

MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
JUNE 18, 2012

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission was called to order by Chairperson Michael Kretschmer at 7:00PM in the Joe Pace Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex. Notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Chairperson Michael Kretschmer led the Commission in the salute to our flag.

ROLL CALL

Present: Christine Feggans, Michael Kretschmer, Victor Peters, Jared Valdez

Excused: Anthony (Tony) Langella, Cncl. Ron Garbowski

Unexcused: Sharene Ginyard

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

In attendance at the meeting was Fred Weikel, Monroe Township Code Enforcement Officer/Zoning Officer. Mr. Weikel spoke in reference to businesses' signs in the township, which has become a problem, due to businesses not following guidelines of the township's sign ordinance. The Zoning Office will be sending letters to businesses who are not in accordance, enforcing the ordinance. Vic Peters asked if Mr. Weikel was aware of the issue the Commission is having with the Welcome Signs and the requirements of the New Jersey Department of Transportation. Mr. Weikel believes the township is exempt, but must follow the requirements of the height requirements and that it's not blocking the sight triangle. Mr. Weikel also mentioned that another problem the township is having with businesses, is when a business puts their products outside in front of their place of business; this is a problem due to blocking of pedestrian walkways and not following the guidelines of the township's outdoor sales ordinance. Mr. Weikel said there is also a concern with furniture being placed on the sidewalks of Main Street and trash cans that get left and not removed. Christine Feggans suggested putting up a large sign to the entrance of Monroe Township that lists businesses and their location. Mr. Weikel asked the members if they know of the Monopoly game that was made for Monroe Township years ago; no members were aware of this game, but are interested in an updated game being created. Mr. Weikel brought the Commission a Zoning map. Jared Valdez asked if there are any ordinances in particular that are continuously complained about. Mr. Weikel informed Jared that people complain about trash in view, signs, car lots/displayed cars parked for sale. Aileen asked Mr. Weikel about suggestions with the Business Directory. He said it's kind of hard to compile all the businesses, because there are businesses that do not register their business. The Zoning Office has a Business Questionnaire they have new businesses fill out and then copies it to the Police Department. Jared asked if these were available electronically; Mr. Weikel said they were not available electronically, due to shortage of office staff. Michael Kretschmer asked if the Commission could receive a copy of the business questionnaires when they come into the Zoning Office; this information is not always submitted for a permit, due to not all in-home businesses needing permits. Mr. Weikel provided his contact information to the members for future questions and concerns.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

Michael mentioned the Welcome Signs. He said that Cncl. Garbowski was to contact Adams, Rehmann & Heggan Engineers; Cncl. Garbowski was not in attendance to provide updated information.

Michael spoke in reference to the Main Street Music Festival. The festival seemed to have been successful. The Commission's table was behind the baseball field, not near the pedestrian traffic; not many people had come by to fill out the Business Association survey. Michael and Jared walked around to vendors with the surveys; some weren't interested in filling out the survey, but a few were interested. Michael said he received enough forms from people to start the process and inviting of people to the meeting of September 17th to discuss the Business Association. Jared asked if advertising will be done. Christine suggested asking WalMart if they will put a large sign in the store to advertise the meeting. Jared suggested lawn signs as used for the Business Seminar, but to order them from a printing company this time. Michael suggested flyers and emails; Aileen will provide a flyer that could be emailed. Vic asked Aileen if the Township can advertise; it can be advertised on Comcast Channel 9 and the township website. Christine also suggested having a celebrity attend, like a Phillies athlete or Eagles athlete. The members discussed holding the meeting in a larger meeting room such as at the Library or in the Court Room; Michael will find out how many people are interested in attending.

Michael noted there is still a member vacancy on the Commission. He had information available to contact a realtor to see if she is still interested in becoming a member; a realtor as a member would fill the requirements of the Economic Development Commission.

Christine reiterated that the businesses that are on Main Street need to be made sure they are being utilized and become "generational" businesses, businesses to be utilized further in the future, generation after generation.

Michael told the members he was contacted by a resident who is interested in opening a franchise; he wanted to know what properties were available to be leased in the township. The resident did not specify which franchise; Michael will follow up with this resident.

Christine suggested contacting local motorcycle riders' associations for support of local businesses; she feels that there are a lot of motorcycle riders who are also business owners and that they are involved with fundraisers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vic Peters made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Economic Development Commission Meeting of May 21, 2012. The motion was seconded by Jared Valdez and approved by all remaining members of the Commission in attendance.

ROUNDTABLE

- ~Jared – after speaking with Mr. Weikel, suggested reviewing/changing ordinances
- ~Christine – agreed with Jared
- ~Vic – no matters to discuss

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Michael Kretschmer asked for a motion to adjourn. Jared Valdez made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission Meeting of June 18, 2012. The motion was seconded by Christine Feggans; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Aileen Wojciechowski, Substitute Secretary

The next scheduled Monroe Township Economic Development Commission meeting is Monday, July 16, 2012 at 7:00pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Economic Development Commission Meeting of June 18, 2012 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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