

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
JULY 16, 2012

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission was called to order by Chairperson Michael Kretschmer at 7:10PM in the Joe Pace Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex. Notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Chairperson Michael Kretschmer led the Commission in the salute to our flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Christine Feggans, Sharene Ginyard, Michael Kretschmer, Anthony (Tony) Langella, Jared Valdez, Cncl. Ron Garbowski

Excused: Victor Peters

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tony Langella made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Economic Development Commission Meeting of June 18, 2012. The motion was seconded by Christine Feggans and approved by all remaining members of the Commission in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Chairperson Michael Kretschmer mentioned the progress of the Welcome Signs; he has heard of no new information on its progress. Cncl. Garbowski reported that the engineers, Adams, Rehmann and Heggan, said that if the signs are to be placed within the easement, the requirements are to be followed. The members in attendance discussed moving the signs out of the easements and reviewed the map showing the blocks and lots of the intended placement of the signs; they will find out who the owners of the properties are. Cncl. Garbowski suggested meeting with ARH to discuss what their options are. The members are anxious to complete this project.

Michael spoke in reference to the one member vacancy available with the Economic Development Commission. He had tried contacting a realtor that was interested in joining, but did not receive a response back. Tony mentioned Aileen, Substitute Secretary, and his nomination of her as a member of the Commission; he kindly expressed that he feels that Aileen could be an acceptable member, as she is an employee of the township with much information and resources available at hand. Cncl. Garbowski asked if there were any other nominations from the members. Christine Feggans also agreed with Tony about his suggestion of Aileen as a member. Sherri McIlvaine, Secretary, will return to the Commission in September.

Michael mentioned the Business Association meeting of September 17, 2012. He would like to email businesses, but has not yet done that. Aileen can make a flier to advertise. Cncl. Garbowski noted that he announced the date of the meeting at the most recent Council meeting. This meeting will be held during the Regular meeting of the Economic Development Commission. Discussion was made on where to hold the meeting; it will be held in the Joe Pace meeting room of the municipal building and if more space is needed, it

can be moved to the first floor Caucus Room; Aileen will look into reserving that room, in case it is needed. Tony mentioned advertising on Comcast Channel 9. Christine can advertise on her radio show. Aileen passed around a sample flier and asked for members' advertising suggestions for the flier. This flier can be used for emails and posted on the township website. Jared Valdez suggested asking Steve Kozachyn, Rowan University's Executive Director Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, to attend; Michael will contact Mr. Kozachyn.

Jared said that Cncl. Caligiuri referred him to speak with the Township Planner, Timothy J. Kernan. Mr. Kernan said that he can attend a Commission meeting at no charge for the first consultation to answer questions and suggest some ideas for the Commission to help expand the business community of the township. Michael suggested Jared asking Mr. Kernan to attend either the August or October meeting. Christine suggested encouraging someone/a business to create a local newspaper company, online newspaper or printed.

Michael informed the members that the Seniors Commission is sponsoring a Blood Drive on Monday, August 6th 2:30pm-7:30pm at the Pfeiffer Community Center. Also, he informed them that the Municipal Alliance Commission is sponsoring National Night Out on Thursday, August 2nd 6:00pm-9:00pm.

Aileen provided a memo requesting approval of disposing meeting audio from October 2011 to April 2012. Per the New Jersey Division of Archives & Records Management, "Recordings of Public Meetings – Public Officials – Audio/Video (Analog and Digital)" need only be retained for a period of 80 days. Chairperson Michael Kretschmer asked for a motion of approval of disposing audio records from meetings dating from October 2011 to April 2012 for the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission. Tony Langella made a motion and seconded by Sharene Ginyard; all in favor by members in attendance, no opposition. Aileen will process a Request and Authorization for Records Disposal form with NJDARM.

Aileen provided the members a copy of the Zoning Office's "Business Questionnaire" and "In-Home Occupation Questionnaire", which the members reviewed. The Commission questioned if copies of these questionnaires could be provided from the Zoning Office for the Business Directory and also if they can get a list of vacant commercial properties for rent or purchase from Zoning Officer, Fred Weikel. Aileen will contact Director of Real Estate, Charles Abel and ask if he can provide a list of vacant commercial properties for rent or purchase.

ROUNDTABLE

~Cncl. Garbowski – asked if any members had any questions for him. He mentioned that Williamstown Square is in its planning stages; this will be in the area of the Main Street/Black Horse Pike Jug-handle, around the size of 400,000 square feet with a couple of department stores.

~Jared – no matters to discuss

~Christine – asked how Williamstown can become a "tourist town", asking what is an attraction in Williamstown; Cncl. Garbowski said that a lot of sky divers visit for Free Fall Adventures at Cross Keys Airport. Christine feels that the town needs something to attract visitors. Cncl. Garbowski mentioned the Blue Hole. Aileen mentioned the Ireland-Hofer House and the paranormal events session that was conducted there and the old glass factories below Main Street. Jared said that maybe this is something the Business Association could help promote. Christine also suggested having a Christmas Village.

~Tony – asked Michael what the progress of the renovation/reconstruction of the Grand Theatre. Michael said that it is in progress and coming along with many changes and will probably be finished by Spring 2013.

~Sharene – no matters to discuss

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Michael Kretschmer asked for a motion to adjourn. Tony Langella made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission Meeting of July 16, 2012. The motion was seconded by Sharene Ginyard; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Wojciechowski, Substitute Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Economic Development Commission meeting is Monday, August 20, 2012 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Economic Development Commission Meeting of July 16, 2012 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

Approved as submitted _____ Date _____
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____