

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
NOVEMBER 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 **Barry Huver**, of Williamstown Assembly of God offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

| | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| Cncl. Walter Bryson | Present | |
| Cncl. Frank Caligiuri | Present | |
| Cncl. Rich DiLucia | Present | |
| Cncl. Ronald 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 | | Excused |
| Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart | Present | |
| Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick | Present | |

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. William Sebastian made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Council Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of October 25, 2011 and the Special Council Meeting of November 2, 2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and approved by all members of Council with the exception of **Cncl. Pres., Dilks** who Abstained on all minutes and **Cncl. Caligiuri** who Abstained on the minutes of November 2, 2011.

B.) CORRESPONDENCE

- **Junkyard Licenses** (Annual Renewals)
 - AA Auto Salvage, Inc.
 - Auto Express
 - Blue Bell Auto Parts, Inc.
 - Midway Auto Parts
 - Patriot Automotives, Inc.
 - Schultz Enterprises, Inc. T/A Shorty's Auto Parts
 - South State Auto Parts, LLC
 - Tuckahoe Road Auto Sales, LLC

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to approve the Junkyard Licenses as recommended by the Director of Code Enforcement. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Rich DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

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B.) CORRESPONDENCE (cont'd)

- **Motor Vehicle Dealer Business License**
SSGJ Ming, Inc. D/B/A Car Mart

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to approve the Motor Vehicle Dealer Business License. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Walter Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

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

Cncl. Rich DiLucia made a motion to bracket for a Consent Agenda Resolutions R:183-2011 through R:195-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

R:183-2011 Resolution Authorizing Closed Executive Session Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Discuss An Active Litigation Matter (Advanced Realty Corporation, LLC And Sileo Property Group, LLC v. Township Of Monroe)

R:184-2011 Resolution Requesting Approval Of Items Of Revenue And Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Body Armor Replacement)

R:185-2011 Resolution Requesting Approval Of Items Of Revenue And Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund)

R:186-2011 Resolution Requesting Approval Of Items Of Revenue And Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Over The Limit Under Arrest)

R:187-2011 Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

R:188-2011 Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of November 22, 2011

R:189-2011 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Amendment To Transport Agreement Between Monroe Township And Virtua Health, Inc.

R:190-2011 Resolution Rejecting The Request For A Release Of Performance Bond ST6031 "Stockton Run", Phase I, Subdivision #1502

R:191-2011 Resolution Amending Resolution R:178-2011 Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

R:192-2011 Resolution Authorizing The Issuance Of Duplicate Tax Sale Certificate Pursuant To Chapter 99 Of The Public Laws Of 1997

R:193-2011 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing An Extension Of Delinquent Taxpayer's Agreement

R:194-2011 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Transferring Funds For The Budget Year 2011

R:195-2011 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Affirming Recommendation Of The Comcast Committee For Allocation Of Comcast Grant

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C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION (cont'd)

Cncl. Walter Bryson made a motion to approve Resolutions R:183-2011 through R:195-2011. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Ronald Garbowski and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

D.) ORDINANCES

Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks turned this portion of the meeting over to **Ordinance Committee Chairman, Cncl. William Sebastian**. Cncl. Rich DiLucia made a motion to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance O:25-2011. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Ronald Garbowski and unanimously approved by all members of Council. With no one wishing to speak Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Ronald Garbowski and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

O:25-2011 Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Approving The Application For A State Incentive Grant For Williamstown Square Urban Renewal, LLC, Subject To The New Jersey Economic Development Authority Approval

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:25-2011 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Walter Bryson.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:25-2011 - ALL AYES

Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent. Ordinance O:25-2011 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

O:26-2011 An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Amend Chapter 254 Entitled "Taxicabs"

First Reading: A copy of this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex. Additional copies were made available to the public.

Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks made a motion to approve Ordinance O:26-2011 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Frank Caligiuri and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

O:27-2011 An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 69 Of The Code of the Township Of Monroe, Entitled "Police, Division Of"

First Reading: A copy of this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex. Additional copies were made available to the public.

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to approve Ordinance O:27-2011 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Walter Bryson and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

O:28-2011 An Ordinance To Amend The Code Of The Township Of Monroe Fixing And Establishing Salaries And Rates Of Compensation Of Officers And Employees Of The Township Of Monroe, In The County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey **(First Reading and Publication)**

REMOVED FROM AGENDA

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Walter Bryson reported the Downer Methodist Church located on Fries Mill Road has been placed on the National Historical Register. He also invited residents to attend the township's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and the Ireland Hofer House tours on Saturday, December 3rd at 6:00 PM through 10:00 PM and the Train Show on December 17th from 9:00 to 3:00 PM at the Pfeiffer Center. The Ireland Hofer House and Hall Street School will also be open on December 17th. Cncl. Bryson congratulated Senator Madden, the Assemblymen and

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

newly elected Freeholders on their election and pledged to help them improve Monroe Township, Gloucester County and the State. Cncl. Bryson spoke of how each year Council struggles to meet budget commitments while trying to be fair to taxpayers and employees and of newspaper articles addressing the current economic environment and how it favors wealthy people. Cncl. Bryson extended his appreciation to the members of St. Mary's Church as well as other churches in Monroe Township for the work they do to help the needy in our community. He spoke of how working people and small businesses are forgotten and went on to give the following statistics:

- 375,000 Americans have incomes over \$1,000,000.00
- Between 1979 and 2007 incomes for the wealthiest 1% of Americans rose by 281%
- During the great depression millionaires had a top marginal tax rate of 68%
- In 1963 millionaires had a top marginal tax rate of 91%
- In 1976 millionaires had a top marginal tax rate of 70%
- Today millionaires have a top marginal tax rate of 35%
- Reducing the income tax on top earners is one of the most ineffective ways to grow the economy according to the Congressional Budget Office
- 44% of Congress members are millionaires
- The Bush tax cuts were never met to be permanent and letting them expire for the top 2% would pay down the debt by 700 billion dollars over the next ten years

Cncl. Bryson noted these are interesting facts and he urged residents to put pressure on Governor Christie and New Jersey legislators to bring back the "Millionaires Tax", as that will help local municipalities and school boards. In addition to that he requested the new legislature take upon themselves other ways to fund the school systems, which are the major users of tax money. New Jersey can no longer count on real estate taxes to pay the major burden of a public school education especially when it has other taxes, plus gaming. Cncl. Bryson expressed his concerns that during the last two years seniors lost a considerable amount of money and most do not rank in the top wealthiest 1%; they are in the other 99% of the people in this country.

Cncl. Frank Caligiuri reported attending the Planning Board Meeting on October 27th where Hamilton Green, a 207 unit townhouse development located between Main Street and Tuckahoe Road on a 41 acre plot, was approved. Cncl. Caligiuri noted no one likes new housing developments approved, as they are counterproductive due to the tax revenue derived from them not being adequate to fund the cost of educating the average .6 students per household. Cncl. Caligiuri noted unfortunately, the Planning Board is not allowed to discriminate against builders who conduct their trade in areas that are zoned residential but it (the Board) did get some concessions and were able to retain 65% of that parcel as open space. Also, as a condition of approval the infrastructure and snow removal will be funded by the homeowner's association and that will become a deed restriction. The assumption is when a property is sold with a deed restriction that includes a homeowner's association the buyer will take a concession on the selling price of the unit because of that obligation. He noted the Board is doing everything it can to minimize construction within the boundaries of the law. Cncl. Caligiuri also reported a request was made to the Pinelands Commission to extend their due date on the required Comprehensive Management Plan amendment. The Pineland Commission have agreed to extend that date to March 2012, which will give Council and the Environmental Commission time to provide some input to the Planning Board, who will incorporate it into our version of the ordinance. He also reported attending the Law Committee Meeting on November 16th regarding matters for potential litigation, the Veteran's Day Ceremonies at Veteran's Plaza on November 12th along with the Mayor and other members of Council, the League of Municipalities in Atlantic City on November 15th where he learned of efficient methods of running various portions of the municipality and the Environmental Commission Meeting on November 21st where general discussion took place regarding the Comprehensive Management Plan. Cncl. Caligiuri noted since this is the last televised meeting before the holiday season he wanted to express his appreciation for the support he receives from the residents who depend on him to make good decisions on their behalf. He noted during his seven years on Council he has encountered many relationships and has found you must be thick skinned to do this job since some people even blame you when the electric goes out. He noted for the most part during this time, he has met many friends and some have

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

become friends for life, which is worth everything. Cncl. Caligiuri thanked everyone for the privilege of representing them on Council, as the last seven years has been a very rewarding experience. He extended best wishes to everyone for a happy, healthy holiday season.

Cncl. Rich DiLucia reported attending the Holiday City Veterans Day celebration where along with the Mayor he presented a proclamation congratulating the veterans who served our Country proudly. He noted he thought of how he will be celebrating Thanksgiving with his family while men and women in the service will be living and serving away from their families. He urged everyone to keep those men and women in our prayers, as they are making it possible for us to celebrate Thanksgiving and our religious freedoms. Cncl. DiLucia noted last month he reported the Consumer Price Index calculation had equated to a 3.6% increase that will go into effect for seniors in the first Social Security check in January; however, he found they will receive the increase according to their birthday so some people will get it during different weeks of the month. The increase amounts to \$36.00 a month for every \$1,000.00 in Social Security benefits. He noted he was concerned about an additional cost for Medicare Part B but he found it is only increasing by approximately \$3.60. Cncl. DiLucia noted last year the Ohio governor and legislature passed legislation prohibiting collective bargaining and to a varying degree that was also done in Wisconsin. New Jersey did not eliminate it completely but for the next three years there is a moratorium on collective bargaining for wages and other things. In Ohio there is a law that says if the legislature passes something and the citizens disagree with it they have a right to override that legislation by circulating a petition for the matter to be placed on a ballot. The citizens of Ohio gathered over a million signatures for the legislation to be placed on the November ballot and it was overwhelmingly defeated. The State of Ohio can no longer prohibit collective bargaining and those citizens told them to find another way, as the people in this Country cherish the right to bargain whether it is through a union or as an individual with their employer.

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski reported attending Veterans Day Ceremonies on November 12th and the fireman's banquet where the new officers of the fire department were installed. Cncl. Garbowski reported Council worked diligently for over a year to obtain a technology grant from Comcast and tonight a Spending Ordinance was adopted to utilize that money. He extended his appreciation to Comcast for the grant and to the Comcast Committee, Cncl. Sebastian and Cncl. Teefy for the work they did to disburse portions of the grant to various township departments. Cncl. Garbowski also reported Librarian, Beth Lilly submitted paperwork in 2007 to obtain a video conferencing grant but ran into some problems with that in 2008. However, with the help of Senator Madden the Library recently received that grant and will be one of three libraries in the State that will have video conferencing equipment. Cncl. Garbowski extended his appreciation to Senator Madden for his help in obtaining the grant noting that one library in South Jersey, one in Central Jersey and one in North Jersey will receive that equipment. He also extended best wishes for a safe and happy Thanksgiving.

Cncl. William Sebastian reported attending the Zoning Board Meeting on November 8th where the Board dealt with resolutions, the Law Committee Meeting on November 15th, the League of Municipalities Convention on November 16th and the Monroe Township Ambulance Association Banquet on November 18th along with the Mayor and BA. He noted the issues discussed at the Law Committee Meeting will not be discussed at this time due to possible litigation and that the League of Municipalities Convention was very educational, as he was able to speak and get information from many of the exhibitors. Cncl. Sebastian also extended holiday wishes to everyone.

Cncl. Daniel Teefy reported the Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held on December 3rd at 6:00 PM at the Ireland Hofer House/Pfeiffer Center area. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in attendance at the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Cncl. Teefy noted after Parks and Rec events the commission always reviews what took place to see if they can make any improvements for the next year. One issue of concern with the Halloween Parade is safety because people crowded into the street and the Commission is trying to think of ways to address that issue to make the parade safer. Cncl. Teefy extended his appreciation to the citizens of Monroe who voted during the General Election. He spoke of Comcast working with the Township by giving us an \$80,000.00 technology grant that was utilized to purchase a new server, antennas, and radios for

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

the Police Department and surveillance cameras for Owens Park. Additional cameras will be purchased next year through Developer Fund money for the other parks, as the township has a big investment in our parks and needs to protect them. Cncl. Teefy spoke of how Council took a lot of flack from residents who did not want the affordable housing units of Justin Commons in their neighborhood and of how he met people, who now enjoy living in those units. One is a mother with three children and another is a Franklinville school teacher. These people are now paying \$1,000.00 a month rather than \$1,800.00 a month in rent. He noted Justin Commons is well maintained and is a very nice community for people who cannot afford a big house. Cncl. Teefy urged residents to help the less fortunate in our community. He noted recently we lost Sandy Dilks, a tremendous person that helped the needy and that has left a void in the township. He spoke of urging his son and his friends to find a way to help people in the community in order to help fill the void left by Mrs. Dilks. Cncl. Teefy spoke of how the school system did not cancel his daughter's powder puff game during 40 degree rainy weather or the Renaissance Day three years ago during 100 degree weather and an emergency heat warning. During that event kids were dropping over from heat exhaustion. He urged the school system to be safe with the children and think before sending people out in driving rain or 100 degree weather.

Mayor Michael Gabbianelli reported attending the Holiday City Veterans Day Ceremonies, the ceremonies at the Veterans Cemetery and the Fireman's Banquet on November 12th where he administered the oath of office to the new officers of the Williamstown Fire Company. He reported attending Governor Christie's speech at the League of Municipalities where the main issue for New Jersey mayors is taxes. He explained the State is taking money from municipalities and the mayors are questioning if they are going to get any of it back. He also reported attending the Williamstown Ambulance Association Banquet where he administered the oath of office to their new officers. The Mayor extended his thanks to the Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts for holding a food drive that fully stocked the township's food bank. He also extended his appreciation to students of the Williamstown Middle School for their food basket project and also to members of the Police Department who volunteered their time to deliver those baskets to needy families in the township. He also extended best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving; noting this is a family time of the year and families are the most important thing in life.

Director of Finance, Jeff Coles reported last month the Mayor and Council decided to move the township's banking services to a different bank in order to gain more interest and fewer fees. There are still a couple accounts with outstanding checks but by the end of November all banking services will be moved to the new bank. That decision will net the township approximately \$30,000.00 in additional revenues over the next year, which is a good savings for the taxpayers.

Director of Public Safety, Jim Smart reported Santa will be going around town on a fire truck on December 10th if weather permits.

Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks extended his appreciation to the Mayor and Council for helping him during the passing of his wife. He also extended his sincere appreciation to employees in the municipal building, Public Works Department, Fire Department and Ambulance Department, as everyone was wonderful to him during this time.

F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to open the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Walter Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Chris Cugini, 1814 Watercress Court extended his condolences to Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks for the loss of his wife, Sandy. Mr. Cugini spoke of the Courier Post articles regarding Mayor Gabbianelli and noted the group involved in this is not the Monroe Township Republican Club. He went on to say how he does not like newspaper trials and that the group, which he is a part of, involved in this is made up of republicans, democrats and independents

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F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION (cont'd)

alike; not anyone with an agenda. He noted the comments Cncl. Caligiuri made in the newspaper about the Police Department were very condescending, as our Police Department does a great job and this seems like retribution or workplace harassment. He felt if someone wants to speak on the condition of anonymity they should be able to do that in their workplace. He noted he was not happy to see our town dragged around in the mud and if the mayor is under suspicion he should be able to defend himself and the best way to do that would be to consider stepping down to fight the battle rather than fighting it from the mayor's position and dragging the township through it. He noted he does not want to see the Attorney General come here because if he does they do not come with OPRA requests they come with subpoenas, they take anything they want and the town's name is in the newspaper everyday, which will anger business owners and keep people from wanting to move here. Council must figure out a solution to this problem as the mayor is not the victim; the taxpayers are and they are not going to stay around while laws are broken. Mr. Cugini urged the Mayor to respect employees and step out of the building when he smokes.

Tara Gabbianelli, 40 Evelyn Avenue, approached Council and read the following prepared statement into the record:

I'm here tonight because as some of you may know my family has been the topic of many current Courier Post articles. I am speaking tonight not as a politician's daughter-in-law, but as a wife and a mother speaking up for my family.

Since many people feel as though they already know me and my family through the half truths that have been written about us lately I'm here to tell you my side, since it seems nobody is actually interested in printing the truth. My husband and I have lived in Williamstown our whole lives. We have friends and family in this town so we decided to raise our family here. My husband is a Monroe Township police officer, a job that he worked hard for, earning a Bachelor Degree in Criminal Justice and following in his father's footsteps, which are interesting footsteps to follow in. He had other opportunities to work in other areas but why wouldn't he want to serve and protect the town he was raised in, went to school in and now has a family of his own in. There were no favors or stings pulled to quote, unquote get him his job, he earned it. He studied hard for the Civil Service Test and came home tired from the Police Academy each night. Nothing has been handed to my husband and no laws were broken. He simply worked hard for what he wanted and he achieved it. I wish you would print that, but you won't.

Then we had a dream to build a home, a home for our family that we designed together and built. Originally our goal was to move into our new home three years after we were married, however, reality set in and it took us seven years. So you can imagine my surprise when Jeremy Rosen from the Courier Post showed up on my doorstep unexpectedly to speak to me about my new home. Honestly, I expected people to talk, my father-in-law is the mayor and is very well known and he played an intricate part in helping us build our home; but let me ask you this, if your father-in-law was in the construction business, wouldn't you ask him to help you out if he could? My family is no different from anyone else's. Mr. Rosen you turned by dream of building our new home into a nightmare.

I never expected the false accusations about our taxes and permits for our home that the articles focused around or that my husband and I don't pay taxes because of who my father-in-law is. Trust me, we pay our taxes. You can see this information on the Gloucester County website, which shows the amount we pay. I find it ironic that this information was available on the County website on September 22nd of this year, yet Mr. Rosen's article on September 27th lead readers to believe that this information did not exist and that we would not be assessed, nor pay taxes until the year 2012 because generic questions were asked while obtaining research for this article and not specific questions about our specific property. Generic response were printed and made to look like they pertained to our situation, when in fact they did not.

I was even more surprised to find in this front page article a picture of my home, my house number and my street name on the front page of the Courier Post. Not only were lies printed, but now everyone knew where we were located, something that felt like the greatest invasion of my family's privacy and a danger to the safety of my children.

We have followed the appropriate procedures when obtaining our permits and our assessments. The steps that were taken to obtain our permits and CO were done in the same manner and timeframe as anyone else building a home in this town. With the help of Mr. Cugini and others, Mr. Rosen has been spreading lies and I'm here tonight to simply give my side of the story, a side nobody seems that interested in. I have sat back for over a month and read these articles and have seen the comments made from faceless, nameless people who think they know us, but you don't. We are a family, a mother and a father, two people who wanted to build a home for their kids and who finally after years of red tape, procedure and long term savings were able to do so... and this is the outcome! I want to know why Mr. Cugini and other people in this town are allowed to spread lies and innuendos about my family and there is nothing I can do about it. I would like to know what outcome you are looking for and why you are hurting us in the process. Why would you go after a mayor who has been elected three consecutive terms and has

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done everything he can to try to fulfill his campaign promises. A man that wanted to be the mayor to better our town, to help Monroe Township move in a better direction and a person that I feel has accomplished many of those goals.

So, in closing, I would like to ask Mr. Cugini, Jeremy Rosen and the editor of the Courier Post how they would feel if this were being done to their family. I would like to thank the Council for giving me the opportunity to speak my mind and to show everyone that there is a voice, and a face and a family behind all of these mistruths. Thank you.

Jacqueline Storey, 1892 Forest Drive, expressed her condolences to Cncl. Dilks in the loss of his wife. Mrs. Storey spoke of how she has been a Monroe Township resident for thirty-five years, how she is residing in her second home in the township, how she chose to relocate here from New York and that she probably voted for every single person here. She noted when she reads newspapers she thinks most of the articles are true but recent ones began with rumors, the facts were not checked, lies were printed and now they have blown up. Mr. Cugini previously stated he does not want trials in the newspaper but he was one of the people that started the trial. She noted her question is what reasoning is behind all this because nepotism is not involved when a person takes a Civil Service Test. She spoke of how nepotism could be considered in other positions as well and of how the township Administration tried to fulfill racial requirements but after being hired that person quit. She noted maybe young Michael knew what he was getting into and would make a better police officer because he had lived that life and it was something he studied for. She noted plumbers, HVAC contractors, electricians and others were involved in the construction of their home not just family members in the construction business. She felt this is a witch hunt and questioned why. She noted as a taxpayer in this township she resents Jeremy Rosen demanding township employees copy information for him at no cost and then when he had the facts in front of him, he chose to write lies. She added she resents the articles and what they are doing to this township.

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. William Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

COUNCIL RESPONSE TO STATEMENTS MADE

Cncl. Frank Caligiuri responded to Chris Cugini with the following statement:

I have the upmost respect for our Police Department and I think everybody on the force knows that. There was nothing I said in my quotation to Jeremy Rosen that could be construed any other way, unless he were to make some assumptions on his own. However, we have a police officer who apparently witnessed a crime of some kind; he witnessed a violation at a minimum and he made a decision rather than to do his job and investigate this crime he made a decision to pick up his cell phone and call a reporter. It is a minor crime and a minor violation and that's OK, I guess except for the fact that he was a police officer on duty with my tax dollars and I expected him to act like a police officer and enforce the law. Just like I would expect him if he was called into an armed robbery to pull out his revolver and not his cell phone because that is what police officers are supposed to do. I'm not empowered to enforce the law. I'm an elected official and this Council serves as a legislative body. If I witness criminal activity I have to call a police officer, they are a professional, creditable witness to crime and that is what their job is. So to say that I degraded the Police Department is a twist of the truth. I did some investigations also on the allegations of this particular police officer who chose to make a statement on his cell phone that he smelled smoke coming through the HVAC system and he attributed that to the mayor smoking in his office. The ductwork of the HVAC system that serves the Police Department is not in any way connected to the Municipal Building because the buildings were built separately. So, now we have a police officer, who does not do his job and also lies at the same time. All that aside, the police officer is protected under Civil Service and under a Whistle Blowers Ordinance. So, if he were to take the time to do his job, he would be exempt of any prosecution or any kind of repercussions completely because he is protected under Civil Service. I also have to say that in conversations with Jeremy Rosen I had asked him for information about just one of these many witnesses that he has seen so that Council can react to it because this is America in 2011. There used to be a time when if somebody thought a person was guilty, they were able to stone them, hang them or place them in front of a firing squad, but today, we have to depend upon evidence and testimony, as a person is innocent until proven guilty. I am not defending the mayor because Lord knows I have had disagreements with him, as well as with all the professionals here, as I have beaten up Dave, Kevin, Jeff and Chuck on many occasions to the point where I thought I may be hit. I'm also pretty sure I got Dan upset a couple times too but that is the kind of guy I am, as I call them the way I see them. One thing I want to mention is that in my telephone conversation with Jeremy Rosen actually said a veiled threat to me. He actually threatened in kind of a unique way, to destroy my career and potentially he could do that because he has the power of the press. He can write whatever he wants and it does not necessarily have to be true, he can eliminate whatever he wants and he can twist whatever he wants. I respected the man as a reporter because I know a lot of really good reporters that

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COUNCIL RESPONSE TO STATEMENTS MADE (cont'd)

generally make an effort to find all the facts and report both sides of the story. But just judging from the number of stories that have been written in such a short time it would seem to me that either Jeremy Rosen doesn't have anybody else to write about or he has a personal vendetta at this point. The beginning of his stories started to sound pretty interesting, as there was potentially a problem but by the fifth story he had no witnesses and nobody willing to testify, even retired employees that have nothing to lose and could potentially serve as a witness to all this criminal activity without any repercussions whatsoever, if there are any repercussions to be had, aren't willing to do anything. So my suggestion to Jeremy Rosen was provide us with some piece of evidence or one person that would be willing to testify. Nobody is exempt from punishment; President Richard Nixon was even ousted from office. I think now it has become a witch hunt and I'm starting to question Jeremy Rosen's creditability. Certainly Mr. Cugini spoke out of turn, he was misinformed and that is not the first time I have had incidents with Mr. Cugini. I invited him on one occasion to work with me in developing an alternative plan for Pork Chop Hill; however he has an awful lot to say but he doesn't do very much and that has been my experience with Mr. Cugini. He has run for office about five times, he has run for every conceivable office and lost. I think his reputation speaks for itself and I'm not too worried about my reputation because in my eight years in office I have bent over backwards to help people all along the line and I don't know of anybody who lives in Ward 4 that doesn't know that. So, I want to respond and I want to respond aggressively because I was attacked aggressively and I am getting tired of it. Thank you very much.

Mayor Michael Gabbianelli replied to Mr. Cugini as follows:

Chris, this is where I stand. A journalist has compiled allegations regarding my conduct, his employer has supplied him support and is now suggesting authorities conduct an investigation to determine whether any criminalities being tossed about can hold water. My position is look, investigate, see, determine, I am a man of accountability as an elected official and I am not going to hide for anybody. I have given every effort to be true to my mission throughout my nine years as mayor, as much as some may want to portray me as a villain the people I serve should rest assure that I am here to serve you and I will continue to do so with your interest most paramount. The people elected me because of my leadership qualities. You would not want a leader that shrinks from his mission merely because a newspaper decided to highlight purported, alleged, inappropriate misdeeds. I will continue to serve with honor, with integrity and humility for the trust that you my constituents have given. Thank you.

Cncl. Rich DiLucia requested to clarify an issue. He noted last Tuesday night a Law Committee Meeting was held to discuss this situation and at that time the Solicitor strongly recommended this matter be turned over to the appropriate parties for an investigation. We are aware that is the best thing to do because of the way the Courier Post has implied that Council somehow is behind some hidden thing going on. The Courier Post is aware of the fact that Council made the decision to hand it over to the appropriate agencies but yet on Friday, three days after Council made that decision they elected to run an editorial criticizing the Council for keeping it in house and not turning it over to the appropriate authorities. Cncl. DiLucia noted he did not believe the Courier Post if they say they were not aware and to someone who lighted the fire and stood here tonight saying just put the fire out, let the smoke go away and we will continue to have this inference around town that the mayor is doing all these things, I say no, I say that Council and the Mayor welcome an investigation by the agencies elected and appointed to investigate potential misconduct of elected officials, as I am sure they will find there are no misdoings. He noted another thing he resents is that Jeremy Rosen called him and tried to get him to make a statement. He noted he told him that it would be handled appropriately and that he did not wish to make a statement because he felt anything he said would be taken out of context. Cncl. DiLucia noted here we are in a situation where they come out with another inflammatory article and I have been around long enough and am politically astute enough to know what this article was intending. It publicized the mayor's pension, which he earned and the salaries he earns as a part-time mayor and from the County committee he serves on. He noted they were hoping unemployed or underemployed people would read the article, count up the numbers and say this guy makes all this money but what this really is, is a bashing, an attempt by a newspaper, which he (Cncl. DiLucia) believes supports a particular political party, is trying to convince voters not to elect the democrats in this township that are doing a good job. He felt those with a political motive would like it to stop right here so they can say it was swept under the rug. He noted he is glad the Solicitor and Council made the right decision to have an investigation, as he is confident it will be clarified and the citizens of this town will understand that there is no fact, no pilfering of money and no misuse of office going on.

Cncl. Daniel Teefy noted he did not want to belabor this issue to much more as Cncl. Caligiuri, Cncl. DiLucia and the Mayor did a good job addressing the matter. He noted the first article that came out said the DCA is investigating and he questioned whether the DCA would

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come to the Clerk's Office if they were performing an investigation and if so, have they come to the office. The Township Clerk advised the DCA would normally come to her office and to date they have not been there. Cncl. Teefy questioned whether the DCA would inform the Township Solicitor if they were performing an investigation here. Mr. Fiore advised they would generally contact him and he has received no contact from the DCA. Cncl. Teefy noted the first piece of information in the first paragraph of the article was a lie and the next said that Mayor Gabbianelli was formerly Chief of Police and that was false, as he was a Lieutenant. So at that point the rest is just garbage because if you cannot get the first two facts straight the rest is all garbage. Now, Mr. Cugini stated he did not want this dragged through the mud in the papers but his name was in the first article and he just admitted that he is part of the group feeding the information. Cncl. Teefy questioned why Mr. Cugini did not either individually address his concerns with Council or come to a meeting before the full Council to request an investigation as a good citizen that does not want our town exposed in the newspapers. He noted that would have been a good thing and if that were done Council may have requested an investigation and it would not have been in the newspapers and Jeremy Rosen would not look like this little hero that he thinks he is.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

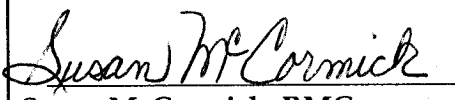
Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to adjourn into Closed Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Cncl. William Sebastian and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

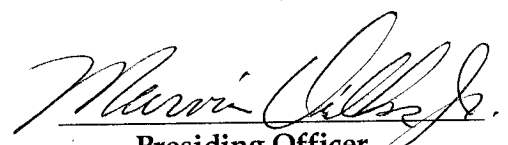
Upon conclusion of the Closed Executive Session Conflict Solicitor Leonard Schwartz noted during the Closed Session Meeting discussion took place regarding Advanced Realty and the Sileo Property Group vs the Township of Monroe litigation. No final conclusion was reached at this point in time.

G.) ADJOURNMENT

Cncl. William Sebastian made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of November 22, 2011. The motion was seconded by Cncl. William Sebastian and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan McCormick, RMC
Municipal Clerk


Presiding Officer

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Council Meeting of November 22, 2011 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings. The official tape may be heard in the Office of the Township Clerk upon proper notification pursuant to the Open Public Records Law.

Approved as submitted Sm Date 12/13/11
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____