

**MINUTES
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
JANUARY 14, 2013**

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES & ROLL CALL

The regular scheduled Work Session Meeting of the Monroe Township Council was called to order by **Council President, Daniel Teefy** 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.: South Jersey 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. Walter Bryson led the Assembly in the Salute to Our Flag.

ROLL CALL OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Cncl. Walter Bryson	Present	
Cncl. Frank Caligiuri	Present	
Cncl. Marvin Dilks	Present	
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. Ronald Garbowski		Excused
Cncl. William Sebastian	Present	
Cncl. Pres., Daniel Teefy	Present	
Mayor, Michael Gabbianelli	Present	
Business Admin., Kevin Heydel	Present	
Solicitor, Charles Fiore	Present	
Engineer, Dave Cella, ARH	Present	
Dir. of Finance, Jeff Coles		Excused
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

• **Public Safety Committee**

Cncl. Pres., Daniel Teefy noted as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee he would like to schedule a committee meeting to review what happened with the 2013 towing list and to review the Towing Ordinance to see what improvements can be made and introduced to the Ordinance Committee. He requested the other members of the Committee, Cncl. Caligiuri and Cncl. DiLucia, to email him their availability so a meeting can be scheduled.

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B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

- **Spending Ordinance - Developers Fund/Lights at Girls Softball Field**

O:01-2013 An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Appropriating A Sum Not To Exceed \$85,000.00 For The Installation Of Lighting And Other Parks And Recreation Facility Improvements

Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted Little League has requested \$85,000.00 be taken out of the Developer's Fund to purchase new lights for the girls softball field on Church Street. New lights were installed on the Little League Field a couple of years ago but the lighting on the girl's softball field are from the 1950's and do not meet current standards. **Cncl. William Sebastian** noted language in the ordinance states "*for other parks and recreation facility improvements*" and he questioned what that entailed. **Business Administrator Kevin Heydel** explained the exact cost of the lights is unknown at this time so the project is over funded by a few thousand dollars and language is included in the ordinance to allow the balance of the money to be used for any other small parks and recreation improvements that may come up. **Cncl. Bryson** questioned when the building at the Duffy Park would be completed. Mr. Heydel noted that is a whole other project. **Cncl. Bryson** noted builders are no longer contributing to the Developer's Fund so we may want to look at what funding the State can give us as the Developer's Fund may be needed to maintain our parks. **Mayor Gabbianelli** advised that account balance is still \$400,000.00 plus and that money will not be transferred out of that account like it was in the past before he was mayor. It was designated for parks and rec and will be utilized there. **Cncl. Bryson** questioned whether that money can be used for other things besides parks and rec grounds. **Solicitor Fiore** replied no, those funds are a trust fund item. Mr. Heydel added that money is not to be utilized for everyday expenses. It is earmarked for projects, one of which is lighting for Owens Senior Baseball Field. The poles there are hollow inside and need to be replaced and that project will take a large chunk out of the remaining \$400,000.00. **Cncl. Bryson** noted the installation cost is one thing but then we have maintenance costs after that. Mr. Heydel noted that falls under the operational budget. **Cncl. Bryson** noted the operational budget is funded by taxpayers. He indicated he will be glad to make the allocations but would like to know what the State is going to do. **Mayor Gabbianelli** explained the current balance in the Developer's Fund is \$500,000.00. After the \$85,000.00 is appropriated we will still have \$415,000.00 in that account. **Cncl. Sebastian** questioned whether any quotes were received for the lights. Mr. Heydel replied yes and that this figure is just for the equipment, it does not cover the installation. The Little League Organization is paying installation costs. **Cncl. Pres., Teefy** noted at their last meeting the Parks and Recreation Commission voted to purchase the lights from the Developer's Fund. **Cncl. Pres., Teefy** polled Council and all members in attendance were in favor of appropriating the funds to purchase the lighting.

- **Comcast Technology Grant**

Cncl. Pres., Teefy questioned what the balance is from the Comcast Technology Grant. **Business Administrator Kevin Heydel** replied approximately \$20,000.00 remains in that account for the two projects remaining on the list that still needs to be

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B.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

completed. \$16,000.00 of that is for the wireless security system at Owens Park and \$3,900.00 is for the internet connection for Williamstown Fire Company. **Mayor Gabbianelli** noted he would like to see us move on the wireless security system because the park is being vandalized. **Cncl. Rich DiLucia** questioned whether that would be done by Wi-Fi connections, the number of cameras that would be installed and the proposed cost. Mr. Heydel explained the cameras will be Wi-Fi connected to a server. The rough cost estimate is \$16,000.00 but he was not sure how many cameras would be installed. The cost of cameras was discussed and it was noted more than just cameras are involved in this such as relay circuits needed due to the transmission distance. **Cncl. Bryson** questioned whether any cameras would be installed around the Pfeiffer Center or Ireland House. Mr. Heydel advised cameras are already installed at the Pfeiffer Center that monitor the rear, front and POW Park side of the building. Those cameras do not monitor all the way to the Ireland House. **Cncl. Pres., Teefy** noted this project is only the beginning and in the future cameras will be installed in the other parks as well. He noted the server that runs the cameras is the most expensive piece of equipment to be purchased.

C.) PUBLIC PORTION

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

D.) NEW BUSINESS

Cncl. Pres., Teefy noted the Clerk sent a letter to the Board of Education asking them what their decision was regarding moving the School Board Election to November. The Board has scheduled that issue on their January 24th Board of Education Meeting agenda. If the Board decides to keep the election in April Council has the choice to force them to move it to November. The Mayor and Council discussed the cost of holding an election and all were in agreement that the Board of Education should move it to November. If the Board does not move the election Council can make a decision on that issue at their January 28th Council Meeting. **Solicitor Fiore** explained if the Board does not make a decision than Council will need to because the deadline is February 1st. The Clerk noted she spoke to the Board of Elections and February 1st was not written into the law but the Board of Elections will be preparing their public notices on February 3rd. **Cncl. Rich DiLucia** suggested Council act on this tonight just to let the Board know even if they don't move on the issue Council will. The Mayor explained if Council moves on it tonight the issue is resolved. He felt the Board of Education should be given the opportunity to move on it first. Discussion ensued regarding the school budget. It was explained if the election is moved to November the school budget is not voted upon as long as it remains under 2%. If it would be increased by more than 2%, it goes before the voters.

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D.) NEW BUSINESS (cont'd)

Cncl. Sebastian noted the terms of current board members will be extended to November but he questioned how the annual school budget, which runs from July to July (*fiscal year*) will be handled. Mr. Fiore explained in the year the election is moved there should be some type of budget extension included in the law. **Cncl. Marvin Dilks** reported he attended the Board of Education Meeting on January 10th and they had nothing on the agenda about this and they didn't discuss the issue at all. The Clerk noted she personally spoke to Mr. Earling today and he assured her this matter is scheduled on their meeting agenda. He felt the election will be moved to November and indicated he will formally notify her of the Board's decision on January 25th.

E.) OLD BUSINESS

Solicitor Fiore reported on June 15, 2011 Judge McDonald granted summary judgment on behalf of the township dismissing all plaintiffs' claims in the case of Gourley vs. Monroe Township, which involved drainage issues on Newton Avenue. The case was argued before the Appellate Division by Bob Baxter from the insurance company and the Appellate Division ruled in favor of the township indicating that Judge McDonald was correct in June 2011 and affirmed the dismissal of the case.

Mr. Fiore noted he was contacted by Attorney Rich Kaser on behalf of his client, Fera's Jewelers regarding our Precious Metal Ordinance (*Chapter 277*), which requires a jewelry store to publically display all the gold they purchase. Mr. Kaser was questioning the procedure to bring this matter before Council, as State Statute requires Fera's to hold onto the gold for a certain period of time and they are having difficulty publically displaying it, as required by our ordinance. Mr. Fiore told Mr. Kaser that Mark Fera was involved when the ordinance was adopted and that the procedure to address it again would be to send a letter to Council requesting the ordinance be placed on an Ordinance Meeting agenda for future discussion. **Cncl. Sebastian** noted the police department recommended the gold be displayed because that gives people whose jewelry was stolen the opportunity to go to the store to see if their stolen items are there.

Mr. Fiore noted the Ordinance Committee should also discuss the police department rules and regulations that were brought forward by Lt. Farrell. Those regulations are not required to be adopted by ordinance but Mr. Fiore felt it would be best to discuss them in the Ordinance Committee setting. He explained the SOP's are adopted in one fashion and the rules and regulations are adopted by resolution. It was noted that the Ordinance Committee would discuss the rules and regulations at an upcoming Ordinance Meeting.

F.) COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cncl. Walter Bryson reported he attended the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting and was introduced to all the committee members. During the meeting the officers and event committees were appointed.

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G.) QUESTIONS REGARDING RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - 1/14/13

Cncl. Rich DiLucia questioned the hourly rate of Labor Counsel. Business Administration Kevin Heydel advised the rate was \$165.00 and is increasing to \$170.00.

H.) QUESTIONS REGARDING ORDINANCES SCHEDULED -1/14/13 - None

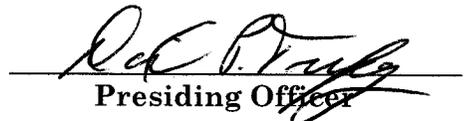
I.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further for discussion, Cncl. William Sebastian made a motion to adjourn the Council Work Session of January 14, 2013. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Rich DiLucia and was unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

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 January 14, 2013 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 1/28/13
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____