

**MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
JANUARY 29, 2015**

The Reorganization Meeting of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission was called to order by Secretary Jacquelyn Allen at 7:09pm in the 2nd Floor Meeting Room of the Municipal Complex. Notice of this meeting was given as required by the annual notice of meetings.

Secretary Jacquelyn Allen led the Commission in the salute to our flag. Christine Feggans offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL

Present: Tony Langella, Jared Valdez, Christine Feggans, Manny Bermudez, Natalie Wentz, Aileen Chiselko, Robert Bender, Cncl. Bart McIlvaine

Absent:

NOMINATIONS & ELECTION

As 2014 Secretary of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission, Jacquelyn Allen conducted nominations and election. Jacquelyn asked for a nomination for the 2015 Chairperson. Many Bermudez nominated Tony Langella as the Chairperson, seconded by Aileen Chiselko; no other nominations from the floor. All in favor no oppositions. Tony Langella is the Chairperson of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission for 2015.

Chairperson Tony Langella asked for a nomination for the 2015 Vice-Chairperson. Christine Feggans nominated Jared Valdez as the Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Aileen Chiselko; no other nominations from the floor. All in favor, no oppositions. Jared Valdez is the Vice-Chairperson of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission for 2015.

Chairperson Tony Langella asked for a nomination for 2015 Secretary. Aileen Chiselko nominated Jacquelyn Allen as Secretary, seconded by Manny Bermudez; no other nominations on the floor. All in favor, no oppositions. Jacquelyn Allen is the Secretary of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission for 2015.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Manny made a motion to approve the minutes of the Economic Development Commission Meeting of December 15, 2014. The motion was seconded by Natalie and approved by all members in attendance of the Commission. Aileen Chiselko abstained due to her absence of the December meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Members introduced themselves, Bob Heffner, Council-at-Large, was a guest at the meeting. Chairperson Tony Langella gave a brief description of the tax card program, explaining that it is a reward program that allows you to earn money towards your property taxes by shopping locally at participating businesses in Monroe Township. The \$10,000 startup amount for the tax program has been secured, \$5,000 from Investors Bank and \$5,000 from the township. Mailing the cards will add to the initial cost of the cards, and the commission suggested having distribution spots, and having a launch date. Manny also mentioned that other towns have not had a great success with people activating the cards when they are mailed.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

Cncl. Bob Heffner suggested sending a mailer to residents giving the information about the tax card and also distribution dates, times and locations. Cncl. McIlvaine also said that the town website and the town Facebook page would also be a way to get information to the residents.

Tony asked if the town had an official tax abatement program, Cncl. Heffner said that there was no official program in place, however it is being looked at for an official program.

Cncl. McIlvaine stated that Mayor Teefy has assigned a Main Street committee. The laws have to be reviewed and a plan needs to be constructed, but the first focus would be cleaning up township properties, and things like signage. Tony asked about the banners for Main Street, Cncl. McIlvaine said that once the weather breaks the painting of the poles for the banners can start. Cncl. Heffner said that there is also going to be more of a police presence on Main Street. Aileen asked what was going to happen with the old library building, Cncl. Heffner said that they are not sure what the plans are yet. The options are to sell it or demolish it.

Tony gave a description of the video that the commission asked Superintendent Earling for the high school students to create. That it is going to be a promotional style video highlighting and spotlighting the town.

2015 meeting dates will be: 3/16, 4/20, 5/18, 6/15, 7/20, 8/17, 9/21, 10/19, 11/16, at 7pm and 2/23 and 12/14 at 5:30pm. Aileen made a motion to approve the 2015 meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Robert and approved by all members of the Commission.

Tony made a motion to support Cody Miller joining the Gloucester County Economic Development Commission. The motion was seconded by Jared and approved by all members of the Commission.

Tony asked the members what they wanted to see happen in 2015. Manny wants to see the tax card done and in the hands of the residents, he also told Cncl. MacIlvaine and Cncl. Heffner that it was refreshing to have them at the meeting. Christine would like to see more partnerships with the town, she also said that it is refreshing to have Cncl. MacIlvaine and Cncl. Heffner at the meeting. Jared would like to see the banners and signs that the money is encumbered for finished, the design for banners and text for signs. Cncl. McIlvaine said that the chairperson and vice chairperson from the Main Street committee could meet with Tony and Jared. Aileen stated that she would like to see more businesses that are geared towards doing activities, for adults and children, giving people from other towns a reason to come to our town. Robert gave information about specialized loan programs for small businesses that can be designed for Monroe, giving businesses alternative incentives to come to Monroe. He thinks that there needs to be an abatement program for businesses. Also, existing businesses need events to help them promote their services, Cncl. McIlvaine agreed. Natalie wants to create an identity for the town, she gets asked all the time why she lives in Monroe. Robert suggested a nice entrance sign, maybe electronic, with brick around it and flags, that would really let people know when they enter the town. Christine said that we need something similar to South of the Border, something that no other town has, that would bring people here. Cncl. Heffner said that it would be great to have a destination store like Cabella's. Christine stated that Advance Auto will be doing the February Spotlight on Business.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Tony asked for a motion to adjourn Robert made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission Meeting of January 29, 2015. The motion was seconded by Christine; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquelyn Allen

The next scheduled Monroe Township Economic Development Commission meeting is Monday, February 23, 2015 at 5:30pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Economic Development Commission Meeting of January 29, 2015 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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