

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
FEBRUARY 25, 2013

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., Daniel Teefy** 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.: South Jersey 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., Daniel Teefy 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 offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Cncl. Walter Bryson	Present	
Cncl. Frank Caligiuri	Present	
Cncl. Marvin Dilks	Present	
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. Ronald Garbowski	Present	
Cncl. William Sebastian	Present	
Cncl. Pres., Daniel Teefy	Present	
Mayor Michael Gabbianelli	Present	
Solicitor, Charles Fiore	Present	
Business Adm., Kevin Heydel	Present	
Engineer, Chris Rehmann	Present	
Dir. Finance, Jeff Coles	Present	
Dir. Of Code Enforcement, George Reitz		Excused
Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present	
Dir. Of Public Works, Bob Avis	Present	
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

PRESENTATIONS - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. Walter Bryson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Council Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of February 11, 2013. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Marvin Dilks** and approved by all members of Council with the exception of **Cncl. Williams Sebastian** who Abstained on the Work Session and **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** who Abstained on the Work Session and Regular Council Meeting.

B.) CORRESPONDENCE

- **Taxicab License - Blue Cab Transportation, LLC**

Cncl. Pres., Daniel Teefy noted all paperwork is in order for Blue Cab Transportation however, the date on the application is shown as 2012 and that will be corrected to 2013.

Cncl. Marvin Dilks made a motion to approve a Taxicab License for Blue Cab Transportation, LLC. 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

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

R:57-2013 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Agreement To Participate In The Alliance To Prevent Alcoholism And Drug Abuse Between Gloucester County, New Jersey And The Township Of Monroe

Cncl. Walter Bryson made a motion to approve Resolution R:57-2013. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Rich DiLucia and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:58-2013 Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

Cncl. Marvin Dilks made a motion to approve Resolution R:58-2013. The motion was seconded by Cncl. William Sebastian and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:59-2013 Resolution Authorizing The Execution Of A Lease Agreement Between The Township Of Monroe And The Board Of Chosen Freeholders Of The County Of Gloucester For The Nutrition Project At The Pfeiffer Community Center

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:59-2013. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Walter Bryson and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:60-2013 Resolution Authorizing A Mandatory Source Separation And Recycling Act (Tonnage Grant)

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:60-2013. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Walter Bryson and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:61-2013 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Establishing A Date And Time For A Public Auction For The Lease Of Monroe Township Owned Properties For Farming Purposes For The Years 2013 And 2014

Cncl. Marvin Dilks made a motion to approve Resolution R:61-2013. The motion was seconded by Cncl. William Sebastian and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:62-2013 Resolution Authorizing Membership In A Mutual Aid And Assistance Agreement With Participating Units

Cncl. William Sebastian made a motion to approve Resolution R:62-2013. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Walter Bryson and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:63-2013 Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of February 25, 2013

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:63-2013. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Rich DiLucia and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

D.) ORDINANCES

Cncl. Pres., Teefy 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 Ordinance O:02-2013. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Pres., 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. Walter Bryson and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

O:02-2013 Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A Cap Bank (NJSA 40A:4-45.14)

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D.) ORDINANCES (cont'd)

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

Cncl. Walter Bryson made a motion to approve Ordinance O:02-2013 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Rich DiLucia**.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:02-2013 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - ALL AYES

Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent. Ordinance O:02-2013 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

O:03-2013 An Ordinance Of The Township Of Monroe Establishing Regulations For Small Wind Energy Systems And Solar Energy Systems

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:03-2013 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Pres., Daniel Teefy** and approved by all members of Council with the exception of **Cncl. Frank Caligiuri** who voted **Nay**.

O:04-2013 An Ordinance To Amend Chapter 104-17 Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe Entitled "Buildings" (Construction Permit Fees) (**First Reading and Publication**)

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. Rich DiLucia made a motion to approve Ordinance O:04-2013 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Walter Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Walter Bryson reported residents who are not Comcast customers can now view Council Meetings on WPSJ Channel 8.4, on Sunday at noon and Wednesday at 4:00 PM. He also reported attending the Grand Theatre Grand Opening Gala and performance of Hairspray on Saturday, February 16th. **Cncl. Bryson** extended his appreciation to the Buildings and Grounds Department for making repairs to the Reading Room and Ireland House and he urged residents to visit those historical sites and also to join the Historical Society. **Cncl. Bryson** reported the Parks and Recreation Committee is holding its annual Easter Egg Hunt on March 23rd (rain date of March 24th) and making plans for the Music Festival on Saturday, June 1st. Anyone interested in sponsoring the Music Festival should contact Jim Bonder of the Parks and Rec Department. **Cncl. Bryson** reported Gloucester County is holding their annual special waste collections on April 20th and September 21st at the Gloucester County Solid Waste Facility in Harrison Township and on May 18th and October 19th at the Gloucester County Road Department in Clayton. Information on these collections is available on the Gloucester County website, at Monroe Township Public Works Department or in the Clerk's Office. **Cncl. Bryson** expressed his concerns regarding budget issues and lack of cooperation between the parties in Washington, DC that will affect our community in job losses, program cuts and Social Security and Medicare reductions. He urged State leaders to begin looking at tax reform for property taxes, consolidation and shared services in school districts and recommended eliminating or at least requiring compliance for COAH and Abbott Burke. Nationally the tax code needs to be adjusted, loopholes closed for special interest groups and speculators should be singled out by leveling a 60% income tax on market profits of oil and gas gained on non-delivered product. He explained with speculation oil can be bought and sold without delivery ever taking place and that is what drives pump prices up and that must be stopped. He urged residents to write letters to their Congressmen and Senators because that worked in the past and it can work again in the future. He noted locally Council is going to review our budget and try to reduce taxes.

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

Cncl. Frank Caligiuri reported attending the Zoning Board Meeting on February 19th where an application for a certificate of non-conformity was heard and tabled until the next meeting. Cncl. Caligiuri reported on December 12th he sent an email to Gerry White, Gloucester County Deputy Commissioner requesting an update regarding the location of a communication tower that is to be located in Ward 4. The email was not answered but Mr. White did leave a telephone message asking if he (Cncl. Caligiuri) had any questions for him. On January 28th Cncl. Caligiuri requested the Clerk's Office to fax a copy of the email to Mr. White and to date that fax has not been answered either. Cncl. Caligiuri noted part of the reason he is not interested in sharing services with the County is because of issues such as this.

Cncl. Rich DiLucia reported attending the Senior Commission Meeting, a Public Safety Committee Meeting and the Grand Theater Grand Opening Gala. He urged everyone interested in musicals to support the theater as the shows are very good. Cncl. DiLucia expressed his sentiments regarding the governor indicating he will veto State legislation increasing minimum wage. He noted the governor's line of demarcation is to reward the ultra rich and punish the normal everyday hard working Joe. He felt some businesses could have problems increasing minimum wage but in the bigger picture, raising it may help stir the economy by providing expendable income for many seniors long past retirement that are now working for minimum wage. Cncl. DiLucia spoke of signs of life in the housing market and of a decline in younger first time buyers, which can be attributed to debt from student loans that takes them below the demarcation line of being approved or disapproved for a mortgage. College tuitions range from \$30,000.00 to \$45,000.00 a year so the only alternative for parents earning \$45,000.00 and trying to educate their children is a student loan. Those loans turn into a vicious circle because kids coming out of college cannot find jobs to repay government backed loans sometimes for five years and those loans continue to accrue 7% to 8% interest until they are eventually paid. Cncl. DiLucia noted he hopes the government in conjunction with the education system takes a hard look at tuition because it is a real problem.

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski reported attending the Grand Theater re-opening gala on Saturday, February 16th. He noted it was a very nice affair and he encouraged everyone in town to patronize the theater. He also reported attending the Library Board Trustees Meeting on February 20th. The Board is considering fee revisions for the study, tutoring and meeting room as well as increasing the fines and other Library fees. The Board is reviewing other local library fees to see if we are in line with them and is also considering changing the opening and closing times of the Library. Residents are encouraged to send an email with their opinions regarding opening and closing times to the Library website. The Library is hosting Irish Music with Tom Brett on Thursday, March 7th at 7:00 PM and approximately 40 local authors on Saturday, April 20th at 1:00 PM who will discuss and sell their books. Both events are free of charge. Cncl. Garbowski extended his appreciation to everyone who sent condolences and kept him and his family in their prayers during the recent passing of his mother, Theresa Garbowski.

Cncl. William Sebastian reported attending the Planning Board Meeting on February 14th and noted the application discussed is being continued until the next meeting. He reported he was late to the Work Session Meeting on February 11th and had to abstain on those minutes because he attended the Economic Development Committee Meeting. The Committee is working on a new business packet for the Zoning and Construction Offices to distribute that will help walk new businesses through the entire process as far as Monroe is concerned. The Committee is also continuing to contact property owners at the entrances of the township to see if the Welcome to Monroe signs can be placed on their properties. Cncl. Sebastian noted he and his wife also attended and enjoyed the Grand Theater Grand Opening Gala.

Mayor Michael Gabbianelli reported attending the Mayor's Association Dinner on January 30th. He also extended his appreciation to everyone who donated blood at the Red Cross Blood Drive held at the Pfeiffer Center on February 1st. Approximately 23 pints of blood were collected, which will help about 60 people. He also reported attending the Grand Theater Grand Opening Gala on February 16th; noting it was a night to remember but he was disappointed that the Township was not acknowledged for waiving permit fees and installing the new sidewalk in front of the theater. The Mayor noted we supported the Grand Theater because it is good for the community and he wanted the residents to know that the township did help them.

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

Engineer Chris Rehmann noted Mrs. Cote, a township resident had questioned why there was not a "No Passing Zone" on Rt. 322 at Whispering Woods Drive so he contacted Mr. Martin from the Bureau of Traffic Engineering. Mr. Martin is sending an investigator out to look at the area and he will make a recommendation as to what should be done. Mr. Rehmann indicated he sent a copy of the letter to the Council President, the Mayor and Mrs. Cote.

Director of Public Safety, Jim Smart reported a joint housing will be held on June 8th for the new fire apparatus purchased for Cecil and Williamstown Fire Departments.

Cncl. Pres., Daniel Teefy extended his appreciation to the Mayor, BA and Engineer Chris Rehmann for installing the sidewalks and waiving the fees for the Grand Theater. Mayor Gabbianelli noted it wasn't just him who got it done it was everyone in the township including Council who waived the fees. The theater did not get anything special because the sidewalk fund covered the cost of the sidewalk but it would have been nice if they recognized the township for what was done. Cncl. Pres., Teefy agreed, noting it was a wonderful night but it would have been nice if they recognized the township. He went on to speak of how talented the Road Company is and how reasonable the \$22.00 ticket price is to see a good show. He added the time messages change on the Grand Theater sign was increased to five seconds, which is the time period being considered for our sign ordinance. Cncl. Pres., Teefy also reported attending the Planning Board Meeting along with Cncl. Sebastian. He noted it was very interesting to find out how long it can take between when a project is approved and when it is actually built. The meeting was very interesting and was well attended.

F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

Cncl. Pres., Teefy addressed a Boy Scout in attendance working on a badge in communications, the last badge needed to become an Eagle Scout. Cncl. Pres., Teefy suggested the scout see Jim Bonder in the Parks and Rec Department if he needs an Eagle Scout project.


With no one else wishing to speak Cncl. Walter Bryson 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.

G.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss Cncl. William Sebastian made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of February 25, 2013. 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


Presiding Officer

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Council Meeting of February 25, 2013 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 Am
Approved as corrected _____

Date 3/11/13
Date _____