

**MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
MARCH 27, 2012**

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES & ROLL CALL

The regular scheduled Work Session Meeting of the Monroe Township Council was called to order by **Council President, Frank J. Caligiuri** at approximately 7:00 PM in the Conference Room on the first floor 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, Courier Post and the Sentinel of Gloucester County). A copy of that notice has been posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex.

SALUTE TO OUR FLAG – Cncl. led the Assembly in the Salute to Our Flag.

ROLL CALL OF PUBLIC 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 J. Caligiuri	Present
Mayor, Michael Gabbianelli	Present
Business Admin., Kevin Heydel	Present
Solicitor, Charles Fiore	Present
Eng., Chris Rehmann, ARH	Present
Dir. of Finance, Jeff Coles	Present
Dir. of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present
Dir. of Code Enforcement, George Reitz	Present
Dir. of Public Works, Bob Avis	Present
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present

B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

• **Little League Opening Day**

Nick Fortunato, President Monroe Township Little League was in attendance to extend an invitation to Mayor and Council to participate in Little League Opening Day Ceremonies scheduled for **Saturday, April 7th at 10:00AM**. He advised line up for the parade down Main Street to the Church Street complex will be at the Williamstown Fire House at 9:30AM. Mayor and Council were extended an invitation to either walk the parade route or meet at the complex for the ceremonies. He thanked Mayor and Council for their continued support of the association elaborating on the phenomenal job that was done in preparing the fields for the baseball tournament held last

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B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION (cont'd)

year. Mr. Fortunato acknowledged the wonderful feedback that was received from many of the teams that participated in the tournament.

Cncl. Richard DiLucia advised that he attended many of the games during the course of the tournament and every visiting team commented on the fields and the hospitality of the town, with nothing but good things to say.

Cncl. Daniel Teefy asked for Mr. Fortunato's perspective on the handbook being reviewed by the Parks & Rec Commission and how he felt this was being received by the organizations involved. Mr. Fortunato indicated it is aiding somewhat with bringing all the organizations together. He also noted he felt the background checks are needed and he spoke on the by-laws in-place and how the handbook would only help to enhance this.

- **Resolution – Distribution of State Aid for Education**

Cncl. Walter Bryson spoke on the draft resolution presented to council and noted it was basically a reiteration of what the township council approved some four years ago. Presented was a request for an equitable distribution of educational funds in the state of New Jersey, the abolition of Abbotts Burke. He explained this matter came up again at the Supreme Court level in September, funded by Rutgers Law, and was reinstated again. He felt this was the reason such a request was made and that it was up to the legislature to make a change. **Cncl. Bryson** felt this resolution was laid out even better than in the original resolution approved by council. This spells out specifics in the state constitution that are being violated. **Cncl. Bryson** felt it was a good idea that this resolution be drafted for council's approval. **Cncl. Daniel Teefy** indicated that he agreed with **Cncl. Bryson**, council worked hard on the original resolution, we saw a change, and the Supreme Court just changed it all. He felt we could try again with this resolution. It was the consensus of council to have the solicitor prepare a resolution for the April 10th regular council meeting.

- **Corkery Plaza – Release of Performance & Maintenance Bonds**

Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri explained a call was received late last week from Mr. Mintz who requested a release of the cash bonding in place for Corkery Plaza except for an amount of \$75,000.00 to remain as a cash guarantee for Offsite Improvements (*restoring Corkery Lane to pre-development condition*) and some onsite landscaping. He then referenced the cost estimate supplied by Mr. Mintz. **Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri** then questioned Engineer, Dave Cella – ARH if there was any justification for not releasing this. Mr. Cella explained the \$75,000.00 figure (*as recommended*) would also cover the landscaping costs as well as the off-site improvements to Corkery Lane. It was the consensus of council members to move this matter forward to the regular council meeting agenda for approval. The resolution was numbered Resolution R:92-2012.

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B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION (cont'd)

• **ANJEC Grant**

Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri explained this grant would enable us to secure up to \$7,500.00 toward the cost for revising our Acme Redevelopment Plan based on certain criteria that is unique to the grant requirements. **Cncl. Walter Bryson** questioned the cost to the township, in potential changes to the master plan, etc. It was noted this is a matching grant, matching our expenditures dollar for dollar up to \$7,500.00. It was the consensus of council members to move this matter forward to the regular council meeting agenda for approval. The resolution was numbered Resolution R:91-2012.

• **Sale of WFC Command Vehicle**

Mayor Gabbianelli referred to the documentation supplied to council members and indicated that Harrison Township expressed interest in the command vehicle and he felt it was advisable to sell the vehicle at this time. It was the consensus of council members to move this matter forward to the regular council meeting agenda for approval. The resolution was numbered Resolution R:90-2012.

• **Blue Cab Transportation**

Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri indicated an application for a taxi license was just received in the Clerk's Office and all the paperwork is in order. **The Solicitor** indicated the application appears to be in compliance however he did question the zoning permit, in that it referred to this as an at-home occupation, clearly this is not a home occupation but the zoning officer did indicate that only one (1) taxi was permitted, therefore he was comfortable with this, while not being comfortable with the interpretation. This matter will be considered for approval under Correspondence at the regular council meeting.

C.) PUBLIC PORTION

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

Mayor Gabbianelli spoke on funding for Winslow Road explaining that the township was awarded \$184,100.00 from the NJDOT for paving along Winslow Road, Phase IV. The engineering on this phase is complete to Buckhorn Drive and just after this location there is a development (*Equestrian Farms*) proposed and around the bend at Fryers Lane there is another proposed development (*Spring Ridge across from Deanna Estates*). Farther down Winslow Road the Kimberly West development is located and in this area there is curbing on both sides. The developers would have to bring curb and sidewalks from Buckhorn Drive all the way around the bend where the two developer's would have to match up and go into Kimberly West. The mayor would like to use the remaining funds to pave Winslow Road at the Kimberly West location (*worse stretch of*

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C.) PUBLIC PORTION (cont'd)

road). He explained the road in the area of the bend was redone and is not too bad and once those developments are complete the developer's would have to come in and install the curbing, therefore to install roadway before that installation would not be a good use of the funding. The grant money is earmarked for Winslow Road and the mayor felt the roadwork in this area (*Kimberly West down*) would be the best use of the funds.

With no one else wishing to speak **Cncl. William Sebastian** made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Richard DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

D.) NEW BUSINESS

Cncl. Daniel Teefy requested to review the youth sporting organization handbook at the Ordinance Committee meeting of April 4th. In particular, the section relating to the background check to determine whether to separate this part or leave it in the handbook. **Ordinance Chairman, William Sebastian** indicated this was not a problem; the matter would be scheduled on the agenda.

E.) OLD BUSINESS

- **Public/Private Land Sale – Block 3901, Lot 25**

Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri advised this is for a land locked piece of land that is owned by the township. **Director of Real Estate, Charles Abel** submitted a review of the parcel of land in question and indicated a contributory value in its "as is" state. This information serves as an "FYI" to council as this matter may be forthcoming.

Cncl. William Sebastian advised there will be a bid opening tomorrow, Wednesday, March 28, 2012 at 10:00AM for a 2013 Rescue Engine and two GPM Pump Engines as well as one stationary high pressure compressor. To date, there have been six (6) vendors that picked up the bid specs for the trucks and two (2) picked up for the stand alone compressor only. **Cncl. Sebastian** contacted those vendors who picked up for the stand alone compressor and supplied them with the names of the six (6) companies that were supplying interested in the bid specs. This is due to our award being based on the units as a whole and based on the entire package.

F.) CHIEF OF POLICE MONTHLY REPORT/POLICE MATTERS

Director of Public Safety, Jim Smart submitted a copy of the report sent to the Mayor. Mr. Smart noted the report did not contain the "alarm" calls and that information will be added to the report for future reference. This report reflected calls from 3/12/12 through 3/26/12. **Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri** noted the report was quite enlightening and expressed his appreciation to those involved with putting it together.

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F.) MONTHLY REPORT (cont'd)

Cncl. William Sebastian noted the report (*in general*) only contained criminal activity; it did not represent calls taken from the ambulance squad. Mr. Smart advised the department will continue to refine the report so that it contains information that council requests.

G.) COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri reported the Redevelopment Committee met to take a hard look at the Acme Redevelopment Zone and to review and consider some architectural standards for the corridor. The Planning Board was required to approve Resolution R:80-2012 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Planning Board To Conduct An Investigation And Prepare An Amendment To The Acme Redevelopment Plan Pursuant To N.J.S.A. 40A:12a-1 Et Seq. The resolution was approved, by Council at the March 13th meeting and the Planning Board has approved this as well. **Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri** also noted that he plans to schedule a second Budget Committee meeting and as soon as he determines the availability of each member he will set that date.

H.) QUESTIONS REGARDING RESOLUTION SCHEDULED - 3/27/12

Cncl. Walter Bryson posed a question regarding R:87-2012 and if it was required to conduct an animal census. **Township Clerk, Susan McCormick** advised state statute requires municipalities to conduct a dog/cat census. In an effort to reduce costs, in the past the township conducted a census utilizing high school students going door to door and also has sent flyers out instructing residents to license their animals. These were not as successful as employing a qualified organization to conduct a comprehensive census. We have not had a licensed, qualified organization conducting our census in some time, and the township felt it was prudent to conduct one this year.

Cncl. Rich DiLucia spoke on his intention to prepare a resolution with regard to a proposed tax cut. Upon doing some research on the matter, he wanted to share some of his thoughts with council members before he went ahead and just arbitrarily drew up a resolution. He looked into Sweeney's proposal with regard to tax relief but it was not clear on what his position was other than he was trying to convey that everybody would be entitled to a minimum of \$600.00 tax relief on their real estate. His thought was to have a cut-off of \$250,000.000; therefore, no one making more than this would be entitled to this type of relief. This version was a distinct difference to Governor Christie's position that everyone gets relief regardless of their income level. **Cncl. DiLucia** then noted he realized the discussion was on state taxes, which are altogether different than federal taxes. He then did some research and questioned Sweeney on how he came up with this sum of money. Senator Sweeney responded that what he merely did was to take what the governor proposed what it would cost and then just re-proportioned it. **Cncl. DiLucia** then advised that he got together with a tax expert and ran some numbers on what certain individuals making a certain amount would realize in tax relief. He continued to speak on certain aspects of the governor's proposal versus what Sweeney is proposing. **Cncl. DiLucia**

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H.) QUESTIONS (cont'd)

spoke of his great concern with a bi-partisan piece of legislation that will look similar to what Christie is proposing. He felt it would be good for us to get ahead of the curve and he intends to include this matter in his report at the regular council meeting to emphasize the distinct difference between the democratic versus the republican position on this matter. There were some questions posed on both proposals in particular and of most concern was where this money is coming from. With discussion taking place on perhaps, some better solutions for equitable distribution of any type of tax relief. **Cncl. Walter Bryson** then noted that the assembly came up with a proposal for a 20% property tax relief credit, 25% for seniors on the first \$10,000.00 paid in property taxes to all homeowners earning up to \$250,000.00 a year. He responded to Assemblyman Moriarty on this indicating he felt if you are going to give someone tax relief on their property, it should be equal and across the board to all tax payers. His suggestion as to where the money is coming from was that it should come from the abolition of the Abbott Burke legislation. **Cncl. DiLucia** then noted if an amount of money would be identified, a very simple formula should be put into place to take each township and a percentage of the population attributable to real estate and give that proportionate amount of money of that pot. Then the municipality by virtue of figuring the tax rate distributes that on an equitable basis. This would be the correct way to do this, not tied into gimmicks, etc. that simply confuse everyone. **Cncl. DiLucia** stressed if we develop a resolution, it must be factual and soundproof and we should encourage other municipalities to use ours as a template. He wished to have council member's feelings on moving along with the preparation of a resolution. **Cncl. DiLucia** will correspond with the solicitor and a draft resolution will be prepared for review by council.

I.) QUESTIONS REGARDING ORDINANCES SCHEDULED - 3/27/12

Township Clerk, Susan McCormick referred to Ordinance O:12-2012 (*Bond Ordinance*) scheduled for second reading at the regular council meeting. She advised the Department of Local Government Services has received and approved the Supplemental Debt Statement on this; however, it was just mailed and has not been received in the Clerk's Office. For the record, verbal approval was given therefore council can move forward with second reading.

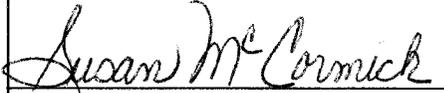
Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri referred to a resolution received from East Greenwich Township entitled Resolution Calling on the Governor and Legislature to Provide Full Statutory Distribution of Energy Tax Receipts and CMPTRA Revenue Replacement Funding. He requested that council review the content to determine if they would like to draft this sort of resolution on behalf of Monroe Township.

J.) ADJOURNMENT

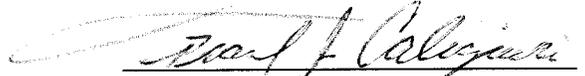
With nothing further for discussion, **Cncl. Marvin Dilks** made a motion to adjourn the Council Work Session of March 27, 2012. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and was unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

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Respectfully submitted,



Susan McCormick, RMC
Municipal Clerk



Presiding Officer

These minutes were prepared from the tape-recorded proceedings and the hand written notes of the Council Work Session of March 27, 2012 and serves only as a synopsis of the proceedings. Portions of 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 Am Date 4/10/12
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____