

**MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
DECEMBER 14, 2015**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission was called to order by Chairperson Tony Langella at 5:33pm in the 3RD Floor Economic Development 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: Tony Langella, Jared Valdez, Ernie Carbone, Robert Bender, Christine Feggans, Aileen Chiselko, Natalie Wentz, Cncl. Bart McIlvaine

Absent:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Robert made a motion to approve the minutes of the Economic Development Commission Meeting of November 16, 2015. The motion was seconded by Ernie, Aileen abstained.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Chairman Langella said that his business, Anthony and Cleopatra, will be doing the December spotlight on business. Christine has also asked Home Market, a new store on the Black Horse Pike, to do a spotlight on Business.

Banners and two directional signs were given to Public Works. A few of the banners are being hit by buses and trucks and Ernie, Cncl. Heffner and Cncl. Miller suggested angling them slightly so that they will not be hit as much, if ever. Aileen asked if she could pay the \$846 PO for Astro signs, Ernie said it can be paid and Aileen said she just need the original PO. She will email Jason from Astro for the original PO.

The tree lighting ceremony was successful, all the additional events at the ceremony were well received, ornament making and carolers.

The snowman event got slightly out of control. All events have to be organized and have some control since they may need additional police and other resources depending on the event nature and amount of people expected to attend.

Bearded Guitar Repairs is a new business on the corner of Main Street and Poplar Avenue, owned by Nick Palatucci.

TV One update from Ernie: They are making a schedule to shoot the B roll, it will be filmed over 4 hours. Ernie is going to do it in an order to get the most out of the 4 hours. He would also like add any branding from Suasion to the video.

Tony and Ernie went to see Mark Hernandez at his property, he has 99 acres on Malaga Road and would like to make wine and have a wine tasting building, Autumn Lake Winery.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

Tony asked Cncl. Heffner what other businesses and developments were coming in to Monroe Township, we have the urgent care, micro brewery and restaurant coming. Cncl. Heffner said one by Norton's funeral home, Barclay Glen is adding more units, a gas station by Barclay Glen was approved.

Municipal Buy Local initiative, if the Township is going to spend tax money on something, a local business should be considered. Cncl. Miller asked if this is in conjunction with the tax card, and Tony said yes. Cncl. Miller said that the Main Street committee was also going to be doing something similar with possibly a farmer's market.

There was a malfunction with the recording.

Regarding the remaining funds and various 2015 EDC initiatives, Rob mentioned that he received a call from Harry Stone of CBAC indicating that he wasn't sure if Kevin Hydell was clear on the specifics and funding of the loan program being offered by CBAC. It should be verified to avoid any confusion. Suasion is being paid \$10,000, which left a budget balance of \$3,900. The loan program needs \$5,000. Ernie was under the impression that Kevin Hydell was going to find funds so that the commission would be able to do both the Suasion project and the loan program.

Rob explained some of the basic parameters of the loan program. The new Main Street Program will allow for eligible commercial property owners on Main Street and within town to apply for an interest free loan up to \$10,000 to improve their properties. There are minimum qualifications in order to qualify for a loan; property must be owner occupied, owner will be required to invest a minimum of \$1,000, and it is not available to certain industries such as bars and liquor stores. The township would invest \$5,000 to cover the interest and it would make approximately \$70,000(in total) available for businesses to borrow for improvements.

Cncl. McIlvaine said that he is learning new things everyday and knows things will get done in the next three years, his biggest source of frustration is how long it takes for things to come to fruition.

Cncl. Heffner is seeing more volunteers that there are seats to put them in, which is impressive.

Cncl. Miller stated that even though all the council members might not all be on the same page all the time, they are all going towards the same the goal.

The re-organization meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2016 at 7pm.

Rob thinks the board made progress and the marketing side is taking the right steps to getting businesses to the township. Christine's feels the mayor and council are incredible this is the first year she saw so much information going out to the people and she has so much info to give the businesses now when she talks to them. She feels the town is a force and the new events are really fun.

Ernie is taking the lead from administration and feels you can't be afraid to try, you need the will to try. Natalie thinks that there is openness now with council and there is more willingness to help and hear ideas.

Aileen feels this is the most successful year since she's been on board. She sent everything to the map company and it should start in January.

Jared stated that since most of the budget has been encumbered for 2016, he thinks its going to be a big year and he's excited about it.

Tony would love to be chairman for 2016 if the commission would consider him. He is grateful for the members, everyone is willing to help and the council has been the driving force. The town has really great leaders in all aspects and he wants to give everyone a big thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Jared made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission Meeting of December 14, 2015. The motion was seconded by Aileen; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquelyn Allen

The next scheduled Monroe Township Economic Development Commission meeting is Monday, January 11, 2016 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Economic Development Commission Meeting of December 14, 2015 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

Approved as submitted _____ Date _____
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____