

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
DECEMBER 27, 2011

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 8:30 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. Rich DiLucia led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and **Cncl. William Sebastian** offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Cncl. Walter Bryson	Present	
Cncl. Frank Caligiuri	Present	
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. Ronald Garbowski		Excused
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		Excused
Dir. Of Code Enforcement, George Reitz		Excused
Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present	
Municipal 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 Closed Executive Session of December 13, 2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Rich DiLucia** and approved by all members of Council in attendance.

B.) CORRESPONDENCE

• **Tower List**

Director of Public Safety Jim Smart noted after performing all research and inspections on the ten towing companies it was found that nine out of the ten on the list met the criteria for the 2012 Tower List. Midway Auto did not meet the criteria.

- Lake Avenue Auto Body
- Cecil Collision
- B & B Auto Repair
- Clarks Auto Repair
- Monroe Auto Body
- A-Jacks Towing
- A & A Auto Salvage
- B & H Auto Repair
- Malia's Body Shop

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B.) CORRESPONDENCE (cont'd)

Cncl. William Sebastian made a motion to approve nine towers (*listed above*) for the 2012 Tower List. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Frank Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

Cncl. Walter Bryson made a motion to open the Resolutions Scheduled-Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Rich DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. William Sebastian** made a motion to close the Resolutions Scheduled-Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Daniel Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:209-2011 Resolution Authorizing The Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Accept A Subgrant Award For The Federal Fiscal Year 2012 From The Department Of Homeland Security Emergency Management Performance Grant Program Funding

Cncl. Frank Caligiuri made a motion to approve R:209-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Walter Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:210-2011 Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

Cncl. William Sebastian made a motion to approve R:210-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Daniel Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:211-2011 Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of December 27, 2011

Cncl. Rich DiLucia made a motion to approve R:211-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Daniel Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:212-2011 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Transferring Funds For The Budget Year 2011

Cncl. Walter Bryson made a motion to approve R:212-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. William Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:213-2011 Resolution Authorizing The Cancellation Of Certain Balances Of Calendar Year 2011 Municipal Budget Appropriations

Cncl. Daniel Teefy made a motion to approve R:213-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Frank Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:214-2011 Resolution Authorizing The Mayor To Execute The New Jersey Department of Transportation FY2012 Safe Routes to School Application For Services Associated With The Blue Bell Road Sidewalk Extension, Phase II

Cncl. William Sebastian made a motion to approve R:214-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Daniel Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:215-2011 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Cancelling Tax Sale Certificate Number 89-30 For Block 10603, Lot 17

Cncl. Walter Bryson made a motion to approve R:215-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Rich DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

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D.) ORDINANCES

Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks turned this portion of the meeting over to Ordinance Committee Chairman, Cncl. William Sebastian. Cncl. Frank Caligiuri made a motion to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance O:28-2011. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Daniel Teefy and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance. With no one wishing to speak Cncl. Walter Bryson made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Daniel Teefy 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

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

Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks made a motion to approve Ordinance O:28-2011 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Rich DiLucia.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE O:28-2011 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - 5 AYES, 1 NAY (Teefy), 1 ABSENT (Garbowski)

Tally: 5 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent. Ordinance O:28-2011 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

O:29-2011 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"

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. Walter Bryson made a motion to approve Ordinance O:29-2011 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Walter Bryson reported attending along with the Mayor and Cncl. Sebastian the homecoming celebration of Army Specialist Derrick Eidem on Thursday, December 22nd at Images Photography Studio. The homecoming celebration was a surprise for Derrick as well as his mother. Cncl. Bryson spoke of the trials and tribulations the country has been going through over the last four years and expressed his wishes for all levels of government to work together to bring jobs to the United States and to work with existing businesses to keep them here. He noted this year the township has begun to see some economic improvements that will hopefully create jobs for our residents and he extended his appreciation to Council for all the work they did to bring the new shopping centers here. He also extended his appreciation to Cncl. Pres., Dilks for doing an excellent job this year despite the personal hardship he went through. Cncl. Bryson also extended wishes to everyone for a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Cncl. Frank Caligiuri reported attending the Gloucester County Improvement Authority Meeting on December 15th where the GCIA 2012 budget was discussed. He gave the authority a lot of credit for taking a conscientious view of that budget as it is very challenging due to cuts, concessions and having to justify the way funds will be divvied up according to new state laws. Cncl. Caligiuri reported attending the Environmental Commission Meeting on December 19th and also extended his appreciation to Cncl. Pres., Dilks for doing an excellent job while going through some of the most challenging conditions that life has to offer.

Cncl. Rich DiLucia reported attending a Veterans Committee Meeting in Holiday City that was well attended by veterans from World War II and the Vietnam Conflict. The Gloucester County Director of Veterans Affairs gave a detailed presentation regarding veteran

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benefits. He opened the meeting for questions and discussions as there were veterans in attendance that were not aware of some of the benefits they are eligible for. One veteran advised the group that the Monroe Township MUA gives a 10% reduction on water and sewer bills. Cncl. DiLucia noted any veterans watching the Council Meeting on TV who would like information about veteran benefits should contact the Gloucester County Veterans Affairs Office to schedule an appointment to meet with a member of their staff. Cncl. DiLucia spoke of receiving phone calls regarding checks in the amount of \$400.00 to \$500.00 that were received by seniors and disabled people. They thought the checks replaced the homestead rebate that was previously in the amount of \$1,250.00. Cncl. DiLucia explained they are not checks, it is actually a receipt that should be taken to the Tax Office during the February tax quarter and the amount on the receipt will be subtracted from that quarter tax bill. Cncl. DiLucia spoke of legislation passed recently that requires State and municipal employees to pay up to 30% towards their health insurance. That cost is phased in over a four year period. Recently the judges, who also receive compensation for providing a service, challenged the law saying judges should be immune to the law because State Statute does not allow a judge's salary to be cut. Cncl. DiLucia felt that State Statute was established to prevent compensation from being taken away by the political process punishing judges because of how they ruled. Instead of the judge, who also benefits from that State Statute recusing herself, she ruled in favor of the judges saying that in fact they were protected under this law and did not have to pay towards their health insurance. He noted in this instance the judicial system ruled for themselves contrary to what everyone else has to do. He felt there may be some legal challenges to the entire issue and he wondered whether the judges will also rule that under collective bargaining agreements wages cannot be cut. Cncl. DiLucia extended best wishes for a happy, health New Year. He also commended Cncl. Pres., Dilks for doing a tremendous job as council president in a year that was really difficult for him.

Cncl. William Sebastian reported attending the Derrick Eidem welcome home ceremony and noted what was unique about it was the fact that his mother did not know that he was home. In most cases the mother and family plan a coming home celebration for the soldier but in this particular case it was the soldier and his brother that planned the surprise for his mother. It was a unique surprise and it went over very well as there were approximately 100 people in attendance. Cncl. Sebastian noted he hoped everyone had a happy and blessed Christmas and he wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

Cncl. Daniel Teefy commended Cncl. Pres., Dilks for a job well done and he wished everyone a happy, healthy New Year.

Mayor Michael Gabbianelli spoke of the welcome home celebration for Army Specialist Derrick Eidem being attended by many dignitaries and how the mother figured it out when she saw all the people. The Mayor thanked the residents for supporting the food pantry and the Williamstown Fire Company Christmas tree sale. He also extended best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year and noted his wish for 2012 is for the economy to turn the corner.

Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks expressed his appreciation to the Clerk and her staff for the work they did this year providing Council with all the information they needed to do their work. He also expressed his appreciation to all members of Council for their kind words and for stepping up to help him during the months he was caring for his wife. He also extended New Year wishes to everyone.

F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION


Cncl. Daniel Teefy made a motion to open the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Rich DiLucia and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance. With no one wishing to speak Cncl. William Sebastian made a motion to close the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Frank Caligiuri and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

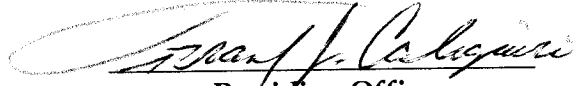
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G.) ADJOURNMENT

Cncl. Frank Caligiuri made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of December 27, 2011. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Daniel Teefy 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 December 27, 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 _____ *smj* _____ Date 1/24/12
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____