

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
MARCH 22, 2011**

**A.) OPENING CEREMONIES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 8:00 PM by **Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks** in the Court Room of the Municipal Complex located at 125 Virginia Avenue, Williamstown, New Jersey.

This meeting was advertised pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 thru 10:4-21). Notices were placed in the official publications for Monroe Township (i.e.: Gloucester County Times, the Courier Post and the Sentinel of Gloucester County). A copy of that notice is posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex.

*Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks stated the Clerk has placed a sign in sheet at the rear of the Court Room. If anyone would like to address Council during the Public Portion, please sign in and you will be asked to come forward to the microphone. Kindly state your name for the record.*

**SALUTE TO FLAG - INVOCATION**

**Cncl. Walter Bryson** led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** offered the Invocation.

**ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS**

Cncl. Walter Bryson	Present	
Cncl. Frank Caligiuri	Present	
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. Ron Garbowski	Present	
Cncl. William Sebastian	Present	
Cncl. Daniel Teefy	Present	
Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks	Present	
Mayor Michael Gabbianelli	Present	
Solicitor, Charles Fiore	Present	
Business Adm., Kevin Heydel	Present	
Engineer, Dave Cella	Present	
Dir. Finance, Jeff Coles	Present	
Dir. Of Code Enforcement, George Reitz	Present	
Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present	
Dir. Of Community Affairs, Cassandra Dilks		Excused
Township Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Cncl. Daniel Teefy** made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Council Work Session, Regular Council Meeting and the Closed Executive Session of March 8, 2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Frank Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**B.) CORRESPONDENCE**

- **Taxi Cab Application - Blue Cab Transport**
- **Limousine Application - Cross Keys Coach, LLC**

**Solicitor Fiore** advised the limousine license for Cross Keys Coach, LLC can be approved contingent upon the owner applying for a zoning permit, providing copies of driver's licenses for all company drivers and a letter indicating where the excess vehicles will be parked other than at his residence. This documentation must be provided by the April 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting.

**Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to approve the Taxicab license for Blue Cab Transport and the limousine license for Cross Keys Coach, LLC contingent upon receipt of the documentation noted by the Solicitor. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Rich DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

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**C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION**

**Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to open the Resolutions Scheduled - Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Walter Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to close the Resolutions Scheduled - Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Frank Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:66-2011** Introduction Of 2011 Budget

**Cncl. Walter Bryson** made a motion to approve Resolution R:66-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski**.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION R:66-2011 - ALL AYES**

**Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent** Resolution R:66-2011 was duly approved for adoption.

**Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to bracket Resolutions R:67-2011 thru R:72-2011 for consideration by Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. William Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**R:67-2011** Resolution Authorizing Closed Executive Session Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Discuss A Personnel Matter Involving Disability Benefits

**R:68-2011** Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

**R:69-2011** Resolution Authorizing A Mandatory Source Separation And Recycling Act (Tonnage Grant)

**R:70-2011** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Utilization Of \$2,500.00 In Forfeited Funds For A Reward Fund For Lockey M. Mitten

**R:71-2011** Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of March 22, 2011

**R:72-2011** Emergency Temporary Resolution Prior To Adoption Of The Budget Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester

**Cncl. Daniel Teefy** made a motion to approve Resolutions R:67-2011 thru R:72-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Walter Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**D.) ORDINANCES**

At this time **Cncl. Pres., Dilks** turned the meeting over to **Ordinance Committee Chairman, Cncl. William Sebastian** who noted Ordinance O:09-2011 was being removed from the agenda. **Solicitor Fiore** explained Ordinance O:09-2011 is being removed from the agenda and re-advertised for Second Reading at the April 12<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting, as it coincides with the Williamstown Square Shopping Center application that the municipality submitted to the Local Finance Board. That application is pending and must be approved by the board prior to second reading of the ordinance.

**O:09-2011** Bond Ordinance Authorizing The Completion Of Various Capital Improvements In The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, New Jersey: Authorizing The Issuance Of An Obligation In The Form Of A Promissory Note Not To Exceed An Aggregate Principal Amount Of \$6,900,000 To Finance Part Of The Costs Thereof And Authorizing Certain Related Actions In Connection With The Foregoing **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

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**D.) ORDINANCES (cont'd)**

**Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to open the public hearing for Ordinances O:10-2011 and O:11-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Frank Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Frank Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**O:10-2011** Calendar Year 2011 Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A Cap Bank (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

**Second Reading:** The above ordinance was published in an official publication for the Township of Monroe. This portion was opened to the public.

**Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to approve Ordinance O:10-2011 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks**.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:10-2011 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - ALL AYES**

**Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent.** Ordinance O:10-2011 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

**O:11-2011** An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Amend Chapter 74 Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe, Entitled "Fees"

**Second Reading:** The above ordinance was published in an official publication for the Township of Monroe. This portion was opened to the public.

**Cncl. Daniel Teefy** made a motion to approve Ordinance O:11-2011 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski**.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:11-2011 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - ALL AYES**

**Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent.** Ordinance O:11-2011 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

**E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

**Mayor Michael Gabbianelli** reported the 2011 municipal budget introduced to Council calls for a 2% increase in the municipal tax keeping the budget in line with the State's mandated 2% tax levy cap. This amounts to a tax increase of 1.35 cents in the municipal local purpose tax, which equals \$13.50 for every \$100,000.00 of a home's assessed value or \$30.00 for the average home valued at \$227,000.00. The local purpose tax covers trash collection, police, fire and ambulance services. This budget eliminates through attrition eleven full time positions and as the size of government continues to decrease we expect to lose another five full time position this year through retirement. The Mayor reported we will continue to do more with less, reduce services where we can and strive to become more efficient in the services we provide. He noted we are getting through this year but next year will be another struggle. The Mayor reported attending the Sunshine Dance at the Knights of Columbus on Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> and along with council members, the Blue Prayer Service at St. Mary's Church. The Williamstown Ministerium, school children, local police, firemen, ambulance members and state troopers also attended the service. The Mayor spoke of the change in odd stop trash pickup and urged residents to put whatever trash they can in their blue containers and to call Public Works for any additional trash pickup.

**Cncl. Walter Bryson** reported the Williamstown High School Gospel Choir will perform a concert and the Historical Society will exhibit Williamstown women memorabilia at the Pfeiffer Center on Wednesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in honor of Women's History Month. The Historical Society is still accepting reservations for the luncheon and history fashion show

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**E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)**

that will take place on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM. Proceeds from this fashion show will benefit the restoration of the Grand Theatre. Guests of honor will be Helene Reed who was the first woman to serve on Council in Monroe Township. She also served three terms as a Gloucester County freeholder and is currently serving as the Gloucester County Surrogate. Lori Hudson, President of the Road Company and Joan Michelle the township historian for Washington Township will also be guests of honor. To make reservations checks in the amount of \$25.00 can be mailed to the Monroe Township Historical Society, 313 South Main Street. He reported members of the Historical Society Board of Trustees will be representing Monroe Township at the League of Historical Societies Southern Regional Conference in Ocean City on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. Cncl. Bryson spoke of his campaign to reduce real estate taxes and of nine suggestions residents have submitted that he would like to include in a resolution to send to Trenton and other municipalities. Some of the suggestions require courage to implement but would result in real solutions not gimmicks. Included in those suggestions were to put together a non-partisan volunteer investigative committee to look at other states to find out how they are taxing, to reduce or place a hold on increases for state vendors, insurance agents, professionals and fees for the mandated cap, to ask legislators to act as a body to eliminate the court imposed decisions regarding COAH, Pinelands and Abbot Burke that cost municipalities and school districts so much to administer and fund and to redirect revenue such as allowing municipalities to keep a fair share of motor vehicle fines to reduce public safety costs and 2% - 3% of sales tax to reduce local property taxes. Another suggestion was to eliminate property taxes from being utilized to fund public schools and establish a new blanket tax that would be instituted to replace the local property taxes for public schools. Cncl. Bryson noted New Jersey also needs to obtain more federal funding as we are number one in real estate taxes but number fifty in the percentage of federal revenue that is returned back to us from federal taxes. He spoke of New Jersey losing \$400 million in federal school aid this year and billions in transportation funding for a rail system because our attitude is that we can do things ourselves. He noted we need to be more like other states and utilize what the federal government makes available to states. Cncl. Bryson explained he will be crafting these suggestions into a resolution that will be sent to legislators who hopefully may have the courage and ability to put some of the suggestions to work to save all of us money on real estate taxes.

Cncl. Frank Caligiuri reported attending the Blue Prayer Service and noted it was an honor to be called to speak at that event on behalf of council and to recognize public servants who routinely put their lives on the line as part of their job. He reported attending the Planning Board Meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> where two resolutions were memorialized. One was an amendment to Chapter 175 that was proposed by Council and that initiated some changes to homeowner association developer agreements. Those changes will protect residents who are part of homeowner associations organized in the future. Cncl. Caligiuri reported attending the Environmental Commission Meeting on March 21<sup>st</sup> where the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act Annual Accomplishment Report was reviewed. This report is required to be filed in accordance with the grant for which the commission applied. The Environmental Commission will also begin working on a Tree City USA Application, which may require Council action in the future. The Commission will also be asking the mayor to consider presenting a proclamation during a school district event in recognition of Arbor Day. Cncl. Caligiuri noted he is in the process of revamping his email list and requested everyone who would like to be included on that list to send an email to his new address at [frank08094@gmail.com](mailto:frank08094@gmail.com). He noted his email list will not be available to anyone else and when he sends out emails they are sent out with undisclosed recipients so no one knows anyone else's email address. Cncl. Caligiuri reported the community cleanup day will be held on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 AM and 12:00 noon; rain date is May 7<sup>th</sup> at the same time.

Cncl. Rich DiLucia reported attending the Monroe Township School Board Meeting where a presentation was given by three very impressive students who participated in the Williamstown High School Engineering Academy. Cncl. DiLucia reported Williamstown is one of the few schools in the state that has an engineering academy and all three of those students received scholarships; one from MIT, one from the Academy and the other from Bucknell University. He noted it makes him proud to know that Monroe Township has that type of education system. Cncl. DiLucia spoke of Wisconsin legislating collective bargaining away for public employees and of how Governor Christie stated he would never do that but when one of

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the largest state unions proposed concessions, he said he did not intend to bargain, as he intended to move for legislation to impose his changes. Cncl. DiLucia expressed his concerns that Senator Sweeney may have declared he is in favor of concessions and that may have sent a message to the governor that changed his mind about bargaining across the table. Cncl. DiLucia noted he questions the credibility of a governor who says one thing and then does another. He felt the only way to resolve problems pertaining to how public employee costs affect taxpayers is to identify the areas that should be changed and through collective bargaining address those issues across the table, as that is the way benefits were created in this state and country for the last 60 to 70 years. He felt conditions of employment should not be legislated and noted that he has not met a public employee who was not willing to make some concessions in the area of wage increases or health care costs. He noted Governor Christie said he wants an immediate 30% contribution from the workers towards health insurance, which would mean an 11% wage cut for the average worker in this state. Cncl. DiLucia questioned whether anyone could continue to pay their bills if they had an 11% reduction in their salary. He added everyone agrees health care cost are out of control and no longer affordable with taxpayer's money but workers should not be blamed for that cost when insurance companies are profiting from it. He explained employees could contribute gradually working towards the number to offset their healthcare cost but what have insurance companies been asked to contribute or do in all of this. He added another element in this is the giant healthcare providers that have non-profit status and pay no taxes whatsoever for the humongous hospitals and health care facilities they keep building when there are fewer people who have healthcare coverage for them to service. These hospitals/healthcare providers that are non-profit need to be looked at to close the budget gap because the money they should be paying to the State coffers is being utilized for expansion but nobody wants to touch that. Cncl. DiLucia questioned why the working people who are providing a service are the monsters in this issue and why the total picture is not being looked at so contributions can be made by everyone. Cncl. DiLucia spoke of gas stations located on the New Jersey Turnpike always having lines of out-of-state cars at the gas pumps because our gas is cheaper and he recommended Cncl. Bryson include in his resolution to the governor a suggestion to impose a higher gas tax on those stations. He noted working people and people receiving pensions are being identified as the problem and next will be people on Medicaid and Medicare/Social Security. He noted the middle class is being targeted in this country while the wealthy are getting wealthier. Cncl. DiLucia noted these issues need to be bargained not legislated.

**Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** reported the Economic Development Commission is sponsoring "A Public Call To Service" on April 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Monroe Township Public Library. This event is a public call for volunteers to serve on boards/commission and he urged residents to attend to find out more information and pose questions to the local government officials and board members who will be in attendance. Cncl. Garbowski reported the Library is hosting "Meet the Authors" on April 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Refreshments will be served at that event. The Library has kicked off their Buy-A-Brick campaign for 2011. Bricks can be purchased on line at [www.monroetownshiplibrary.org](http://www.monroetownshiplibrary.org).

**Cncl. William Sebastian** reported attending the Blue Prayer Service and noted the only way attendance at this event could get better is if the service was held on a Tuesday night, as that is meeting night for firemen and ambulance association members and their attendance could be made mandatory. He reported applications before the Zoning Board are increasing due to the weather breaking. One approval granted by the Board was for another T-Mobil tower that will be built behind De Angelo's used car lot on the Black Horse Pike.

**Cncl. Daniel Teefy** noted last year Council discussed cutting expenses by having documents electronically sent to them on an iPad, as that would save on copy paper and printing costs. He displayed his iPad and explained there would be an up-front expenditure to purchase them for Council but it would save money in the future. He explained he would be working with the Clerk to send documents to his iPad to ensure this would be an easy function for all Council members. Cncl. Teefy extended his appreciation to the volunteers who assisted the Parks and Rec Commission in packing Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt that will be held on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at Owens Park at 12:00 noon. He urged residents to get there early, as the Easter Bunny will arrive around 11:00 AM and take pictures with the children before and after the Easter egg hunt. Cncl. Teefy noted this event is for the kids and parents must remain

