

**MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
DECEMBER 16, 2013**

The Regular Meeting of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission was called to order by Chairperson Tony Langella at 7:00pm in the 2nd Floor 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: Manny Bermudez, Christine Feggans, Tony Langella, Jill Simmermon, Jared Valdez, Aileen Wojciechowski, Cncl. William Sebastian.

Absent: Mike Mota

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Manny Bermudez made a motion to approve the minutes of the Economic Development Commission Meeting of November 18, 2013. The motion was seconded by Aileen Wojciechowski and approved by all members of the Commission in attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Chairperson Tony Langella thanked Councilman Sebastian on behalf of the Commission for all of his hard work for the Commission.

Jason Painter, of Astro Signs, attended the meeting to discuss the location of the next sign. Jason brought a map of Monroe that had locations for existing signs marked. The spot suggested was West Malaga Road between Bluebell and Coles Mill Roads. Manny made a motion to approve the location, the motion was seconded by Jared and all present approved. Tony asked Jason for a sign for the door of the third floor office that the commission would like to start using.

Obie O'Brien was a guest at the meeting, he talked about how the Pinelands land operates. That the buyer is not just buying the land but they also must buy credits to build there and it is expensive.

Tony asked the commission how they want to proceed with the Tax Card Program in the upcoming year. He would like to see it implemented in Monroe as soon as it can be. Manny said that the businesses he spoke with are excited and interested in the Tax Card Program. Jared said that he would look into presenting it to council.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

Tony summarized the Annual Review report he and Jared wrote, that listed the commission accomplishments for 2013 and the goals for 2014. In 2013, the Commission got four signs installed around the township, they started a Business Association that has 25 members, and businesses from other towns are now trying to be a part of the Association and now have use of an office in the building. In 2014, more signs will be installed, continue professional development by attending conferences and seminars, improve access to tax abatements and other incentives, update the website, multimedia projects, improve cooperation with council, commissions, boards, officials and other stakeholders in this town, seek and develop new business opportunities with emphasis on the black horse pike, supporting existing businesses, hiring an economic consultant for support and guidance, carefully reviewing new opportunities and programs such as the property tax card, working to create a shared vision for the town development.

Tony and Jared explained to Obie the possibility of having a feasibility study done by Joe Getz, and asked if that was something he felt would be a help to the redevelopment of Monroe. Obie asked what other work Joe had done and Jared said he worked with Glassboro on the Rowan expansion. Councilman Sebastian asked if Joe would be able to help with getting financing the redevelopment.

Tony asked if the funds from the 2013 budget has been encumbered. Aileen said it was and being used for the remainder of the signs that will be installed in 2014.

Tony spoke about the spotlight on business, that he would like Christine to work with the businesses that are interested. Manny said that he spoke with the owners of Rush Fitness that relocated into the old Jamesway building and they were interested in doing the feature. He left his information with Cacia's Bakery to see if they would like to do a spotlight.

Tony would like to start getting sponsors for the tax card program. Jared asked if we should go forward with submitting it to Council before we go to any sponsors. Manny said that he felt the sponsor would want to know what they are going to receive if they were to sponsor the card before they agreed to sponsor it. Christine suggested having a money grab machine at the merchant event so that people could physically see what the savings could be if they were to use the tax card through the year. Jared said that he would like to ask Susquehanna Bank in Glassboro since they are the townships bank.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

Tony said that he would ask Joe Getz to come to the meeting in January to talk about exactly what we would get from the feasibility study.

The Economic Development Commission January meeting has been rescheduled to January 27, 2014 at 5:30pm.

Aileen said that she wanted Tony and Jared to add to the Annual Review that the Commission put together a packet of relevant information for new businesses that approached Monroe.

Aileen asked the commission what wording they wanted on the smaller metal signs that were being ordered from the road department. Everyone present decided on five "Welcome to Township of Monroe" signs. Aileen made a motion to approve the signs, Manny seconded the motion: all in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Tony asked for a motion to adjourn Jared made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission Meeting of December 16, 2013. The motion was seconded by Manny; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquelyn Allen

The next scheduled Monroe Township Economic Development Commission meeting is Monday, January 27, 2014 at 5:30pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Economic Development Commission Meeting of December 16, 2013 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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