

**MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
FEBRUARY 8, 2016**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission was called to order by Chairperson Tony Langella at 5:32pm in the 3rd Floor EDC 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: Tony Langella, Jared Valdez, Christine Feggans, Natalie Wentz, Aileen Chiselko, Robert Bender, Ernie Carbone, Cncl. Bart McIlvaine(stopped in before the council meeting)

Absent:

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes of the Economic Development Commission Meeting of January 11, 2016. The motion was seconded by Christine and approved by all members in attendance of the Commission.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Katherine Falcone, Director of SOS(Safety Outfitting Services) and the President of the Williamstown Chamber of Commerce spoke to the Commission about the Chamber. The Chamber currently has almost 40 paid members. They have 4-5 board members and are actively seeking more, in order to help the Chamber grow. Any business can join the Chamber, but they would like to have a lot of Williamstown businesses. The first ribbon cutting on February 18th will highlight Dynamic Tint, and will also talk about other businesses. They have other upcoming events such as Good Morning Williamstown-Business Card Exchange, they currently do not have a website but are on FaceBook The Chamber is an alliance to help businesses to grow, Katherine has personal experience with her business growing and attributes much of her growth to the Chambers she joined. The Chamber is different from the Monroe Business Association. The meetings are once a month at the SOS office. Katherine also said that she could help explain the Tax Card Program to businesses.

Tony, Ernie and Cody took a representative from Suasion around all of Monroe Township to help them get a feel for the town. They went into Cecil to show the land available there and then they answered questions about the town. In about a week they will get the information to the Commission about their plans for their services. It was mentioned that everything that is out there for the town states Williamstown and not Monroe Township.

Jared and Ernie are going to review some of the interviews for the video from TVOne, it is currently over the 4 minute length and needs to be edited further.

Christine stated that Anthony and Cleopatra can do spotlight on business on February 22, 2016 but it has to be approved before she can guarantee the date. The Shop and The Thrift Store are interested but they have not committed to a month yet.

Economic Development Commission Minutes (cont'd)

February 8, 2016

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

Councilman DeLuca had some questions about the 2015 EDC budget, the council will be receiving a copy of the itemized budget. Tony, Jared and Ernie are going to invite Cncl. DeLuca to a meeting should he have any further questions.

Main Street was approved to be an associate tier to the Main Street of New Jersey program. They will teach the Main Street Committee to run Main Street as a business. This is done through four state classes throughout the year and then one national class. Robert asked if Jim O'Malley and his firm have been engaged regarding the microbrewery and restaurant. Ernie said that he has been helpful in getting them information to help move forward with the brewery and restaurant.

The request for Alternate members was going to Town Council at tonight's meeting, there were a few minor changes that were made to the ordinance. The term would be for one year at which time the alternate would need to be reinstated.

Tony asked what should be done with the tax card program since it still has not made significant progress. Cncl. McIlvaine said that Rosemary Flaherty may be able to be the township employee that takes on the tax card program responsibilities. Rosemary would need to speak to Carmine from the programs office to get all the specifics involved with the launch of the tax card program.

Aileen gave an update on the township maps, businesses have started to be contacted to purchase an ad space. There are some ad spaces that have been purchased and letters have been sent to over 150 businesses. The EDC office is open should the representative from the map company need to use it. Aileen said they suggested putting a blurb on the Township Facebook regarding the ad spaces available for the map.

Natalie asked if they wanted to do the EDC minute at the Council meetings every month or every other month. She suggested that the months that the EDC does not do the minute the Main Street Committee will do theirs. Natalie made a motion to approve doing the EDC minute bi-monthly at the Council meeting; Ernie seconded the motion, and it was approved by all.

Tony would like to put together a suggested budget for 2016 that would show what the Commission plans to do with their budget for the year. Ernie said he thought it was a good idea and he would like to put together a hard copy package to give to businesses that come to the town. He knows that the information is available online but it would still be beneficial to have it to be able to hand to someone, Jared agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Tony asked for a motion to adjourn Natalie made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission Meeting of February 8, 2016. The motion was seconded by Jared; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:01pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquelyn Allen

The next scheduled Monroe Township Economic Development Commission meeting is Monday, March 21, 2016 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Economic Development Commission Meeting of February 8, 2016 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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