

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
MAY 23, 2016

**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. Vice-Pres., Bart McIlvaine** 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 and also on the Monroe Township website.

**Cncl. Vice-Pres., McIlvaine** stated the Clerk has placed a sign-in sheet in the meeting room. If anyone would like to address Council please sign in and you will be recognized during the Public Portion. Kindly state your name for the record.

**SALUTE TO FLAG**

**Cncl. Bryson** led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and **Cncl. Caligiuri** offered the Invocation.

**ROLL CALL OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS**

Cncl. Walt Bryson	Present	
Cncl. Frank Caligiuri	Present	
Cncl. Marvin Dilks	Present	
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. Bob Heffner	Present	
Cncl. Bart McIlvaine	Present	
Cncl. Cody Miller		Excused
Mayor Daniel Teefy	Present	
Solicitor Charles Fiore		Excused
Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel	Present	
Engineer, Kathryn Cornforth, ARH	Present	
Dir. Of Code Enforcement, George Reitz	Present	
Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present	
Dir. Of Public Works, Michael Calvello	Present	
Dir. Community Dev., Rosemary Flaherty	Present	
Deputy Mayor Andy Potopchuk	Present	
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

**PRESENTATION**

• **Main Street Minute**

**Ernie Carbone** representing the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission gave a short presentation regarding the work the EDC is doing with Suasion Communications, a professional communications agency whose primary focus is to target developers. This initiative will create a positive impact on the increased economic development happening in our township. Suasion Communications represents and partners with Haddonfield, Somers Point, Woolwich Township, The Greater Wildwoods Tourism and Keansburg Borough in Monmouth County. The design of our program has two parts: Phase 1 and Phase II. Phase I being developed by Suasion will define the brand of Williamstown, Monroe Township marketing and communication methods that will distinguish us from the competition, establish brand identity through the use of a new Logo and develop a special and unique economic development website with ease of navigation. Phase II will follow through with our initial efforts by developing a marketing analysis and needs assessment to identify target businesses, develop a marketing and public relations campaign, design creative electronic ads, allocate advertising space and utilize social media in a distinct and unique direction. Phase II will be implemented progressively during the four quarters of 2016 due to budget constraints. The proposal is listed in line item format to provide ease of selection for each recommendation in this Phase. Completion of the

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
MAY 23, 2016**

**PRESENTATION**

entire program will be re-evaluated periodically and, if approved by the EDC, will be started in 2016 and completed in 2017. The EDC membership is certain once this process moves forward it will ensure that the economic initiatives of Williamstown, Monroe Township are not only attained, but greatly exceeded.

**Mayor Teefy** noted for years we have been trying to promote Monroe Township but no one on the outside knows us as Monroe Township, they know us as Williamstown so that is a key element in rebranding the township. At the Music Festival we will unveil our new Logo.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Cncl. Bryson** made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the May 9, 2016 Council Work Session and Regular Council Meeting. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**B.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

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

**Jack Luby, 1664 Silver Birch Road** questioned how many miles of roads would be paved this year. **Mayor Teefy** advised \$400,000.00 was included in the budget for road paving; Winslow Road will be completed and Gordon and Princeton will be done next month. Next month ARH will be submitting a report regarding the roads that are the top priority and then a road paving plan will be put together. The Mayor noted residents of South Shore Drive have recently submitted a petition to have that road paved. Mr. Luby questioned whether township employees would pave or would it go out to bid. The Mayor explained we will try to do it by County Co-op but that depends on what type of repair needs to be done. Mr. Luby noted in 1978 the township bid out road repairs and that was a complete disaster, as it cost two to three times more than if the township did it. After that Jim Agnesino and the Township Engineer developed a Road Program to repave 150 miles of roads each year. The Road Department was built up and roads were resurfaced each year and that program worked really well. Roads should be resurfaced every ten to fifteen years, as water erodes the foundation causing potholes and the cost is five times more to repair roads in those conditions. Mr. Luby suggested the Administration consider that program again since the roads in the older developments such as Forest Hills, Coventry Glen, Green Meadows and Scotland Run are beginning to deteriorate. Mayor Teefy agreed, noting we got away from the program Jimmy put in place over the last ten or twelve years and we need to put money into our budget to get that program going again. Mr. Luby also referred to the three largest recreation areas in the township, Owens Park, Church Street Fields and Mary Duffy Park and noted the fourth largest is ten acres in Forest Hills. Back in the 1960's the Forest Hills Civic Association maintained the area but that organization fell by the wayside and in the 1990's they deeded the property over to the township. He distributed pictures of the recreation area and explained there was a pond there with benches but now that is overgrown, filled with trash and is a breeding place for mosquitos. There was also a basketball court, a walking path and baseball field that are now overgrown and in disrepair and the fence is a disgrace and needs to be replaced. He requested the township make repairs to the recreation area and suggested it only be utilized from dawn to dusk. The front entrance of the development also needs to be cut and maintained and no littering signs need to be installed because of the trash being thrown there. He requested that the Parks and Rec Department and Clean Communities work on these areas. Mr. Luby also noted South Jersey Gas Company has been taking the gas lights out of Forest Hills. He spoke of South Jersey Gas charging \$160.00 per hour labor to repair those lights and recommended placing that money into the Public Works budget to hire two full time employees to maintain the 179 lights. Replacement parts could be purchased from wholesalers and manufacturers at one third the cost of what South Jersey Gas charges us. He noted when all those lights are lit the area is beautiful, it looks like a little village, which helps property values. He noted South Jersey Gas charges the township \$1.05 a therm when the average price in South Jersey is 60¢. They also charge for 179 gas lights and he questioned how they know

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
MAY 23, 2016

**B.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION (cont'd)**

what to charge for those lights, as there are no meters; they are not run separately, each light goes into the main line and the amount of usage is an estimate. He noted he has talked to some people regarding this who say there is no way 179 gas lights should consume that much gas. He added each light has a regulator at the bottom that regulates the brightness or dimness of the lights and that should be cleaned/ repaired once every five or ten years. Mr. Luby noted he went through the audit and found that the township was double billed for the installation of mantels so this really needs to be looked into because we could save a ton of money and satisfy everyone in Forest Hills. **Mayor Teefy** advised this issue will be discussed by a committee and he invited Mr. Luby to participate in that discussion.

**Animal, 609 Wildwood Avenue** was in attendance to thank Council for waiving the construction permit fees for a sign permit for VFW Post 1616. He noted he submitted the permit application to the Zoning Office one day and it was approved the next day because the VFW is a 501C3 non-profit organization but was put through a troublesome time when the sign application was submitted to the Building Department. He noted the VFW provides assistance to veterans and supports the children's home, the Monroe Township School District, soccer league, football league and baseball league. He felt Construction Official, Jim Morrison should have known the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code says permit fees can be waived for non-profit organizations that support veterans. It doesn't mean that we can't pay the State fee, as that has nothing to do with township fees. We have members from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan and to the present and to be politically jerked around by the construction official is unacceptable. He noted he is and was a building inspector and that was included in his first course taught by Rich Gardler. The VFW members were hoping to have the sign installed by Memorial Day but because of all the delays from the Construction Department it will not be going up until after June 10<sup>th</sup>. He thanked the Council for adopting Resolution R:115-2016 (*authorizing a waiver for they construction permit*).

**Frank Scahill, 704 Debra Drive**, noted he was the VFW Commander and the National Deputy Chief of Staff for the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Deputy Chief of Staff of the State of New Jersey Veterans of Foreign Wars. He thanked the Mayor, Council and Chief of Police for the outstanding job they do and noted this will be the best Memorial Day due to the flags and other decorations along Main Street. He added he totally supports what Animal said in regards to the cooperation the township has given with the sign project and hopefully there will be no more issues.

**Deputy Mayor Potopchuk** apologized to the members of the VFW for the problems they encountered and he thanked them for all they do for the community.

**Mayor Teefy** also apologized to the VFW members on behalf of his administration. He noted it should never have gotten to this point and it will be discussed so in the future veterans do not run into these problems again. The Mayor thanked the veterans for their suggestion to hang POW flags along Main Street and he urged everyone to come out to support the veterans on Memorial Day.

**Cncl. McIlvaine** felt part of this problem may have resulted from too many people being involved in this issue because we all want to help out our veterans. Basically everything we get to do in the United States is because of what veterans have done for us. We all appreciate that and he urged the veterans to never doubt that. He added he was sure the Construction Office has guidelines that must be followed and a big part of this might have been too many hands in the pot because too many people were trying to do the right thing and that could have caused issues. He added if there is anything that he could do to make that sign happen prior to Memorial Day they should let him know.

**Cncl. Heffner** made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
MAY 23, 2016

C.) CORRESPONDENCE

- Amusement Licenses

Devone's Tavern	Rack's Pub & Grill
Hospitality Creek Campground	Sharky's Sports Bar & Grill
John & Doug's Liquors	Trio Tavern
Mirarchi's Williamstown Inn	

**Cncl. Heffner** made a motion to approve Amusement Licenses for the above referenced facilities. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

D.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

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

**Cncl. Heffner** made a motion to bracket for Consent Agenda Resolutions R:111-2016 through R:118-2016. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**R:111-2016** Resolution Requesting Approval Of Items Of Revenue And Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 Clean Communities Grant

**R:112-2016** Resolution Requesting Approval Of Items Of Revenue And Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 NJDOT FY 2016 Municipal Aid Program For Corkery Lane Improvements

**R:113-2016** Resolution Approving The Bill For The Council Meeting Of May 23, 2016

**R:114-2016** Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

**R:115-2016** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Waiver Of Sign Permit Fees Associated With The Installation Of A Sign At The V.F.W. Within The Township Of Monroe

**R:116-2016** Resolution Approving Acquisition Of Farmland Preservation Development Easements Of Lands Block 7001, Lots 14, 18 & 19

**R:117-2016** Resolution Referring A Proposed Rehabilitation Area Designation Of Block 11701, Lots 16 & 17, 229-231 South Main Street, And Lot 19, The Adjacent Municipal Lot, In The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester To The Township Of Monroe Planning Board

**R:118-2016** Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authoring The Waiver Of Electrical Permit Fees And Or Building Permit Fees Associated With The Rehabilitation Of Their Facility Gloucester County 4-H Nature Preserve

**Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to approve Resolutions R:111-2016 through R:118-2016. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance with the exception of **Cncl. Caligiuri** who Abstained on Resolution R:118-2016 due to being a member of the Gloucester County 4-H.

E.) ORDINANCES

**Cncl. Vice-Pres., McIlvaine** turned this portion of the meeting over to **Ordinance Committee Chairman, Cncl. Heffner** who advised Ordinance O:18-2016 would be removed from the agenda. **Cncl. McIlvaine** made a motion to open the Public Hearing for Ordinances O:16-2016 and O:17-2016. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. Bryson** made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
MAY 23, 2016

E.) ORDINANCES (cont'd)

**O:16-2016** Bond Ordinance Authorizing The Acquisition Of Various Pieces Of Equipment And Completion Of Various Capital Improvements In And For The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, New Jersey; Appropriating The Sum Of \$1,975,000 Therefor; Authorizing The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Or Bond Anticipation Notes Of The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, New Jersey, In The Aggregate Principal Amount Of Up To \$1,876,250; Making Certain Determinations And Covenants; And Authorizing Certain Related Actions In Connection With The Foregoing

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

**Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to approve Ordinance O:16-2016 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. McIlvaine**.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE O:16-2016 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - 6 AYES, 1 ABSENT (Miller)**

**Tally: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent.** Ordinance O:16-2016 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

**O:17-2016** An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Sale Of Township Owned Land

**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:17-2016 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. McIlvaine**.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE O:17-2016 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - 6 AYES, 1 ABSENT (Miller)**

**Tally: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent.** Ordinance O:17-2016 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

**O:18-2016** An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Amend Chapter 104 Entitled "Buildings" (*Certified Contractors List for Emergency Construction Work*) **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

**O:31-2015** An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Granting Renewed Consent And Permission To South Jersey Gas Company To Use The Public Streets To Furnish Gas For Light, Heat And Power In The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey (**First Reading & Re-Introduction**)

**First Reading & Re-Introduction:** A copy of this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex. Additional copies were made available to the public.

**Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to approve Ordinance O:31-2015 for First Reading and Re-Introduction. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and approved by all members of Council in attendance with the exception of **Cncl. Heffner** who **Abstained With Cause**.

**O:32-2015** Bond Ordinance Authorizing The Completion Of Various Capital Improvements At Earling E. Owens Memorial Park In And For The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, New Jersey; Appropriating The Sum Of \$140,000 Therefor; Authorizing The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds, Bond Anticipation Notes Or Other Debt Obligations Of The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, New Jersey, In The Aggregate Principal Amount Of Up To \$70,000; Making Certain Determinations And Covenants; And Authorizing Certain Related Actions In Connection With The Foregoing

**First Reading & Re-Introduction:** A copy of this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex. Additional copies were made available to the public.

**MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
MAY 23, 2016**

**E.) ORDINANCES (cont'd)**

**Cncl. Caligiuri** made a motion to approve Ordinance O:32-2015 for First Reading and Re-Introduction. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and approved by all members of Council in attendance

**O:33-2015** Bond Ordinance Authorizing The Acquisition Of Various Pieces Of Equipment And Completion Of Various Capital Improvements In And For The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, New Jersey; Appropriating The Sum Of \$1,310,000 Therefor; Authorizing The Issuance Of General Obligation Bonds Or Bond Anticipation Notes Of The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, New Jersey, In The Aggregate Principal Amount Of Up To \$1,244,500; Making Certain Determinations And Covenants; And Authorizing Certain Related Actions In Connection With The Foregoing

**First Reading & Re-Introduction:** A copy of this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex. Additional copies were made available to the public.

**Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to approve First Reading and Re-Introduction of Ordinance O:33-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and approved by all members of Council in attendance

**O:34-2015** An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Establishing Chapter 232 Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe, Entitled "Invasive Plants"

**First Reading & Re-introduction:** A copy of this ordinance was posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex. Additional copies were made available to the public.

**Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to approve First Reading and Re-Introduction of Ordinance O:34-2015. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and approved by all members of Council in attendance

**F.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS**

**Cncl. Bryson** reported attending the Board of Health Meeting where animal ordinances were discussed along with a program the State is offering municipalities to improve physical health conditions. The Mayor is reviewing that program at the present time. The Board is proactive in trying to make everyone in the township safe and they have prepared and placed on the website an informative brochure with information regarding various issues. He also reported attending the Historical Society Meeting to prepare for the British Car Show event held on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Due to rain being predicted for Saturday the Historical Society cancelled some of the scheduled events but the Hofer House was open for tours, the Red Hat Society held their program at the Pfeiffer Center and about nine cars came. **Cncl. Bryson** thanked the Director of Community Development, the Mayor and **Cncl. DiLucia** for attending the event and he urged residents to get involved in the Historical Society. **Cncl. Bryson** noted he wanted to clarify his reasons for voting against the budget at the last meeting even though the tax increase was only .98%, which is a small amount compared to past budgets. He voted no due to the significant amount of revenue (\$500,000.00 in 2016, \$500,000.00 in 2017 and \$1,000,000.00 in 2018) coming in from the last Council changing health insurance companies plus it was changed again this year. He felt for those reasons the budget should have been a zero increase instead of that money going into surplus because of the number of residents that are having financial problems. He felt if we have the opportunity we should give back to the taxpayers and that is why he voted no for the budget.

**Cncl. Caligiuri** reported the Environmental Commission Meeting scheduled for May 16<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. He reported attending the Planning Board Meeting on May 12<sup>th</sup> where waiver applications were discussed and granted for Great American Deck Builders located at 1809 Black Horse Pike, for the installation of a six foot fence and the conversion of unused parking spaces at 1401 Black Horse Pike, additional storage area for vehicles involved in fatal accidents for 1107 Tuckahoe Road, to convert Sabor and Sons to Ace Plumbing and Air Conditioning and to operate Five Star Landscaping at 1453 Glassboro Road.

**Cncl. Dilks** reported attending the Blue Prayer Service at Our Lady of Peace Church on April 28<sup>th</sup> along with other members of Council and their wives. This event honored the Police

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
MAY 23, 2016

**F.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)**

Department, Williamstown and Cecil Fire Companies and Monroe Township Ambulance and Rescue Squads. He also attended the Holiday City Veteran's Memorial Day Ceremonies on Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, the Grand Opening Ceremonies for the Bearded Guitar on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> and the Monroe Township Ambulance and Rescue Association Open House on May 17<sup>th</sup>. He noted all these events were very well attended. Cncl. Dilks urged everyone to come out on Memorial Day, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM to support the veterans and to vote in the Primary Election on Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

**Cncl. DiLucia** reported attending Veterans Day Ceremonies at Holiday City and noted some in attendance were World War II veterans that were well into their nineties and still proud. He also reported attending the Ambulance Open House and commended the ambulance members who painted the interior of an ambulance. He noted they did a great job and saved the township a lot of money. Cncl. DiLucia noted he along with some other people were invited to address the FOP and he thanked them for their hospitality, as he appreciated the opportunity to speak to them. He noted one of the biggest problems in town is speeding and he is going to press very hard to find a solution for that before someone is seriously hurt in our community. Cncl. DiLucia noted this is the first televised meeting in which he has had the opportunity to convey to the people why he voted against the tax increase. He stated since the beginning of the year he has been saying senior citizens and the disabled would get a zero increase in their Social Security and they cannot afford additional expenses. Some people who retired twenty years ago are living on meager Social Security and depleted savings and the tragic thing is the cost of living calculations are phony because the cost of living has definitely gone up. This is also an issue for people who have lost their jobs and those that are reemployed at a fraction of what they were previously making and as a councilman he felt very strongly that he had an obligation to try to hold the tax increase to zero. He noted everyone has the right to their own opinion, as this is a democratic process and he respects the way his fellow councilmen voted; he just sees it from a different prospective and thinks he is right that the money coming in would have gotten us through for at least this year. He also felt some budgets were over compensated and should have been looked at harder, which he stated that in the budget discussions. He spoke of the upcoming Primary Election and he urged people to seriously think about the candidates and vote on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Cncl. Heffner** reported attending the Blue Prayer Service; noting this event gets bigger every year. On May 11<sup>th</sup> he attended the Parks and Rec Meeting to discuss the final preparations for the Music Festival that will be held on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at Owens Park beginning at 5:00 PM. The Music Festival will include a hot air balloon, bands, fireworks as well as many other events and he urged people to sign up for the shaving cream pie contest, as one thousand people are needed to break the Guinness World Book of Records. He reported attending the Zoning Board Meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> where three variances were granted for ground solar panels, a use variance was granted for a pole barn and an extension for a use variance was granted to Fassio. The Sunrise Rotary Golf Outing will be held on June 8<sup>th</sup> and all proceeds will go towards building a playground at the Mary Duffy Park. Cncl. Heffner noted some people don't like taxes to go up but the cost of running this town goes up every year. The money coming in could have offset the tax increase but the problem with that is costs go up every year and if that is hidden by the money coming in when that money dries up in three or four years there could be a big tax increase. He noted he voted in favor of the tax increase because he chose to let taxes increase a little each year rather than have a big increase down the road. He reported on a personal note on May 12<sup>th</sup> he attended Rowan University to watch his daughter get her Master's Degree in psychology and the whole family couldn't be any prouder.

**Mayor Teefy** noted his Administration reviewed the budget with the professionals for months and felt that .98% was the right number to help sustain the quality of services we are trying to bring our residents. The one time shots will be coming in for the next couple of years but we want to stay away from using that like they did in the 1990's because in 2003 that caused a 16¢ tax increase and we don't want those large increases. Small increases each year is a good way to go. If we could drop it down we would but that is not really being responsible. He added this is the lowest increase since 2004 and he is proud of that and feels that Council adopted a responsible budget. We have 68 police officers on the books but one will be retiring. The Police Department put a plan in place four or five years ago that keeps the starting salary lower, which allows two officers to be hired when one retires. The plan is pro-active so when retirements

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
MAY 23, 2016

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

happen new officers are coming out of the academy to replace those retiring, which maintains the number of officers in the mid sixty range to help with enforcement. The Mayor noted the Capital Budget includes radar devices to be installed in cars, which will provide additional enforcement of speeding. The Mayor reported a meeting was held with the property owners of the four corners of Rt. 322 and Fries Mill Road. A fire was lit under the engineer and he is supposed to be delivering the plans by the end of this week and if he doesn't we will really attack this and take it over because there have been too many delays through this engineer. He sent a letter last week stating development was on all four corners so because of that the State wanted more basins built to handle that design. Only two corners have possible development planned; the other two corners don't so the plan has to be reissued to the State. A meeting is scheduled on June 2<sup>nd</sup> to discuss expanding local colleges to the union hall property so there is some movement with Fries Mill but not enough so we are going to continue to push this project along. The Mayor reported attending the Grand Opening of the Bearded Guitar and noted soon another Grand Opening will be held for the Arts Center located on Main Street. The Mayor reported attending along with many other dignitaries the funeral services for former judge, Nicholas Lacovara. Judge Lacovara was 90 years old and had been the Monroe Township judge for 38 years. He reported a new Williamstown logo will be unveiled at the Music Festival on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Veterans will also be going to Washington, DC with Honor Flight on June 4<sup>th</sup> leaving the high school at 6:00 AM and returning about 6:30 PM. He invited everyone to come out and honor the veterans as they leave and return from their trip. The Mayor reported the township is working with the MUA to be pro-active in regards to a scam in Williamstown as well as other towns involving vacant properties being rented out. He requested residents to watch their neighborhoods and if they see anything suspicious to contact the Police Department. He reported the township will hold a land sale on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 AM in town hall. Information regarding the land sale can be found on the township website. He reported information regarding a wellness program will be available within the next six months and the township map that includes information about the town and the location of businesses is being prepared and will be sent to residents within the next couple months. The Mayor reported the Arts Festival was great and the Historical Society said it was their busiest day ever. He added during his visit to the Ireland House it was interesting to go through the old Plain Dealer Newspapers stored there. The Mayor urged everyone to vote on June 7<sup>th</sup> in the Primary Election.

**Engineer, Kathryn Cornforth** reported a preconstruction meeting will be held on Thursday for the demolition of the old library and the building will come down during the month of June. She also reported bids will be received on June 8<sup>th</sup> for the last phase of Winslow Road.

**Director of Public Safety, Jim Smart** reported attending the Ambulance Open House and noted considering the weather it was well attended. He also reported a meeting was held last Wednesday to discuss safety plans for the Music Festival. He noted the Ambulance squad will be challenged that day because one ambulance will follow the Honor Flight to Washington, DC and the others will be staffing the other events going on that day so the County will be assisting with some outside equipment to ensure everything is covered.

**Mayor Teefy** thanked Mike Calvello and his staff for putting up the American and POW flags along Main Street and noted Jeff Simpler has done a great job and has met with the township to plan the Memorial Day activities. He urged everyone to come out and support the veterans.

**Cncl. Vice-Pres., McIlvaine** reported attending the Holiday City Veterans Day Ceremonies and noted every year it is very nice and he appreciates all they have done. He also reported attending the Blue Prayer Service and noted as a retired police officer it is great to see how many people come out to support and thank the police, fire fighters and EMTs especially in this day and age when police are under fire and volunteer firemen are few and far between because everyone wants to be paid. In Monroe Township we are lucky with our volunteer firemen and EMS and he thanked them for their service. He reported attending the Monroe Township Ambulance Association Open House, which had a nice turnout even though it was a rainy day. Cncl. McIlvaine referred to the discussions regarding speeding and he urged residents to police themselves. He explained when he was first hired as a police officer residents from a development petitioned the police to enforce the speeding laws in their development and the very first person stopped was the gentleman who requested the police to come out there. He noted slow down, watch your speed, stop texting and hang up the cell phones because the township can only do so much, we need our people to help us. He went on to thank the veterans

MINUTES  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE  
MAY 23, 2016

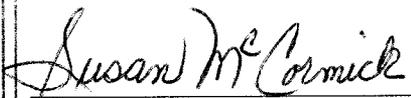
F.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

attending this meeting for their service. He noted without them we couldn't do what we do and after watching the news and seeing other countries he thanks God he was born in this County. Here he could decide to be a cop or run for Council and people have the right to vote for the people they want to run their town, state and federal governments. There is no place on earth like this and that is the result of what these men and women have done for us. He urged everyone to come out to the Memorial Day Parade to support the veterans who spent years and months away from their families to give us the great life we have.

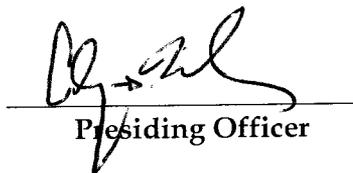
G.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss **Cncl. Bryson** made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of May 23, 2016. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** 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 May 23, 2016 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 6/13/16  
Date \_\_\_\_\_