

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
FEBRUARY 24, 2014**

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. Pres., Ronald Garbowski** 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.

Cncl. Pres., Garbowski 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. Dilks led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and **Cncl. Caligiuri** offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

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

PRESENTATION - None

MAYOR APPOINTMENT

Mayor Gabbianelli appointed **Matthew Scardino** as an Alternate # 2 member to the Monroe Township Planning Board and **Michelle Schreffler-Perez** as a member of the Monroe Township Municipal Alliance Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of February 10, 2014. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and approved by all members of Council with the exception of **Cncl. Pres., Garbowski** who **Abstained**.

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B.) CORRESPONDENCE - None

C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to open the Resolutions Scheduled-Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Caligiuri and unanimously approved by all members of Council. With no one wishing to speak Cncl. Bryson made a motion to close the Resolution Scheduled-Public Portion. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Dilks and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Cncl. Caligiuri made a motion to bracket as a Consent Agenda Resolutions R:55-2014 through R:59-2014. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Sebastian and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

CONSENT AGENDA

R:55-2014 Resolution Adjusting Township Of Monroe Tax Records

R:56-2014 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Awarding Bid To Coastal Electric & Environmental For The Purchase Of A Used Altec L42-P47 Bucket Truck Or Approved Equal 2004 Or newer International Diesel Model 4300 Chassis Or approved Equal 75,000 Miles Or Less for the Monroe Township Department Of Public Works

R:57-2014 Emergency Temporary Resolution Prior To Adoption Of The Budget Township of Monroe, County Of Gloucester (*Temporary # 3*)

R:58-2014 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Releasing The Maintenance Bond Posted For "Justin Commons" Formerly Scotland Commons, Site Plan #414-SP, Block 14301, Lots 56 & 57

R:59-2014 Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of February 24, 2014

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to approve Resolutions R:55-2014 through R-59-2014. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Dilks and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

D.) ORDINANCES

Cncl. Pres., Garbowski turned this portion of the meeting over to Ordinance Committee Chairman, Cncl. Sebastian. Cncl. Pres., Garbowski made a motion to open the Public Hearing for Ordinance O:03-2014. The motion was seconded by Cncl. DiLucia. With no one wishing to speak Cncl. Dilks made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Caligiuri and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

O:03-2014 Calendar Year 2014 Ordinance To Exceed The Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits And To Establish A Cap Bank (*N.J.S.A.40A:4-45.14*)

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

Cncl. Teefy made a motion to approve Ordinance O:03-2014 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Bryson.

ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:03-2014 FOR SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING - ALL AYES

Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent. Ordinance O:03-2014 was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

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D.) ORDINANCES (cont'd)

O:04-2014 An Ordinance Vacating And Extinguishing All Public Rights In And To A Certain Dedicated Public Street Or Roadway In The Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey To Wit: A Portion Of A Certain Unimproved And Dedicated Road Known As Monroe Avenue Between Block 3101, Lots 2 And 3 And Reserving Any Easements Currently Held By The Township And Other Persons/Entities

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. Caligiuri made a motion to approve Ordinance O:04-2014 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Bryson** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Bryson reported the Public Safety Committee (*Cncl. Bryson, Caligiuri, Sebastian*) held two meetings this month; one with representatives from the Cecil and Williamstown Fire Departments and the other with EMS representatives. Fire Chiefs Jacobi and Ferguson and the EMS Squad Chief Accoglio presented their requests for capital and other expenditures to be included in the 2014 budget. That information was forwarded to the Administration for review. The Budget Committee (*Cncl. Bryson, DiLucia, Dilks*) also met this month with the Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel and CFO Jeff Coles who presented the first draft of the 2014 budget. The initial increase was 5.97%, which was due substantially to the second round of the Gloucester County Tax Assessor's Compliance Plan and a small increase to the actual budget. As a result of the Budget Committee meeting the initial budget was reduced to a final increase of 4.94% broken down as 3.22% from the Compliance Plan and 1.72% from the budget. It is important to note that departments concerned with public safety, such as Cecil Fire Department, Williamstown Fire Department, Williamstown EMS and the Police Department had increases and accommodations made to hire new staff and to replace retiring police officers. Mr. Heydel incorporated the capital inputs from all departments into a five year plan and has distributed that plan to Council for review. Council will make comments prior to approving any capital expenditures. **Cncl. Bryson** reported due to inclement weather there was not a quorum in attendance at the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting so the meeting could not be held. He reported the Historical Society held two meetings this month, is continuing work on the Radix Train Station and repairs of the Hall Street School. The Historical Society is also sponsoring a British Car Meet with the British Motor Club of South Jersey on May 17th. The plans include a display of all types of British automobiles from club members and guests, tables for crafters and flea marketers, members in colonial customs and a tea garden behind the Ireland House where refreshments will be served and British invasion music will be played. **Cncl. Bryson** requested anyone with a British car to contact him and vendors to contact the Historical Society. He went on to speak of a longtime resident who has battled cancer two times and is now in need of some inside plumbing work and outside roofing work to his home. He requested anyone that can volunteer their time and some materials to call him for more information as this resident has extinguished all his resources and is in need of some help.

Cncl. Caligiuri reported attending the Public Safety Committee Meeting held on February 17th and that the Planning Board Meeting of Thursday, February 13th and the Open Space Committee Meeting of Monday, February 3rd were cancelled due to inclement weather. He also reported attending the Redevelopment Committee Meeting on February 5th and noted he would defer the report on that meeting to the committee chairman.

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

Cncl. DiLucia reported attending the Board of Education Meeting at which time he extended best wishes on behalf of Council to Mr. Caruso, who was elected the new School Board President. He also reported attending a Budget Committee Meeting in place of Cncl. Pres., Garbowski who was recovering from surgery. Cncl. DiLucia noted Cncl. Pres., Garbowski is now back and he extended him best wishes for good health. Cncl. DiLucia spoke of President Obama asking businesses to increase minimum wage since Congress has not taken action on that issue. The GAP, owners of Old Navy, announced last week that every employee would be raised to \$9.00 an hour this year and \$10.00 an hour next year and Wal-Mart is also looking into increasing their employees hourly rate and a decision should be made on that shortly. He added he hopes Congress and the Senate lead the way on this issue because in today's world \$9.00 or \$10.00 an hour does not raise, feed or educate a family but it is a start. The person currently earning \$7.25 an hour appreciates \$9.00 or \$10.00, as it significantly improves their standard of living and the more they make working, the less reliant they are on government subsidies and lower subsidies lower the burden on taxpayers. Cncl. DiLucia commended Old Navy and The GAP and noted he hopes that Wal-Mart will lead the way and be the next employer to increase the minimum wage.

Cncl. Sebastian reported attending the Zoning Board Meeting at which time an application was heard and approval granted for a couple to grow hops, as an agricultural crop, on Airport Road. That area is located in a BP Zone, which allows agricultural but it also has the airport overlay, which does not allow it. The couple wants to grow hops to sell to local beer makers and breweries in Philadelphia and hope that if it takes off in the future they will be able to sustain their own microbrewery here in Monroe Township. Cncl. Sebastian spoke of receiving an email from Cncl. Teefy that stated a Girl Scout Troop is interested in creating a Dog Park in Monroe Township. He also spoke of a Courier Post article about "Mom's Rescue", which has rescued thousands of dogs left behind in Georgia when people left the area during the cold weather. He noted many people are concerned with the welfare of man's best friend and he urged those interested in adopting a dog or making a donation to Mom's Rescue to go to their website at www.animalaidusa.org.

Cncl. Teefy noted due to inclement weather the Municipal Alliance and the Environmental Commission meetings were cancelled the last two months. The Environmental Commission did reschedule their meeting for this evening and hopefully if there is no more snow he will be able to attend next month. Cncl. Teefy noted he wanted the public to be made aware that Public Works was trying to find and repair all potholes and he questioned Mr. Avis on how they made out on Saturday making those repairs. Mr. Avis noted the department was very busy but he was not sure if everyone was repaired due to the number out there. Cncl. Teefy referred to Cncl. Sebastian's comments about the dog park and went on to speak of how Girl Scout Troop 63553 lead by Amanda Devault has been working on creating a dog park since last year and they are now going to begin working with the Parks and Rec Commission on the project. The girls will earn a bronze award for the project and have started an on-line petition at the website moveon.org "Help Create A Dog Park In Monroe Township". The petition statement is: "Please help us create a dog park in our community. We would like to develop a fenced in, off leash dog park where well behaved canine citizens can exercise in a clean, safe environment without endangering people, property, or wildlife". Cncl. Teefy noted he has emailed the Parks and Rec Commission to let them know the girls would be attending their March meeting to discuss what is needed for a dog park. Most of the girls are in fifth grade and are being taught how to write letters to send to public officials recommending the dog park. Cncl. Teefy noted this is a good project for the girls and it will be good for them to meet and work with the commission. He also reported the Middle School will be holding a special environmental education event "Slam Dunk the Junk" on Wednesday, March 12th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. This event is sponsored by the Monroe Township Education Association Pride Grant and involves over 200 students assisted by Principal, Dana Mericle, volunteer advisor Sandy Keen and 7th grade teacher Janet Mead.

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

Mayor Gabbianelli reported the Public Works Department has been working very hard plowing snow and repairing potholes. Fortunately less than \$100,000.00 has been spent in overtime and salt. The Mayor noted eleven years ago when he first took office we had twenty-six inches of snow and we learned then that we had to run that part of the budget like a business. Over the years the same amount of money has always been allotted for snow removal and in some years we had a break. This year we got killed again but because we put the same amount of money in the budget we are in pretty good shape. Now, we are battling potholes and the problem is if they patch them today they will be back tomorrow from all the snow, ice and rain. This weekend the weather was warm and hot patching materials were used and that will last a little longer than the cold patch. The Mayor noted the MMUA has been part of the Shared Service Policy and has assisted in plowing the snow. He spoke of receiving many emails stating the township did a great job clearing the roads and of how he read a newspaper article complaining about the roads in Washington Township. The Mayor then thanked the MMUA and Public Works employees for a job well done during a very tough winter.

Cncl. Pres., Garbowski reported meeting with the Economic Development Committee, which is looking to move forward with the "Buy Monroe Tax Card". The program encourages residents to patronize local businesses to get tax rebates, it is sponsored by businesses and other entities, and there will be no cost to the township. Cncl. Pres., Garbowski noted he feels this is a good program so he has requested the Economic Development Committee to give a presentation to Council in April showing how it works. The Commission is also working with the Williamstown High School Video Club to create a video of all the good things Monroe Township has to offer and that will be sent to businesses we want to attract throughout the state and country. Cncl. Garbowski reported a new business, "The Best Foods Buffet", has opened on the Black Horse Pike at the plaza across from Peter's Diner. He also suggested getting ARH involved with a dog park as soon as the girl scouts get the information together so a location can be found and the cost can be determined. Cncl. Pres., Garbowski urged residents to visit the Library website to view the many events coming up in the spring. He also extended his appreciation to the Public Works, the MMUA, the Fire Departments and the EMS for all the work they did during the snow storms over the last couple of months. He also thanked everyone for the prayers he received during his hospital stay for treatment of cancer and noted he is clean from the cancer and appreciates all the prayers he received.

Cncl. Bryson suggested creating a dog park like the one in Philadelphia at Washington Square, as many residents do not play sports but would just like to take a walk in a nice park with benches and a fountain. We have land in the township to do that so when considering a dog park we should also consider creating a park without sporting fields where people could just walk or sit on a bench. Cncl. Bryson urged everyone to visit Philadelphia to see a new navy ship called the Somerset, which is a new class of navy cruiser that was built from the steel of the Twin Towers. The Somerset is the second in that class of ships that will be built; the first was the New York. Located on the back deck of the Somerset where aircraft take off is the number 93, for Flight 93 and the saying "Let's Roll", which the passengers said when they rushed the terrorists. The ship is beautiful and will be commissioned in Philadelphia on Saturday, March 1st.

F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

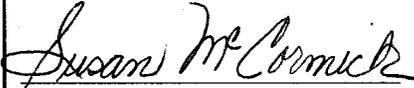
Cncl. Sebastian made a motion to open the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council. With no one wishing to speak **Cncl. Dilks** made a motion to close the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

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G.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss Cncl. Teefy made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of February 24, 2014. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Dilks 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 February 24, 2014 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 Am
Approved as corrected _____

Date 3/10/14
Date _____