

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
OCTOBER 25, 2011**

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 8:10 PM by **Cncl. Vice-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.: Gloucester County 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. Vice-Pres., Frank 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. Daniel Teefy led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and **Rev. Victorino Coronado, of Our Lady of Peace Parish** offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Cncl. Walter Bryson	Present	
Cncl. Frank Caligiuri	Present	
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. Ronald Garbowski	Present	
Cncl. William Sebastian	Present	
Cncl. Daniel Teefy	Present	
Cncl. Pres., Marvin Dilks		Excused
Mayor Michael Gabbianelli	Present	
Solicitor, Charles Fiore	Present	
Business Adm., Kevin Heydel	Present	
Engineer, Dave Cella	Present	
Dir. Finance, Jeff Coles		Excused
Dir. Of Code Enforcement, George Reitz	Present	
Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present	
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

Cncl. Vice-Pres., Frank Caligiuri requested everyone to keep **Cncl. Pres., Dilks** and **Mrs. Dilks** in their prayers.

PRESENTATIONS - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. Walter Bryson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Work Session Meeting and Regular Council Meeting of September 27, 2011 and the Special Meeting and Closed Executive Session of October 17, 2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and approved by all members of Council in attendance.

B.) CORRESPONDENCE - None

C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

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

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C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION (cont'd)

R:175-2011 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Requesting An Examination Of Alternate Methods For the Funding Of Public School Education

Cncl. Walter Bryson made a motion to approve Resolution R:175-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski**.

Cncl. Rich DiLucia noted the resolution makes reference to taxes associated only for the cost of education but it is supposed to address the whole tax issue. **Cncl. Bryson** explained education is the largest portion of the tax burden and the author of the resolution was specifically addressing that issue so recommendations could be made by local governments through resolutions to the State to find alternate methods for funding public schools.

Resolution R:175-2011 was unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:176-2011 Resolution Amending The Cash Management Plan For The Township Of Monroe In Gloucester County For The Year 2011

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:176-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. William Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:177-2011 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Accepting Proposal From Susquehanna Bank For Banking Services For The Township Of Monroe

Cncl. Daniel Teefy made a motion to approve Resolution R:177-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Walter Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:178-2011 Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

Cncl. Rich DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolution R:178-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. William Sebastian** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:179-2011 Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of October 25, 2011

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:179-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Rich DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:180-2011 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Agreement Between The Township Of Monroe And South Jersey Gas Company For Forest Hills Gas Street Lights

Cncl. William Sebastian made a motion to approve Resolution R:180-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Ronald Garbowski** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:181-2011 Resolution Awarding A Contract For Professional Services To Adams, Rehmann And Heggan Associates, Inc. For Dam Inspection Associated With The Lower Victory Lakes Dam For The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to approve Resolution R:181-2011. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Walter Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

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D.) ORDINANCES

Cncl. Vice-Pres., Frank Caligiuri turned this portion of the meeting over to Ordinance Committee Chairman, Cncl. William Sebastian.

O:25-2011 Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Approving The Application For A State Incentive Grant For Williamstown Square Urban Renewal, LLC, Subject To The New Jersey Economic Development Authority Approval

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

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to approve Ordinance O:25-2011 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Frank Caligiuri.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:25-2011 FOR FIRST READING AND PUBLICATION - 6 AYES, 1 ABSENT (Dilks)

Tally: 6 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent. Ordinance O:25-2011 was duly approved for First Reading and Publication.

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Walter Bryson reported the Historical Society hosted a ghost hunt on Saturday, October 22nd and those that attended had the opportunity to use a meter and go through the Pfeiffer Center's dark basement to see if they could find a ghost. He noted he didn't find anything but he was not sure if anyone else did but everyone had a great time at this event. Cncl. Bryson noted if any residents have an older home and would like to participate in this type of event they should contact the Historical Society. Cncl. Bryson noted November 8th is Election Day and he urged all residents to come out to vote, as there are many major issues in this Country that needs to be addressed.

Cncl. Rich DiLucia reported as council liaison he had the pleasure of addressing students at the last School Board Meeting who had taken the New Jersey ACT Test. Approximately 100 of them scored a perfect 300 in the individual tests of math, science and English and one young lady scored a perfect 300 in all three tests. Cncl. DiLucia commended the students, parents and teachers that contributed to this great achievement. He referred to his statements at the last Council Meeting regarding Social Security recipients not receiving cost of living increase for the last few years and noted this week the government announced that seniors will receive an increase of 3.6% in January 2012. This increase is based upon the Consumers Price Index. He noted Medicare Part B, which is compulsory, cost seniors \$90 (*plus*) a month and that is going to be increased but those figures have not yet been announced. Medicare Part D, the drug portion of Medicare is optional and that cost will vary according to the insurance company that provides the gap coverage. He urged residents to review their Medicare booklet to compare insurance companies and premium costs so they can figure out what is the best policy for them to take. Cncl. DiLucia noted he was happy to read that legislators are drafting legislation to establish a department that will oversee New Jersey insurance companies, as that will hopefully bring some controls over the insurance industry in this State. He noted the insurance for municipalities has been increasing at the rate of 6% to 10% annually so any kind of controls put in place over that will help taxpayers. Cncl. DiLucia spoke of the statistics published this week regarding the one trillion dollars college graduates/students owe for tuition. He noted the money owed by students represents more than what is owed in all the credit card debt in this country. He noted when Governor Christie ran for office one of his issues was that he was a strong advocate for controlling tuition costs of State colleges. Since then the State college presidents have talked with him and he has now abandoned that position and feels it is no longer appropriate to put controls over colleges. Cncl. DiLucia noted legislation is now being drafted that would put a 4% cap on college tuition increases and he felt that cap should be lower like the 2% one for school systems K-12. He noted if college tuition continues to increase at the rate it has over the last few years the middle class will be forced out of education and he urged everyone to keep an eye on this legislation, as these two issues deserve support.

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

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski reported attending the grand opening of "Williamstown Pre-Owned" an auto repair/sales business located on the corner of Sicklerville Road and the Black Horse Pike. He urged residents to patronize this new business in the township. Cncl. Garbowski reported the projects the Economic Development Commission is working on are installing signs at the entrance of the township along Route 322 and Route 42 and updating the business directory. He also reported the Library is holding a Tea Seminar entitled "*Drink To Your Health*" on Monday, November 14th at 7:00 PM. Cncl. Garbowski reported Ryan Michael Latimer will be honored on January 21, 2012 for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Ryan's Eagle Leadership project was the construction of a 150 foot brick paver walking path at Owens Park. Cncl. Garbowski requested all members of Council to join with him in recognizing Ryan for his project.

Cncl. William Sebastian reported attending the Zoning Board of Adjustment Meeting on Tuesday, October 4th. He also reported attending a Public Safety Committee Meeting on October 6th with chiefs from the various municipal departments to discuss their capital improvement requests. A report to Council is forthcoming on that meeting. He also reported attending Williamstown Fire Company's annual open house on Tuesday, October 11th and the Halloween Parade on October 15th. He noted both events were very well attended. He commended the volunteers and the Parks and Rec Department for the wonderful job they did for the parade.

Cncl. Daniel Teefy reported he no longer walks in the parade, as he is now the parade emcee. He extended his appreciation to all the participants of the parade; noting everyone seemed to have a really good time. He also reported this year's Oktoberfest held at Owens Park had the highest attendance of any ever held and he commended the Parks and Rec Commission and Jim Bonder for doing an excellent job on both of these events. Cncl. Teefy noted the next Parks and Rec event is the Tree Lighting Ceremony, which will be held at the Pfeiffer Center in December. Cncl. Teefy noted the Police Department has placed the traffic/speed monitoring sign on Ames Road and some of the traffic has slowed down. He spoke of using his iPad during the Council meetings and of the app made for it that takes pictures and gives the miles per hour of moving vehicles. He noted he has been using his iPad to test the speed of vehicles along Main Street by his home and if his testing works iPads could be utilized throughout the township to cut down on speeders. Cncl. Teefy urged residents to vote at the General Election on November 8th even though there is no local election. He explained if Monroe voters help get the freeholders, assemblymen and the senator elected Council then has the power to request those officials reciprocate by getting things for the township.

Mayor Michael Gabbianelli reported attending an event entitled "*A Day Out To Speak Out*" held at Holiday City on October 11th. The DARE officer, Town Watch officer, Police Explorers and the K-9 Unit participated in this event, which was very well attended by the residents of Holiday City. The Mayor reported Williamstown Fire Department held their annual open house on October 11th and Cecil Fire and Ambulance held theirs on October 12th. The Oktoberfest held Saturday, October 15th had the largest turnout ever and the Halloween Parade was the biggest we ever had. The Mayor thanked Jim Bonder and the Parks and Rec Commission for the work they did to make these events a success. The Mayor noted even though there are several holidays during November bulk trash will be picked up each week. Trash picked up on Mondays and Thursdays will have bulk trash pickup on Friday, November 4th and Friday, November 18th. Trash picked up on Tuesdays and Wednesdays will have bulk pickup on Saturday, November 12th and Saturday, November 26th. Residents must call the Public Works Department to schedule a pickup on those days. The Mayor reported Veteran's Day Ceremonies will be held at Veteran's Plaza on Saturday, November 12th at 6:00 PM. He urged residents to attend to show support for our veterans.

Engineer, Dave Cella reported the Corkery Lane/Malaga Road traffic signal is currently on a flashing operation and will be in full operation beginning on Friday, October 28th.

Director of Public Safety, Jim Smart reported there were very good turnouts at the open houses held by Williamstown and Cecil Fire Departments even with poor weather conditions. He noted daylight savings time begins shortly and he urged everyone to drive carefully for the safety of children out after dark.

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

Cncl. Vice-Pres., Frank Caligiuri reported attending Cecil Fire and Ambulance Open House on Wednesday, October 12th and the Planning Board Meeting on Thursday, October 13th where the Board approved a redevelopment plan for what was formerly the plumbing supply building along the Black Horse Pike. The plan proposes a furniture store and other retail stores. Cncl. Caligiuri reported attending the Halloween Parade on October 15th and noted he gave away a lot of candy, as the parade was very well attended. He reported attending the Gloucester County Improvement Authority Meeting on Thursday, October 20th and the Historical Society demonstration of ghost hunting equipment and ghost tour at the Ireland Hofer House on Saturday, October 22nd. Cncl. Caligiuri also congratulated Ryan Michael Latimer for his notable accomplishment in achieving rank of Eagle Scout. He added he is really proud of all the things our youth do in this township. Cncl. Caligiuri noted he has noticed an evolution in elections that has almost created a team spirit where members of political parties feel they have to honor their party's color of blue or red lawn signs. He felt this evolution might have happened during a presidential election when a map divided red and blue states and that has evolved into local elections as well. Another thing that has happened on a higher level of government is that following an election some elected officials will actually work against another during their term of office just to create a condition that will improve the next election for their party. Cncl. Caligiuri urged residents to become more wary of who they are voting for and research the candidates to make educated votes instead of just voting for the red or blue team.

Cncl. Walter Bryson noted each year Our Lady of Peace Parish (*St. Mary's Church*) puts together food baskets that are distributed at Thanksgiving to those in need and he urged residents to donate canned goods, turkeys, hams, etc. to this project or to projects held at other churches in Monroe Township.

F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to open the General Public Discussion portion of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Cncl. William Sebastian and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance. With no one wishing to speak Cncl. William Sebastian made a motion to close the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Walter Bryson and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.


G.) ADJOURNMENT

Cncl. Ronald Garbowski made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of October 25, 2011. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Daniel Teefy and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan McCormick, RMC
Municipal Clerk



Presiding Officer

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Council Meeting of October 25, 2011 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 Date 11/22/11
Approved as corrected _____ Date _____