

**MINUTES  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
FEBRUARY 24, 2014**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission was called to order by Chairperson Tony Langella at 5:32pm in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex. Notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Chairperson Tony Langella led the Commission in the salute to our flag. Christine Feggans offered the Invocation.

**ROLL CALL**

Present: Manny Bermudez, Christine Feggans, Tony Langella, Jill Simmermon, Jared Valdez, Cncl. Ronald Garbowski.

Absent: Mike Mota, Aileen Wojciechowski

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Christine Feggans made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected of the Economic Development Commission Meeting of January 27, 2014. The motion was seconded by Manny Bermudez and approved by all members of the Commission in attendance.

**CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

Jared Valdez talked about the EDC website, there is a quick link for it off the main Township of Monroe website. It is very basic but lists reasons why you should invest in Monroe Township and links to the new business packet the commission put together, also link to the tax abatement form. Jared and Aileen Wojciechowski will continue to work on it.

Monroe Township Business Association is having a networking event on Wednesday, February 26, 2014, with Sharee Tish, Consultant from Super Media.com, as the guest speaker. The event will be at Bella's restaurant on Corkery Lane in Williamstown. SuperMedia.com is a company that helps increase customers at your business.

Manny attending the February 18<sup>th</sup> Planning Board meeting, there was one application for land that would be used to grow Hops to be sold to breweries.

Chairperson Tony Langella said that over the weekend he had to leave town to get food from Chick Fil A and he was upset that he was spending money in another town because Monroe doesn't have all the businesses resident consumers need and want. He got a copy of the census and gave one to each member.

Tony asked if the members thought the red light camera at the Black Horse Pike and Sicklerville Road was detracting from any businesses in that area. Cncl. Garbowski said that they free up police officers to be used in other areas. Jill and Manny said that they do not think it is really detracting from businesses. Manny also added that they would be more affected if there was an accident at the intersection.

**CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS** (cont'd)

Christine Feggans talked about the spotlight on business which spotlighted Rush fitness. He said he liked being at the location. Cncl. Garbowski said that he thanked him too because the nearby businesses were also getting more business.

Jared said that Heather Simmons, the liaison to the County Economic Development from the County Freeholder office, would like to come to a meeting in May.

Tony talked with Chuck Earling about having some high school students make a video promoting Monroe Township. Cncl. Garbowski said that he would like send a copy of it big businesses, he said he would talk to Mike Hamilton from the school board. Jared said that he would go to talk to the Chuck with Tony. Cncl. Garbowski said that there was a promotional video made a few years back, he would try to find a copy of it.

Tony asked about the smaller signs, they were purchased and locations will be determined. He also asked Cncl. Garbowski about the larger sign that was purchased and how close it is to being installed. Jason and Catherine need to meet at the location and then it has to be approved with the county engineer and they also need to obtain a permit.

Tony asked what everyone thought about the tax card. Christine said that she thinks it is a good thing and that the town needs it. Cncl. Garbowski said that he thinks a sponsor needs to be secured before it is presented to the council, he would like Carmine to come to the first meeting in April, which is April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Jill brought up that in order to send it out with the tax bill we need to ask the company that does the tax bill mailing, because it would be costly to have it mailed independently. Jared said that he would ask Carmine how other towns handled distributing the cards, as most people do not come in to pay their taxes in person. Jared stated that Carmine said that a merchant event should be held first. Manny asked if Tony, Jared and himself could go talk to some banks about sponsorship. Christine said that there should be a letter on letterhead, Manny said it should highlight the program. Manny, Jared, Tony and Christine will get a letter done. Tony said that if a second meeting was needed with the sponsor(s) he would be willing to have it at Anthony and Cleopatra's. Advertising was also brought up, Jill suggested getting a bulk amount of signs or banners to get them at a discount and have the merchants pay for them. Christine is going to ask the Business Association if they would have a fundraiser in order to raise money for advertising.

Tony asked the members to give their opinion on a consultant. Jared said that he likes the idea however he isn't sure if we are going to be able to do the follow through as a commission. Jill agrees that we need a consultant but isn't sure we have the budget for it. Cncl. Garbowski said that we need to ask Joe Getz what type of businesses we need to go after. Christine thinks that we need a consultant to tell us what businesses we should approach. Manny added that getting the consultant and having the preliminary report done is a good thing but above her heads, that is needs to be done by a person who works in the township. Jared agreed and added that other townships have departments that do this for the township.

The plan for before the next meeting is to get a letter done and a presentation for sponsors and a list of potential sponsors. Christine would like to go to talk to with the owners of Rush Fitness about what we are doing on the Commission and tell them about the tax card program. Jill would like to see if we can get sponsorship for the tax card and do not have to pay for the postage then we could go ahead and get the preliminary report from Joe Getz. Tony would like to get the tax card further along. Manny told Jared about a video that was done by Hammonton students for the Hammonton Chamber of Commerce. Tony said that he would talk to Aileen about sending a letter to Mike Mota about his position on the commission.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, Tony asked for a motion to adjourn Manny made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission Meeting of February 24, 2014. The motion was seconded by Jared; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquelyn Allen

The next scheduled Monroe Township Economic Development Commission meeting is Monday, March 17, 2014 at 7:00pm.

*These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Economic Development Commission Meeting of February 24, 2014 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.*

Approved as submitted \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved as corrected \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_