

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
FEBRUARY 28, 2012

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 8:12 PM by Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri 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., Frank Caligiuri 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. Ronald Garbowski led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and Reverend Brian Greco of the Cross Keys United Methodist Church offered the Invocation. Mayor Michael Gabbianelli and members of Council extended best wishes to Pastor Greco who is leaving Monroe Township after 18 years of service at the Cross Keys Methodist Church.

ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Cncl. Walter Bryson	Present
Cncl. Marvin Dilks	Present
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present
Cncl. Ronald Garbowski	Present
Cncl. William Sebastian	Present
Cncl. Daniel Teefy	Present
Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri	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 Public Works, Bob Avis	Present
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. Walter Bryson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Council Work Session, Regular Council Meeting and Closed Executive Session of February 14, 2012. The motion was seconded Cncl. Ronald Garbowski and approved by all members of Council.

B.) CORRESPONDENCE - None

C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to open the Resolutions Scheduled-Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Marvin Dilks 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. William Sebastian and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

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C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

**R:56-2012** Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

**Cncl. Marvin Dilks** made a motion to approve Resolution R:56-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:57-2012** Resolution Authorizing Closed Executive Session Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Discuss An Active Litigation Matter (*Blaze Mill Development*)

**Cncl. William Sebastian** made a motion to approve Resolution R:57-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Daniel Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:58-2012** Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of February 28, 2012

**Cncl. Daniel Teefy** made a motion to approve Resolution R:58-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:59-2012** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe, County of Gloucester, New Jersey, Authorizing The Preparation And Distribution Of Offering Documents In Connection With The Sale Of The Township's General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2012; Authorizing The Issuance, Sale And Award Of Said Bonds; Making Certain Determinations And Covenants In Connection Therewith; And Authorizing Certain Actions Related Thereto

**Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to approve Resolution R:59-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Rich DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:60-2012** Emergency Temporary Resolution Prior To Adoption Of The Budget Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester

**Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to approve Resolution R:60-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Rich DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:61-2012** Resolution Awarding A Contract For Professional Services To Adams, Rehmann & Heggan Associates, Inc. For Final Design, Permitting To Produce Bid Documents And Construction Management Services Associated With The North Main Street Sidewalk Project Within The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey

**Cncl. Marvin Dilks** made a motion to approve Resolution R:61-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**R:62-2012** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing A Person To Person Transfer And Renewal Of An Inactive License Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 33:1-12.39 For The 2011-12 License Terms For License Number 0811-33-005-011 From D G Monroe, LLC To Apple New Jersey, LLC

**Cncl. William Sebastian** made a motion to approve Resolution R:62-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

D.) ORDINANCES

**Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri** turned this portion of the meeting over to **Ordinance Committee Chairman, Cncl. William Sebastian**. **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to open the Public Hearing for Ordinances O:07-2012 and O:08-2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Daniel Teefy** 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. Marvin Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

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

**O:07-2012** An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Amend Chapter 30 Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe Entitled "Emergency Medical Services Division"

**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:07-2012 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Rich DiLucia**.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:07-2012 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - 6 AYES, 1 NAY (Caligiuri)**

**Tally: 6 Ayes, 1 Nay, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent.** Ordinance O:07-2012 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

**O:08-2012** An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 4 Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe Entitled "Administrative Code"

**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:08-2012 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Rich DiLucia**.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:08-2012 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - ALL AYES**

**Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent.** Ordinance O:08-2012 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

**E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

**Cncl. Daniel Teefy** reported the annual Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Parks and Rec Commission will be held at Owens Park on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at noon. This year the Easter Bunny will be taking pictures with the children at 11:00 AM as well as after the Easter egg hunt. Cncl. Teefy noted the Parks and Rec Commission could use some volunteers to help fill approximately 8000 Easter eggs at the Pfeiffer Center on March 13<sup>th</sup>. The Parks and Rec Commission is also working on the Main Street Music Festival scheduled for Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:00 PM to 10:30 PM. This event will include a country singer, a band performing Jimmy Buffet songs, a band performing classical rock, vendors, rides for the children and the Phillies game will also be shown.

**Cncl. William Sebastian** reported the Zoning Board has been active with minor variance requirements. Also coming before the board is the conversion law requirement but the date for that has yet to be determined.

**Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** distributed a copy of the Welcome To Monroe signs that were approved and will be installed on Rt. 42 and Rt. 322 at the entrances to Monroe Township. The signs will hopefully be installed by the end of the month. He reported the Economic Development Commission will be hosting a Monroe Township Call To Service Summit on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Monroe Township Library and that the Library will again be conducting an Italian language series on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. The Library also placed a new program entitled "Mango" on line that will help people learn several different foreign languages. This program is free through the Library.

**Cncl. Rich DiLucia** referred to his comments at the last meeting regarding the Governor initiating a tax reduction of up to 10% for wage earners and noted he was not opposed and would encourage tax reductions but was concerned that we could end up the same way we did after Governor Whitman gave us a couple of extra dollars in our paychecks and the highest real

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

estate taxes in the country. He felt if the State has excess money the more prudent approach would be to reduce real estate taxes by whatever money is going to be given to wage earners, as that would start to counter act the property tax problems that exist today. He noted the governor's tax reduction plan sounds wonderful but he has not identified where the money is coming from. There have been ongoing discussions about cutting municipalities and school district budgets, placing more responsibility on workers for their pensions and health insurance and all the other things that the governor gloats about as his accomplishments that put more revenue into the State but he has not said to this day where the money is coming from for the tax reductions. If the State budget has excess money it came from cutting aid to municipalities over the years and now we are doing the same or more with less. The propaganda is that real estate taxes have been lowered, when in fact statistically they have risen according to neutral statisticians that have estimated real estate taxes have gone up from 15% to 20% because of the elimination of the Homestead Rebate. Many people paying property taxes this year received a coupon averaging between \$300.00 and \$400.00 instead of the \$1,200.00 Homestead Rebate seniors and low income people had previously received and in those cases property taxes actually increased \$800.00. Cncl. DiLucia expressed his concerns that tax relief from the federal or state governments is based on rewarding the wealthy. A 10% reduction in income tax would be for the average \$50,000.00 wage earner a maximum amount of \$500.00 at the end of the three year phase in period while the millionaire will receive \$7,000.00. Cncl. DiLucia noted it is very clear that this approach is designed to transfer money to the people who need it the least and he felt if money is allocated towards tax relief it should go towards real estate taxes that will benefit everyone equally. He felt there should be more cooperative legislative efforts in Washington and New Jersey between both parties to resolve this instead of cutting Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid as well as other things working people depend on. He noted many people who previously held jobs making much more are now unemployed or underemployed as a result of this country shifting to a service based industry and those lost wages are what should be addressed. Cncl. DiLucia urged residents to open their eyes, not swallow the political garbage going on and to contact their State representatives to make sure this tax reduction is given in the form of a real estate reduction as opposed to an income tax reduction.

Cncl. Marvin Dilks reported the Monroe Township Senior Commission is sponsoring a trip to the Dutch Apple Dinner Theatre to see the musical "Nine To Five" on March 31<sup>st</sup>. The cost is \$59.00 per person and anyone interested can contact Jeanette Remsen at (856) 629-5491.

Cncl. Walter Bryson reported the Historical Society is getting closer to getting the train station to become a reality and Thursday night will meet to discuss the logistics of moving it back to town. He also reported a Budget Committee Meeting was held last week and the budget will be kept below the 2% cap required by law. He noted budget cuts should come from the top down and the State should make additional cuts to get their budget below the proposed 3½% increase. Cncl. Bryson also commented on the governor vetoing the gay marriage bill and noted he does not want to see this matter go before the voters but would encourage legislators to work harder to expand the definition of civil union and not change the definition of marriage, which goes beyond just history, it goes back to creation. Cncl. Bryson spoke of being in the manufacturing sector for over 35 years, how he has seen high tech industry decrease and how he is encouraged to see industry beginning to move back to this country due to the cost of product quality and logistics. He urged that movement to continue on the Federal and State government levels and suggested legislators modify the tax distribution structure so that job creating businesses will be attracted to New Jersey, which is a high tech and engineering state. He noted last year he solicited input from residents regarding this matter and spoke of how those inputs were sent to the legislators and how he received no response from them. He noted the legislators need to start listening and acting upon what the people are telling them to make New Jersey a better place.

Mayor Michael Gabbianelli reported during the first week of February he read the story "Mr. George Baker" to 600 first grade students at Whitehall, Radix, Holly Glen and Oak Knoll schools. Holly Glen is involved in a program through Rowan University that requires students to read a thousand books and if they reach their goal, Rowan will donate money and books to their school library. The Mayor reported effective March 1<sup>st</sup> Cecil and Monroe

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

Township Ambulance and Rescue Associations will merge and will all work out of the Corkery Lane building. The Cecil ambulances will be moved to the new location with no disruption in services. The move is being made due to problems getting EMS volunteers. He also reported the township received a CDBG grant in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the installation of sidewalks along Main Street from Rachel Lauren Way up to Durness Drive. The grant will not be enough to complete the project so additional funds will be utilized from the Sidewalk Fund to subsidize the project. The Mayor noted the liquor license was transferred to Applebee's for their new restaurant that will be located on the Black Horse Pike across from Peter's Diner. He reported The Parks and Rec Commission is working on a summer basketball program that will be run at Owens Park in cooperation with the Williamstown Basketball League. The basketball court is being painted, new baskets are being installed and temporary baskets will be placed on the street hockey courts whenever they are not being utilized for hockey.

**Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri** reported he was unable to attend the February 9<sup>th</sup> Planning Board Meeting, which was chaired by Vice Chairman, Bob Hochswinder. He noted when he read the minutes of that meeting he noticed Vice Chairman Hochswinder had made a number of comments about him, which in his estimation were inappropriate, disrespectful and not necessarily part of the Planning Board business; but, more importantly, they were incomplete. **Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri** noted he thought any issues that remained unresolved that pertained to him would be addressed when he was in attendance at the meeting, as it does not take a lot of courage to say things about someone when they are not in the room. **Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri** invited Vice Chairman, Robert Hochswinder to attend a televised Council Meeting to say what he wants about him in front of 30,000 people. **Cncl. Caligiuri** noted there are two sides to every story and he welcomes the opportunity to respond to those comments and give his side of the story, which changes the meaning of what was said. **Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri** noted the only reason he is addressing this now is because Mr. Hochswinder's comments were recorded as official business in the meeting minutes without him being given the opportunity to respond to them and anyone reading those official minutes may decide the information being conveyed was factual, when in fact, it's deserving of hearing the other side. He noted if Bob would like to attend the next televised Council Meeting he would welcome the opportunity to address all of his concerns in front of all the residents in the township, as there is nothing to hide and that may change the meaning of the comments made about him. **Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri** extended his appreciation to Captain Howard Wiemer for doing an exceptional job in addressing a problem that came up in one of the developments. He also reported Gloucester County will be accepting 25 used tires per person at the solid waste recycling complex in Harrison Township from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM during the month of March. They will also have a special Saturday drop off on March 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 AM to noon. Residents can contact the County facility at (856) 473-6045 ext 14 for additional information. **Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri** reported a meeting of the Redevelopment Committee has been scheduled for Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss what can be done to make the area currently being developed on the Black Horse Pike more inviting without being cost prohibitive to developers.

**F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

**Cncl. William Sebastian** made a motion to open the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Daniel Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**W. Larry Cooper, Sr., 373 Blue Bell Road** advised Loyalty Day Ceremonies will be held on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at VFW Post 1616. This year Post 1616 is hosting Loyalty Day Ceremonies for VFW Posts from throughout the State. Mr. Cooper noted invitations have already been sent and he urged everyone to try to attend. He also extended an invitation to all residents. Mr. Cooper noted last year he made a request for three speed humps along Oak Street and to date he has received no response. He expressed his concerns that children riding bikes and scooters on the street may be injured and he urged Council to consider installing speed humps on Oak Street due to speeding cars utilizing it as a cut through street. **Cncl. Pres., Sebastian** suggested the Director of Public Works, Bob Avis look into portable speed humps made from rubber that can be moved for place to place, as he felt that might work on Oak Street.

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F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION (cont'd)

Kelly Enders explained beginning in March she will be holding classes, for residents, that are based upon the Dani Johnson Program that helps people get out of debt. She spoke of meeting Dani Johnson and being inspired to volunteer her services to help residents become debt free and noted anyone interested should contact her by email at [nobebt08094@yahoo.com](mailto:nobebt08094@yahoo.com). Mrs. Enders requested monetary support from Council and businesses in the township to help offset incentive costs that might be incurred for the program and noted in May she will give Council a report of how much debt was paid off from the people in this community. Mrs. Enders noted the only cost for the program is a \$20.00 fee to cover the cost of the workbook. She questioned whether the Mayor and Council would be willing to put information about the program on the Township website. **Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel** advised it could be placed on the website and the community cable channel. Mrs. Enders questioned who she could contact regarding the donation of a room to hold the classes. **Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri** advised that would fall under the Mayor and he suggested Mrs. Enders send an email to him requesting a place to hold the classes. **Cncl. Walter Bryson** suggested the Reading Room by the Grand Theater and **Cncl. Daniel Teefy** suggested requesting a room at the new Library. **Cncl. Ron Garbowski** spoke of a business seminar being held at the Library on April 26<sup>th</sup> and suggested Mrs. Enders attend that event, as it would be a good start for her program. He also noted if she can get a township sponsor she could get one of the Library meeting rooms for free. Mrs. Enders noted she would also like to hold a class entitled "Grooming The Next Generation For Success", which will offer some incite to what children are being exposed to that we may be oblivious to.

With no one else wishing to speak **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** made a motion to close the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. William Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.


CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION


**Solicitor Fiore** noted Council just concluded a Closed Executive Session where discussion took place regarding the Blaze Mill litigation. There was no resolution of that litigation and a report will be made after he concurs with Counsel on behalf of the plaintiff.

G.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss **Cncl. William Sebastian** made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of February 28, 2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Susan McCormick, RMC  
Municipal Clerk

  
Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri  
Presiding Officer

*These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Council Meeting of February 28, 2012 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* \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as corrected \_\_\_\_\_

Date 3/13/12  
Date \_\_\_\_\_