held throughout the downtown district. This event is advertised on the MMS website and encourages residents to hold their yard sale on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Space will be available at the MMS location for those outside of the downtown district who wish to participate.

***Moved by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Chas to approve the Community Yard Sale on December 5<sup>th</sup>, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the downtown district. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**10-J. Parade Permit Request for the Annual Holiday Spectacular Parade on December 6, 2026, at 10 a.m.**

Kate Rokosz requested approval for the Annual Holiday Parade on December 6<sup>th</sup>. The parade will

start at Everett Meredith Middle School, travel South Broad Street to W. Main Street, then left on W. Main to S. Scott Street.

Ms. Rokosz informed Council that MMS is entertaining the idea of having an evening light parade in 2027; upon final research and feasibility, the plan will be presented to Council.

***Moved by Mr. Blythe and seconded by Mr. Chas to approve the Annual Holiday Parade on December 5, 2026 at 10 a.m. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**10-K. 410 Diamond State Blvd., Suite F – Conditional Use Permit request for a Krav Maga and Self-Defense martial arts school (7 Elements) to be located in an M-I zoned area. The school will offer martial arts instruction, self-defense training and conditioning programs for youth and adults. CU-03-26. Tax Parcel No. 23-008.00-115.**

Tabled – no representative.

**10-L. 703 Industrial Drive – Conditional Use Permit request for a daycare facility (Little Kids Swagg) in an M-I zoned area. CU-04-26. Tax Parcel No. 23-010.00-041.**

Tabled – no representative.

**10-M. 5044 Summit Bridge Road – Preliminary Major Land Development Plan for Middletown Mews, a proposed stacked townhouse community with 30 units arranged in three buildings with common access driveways. Each building will be three stories, with two units situated in each building section. Tax Parcel No. 23-075.00-093.**

Tabled at the request of the developer.

**10-N. Motion to ratify a professional services agreement for services involving financial planning, strategic guidance, policy formulation and support for debt issuance.**

Morris Deputy: The request is to ratify a professional services agreement with PFM to do an analysis on the Town's long-range financial planning, based on remaining growth and support for debt service. The agreement is open-ended, based on as-needed.

***Moved by Mr. Chas and seconded by Mr. Blythe to ratify a professional services agreement for services involving financial planning, strategic guidance, policy formulation and support for debt issuance. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**10-O. Motion to ratify a Licensed Business Auditing and Consulting Agreement with Apothic Revenue Resources, LLC.**

Morris Deputy: The Town has been contracting with Apothic Revenue to perform audits of business licenses, and recently, a new entity, Apothic Revenue Resources, LLC was created. The request is to ratify a Licensed Business Auditing and Consulting Agreement with the new entity, Apothic Revenue Resources. They will continue to perform audits of the business licenses and consulting on various items involving the business license process and ordinance. The bulk of the proposal is for Apothic to help the Town determine accurate business license fees for approximately 25 of the larger businesses in Town, that have more complicated business practices, such as Walmart, ACME, CVS, STA, Amazon, etc. The fee is contingent, based on the revenues recovered (28% for the first year).

***Moved by Mr. Royston and seconded by Mr. Orr to ratify a Licensed Business Auditing and Consulting Agreement with Apothic Revenue Resources, LLC as recommended by the Town Manager. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**10-P. Motion to ratify a utility easement agreement with Delmarva Power & Light Company for Tax Parcel Nos. 23-052.00-001 and 23-054.00-001 on Green Giant Road.**

Morris Deputy: Delmarva Power is requesting utility easements for the extension/ relocation of utility poles on Green Giant Road in order to serve the Abbey Creek and Chapel Creek Subdivisions.

***Moved by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Sherman to ratify a utility easement agreement with Delmarva Power & Light Company for Tax Parcels 23-052.00-001 and 23-054.00-001 on Green Giant Road as presented by the Town Manager. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**10-Q. Motion to ratify a professional services agreement with Becker Morgan Group for work associated with the Town of Middletown Police Station.**

Morris Deputy: An RFQ was put out for architects for the expansion of the Police Station. The recommendation is to enter into an agreement with Becker Morgan Group, based on their presentation and to get the plan through the planning, concept and preliminary stage, and interior layout design for \$223,500. Becker Morgan will provide a second proposal to finish the final design based on the approved schematic.

***Moved by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Blythe to ratify a professional services agreement with Becker Morgan Group for work associated with the Town of Middletown Police Station in the amount of \$235,500. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**10-R. Motion to ratify a Participation Agreement and Marketing Agreement with Nlyten Corp., dba GUIDE, the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security and the Middletown Police Department.**

Chief Texter: The Department of Safety and Homeland Security received funding for all police departments throughout the state to provide a wellness program; the GUIDE provides an app with confidential services for officers at no cost. This agreement says the MPD agrees to participate in the program. There is no cost to the Town; it's completely funded by the State of Delaware.

***Moved by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Chas to ratify a Participation Agreement and Marketing Agreement with Nlyten Corp., dba GUIDE, the Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security and the Middletown Police Department as recommended by Chief Texter. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**11. Unfinished Business:** None

**12. New Business (Public Comment Section):**

- Councilman Sherman congratulated the Middletown Boys Indoor Track Team for winning the DIAA Title, February 24, 2026.
- Councilman Blythe announced the yard waste pickup will resume April 6 for the residents.
- Representative from NOCAP and ALCU of Delaware, invited Mayor and Council and MPD to a community forum on Police Reform at the Middletown library, March 25<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 p.m.
- Resident asked for confirmation that the Superior Court ruled against Capano on his

apartment complex at Dove Run.

Mayor Branner said the judge did rule in the Town's favor; Capano can appeal the ruling.

- Resident said the crews did a great job clearing the streets but plowed-in his driveway; the second storm, the plow was turned to keep the snow out of the driveway.
- Resident stated the Town doesn't enforce the snow removal ordinance that states "all businesses and residents, within 24 hours after snow stops, shall have snow cleared from all sidewalks". He said he hoped the Town would knock on doors and tell people they would be fined \$25 a day; he walked his dog in the street because sidewalks weren't cleared. He and his wife are seniors but managed to get their driveway and sidewalks cleared.

Mayor Branner responded, the first snow with all the ice was an extraordinary event and the Town wasn't going to send notices or fine residents.

- Mayor Branner pointed out that the Town has a sidewalk snow removal list for seniors over 65. The application must be filed by the end of October each year to be placed on the list.
- Resident asked who is responsible for clearing the Rt. 299 and Brick Mill Road sidewalks. Mayor Branner said Dove Run (Capano) is responsible for the sidewalks around the commercial center on Rt. 299 and Brick Mill Road, and the sidewalk on Brick Mill Road across from the school out to the Town limits. The Appoquinimink School District is responsible for the sidewalk on their side of Brick Mill Road.

### 13. Executive Session

***Moved by Mr. Orr and seconded by Mr. Chas to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal issues, pursuant to 29 Del Code §10004(b)(9), the content of documents excluded from the definition of "public records" pursuant to 29 Del. Code §10004(b)(6), and an employee disciplinary or dismissal case pursuant to 29 Del. Code §10004(b)(8).***

***Moved by Mr. Chas and seconded by Mr. Thomas to exit the Executive Session and return to the regular meeting. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**A. Discuss personnel matters in which the names, competency and ability of individual employees or students are discussed, pursuant to 29 Del. Code §10004(b)(9).**

***Moved by Mr. Chas and seconded by Mr. Blythe to recommend the offer to transfer an employee to the Municipal Services Department. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

**B. Discussion of the content of documents, excluded from the definition of "public records" in §10002 of this title where discussion may disclose such documents, pursuant to §10004(b)(6) of 29 Del. Code.**

***No vote was taken on this matter.***

**C. Hearing on employee disciplinary or dismissal case, pursuant to 29 Del. Code §10004(b)(8).**

***Moved by Mr. Chas and seconded by Mr. Blythe to authorize Human Resources to continue the investigation of the discipline case discussed in Executive Session. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

***Moved by Mr. Blythe and seconded by Mr. Thomas to adjourn. Motion Carried Unanimously.***

The meeting ended at 10:40 p.m.