

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
MARCH 24, 2014**

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., Ronald Garbowski** 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., Garbowski 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. Sebastian led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and **Cncl. Caligiuri** offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

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

PRESENTATION

- Gloucester County Teacher Recognition Recipients - 2013/2014

Cncl. Pres., Garbowski and **Mayor Gabbianelli** presented Certificates of Recognition to **Frederick Powell, Jr.** from Williamstown High School, **Christine Neri** from Williamstown Middle School, **Ellen Swirsky** from Holly Glen Elementary School, **Bradley McQuillan** from Oak Knoll Elementary School, **Sandra Fiorentino** from Radix Elementary School and **Kristin Burns** from Whitehall Elementary School, the Gloucester County Teacher Recognition Recipients for 2013/2014.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Work Session, Regular Council Meeting and Closed Executive Session of March 10, 2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and approved by all members of Council in attendance with the exception of **Cncl. Caligiuri** who **Abstained**.

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B.) CORRESPONDENCE

- **Limousine License - Cross Keys Coach, LLC**

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to approve the Limousine License for Cross Keys Coach, LLC. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

- **Carnival Permit - Williamstown HS Braves Football Huddle Club**

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve the Carnival Permit for the Williamstown High School Braves Football Huddle Club. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

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

R:68-2014 Resolution Of The Township Of Monroe Accepting A Grant From The Hazardous Discharge Site Remediation Fund Public Entity Program Through The New Jersey Economic Development Authority And The Department Of Environmental Protection

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to approve Resolution R:68-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:69-2014 Resolution Authorizing The Acceptance Of An Irrevocable Standby Letter Of Credit In The Amount Of \$375,136.00 For Cross Keys Pavilion, Site Plan # SP-444 PS-2, Block 101, Lot 3.03 (IHOP Restaurant)

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolution R:69-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:70-2014 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. Teefy made a motion to approve Resolution R:70-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:71-2014 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Enter Into A Shared Services Agreement Between The Gloucester County Improvement Authority And The Township Of Monroe Regarding Usage Of Certain Stage Units

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolution R:71-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:72-2014 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Awarding Bid To Cross Match Technologies For An Automated Fingerprint/Palmprint System (AFIS) For The Monroe Township Police Department

Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to approve Resolution R:72-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Teefy** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

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C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION (cont'd)

R:73-2014 Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolution R:73-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:74-2014 A Resolution Approving Participation With The State Of New Jersey In A Safe And Secure Communities Program Administered By The Division Of Criminal Justice Department Of Law And Public Safety

Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to approve Resolution R:74-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:75-2014 Emergency Temporary Resolution Prior To Adoption Of The Budget Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester (*Emergency Temporary # 5*)

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolution R:75-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:76-2014 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Supporting A Property Tax Rewards Program To Be Implemented As Part Of The "Buy Monroe" Shop Local Campaign

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolution R:76-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

D.) ORDINANCES

Cncl. Pres., Garbowski turned this portion of the meeting over to **Ordinance Committee Chairman, Cncl. Sebastian**. **Cncl. Pres., Garbowski** made a motion to open the Public Hearing for Ordinances O:05-2014 and O:06-2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. Pres., Garbowski** made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

O:05-2014 An Ordinance To Amend The Code Of The Township Of Monroe Fixing And Establishing Salaries And Rates Of Compensations 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., Garbowski made a motion to approve Ordinance O:05-2014 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson**.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:05-2014 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - 6 AYES, 1 ABSENT (Dilks)

Tally: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent. Ordinance O:05-2014 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

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D.) ORDINANCES (cont'd)

O:06-2014 An Ordinance Re-Appropriating Improvement Balances Within Ordinances O:10-2010, O:09-2012 And O:12-2012

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

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to approve Ordinance O:06-2014 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Pres., Garbowski**.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:06-2014 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - 6 AYES, 1 ABSENT (Dilks)

Tally: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent. Ordinance O:06-2014 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

O:07-2014 An Ordinance To Amend Sections 175-89.1 Of The Zoning Ordinance Of The Township Of Monroe To Provide Development 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. DiLucia made a motion to approve Ordinance O:07-2014 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Pres., Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Bryson reported attending the Cheerleading competition at Rowan University and congratulated the teams from St. Mary's who won 1st Place in the competition that included teams from South Jersey and Pennsylvania. He reported Parks and Recreation has scheduled their annual Easter Egg Hunt at the Pfeiffer Center on Saturday, April 12th and the Music Festival on Saturday, June 7th. The Music Festival will include live bands, many vendors and a Home Run Derby sponsored by the All Pro Baseball and Softball Academy. On May 17th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM the Historical Society is holding their first annual British Car Show featuring cars from the British Motor Club of South Jersey, members of the Historical Society dressed in old English attire, a tea garden, flea market and an open house at the Ireland House. **Cncl. Bryson** reported Girl Scout Troop 63553 is working on a project to create a dog park in the Township. He invited Scout leader Amanda DeVault to the podium to read letters submitted by 5th grade students from Williamstown Middle School, which gave reasons why a dog park should be created. The scouts are working on this project to earn a bronze award and have generated the letters as well as a petition in favor of a dog park.

Cncl. Caligiuri reported attending the Williamstown Middle School Environmental Educational Summit on March 12th, the Open Space Committee Meeting on March 6th and the Planning Board Meeting on February 27th where a minor subdivision was approved.

Cncl. DiLucia reported attending the School Board Meeting on Thursday, March 6th where discussion took place regarding the budget. He noted one item brought up gave an example of waste, as they will be required to place \$1.2 million into their budget to prepare for the new testing procedure the federal government is mandating. He spoke of Bill Cowher, former head coach of the Pittsburg Steelers promoting the "Heads Up Program" a national initiative to make football safer. The program through the NFL involves grant money that will be distributed to youth organizations and high schools throughout the Country to educate coaches in ways to protect players from injury.

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

Cncl. Sebastian reported attending the Zoning Board Meeting on March 18th at which time a variance was granted for a shed. He also spoke of creating a dog park and read into the record an article from the March 24th edition of the Courier Post regarding Evesham Township holding a public hearing to get input from residents on a proposed dog park. The article stated the township would apply for grants, sponsorships and even sell memorial bricks to limit the cost to taxpayers. Evesham Township already applied to the Department of Environmental Protection for a change on Green Acres parkland to allow the dog park to be located in Savich Field, an open space preservation area. The DEP advised they did not need DEP approval on that, as that decision could be made by the township.

Cncl. Teefy reported ARH is working with the Girl Scout Troop leader to select a location for the dog park and he commended the Public Works Department for the great job they did removing the snow. Cncl. Teefy also reported Monroe Township received a Sustainable Jersey Grant in the amount of \$2,000.00 to assist the community Green Teams as they lead and coordinate the sustainability activities in the community. Additional information about the grant is on the township website.

Mayor Gabbianelli reported the 2014 municipal budget was presented to the taxpayers at the March 10th Council Meeting. He noted he was proud of the accomplishments made by his administration, as the budget is the result of years of proper planning, hard work and it represents the priorities and promises of this Administration, to provide top rate services to our residents. This year the municipal budget was presented with a 1.7% increase, below the 2% CAP mandated by the State and we expect the overall tax rate to increase up to 4.9% as we work with the Gloucester County Tax Assessor's Office to stabilize our tax base. Last year about 50% of our residents experienced a significant increase due to the impact of a Compliance Plan aimed at stabilizing our tax base. The other 50% experienced a decrease in taxes. This year we expect the opposite effect on our residents. Those residents who experienced a significant decrease last year or had their taxes decreased through the tax appeal process, should receive an increase this year while those who had the increase last year, will see a decrease this year. It has been a long road, guiding our township through the economic recession and collapse of the housing market over the past 5 years. However, we weathered the storm. The tax base has been stabilized and things are clearer for the future. The Mayor noted this is his last budget address and he thanked the residents for allowing him to serve as their mayor.

Cncl. Pres., Garbowski reported attending the Economic Development Commission Meeting on March 17th. The EDC is working in conjunction with the Williamstown High School Audio Visual Club to put together a video to advertise the fine points of Monroe Township to future businesses. The committee also discussed the Welcome to Monroe Township signs that the Public Works Department is installing at the entrances to the township on Winslow Road, Fries Mill Road, Coles Mill Road, Clayton Road and Malaga Road. He also reported attending the Library Board Meeting on March 19th at which time the Board discussed sending out RFP's for a coffee and tea service and "Library Dinner Night" at the Library IV Restaurant on May 18th. That night the restaurant will donate a portion of the cost of each dinner to the Monroe Township Public Library. Cncl. Pres., Garbowski also mentioned that Resolution R:76-2014 was adopted to initiate the "Buy Monroe" tax program.

F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to open the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Chris Cugini, 1814 Watercress Court, spoke of Mary Cote addressing Council at the Work Session Meeting and of how Mayor Gabbianelli called her an idiot. Mr. Cugini noted Mary works tirelessly for the community and the Mayor should not call her or any other resident an idiot. Mr. Cugini noted he will address this issue with Mayor.

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F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

G.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of March 24, 2014. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Sebastian and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan McCormick, RMC
Township Clerk


Presiding Officer

Due to technical difficulties with the recording equipment an audio recording of the March 24, 2014 Regular Council Meeting is not available. These minutes were prepared from the handwritten notes taken by the Municipal Clerk.

Approved as submitted _____ *Am* _____
Approved as corrected _____

Date 4/14/14
Date _____