

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
NOVEMBER 23, 2015**

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 8:21 PM by **Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri** 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., Caligiuri 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. Bryson led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and **Gerald Furness of Cross Keys United Methodist Church** offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Cncl. Walter Bryson	Present
Cncl. Marvin Dilks	Present
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present
Cncl. Bob Heffner	Present
Cncl. Bart McIlvaine	Present
Cncl. Cody Miller	Present
Cncl. Pres., Frank Caligiuri	Present
Mayor Daniel Teefy	Present
Solicitor, Charles Fiore	Present
Business Adm., Kevin Heydel	Present
Engineer, Kathryn Cornforth	Present
Dir. Of Code Enforcement, George Reitz	Present
Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present
Dir. Of Public Works, Bob Avis	Present
Deputy Mayor Andy Potopchuk	Present
Township Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present

PRESENTATION

• **Certificates of Recognition**

Mayor Teefy and **Cncl. Miller** presented **Maximillion Santiago** with a Certificate of Recognition in acknowledgment of completing his Eagle Leadership Project "Military Hall of Honor" and attaining the highest and most coveted rank in scouting "Eagle Scout".

Mayor Teefy and **Cncl. Miller** presented **Bruce A. Prichard** with a Certificate of Recognition in acknowledgement of completing his Eagle Leadership Project "Car Show for Kids" and attaining the highest and most coveted rank in scouting "Eagle Scout".

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Council Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of November 9, 2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

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B.) CORRESPONDENCE

• **Junkyard Licenses**

AA Auto Salvage, Inc.
Auto Express
Blue Bell Auto Parts, Inc.
Midway Auto Parts

Schultz Enterprises, Inc.
South State Auto Parts, LLC
Tuckahoe Road Auto Sales, LLC
Williamstown Auto & Truck Salvage

Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri noted Midway Auto Parts, Schultz Enterprises, Inc. and Tuckahoe Road Auto Sales, LLC will be held until additional information is received. The Clerk noted all paperwork was in order for AA Auto Salvage, Inc. Auto Express, Blue Bell Auto Parts, Inc. South State Auto Parts, LLC and Williamstown Auto & Truck Salvage.

Cncl. Dilks made a motion to approve the Junkyard Licenses for AA Auto Salvage, Inc. Auto Express, Blue Bell Auto Parts, Inc. South State Auto Parts, LLC and Williamstown Auto & Truck Salvage. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Miller** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

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

R:178-2015 Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve Resolution R:178-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:179-2015 Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of November 23, 2015

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve Resolution R:179-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:180-2015 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Transferring Funds For The Budget Year 2015

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve Resolution R:180-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Heffner** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:181-2015 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Agreement Between The County Of Gloucester And The Township Of Monroe

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve Resolution R:181-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:182-2015 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Agreement Between The County Of Gloucester And The Township Of Monroe - Police

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve Resolution R:182-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. McIlvaine** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

R:183-2015 Resolution Authorizing Closed Executive Session Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Discuss Personnel/Email Policy (**REMOVED FROM AGENDA**)

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D.) ORDINANCES - None

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Miller thanked the Mayor for hiring the Code Enforcement Officer Trainee. He noted he has had the opportunity to have two meetings with her over the past two weeks and she is doing a phenomenal job helping businesses interested in locating in Monroe Township. Cncl. Miller reported visiting a winery that will be opening a 5,000 square foot building with a tasting room once they receive the proper certs from ABC, Pineland approval and permits from the township. He noted this will be the first winery in Monroe Township and that is exciting.

Cncl. DiLucia noted when he reports on issues he wonders if anyone hears them but after his report last month about the Consumer Price Index calculation not giving senior citizens a cost of living increase he received five/six phone calls from people who watched that meeting and wanted to thank council for keeping them up to date on things like this. He added in fact they took his suggestion and called their legislators to complain about the calculation method. Cncl. DiLucia noted he doesn't know if that will go anywhere but this is a good sign that people are willing to do something about what is happening in this Country in terms of people on fixed incomes that are being discarded and treated like they never existed. He added he still cannot reconcile in his mind how any mathematical formula could have concluded the cost of goods and services did not go up last year. He added the mathematical formula being used certainly is not the one he is using to pay his bills. Next year senior citizens and disabled people will get no increase and that puts a real burden on them. Cncl. DiLucia thanked the people who called him, as he is glad to know people are watching the meetings and listening to Council's reports.

Cncl. Bryson thanked Our Lady of Peace and St. Mary's School for their annual Thanksgiving Food Drive, which helps hundreds of people now and throughout the rest of the year. He also thanked the other churches and civic associations in town who also pitch in this time of the year to help others. Cncl. Bryson wished everyone a joyous Thanksgiving and noted he hoped everyone would thank God for all the good things as well as the not-so-good things, which sometimes rebuilds/reshapes people and opens new doors. He urged residents to continue to be generous to those less fortunate and to smile and say hello to people, as that may make a person's day a little brighter. Cncl. Bryson invited everyone to attend the Tree Lighting Ceremonies and while there to visit the historical sites in the township. Trains will be set up in the Little School and the Ireland House will be decorated. He wished everyone a happy, healthy and loving Thanksgiving.

Director of Public Works, Bob Avis reported this is his last meeting, as he is retiring effective December 1st. He thanked all the mayors and councilmembers he has worked for over the past thirty years. Mayor Teefy and Council thanked Mr. Avis for his dedicated service.

Mayor Teefy also thanked Mr. Avis for helping him during his transition from Councilman to Mayor and went on to say Zoning Official Fred Weikel is also retiring on November 30th after working for the township twenty-nine years. Fred did an outstanding job as the Zoning Officer and will be missed but will be staying on to help out with Emergency Management. EMT Supervisor Nancy McDonald is also retiring on November 30th. Nancy has done an outstanding job working with both the volunteers EMTs and paid staff and will be sorely missed. He added we are trying to find the proper people to fill these positions. The Mayor noted the County advised him the residents of Monroe Township came out to vote on Election Day and he thanked everyone who voted in an off year. He reported meeting with the Sunshine Rotary who is looking into installing a playground at the Duffy Field by the spring of 2017. He urged residents to support future Rotary fund raisers such as the comedy night on February 19th. The Mayor reported attending the League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City where he attended very informative seminars such as the one that dealt with jobs for veterans. Another dealt with abandoned houses and it had many good tips. One ARH is going to work on is what the City of Trenton did, which was to take all the properties that were registered and those that were identified by the Zoning, Housing and Construction officials and plot them on a map of the town. When that was done they saw that a certain area of town had the most problems and they began to address that area first. The Mayor noted we are already registering properties and could do that as well. Vineland has a fourth year registration fee of \$5,000.00 and the Mayor felt that is

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

something Council should look at because that would hit the banks in their wallet and make them move. Trenton has also put programs together for first time buyers to rehab houses. The Mayor noted he got some contacts for the abandoned houses and will keep up with this. He also reported attending a seminar regarding heroin/opium addiction problems where it was suggested that towns put together a new home buyer's kit for the care of prescription drugs. He noted Heroin is now being replaced by Fentanyl and according to the State's third quarter statistics overdoses from it have significantly increased. The Mayor noted he is glad our Municipal Alliance has been tackling the drug problems. He reported he administered the oath of office to the Williamstown Fire Department's new officers at their annual Firemen's Banquet on November 6th and he congratulated the new Fire Chief, Frank Murray. On November 7th he attended the Veterans Day Ceremonies at Holiday City and on November 21st he attended the Monroe Township Ambulance and Rescue Association Banquet and swore in their new officers. The Parks and Recreation annual Tree Lighting Ceremony will take place on December 5th at 6:00 PM at the Pfeiffer Center. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be in attendance to visit with the kids. The Ireland Hofer House and the Hall Street School will also be open for residents to visit. That same night the Williamstown High School Football Team is playing in the Group V South Jersey Championship at 6:00 PM at Rowan. Hopefully people will come to the Tree Lighting Ceremony and then go over to the football game to support the Williamstown Braves Football Team. The Mayor noted he will be lighting the tree and then heading over to the football game. He congratulated the Williamstown High School Girls' Volleyball Team who went to the State finals this year. They lost but they had a great year and deserve recognition, as they have one of the strongest programs in the State of New Jersey. The Mayor reported Public Works is picking up leaves and trying to hit each neighborhood at least two times and possibly three.

F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

Chris Cugini approached Council and wished the Mayor and members of Council a Happy Thanksgiving. He thanked **Cncl. Miller** for what he wrote on Facebook because it made him come out to a meeting to speak about nepotism and Civil Service. Mr. Cugini spoke of showing some of his Republican friends in State government a copy of our nepotism ordinance and stated that is a law that is to prevent elected officials from hiring family. He also made a comment that our Solicitor knows a lot about Civil Service, which deals with testing. Mr. Cugini also noted elected officials when talking to the media should think before speaking because things said affects people in the township and they get upset. He noted if you are dealing with another board you should not be threatening people because to him that is an abuse of power and if the current situation is proven to be a terroristic threat then the councilman that made that threat should be made to resign.

Brian Kern resident of Hunter Woods asked if it would be possible to get more street lights along Fries Mill Road and Route 322 where the new development is being built. **Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri** questioned if Mr. Kern had a specific location where he felt lights should be located. Mr. Kern noted from Scotland Run down to CVS. He also noted Route 322 should be a no passing lane by the entrance to Hunter Woods because people pass there as cars are pulling out of the development. **Cncl. Miller** noted he would contact the Gloucester County Engineer about this but advised that plans to improve the Fries Mill Road/Rt. 322 intersection have been submitted to the NJDOT and we are waiting to hear back from the State about those road improvements, which will incorporate a double lane roadway. Lighting may also be an aspect of that project but in the meantime he will contact the County engineer. Mr. Kern questioned if a newsletter would be going out about that project. **Cncl. Miller** replied not yet as we are still waiting for comments from the State. Mr. Kern also addressed the issue **Cncl. Bryson** brought up in the Work Session Meeting. He noted the school district has a zero tolerance on terroristic threats for students so why is there a double standard for elected officials and why isn't he expelled from his position like a student would be expelled from school? **Solicitor Fiore** replied all the information has been sent over to the Gloucester County Prosecutor, Sean Dalton to investigate what occurred and to see if any action should be taken. It has been said that a police

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F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION (cont'd)

report was filed so Mr. Fiore noted he emailed the chief of police tonight questioning that because he was not aware of a report being filed. Mr. Kern questioned whether everyone felt 100% safe with the words that were in the article. Mr. Fiore felt it would not be appropriate for him to comment as the Solicitor on that. Mr. Kern noted he has worked in politics with unions for fifteen years but has never heard anything like the comments made about dead bodies in all those years and where kids are involved it is another story. Mr. Fiore noted we totally agree and that is why it was sent to the Prosecutor's office.

Cncl. Miller made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Dilks and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Cncl. DiLucia referred to Mr. Cugini's comments and noted for the record he wanted to state that he agreed with him in regards to the nepotism. He added that was his position and still is his position, as the ordinance clearly defines the issue and we are still looking into the legalities of it. He stated the solicitor has sent him some information about that and he will be talking to him about it. Cncl. DiLucia added at times a Democrat can agree with a Republican.

Solicitor Fiore noted Mr. Cugini indicated he spoke to an attorney from the State and he requested that Mr. Cugini provide the name of that person so he could talk to him about this. Mr. Cugini replied his friend is an elected official and his chief of staff is a solicitor. (*Other comments made by Mr. Cugini were inaudible on the tape since he was in the audience when answering the question and away from the microphone*). Cncl. Miller questioned Mr. Fiore on what our labor attorney's opinion was on this matter. Mr. Fiore explained he agreed that Civil Service would supersede any local ordinance. Cncl. DiLucia stated during a previous Council Meeting he stated that he had a discussion with a person from Civil Service, whose name he had to give to anyone interested in contacting them, that said absolutely they have no jurisdiction what-so-ever over the selection of a police officer. Anyone can be bypassed and if that becomes an issue than the person who is bypassed can legally challenge it but Civil Service does not have an objection to a bypass based on a nepotism policy, which we have a right to establish. He noted he was talking to a representative from Civil Service on the phone and they said they would be more than happy to speak to anyone who wanted to contact them. Cncl. DiLucia noted whether that person is right or not he can only conclude that if they are authorized to speak on behalf of Civil Service that he received the correct answer from them. Cncl. Bryson questioned whether Mr. Fiore didn't get answers from the Attorney General so he took it to the Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Fiore replied that is correct because generally when someone calls the Attorney General's office they would be told to defer to the local solicitor and if you don't believe the local solicitor or feel he is incorrect you can take the appropriate action. Mr. Fiore noted in his twenty-one years as solicitor he has never experienced the Attorney General's office giving a verbal opinion over the phone or giving an opinion in writing. He added if Sue McCormick called tomorrow morning they would tell her to defer to the local solicitor and if you do not agree with the local solicitor you can hire special counsel to review the issue. Mr. Fiore noted and he would have no problem with that or would not be offended by that. Cncl. Bryson noted he was not questioning that what he was saying was that Mr. Fiore went to the Attorney General and when he didn't get a response he went to the next best place the Department of Community Affairs. Mr. Fiore explained he went to the Local Finance Board and they said the only way they would make a determination was if a formal complaint was filed by someone. Cncl. DiLucia noted he does not feel comfortable filing an ethics charge because he felt it is not a question of somebody doing something unethical. He felt that it deals with someone making an interpretation that we don't agree on. Now it appears the only recourse we have is to charge somebody specifically with an ethics charge and he will not do that. He is not questioning their ethics just their legal opinion, which he just does not agree with. Mr. Fiore replied he knows Cncl. DiLucia does not agree but during his tenure as solicitor this is at least the third time a police officer related to an elected official has been hired. Cncl. DiLucia noted not since the most recent amendment to that ordinance and if you read the date of the amendment it was enacted after the mayor's relative was hired. He added he wasn't there when the amendment was adopted but Mr. Fiore, Mr. Bryson and Mr. Caligiuri were in attendance. Cncl. DiLucia noted he heard what Cncl. Bryson's opinion was on that amendment but he has not heard what Cncl. Caligiuri's interpretation of that ordinance is. All he can go by is the literal interpretation of the ordinance, which says they are not to be considered. The ordinance does not talk about anything other than "consider" and under

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F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION (cont'd)

the Civil Service rule of three if you do not consider somebody that is within your prerogative. The hiring party has a right to consider or not consider. He added he does not want to make this a personal thing because there are at least two recent issues that deal with nepotism and one has nothing to do with Civil Service. The same attorney gave us an opinion on the Human Resource Director's mother not being under the ordinance and that is absurd. The first legal opinion copied the Human Resource Director and why did it do that if she had nothing to do with hiring. Mr. Fiore noted for the record that opinion came from labor counsel. Cncl. DiLucia agreed that the letter came from labor counsel not Mr. Fiore and he went on to say that the second opinion did not copy the Human Resource Director. He added he wanted to make this clear to Council as well as the person this affects that he has absolutely nothing personal against them and he doesn't want to give anyone the impression that he thinks they are attempting to do something unethical. He just disagrees with the interpretation because if you have a nepotism policy it is supposed to prevent relatives from being hired and in fact we just hired two so what good is a nepotism policy. What does it mean, are we going to do it selectively? Opinions can always be contrary to fact and he strongly objects to having a nepotism policy that is not enforceable. He added if you follow the sequence there were three nepotism policies. The first policy Mayor Luby vetoed because he felt it conflicted with one's constitutional rights. At that time the council and attorney disagreed with that interpretation that it was a conflict of constitutional rights so if it is not a constitutional objection how can it be an objection based on Civil Service. That does not make sense and when things don't make sense to him he thinks he has a right to disagree with them. He added he has not given up on this issue but will not file an ethics charge and he wants to make that clear. He wants to find out if there is another avenue to get another interpretation and if in fact this ordinance is unenforceable as a councilman he will make a motion that we dispense with the nepotism ordinance because it has no teeth or no meaning.

Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri noted he would like to address some of the comments that were made this evening. He indicated he did make a statement in an email and then he received an email from the attorney representing the school district pointing out that his email was in bad taste. Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri noted he took the time to tell the attorney that there was never any threat of violence and that his interpretation of the term used was that he would hold people accountable for their actions. The attorney did choose to interpret it differently and did make a conscious effort to contact the newspaper a week after he received that information. The second thing dealing with the request for information from the superintendent was a response from a request that he had received from several constituents. One was from a parent who contacted him to say that her child arrived home and apparently had his sweater ripped off of him by a staff member. Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri held up photographs of the child's torn sweater. He noted the parent stated they had not received a response from the superintendent and as a political leader his answer should have been like other politicians who pass the buck by saying "*oh that's a shame and maybe you should contact the superintendent*" but he took the liberty to contact the superintendent about this and two other issues he heard about. He noted he never received a response from the superintendent and just like the parent had reported to him he could not get a confirmation or denial that a staff member did this to the child. He added he could only imagine the level of frustration this parent felt with the superintendent didn't provide an adequate answer for her child's sweater being ripped off. So while it was inappropriate for him to get frustrated he did on behalf of the parent and child and tried to find out what exactly happened to that child as well as the other two situations; all three of which he never received a response to. The only response he did receive was that the attorney representing the school district apparently diverted the attention to something he had already retracted a week earlier and decided to take that to the newspaper. Cncl. Pres., Caligiuri noted he wanted all those that are concerned to know that he works as a volunteer with children all the time and he has never had a criminal record and certainly never done anything violent to anyone. He is more concerned that someone did something violent to this child and Mr. Fiore will bring that to the County who will investigate the issue to decide whether or not he did anything wrong. He added fortunately he lives in America where there is a legal system that can decide whether he is guilty of doing anything wrong. He added he was only looking out for a child and a parent.

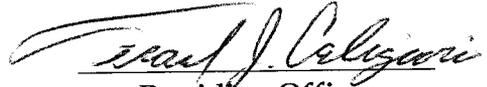
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G.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss Cncl. Miller made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of November 23, 2015. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Heffner and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,


Susan McCormick, RMC
Township Clerk


Presiding Officer

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Council Meeting of November 23, 2015 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 AmJ
Approved as corrected _____

Date 12/14/15
Date _____