

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
AUGUST 20, 2012

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission was called to order by Chairperson Michael Kretschmer at 7:08PM 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. Michael also introduced Linda Waters who would be taking the minutes in Aileen's absence. This substitution was approved by all. Michael also noted that the meeting would be recorded for Aileen's records.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: Aileen Wojciechowski

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Michael Kretschmer asked if all present had the opportunity to review the July 2012 meeting minutes. A copy was passed around and a brief discussion of the minutes occurred. Tony Langella asked if Aileen Wojciechowski had been appointed to the Commission, to which Michael answered "Yes". Michael gave an update on the construction of the Grand Theatre. Tony Langella made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Economic Development Commission Meeting of July 16, 2012. The motion was seconded by Jared Valdez. Vic Peters asked to be recused from the vote as he was not in attendance of the July Meeting. The minutes were 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 he still needed to follow up with zoning on the height issue and that we needed to obtain the private property owners approval on use of their land before we proceed. Cncl. Garbowski will work with Aileen in order to obtain owner's permission. The members are anxious to complete this project. Tony Langella asked if the \$5k in monies is still earmarked from the 2011 budget for the first two signs. Cncl. Garbowski reported that the money is still held from the previous budget. Vic Peters suggested that we should vote on having the third and fourth signs approved for the 2012 budget. Cncl. Garbowski stated that we need to know the actual location before we can vote on approving the funds for the 3rd and 4th signs. Michael Kretschmer suggested that we should meet with ARH when deciding on the locations for the 3rd and 4th signs. Cncl. Garbowski suggested that we have Aileen contact zoning to check the status of the first two signs and also find out what we would need to know before deciding on the 3rd and 4th locations.

Michael Kretschmer mentioned the Business Association meeting of September 17, 2012. He would like to email businesses, but has not yet done that. Aileen has made a flier to advertise. The flier was passed around and approval was requested. All approved the flier. Michael will contact Aileen to let her know of its approval. Christine suggested that we need to "beat the street". We, as a group, need to get out and meet the local business owners. Tony, Michael and Christine volunteered to meet on one day the following week (to be determined) to go door to door and meet local business owners and to invite them to the Business Association meeting. Michael will contact Aileen to have copies of the flier made so that they can be distributed during this walk around. Christine suggested that they all have business cards and nametags in order to look more professional/official. Linda Waters stated that she had made both for the last business meeting and would be happy to provide more if needed. All agreed that it would appear more professional.

Christine Feggans suggests that we get the EDC name out into the community so that the public knows we are about. She suggests having barrels for donations in public locations collecting for a food bank, church or other organization. She will research the cost of the bins with the EDC logo. She would also research where they should

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be placed, who would receive the goods, who would pick up, etc. Sharene Ginyard suggests that waiting until the meeting with the business owners might help us decide where to place the bins.

Cncl. Garbowski suggests that we reach out to a marketing/advertising firm, to help the EDC determine the ad needs and reach. Cncl. Garbowski will contact a few companies to find out feasibility and cost. Vic Peters agreed but asked to keep it local.

Cncl. Garbowski updated group on Williamstown Square development plans. Discussed were new intersection at end of Main Street and the zoning involved.

Jared Valdez commented that Aileen had sent out a list of vacant properties via loop.net. Jared stated that you need a valid account set up in order to view information on the website. He would like to know the logon information so that it can be accessed fully. Aileen will be asked to provide the logon.

Miss Monroe Township-It was suggested that the EDC perhaps take on the role of holding the Miss Monroe Township pageant. It has been several years since it has been done and Vic Peters asked if this was something that could be taken on with the help of the new Business Association. It was decided to hold off until Business Association meeting was held in September.

Michael Kretschmer mentioned that he had visited the Washington Township EDC website. He said that it could be very helpful to a new business owner or someone seeking to start a business in that community. It instructs where to go and what needs to be done for startup. Also available is a download for the Tax Abatement form. Tony Langella was very interested as he had inquired about this form in previous meeting, he said it could be an incentive to start a new business in Monroe Township. Tony asked if Aileen could provide a link on the EDC section of our website. Cncl. Garbowski stated that ours is available as part of the municipal code. Jared Valdez stated that could be difficult to find and that it would be easier for a potential business to find those types of forms if added to the EDC section of the website.

Cncl. Garbowski told the group that Tim Kernan would be attending the EDC meeting in October. He suggested that we start to come up with a list of questions in order to be prepared and make the most of our time with him. Jared Valdez suggested reviewing the strategic plan, streamlining the permit process, Main Street-what has been attempted and what hasn't? Michael Kretschmer to send an email out to members of the EDC prompting for questions in preparation of meeting.

ROUNDTABLE

~Cncl. Garbowski – will have Aileen follow up with zoning and private property owners to get sign going .

~Jared – will send Michael his list of questions for the meeting with Tim Kernan.

~Christine – same as Jared and will research information for barrels, also looks forward to meeting fellow business owners.

~Sharene – likes ideas Christine had suggested.

~Tony – thinks we should get time on community TV and wants to talk with Christine about her radio shows and how to get air time.

~Vic– no matters to discuss

~Michael-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 August 20, 2012. The motion was seconded by Vic Peters; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda C. Waters, Guest/Volunteer (Michael Kretschmer's girlfriend)

Economic Development Commission Minutes (cont'd) August 20, 2012

The next scheduled Monroe Township Economic Development Commission meeting is Monday, September 17, 2012 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from notes taken during the proceedings of the Regular Economic Development Commission Meeting of August 20, 2012 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

Approved as submitted _____ Date _____

Approved as corrected _____ Date _____