

**MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
OCTOBER 24, 2016**

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 8:09 PM by **Cncl. Vice-Pres., Bart McIlvaine** 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 and also on the Monroe Township website.

Cncl. Vice-Pres., McIlvaine stated the Clerk has placed a sign-in sheet in the meeting room. If anyone would like to address Council please sign in and you will be recognized during the Public Portion. Kindly state your name for the record.

SALUTE TO FLAG

Cncl. Bryson led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag and **Cncl. Caligiuri** offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Cncl. Walt Bryson	Present	
Cncl. Frank Caligiuri	Present	
Cncl. Marvin Dilks		Excused
Cncl. Rich DiLucia	Present	
Cncl. Bob Heffner	Present	
Cncl. Bart McIlvaine	Present	
Cncl. Pres., Cody D. Miller		Excused
Mayor Daniel Teefy	Present	
Solicitor Charles Fiore	Present	
Business Administrator, Kevin Heydel	Present	
Engineer, Kathryn Cornforth, ARH	Present	
Dir. Of Code Enforcement, George Reitz		Excused
Dir. Of Public Safety, Jim Smart	Present	
Dir. Of Public Works, Michael Calvello	Present	
Dir. Community Dev., Rosemary Flaherty	Present	
Deputy Mayor Andy Potopchuk	Present	
Police Chief John McKeown	Present	
Municipal Clerk, Susan McCormick	Present	

PROCLAMATION

- **Eagle Scout - Aaron J. Ocasio**

Mayor Teefy and Cncl. Vice-Pres., McIlvaine presented **Aaron Ocasio** of Boy Scout Troup 234 with a proclamation in recognition of completing his Eagle Leadership Project of an 8' x 10' hand painted mural "*Some Gave All, All Gave Some*" that is on display at VFW Post #1616 and for attaining the highest and most covenant rank of "Eagle Scout". Aaron explained the mural is a picture of an eagle with both wings being the American Flag and POW/MIA Flag. He, a couple of other scouts and some other people who volunteered their time painted the mural. The mural was placed in the VFW to honor the veterans who have already served, are currently serving and those who will serve in the future and so everyone who goes there can enjoy it.

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SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

- **Blue Anchor Brewing**

Thomas Nahf and Steve McNamara were in attendance to spotlight a brewery they will be opening in the spring of 2017 at 345 South Main Street. Mr. McNamara explained beer will be brewed at this location and people will be able to come in enjoy a couple of pints as samples and then take some growlers home. He noted with the type of liquor license they will have only their own beer can be served, no food will be sold at this location but people can bring some in. **Mayor Teefy** questioned whether they have come up with a name for the brewery yet and what the hours of operation will be. Mr. McNamara noted at the MDA Walk he received hundreds of suggestions for a name and they have narrowed them down to a few. The name will be announced within a week or two after we check on trademark infringement. The hours of operation will be 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM Friday, Saturday and Sunday and Thursday will be a little shorter, as we want to maintain a good relationship with the other bars in town so they will carry our beer in their establishments. Ultimately we would like to distribute state and country wide. **Cncl. McIlvaine** questioned whether Mr. Nahf and Mr. McNamara were originally from Monroe Township and if not what attracted them to come here to start a business. Mr. McNamara explained he lives in Winslow Township but Tom lives here now. Originally they looked at other towns but after contacting Ernie Carbone and getting such a great response from Council and everyone else being so enthusiastic and helpful they decided to come here. **Cncl. McIlvaine** noted it was nice to hear that everyone was helping them as we want to be a business friendly town and as a lifelong resident of Monroe Township he welcomed them and wished them well in their new business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. Heffner made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Council Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of October 10, 2016. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

B.) CORRESPONDENCE - None

C.) RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED - PUBLIC PORTION

Cncl. Heffner 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 in attendance.

Carol Romaine, 1711 Pin Oak Road was in attendance to let Council know she was opposed to replacing the gas lights in Forest Hills, as they are one reason she purchased her home as it gives the development character. She noted she feels safe there, is not in favor of brighter lights and her family and her love the gas lights and want them to stay. **Cncl. Caligiuri** noted Timber, Victory and Sunset Lakes had a similar situation when the residents of the community wanted to keep the lake in tact but it was beyond their means to pay for the dam. The community signed a petition to have it paid for through their taxes and he questioned whether the Forest Hills residents would consider paying the difference between electric lights and the gas lights if the tax impact to each resident was \$25.00 to \$50.00 per quarter. He explained the township provides street lighting throughout the community to provide safe transportation but what do we say to people in other communities who say they would like to have gas lights too. Should Council assume the cost to have gas lights put in their communities? Mrs. Romaine noted she personally would be willing to pay the additional taxes to keep the lights but she questioned the cost to replace them with electric lights because it may be cheaper to leave them. She added in regards to other communities wanting gas lights that would require installation and that is a different ball game. Forest Hills lights are already there and we are just asking that they remain.

Donna and Kevin King, 1646 Pin Oak indicated they were opposed to replacing the gas lights and did not see the benefit of electric lights due to the cost of that installation. A benefit to gas lights is during power outages Forest Hills still has street lights and there has never been a time when they didn't feel safe and that is because the gas lamps continue to be on. Mrs. King expressed concern that installing electric lights would have an environmental impact from light

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

pollution, which effects bird migration, the way the trees grown and the light shining in bedroom windows affects people's sleep. The Forest Hills Development was built with gas lights and they should be grandfathered in. She added she didn't know what started this discussion, why the lights needed to be replaced and does not see the practical value of replacing them, as electric lights do not create more safety. If the electric lights are being installed out of increase fear of crime you run the risk of attracting the thing that you are worried about. There are a number of issues that need to be considered before such a move is made. **Mayor Teefy** noted recently a gas light on Pin Oak knocked down and replaced by an LED light and he questioned what Mrs. King felt about that. She indicated she has not seen it but will take a look at it. She commented she has seen gas lights converted to LED and that could be a viable alternative that would still preserve the ambiance and the usefulness of the gas lights that contribute something special to the community.

Mayor Teefy noted this issue has been kicked around for a long time and his feeling was to install an electric light where the gas light was taken down to see what it looks like. He questioned whether any Council members rode by the light on Pin Oak. Cncl. Bryson indicated he rode past it and he felt the lighting was about the same. None of the other members of council had been past the light and Mayor Teefy noted we are not doing our due diligence to see what that light looks like.

Cncl. Heffner noted that light actually has the wrong wattage. When it was installed they put in a 30 watt when it was supposed to be 100 watt LED so what you are seeing there is not the amount of light that would be seen in the rest of the development. LED 100 watt is proposed, not 30 watt so if approved the electric lights will be installed on existing telephone poles and will actually be brighter than the one currently in place. Cncl. McIlvaine added if this resolution is adopted it would authorize an immediate replacement of all Forest Hills gas lamps with LED lights. Mrs. King questioned the reasoning for this. Cncl. McIlvaine explained the main reason is the savings. Cncl. Heffner referred to information from Mr. Heydel's office that said the cost to operate and maintain the gas lights is \$60,000.00 to \$70,000.00 a year. The installation of electric lights would be \$56,000.00 and at the current electric rate the cost of running electric lights in the entire development would be \$2,800.00 a year. There would be a significant savings and in the first year the installation cost would be recovered. Mrs. King noted it is important to her to see the sky at night and she thinks electric lights would consume more energy over the long run and a lot of the lighting would be unnecessary.

Jack Luby, 1664 Silver Birch Road, noted he has lived in Forest Hills since 1969, was the Director of Finance, a councilman, the Mayor twice and also the Business Administrator for the township and he never recalls a document like the contract between South Jersey Gas and the township ever crossing his desk or the Council. He felt this contract that says SJG owns and operates 179 gas street lights within the Forest Hills section of Monroe Township could be the very first one. Mr. Luby noted South Jersey Gas Company does not own those gas lamps. They were installed by the builder Esposito and Katz who got them from Philadelphia and brought them here. When the roads were dedicated the gas street lights were also dedicated to the township. In 1978 there was an energy crisis and the gas lights at the entrance of the development were removed. Apparently someone stated a councilman had given South Jersey Gas permission to remove the lights and they were also going to remove the rest of them but Forest Hills litigated this matter before an administrative judge and the New Jersey Public Utilities Board. In the end they stated the gas lights were gone because of the energy crisis but agreed that no more of the lights would be removed because they did not belong to South Jersey Gas, they belonged to the township and the township maintained them with the help of the Forest Hills Civic Association. Mr. Luby could not understand why the township has the 2011 agreement since the gas company does not own the lamps. He added he found out later South Jersey Gas took the lights they removed from the development entrance and sold them to and installed them in the historic district of Cape May. He added he hoped they kept the light they removed from Pin Oak because it belongs to us. Mr. Luby spoke of the proposal to install 60 LED lights to replace 179 gas lights and presented documentation from the American Medical Association (AMA) against LED lights due to their effect on health such as pulmonary constriction of the eyes, damage to the retinal, reduced sleep times, excessive sleepiness, impaired daytime functioning and obesity. LED lighting does not just affect humans but many other species as well. Mr. Luby suggested Council create a three man committee who along with the Mayor could look at what the adverse effects of LED lighting is because once the gas lights are gone forever, we can't go back. He agreed the

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

electric lights are cheaper but felt the cost to keep the gas lights on would have a zero effect on the tax rate. Mr. Luby commented that he had a problem with Mr. Heydel's numbers and spoke about that during the September 26, 2015 Council Meeting. Right now the rate SJG charges is \$209.51 an hour to change a mantel but in Cape May their Public Works Department does it. He added Sue McCormick is a great clerk and does a wonderful job but she should not be responsible to forward information to the gas company regarding street light repairs, that should be done by the Road Department because they have men out there all the time. The cost to repair the lights now is \$70,000.00 but that cost could be cut in half by hiring a township employee at \$18.00 to \$20.00 an hour to perform that work. With benefits it could be as much as \$40.00 per hour and that is a far cry from \$209.00. If the lights are maintained correctly and continually that man would need to go out once a month and for the rest of the month he could be doing other things for the township so the cost offsets itself. Mr. Luby noted there are rumors parts are unavailable but that is not true because two companies, Penn Globe.com and America Gas Lamp Works have available parts. He spoke of the cost of mantels, how more expensive ones last ten times longer, how the light in front of his home had the same globe for forty years and how he and his wife maintained it over the years. He felt the \$70,000.00 cost was over exaggerated and offered to review the figures with the Business Administrator. He noted the electric lights in Forest Hills have been there since the development was first built and electricians told him the entire grid needs to be replaced but the electric company does not want to spend the money to do that. When the power is out in the rest of the town the Forest Hills gas lights are on making the development safer and the police chief's presentation said Forest Hills is as safe as any other development in town. Mr. Luby spoke of the property taxes Forest Hills residents pay for police, fire, ambulance, trash pickup and how the County wanted to take over the Library but the township kept control of that for our residents. The gas lights are the same thing as there are approximately 1,000 people living in the 300 homes in Forest Hills that are asking to keep the community the way it should be and has been. Forest Hills is an older community and the gas lights are a focal point and the primary reason people move into the development. He commented that the athletic fields satisfy a certain number of people and he felt the gas lights in Forest Hills can be maintained at no cost to the taxpayers in order to make a community that we love an asset to the entire township.

Joseph Fiordaliso, 1602 Pin Oak Road, agreed with everyone's comments especially Mr. Luby's about the LED lights being detrimental to the health of the residents. He added we have beautiful lights that only Cherry Hill and Cape May have and whenever people come to the community they marvel about them so why would we want to change that.

David Tucker, 1606 Pin Oak Road noted he moved to Forest Hills in 1970 after looking at houses in Glassboro, Blackwood and Washington Township and even though the houses cost more the decision to move there was because of the gas lights. There has been a conflict about getting rid of the lights for forty years but the township has been making money from them whether they say so or not. He also noted the new electric light installed on Pin Oak is obnoxious and Council should do their job and go look at it. He spoke of a light next to his home being knocked down for a year and now the pole has been swiped. The residents of Forest Hills like their lights and want to keep them so they should be left alone.

Tim Brown, 327 Holly Parkway, noted his house is 180 feet away from the last gas lamp and the LED light being discussed is right outside of his house. There is a marked difference between those lights and he questioned whether Council has taken into consideration residents paid more for their houses because of the gas lights and suggested Council wait on the proposed resolution.

Elena Stults, 1652 White Oak Lane, noted she is a new resident but her husband has been here for twenty-three years. When she first came to the Forest Hills community she noticed the ambiance of an old town feeling and taking this away from Williamstown is taking away the identity of what Forest Hills is all about. It is dark at night but that is the beauty of it. You can see the stars and we are asking you to spend time in Forest Hills at night to see what it is like to have these lights.

Pat Galante, 1760 Red Oak Road, noted she has lived in Forest Hills for thirty years and the lights are what sold her on the home. She added taking them out would be devastating to her and she urged Council to please reconsider their decision.

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

William Blong, 152 Harrell Avenue, questioned if he was understanding it correctly that Forest Hills would be asked to pay a little more for the gas lights. **Cncl. Caligiuri** agreed the gas lights are attractive and add to the culture and climate of that community. He went on to say the township is required to provide cost effective lighting for the purpose of safety and transportation so he was going to try to table this vote with the hopes that Council will do more research into the project to find out what other options are available. Mr. Luby had suggested the possibility of the township maintaining the lights. Another option to explore would be like what was done when a lake community without a homeowners association got together to figure out a way to share the cost of restoring the dam when the New Jersey Dam Association decided the dam was unsafe and attempted to force them to drain the lake. He suggested looking at that option by holding committee meetings and polling the community to see if they would be willing to pay the difference between \$30,000.00 versus \$3,000.00 in annual costs for the electric lights. He noted Forest Hills is not part of his ward but he is trying to find a reasonable way to save the lights that serves the entire township. If it amounted to \$25.00 more per quarter to pay the difference between the electric cost and the gas cost he felt the majority of people in the community would be willing to pay that difference. He went on to say some areas of Philadelphia have gas lights and the city pays a premium to have the decorative lighting. He felt Council needs to do their due diligence and take a look at all the options and talk to the people that live there and try not to make a decision for them without knowing all the options. Right now the option is to appreciate a very large cash savings but without knowing if the community would be willing to pay the difference in their taxes or if there are other options available. He felt it was not a good idea to start ripping the lights out with the information we currently have. Mr. Blong noted he does not live in Forest Hills but in listening to the conversation he does not think it's fair for those residents to pay extra on their taxes when there are other sections of this township that pay their fair share of taxes but are not provided some of the amenities provided to the rest of the town. Cross Keys for example does not have water/sewer but the township does not tell them they will pay a little less in taxes because they are not provided everything the rest of the township is so Forest Hills should not be expected to pay a little more for the amenities they are provided. Mr. Blong noted he was here to ask about removable speed bumps, which can be taken down during snow storms or moved throughout the township. He felt this is an option Council should look at because they do not require engineer approval.

Cncl. DiLucia stated water/sewer does not involve tax dollars. That is an amenity run totally by the MUA.

Ryan Hennessy, 1767 Black Oak Road, noted he has lived there for thirty-four years and would like to keep the gas lights whether he has to pay extra or not. He added he grew up right across the street from Forest Court and played stick ball under those lights. In the early 1990's there was a snowstorm and freezing rain and he and his brother ice skated on the street under those lights. He added he has a lot of history there and now at thirty-four is getting married and wants to raise a family there. He noted he plans on maintaining the light in front of his house and as neighbors we should all take responsibility for our community.

Shawn Leonard, 1617 White Oak Road, noted when he sits in his house he can see a gas light to the left, right and across the street from his house and it looks like a Christmas card when it snows and the gas lights flicker. He added you don't get that light from LED lights. Twenty-five years ago he came from Philadelphia and was shown houses on the golf course in Washington Township and also in Scotland Run but there was no comparison to Forest Hills with the gas lights and the oak trees. In looking at the money aspect of it the residents in Forest Hills pay heavy taxes for the services they get. His taxes are almost \$8,000.00 and he has paid for permits for everything he has done on his home so he urged Council to leave the gas lights.

Peter Bazikos, 1711 Pin Oak Road, thanked the Mayor and Council for spending time listening to everyone in the Forest Hill community who are strongly against replacing the gas lights and there are many more from the community that could not be here this evening. He urged Council to listen because the distinctive character of the neighborhood will be robbed. He requested the LED light on Pin Oak be removed and asked that the township get back the lights that are now in Cape May. This neighborhood feels these lights are important to our community adding distinctiveness and Cape May thinks so too. He spoke of being an electrical engineer and

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

how NASA showed the glow of those lights from the space station and that shows what those lights have done to our landscape. The landscape of this community needs to be one of the highest priorities as it is the attraction that brings people to our community and promotes the values of the neighborhood by its distinctiveness but if you take away the lights watch the taxes as our property values fall. He noted he would give Council a counter proposal of taking away the lights while guaranteeing the property values and if they are not prepared to do that they should leave the lights alone.

Joseph Fiordaliso, 1602 Pin Oak Road questioned whether there were a lot of accidents in the Forest Hills area that would require the bright lights. He added the problem he sees is potholes off Buttonwood that cars are hitting every day and if they cause a blowout and a kid on the street is injured that would be something detrimental. If there were accidents in the area and LED lights were needed he could understand that but not to take away these lights that have provided aesthetic beauty for years, which everyone still wants.

Matthew Towers, 1620 Holly Parkway noted many residents have emotional ties to the gas lamps. He moved to Forest Hills in 1980 when he was ten years old, lived there for twelve years, moved away, moved back to Holly Parkway three years ago and was pleasantly surprised to see the gas lamps still there, as that was one of the attractions to come back to Forest Hills. In regards to saving money one thing that should be looked at is the housings that were switched out about four months ago. The lights went from three mantels to two so two-thirds gas is coming out of those lights, which must be some type of savings. He added in regards to the labor he would change the mantels for \$150.00 an hour.

Mathew Scardino, 1609 Silver Birch Road noted he bought his house from his parents so he has lived there all his life and played under those street lights with Ryan. He added the electric lights installed along Main Street are similar to the Forest Hills gas lights and copying is a form of flattery so the lights should be left the way they are to keep the residents happy. He went on to say he understands money can be an issue but the lights help keep property values higher.

Dena Heckers, 1620 Holly Parkway stated she couldn't add much more than what others have said she just wanted to be one more voice to say the lights should not come out. She noted fifty years ago her parents bought a house on Jobs Lane that was exactly like homes in Forest Hills because the taxes and property values in Forest Hills were higher most likely because of the gas lamps. She noted she still has an original gas lamp at her house and she feels that the LED lights or anything else that would be put in will never look the same. She added she loves her lamp, maintains it, which is easy to do and she totally agrees with Mr. Luby that the township should pay someone else to maintain them and take the gas company out of the loop.

Brian Galante, 313 Ipswich Lane, noted he grew up in Forest Hills and some of the lights probably need repair from him and his friends crashing into them while playing football. He added he keeps hearing about historical Main Street but if we keep taking historical things away like the gas lights that have been there a long time the town will no longer be historical.

Mayor Teefy noted he appreciates everyone speaking as some really valid points were made. He explained the LED light was installed as a survey and after driving down Pin Oak he agrees with Mr. Tucker that the light is obnoxious. He added this discussion has been ongoing for about a year and he felt it was good residents came out tonight to tell Council, who will vote upon the issue, that they think the lights are an important part of that community. He added the gas lights cost more to run and we need to find ways to be more efficient but he would not advocate charging the residents more for them. He noted when his family moved to Forest Hills they thought they were responsible to repair their light and his dad, brother and him always switched out the mantels. He suggested the residents be trained to maintain the lights themselves because half the people may already be doing it. Mayor Teefy noted he would be an advocate of not tabling this matter but would be an advocate of burying it and going to a committee to figure out a way to be more efficient to get the costs down.

Cncl. DiLucia commented that Jack Luby made some valid points predicated upon his strong feelings that the community owns the gas lights and poles but there is a legal document that says the gas company owns them. That document predates him so he doesn't know who made that agreement and he believed Mr. Luby when he said the judge ruled the lights belonged to the community. He felt at this point if Council wants to get to the bottom of this and resolve it

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we need to get a legal definition of who owns the poles because if the gas company owns them the things Mr. Luby talked about in regards to the maintenance and replacing parts would be out of our control. We may be able to negotiate with the gas company but that will be much more difficult than if we owned the poles. If we own the poles we are free to take control and do the maintenance a lot cheaper and that could be the answer to the whole problem. He went on to say when people are emotional about an issue they may say things that are not factual when trying to make a point like the gentleman that made reference to water/sewer. That has nothing to do with taxes that is a separate entity and the people getting water/sewer pay for it but the people who don't have it don't pay for it there is no intermixing of any taxes in that area. It was also said that we could have township employees maintain the lights and that might be a good idea but the notion that it will be done for \$18.00 an hour is not accurate. When health benefits, Social Security taxes and everything else is taken into consideration the cost would be another 40% to 45% above the \$18.00 an hour figure. Another issue is safety concerns. The township holds Safety Committee Meetings to make sure we hold down the cost of being sued for unsafe working conditions for employees. An issue was raised in regards to whether one employee would be able to maintain the lights by themselves so that is another aspect we would need to consider. Cncl. DiLucia felt there have been enough issues raised to at least look at an alternate way to save these gas lights so personally he would support Cncl. Caligiuri's motion to table this issue with the provision that a committee of three councilmen meet with representatives that are knowledgeable in this area so we can sort out fact from fiction. The first thing he requested is an interpretation of who owns the gas lights because if we own them there are a lot of things we can do but if the gas company owns them a lot less can be done.

Jack Luby noted he has a letter from the Cape May Public Works Department that says the Public Works Department handles minor repairs such as painting, mantels, broken globes etc. but repairs to the regulators are handled by South Jersey Gas. Cape May has never had an agreement with South Jersey Gas so based on similar circumstances their repairs can be made by the Public Works Department. There is a tort immunity that inures most activities concerning liability and he would be happy to sit down with a committee to hash out these things. Cncl. DiLucia felt it will take a number of people putting their heads together to sort out fact from fiction but the ultimate goal is to save the gas lights and taxpayer's money and that is what we should be working for.

Solicitor Fiore noted we need to look at what the circumstances are in Cape May versus Monroe. He added Mr. Luby referenced a 1979 administrative law judge issuing something out of the Public Utilities Commission but when he googled that nothing came up. Mr. Luby noted the solicitor was Bill Pearson, who is now in Florida and the president of the civic association Pete Burke passed away, so he will do the best he can to come up with information about this. Mr. Fiore explained the language in the 2011 agreement states the street lights are owned by South Jersey Gas and that is the first legal issue we need to address. Mr. Luby noted to the best of his knowledge the township never had a contract before. Mr. Fiore noted in 2011 South Jersey Gas wanted to remove the lights and today the Clerk found something that emanates back to 1968, which has similar language regarding the lights being owned by South Jersey Gas. He referred to Mr. Luby's comments that he believed the issue was litigated and the judge ruled the township owned the lights and noted it would be very helpful if we could find that. Mr. Luby indicated he would do what he could but he felt it was incumbent upon the South Jersey Gas Company to prove ownership. Mr. Fiore noted we can't just say there was a court ruling we need to find that ruling and if there isn't a ruling it will come down to interpretation with South Jersey Gas so we need to face that issue first.

Cncl. Bryson felt after listening to everyone speak the opinion was overwhelming to keep the gas lamps. We are looking at replacing the gas lamps for an economic reason but when it comes to a town there are more than economic issues involved. If the township owns the lights we may be able to go out to bid and hire an outside contractor to perform the maintenance or if the lights are owned by South Jersey Gas maybe they would sell them to us. He felt there are more than enough reasons why we should keep the lights and he was in favor of keeping them.

Cncl. Bryson made a motion to close the Resolutions Scheduled Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Caligiuri** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

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

Cncl. Caligiuri called for a "Point of Order" and made a motion to remove Resolution R:209-2016 from the agenda this evening. Cncl. DiLucia noted he would second that but would like to make an amendment to the motion. He requested a committee be appointed to investigate a resolution to this problem. Cncl. Caligiuri agreed to Cncl. DiLucia's amendment.

**ROLL VOTE TO REMOVE RESOLUTION R:209-2016 FROM THE AGENDA AND
APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE MATTER
4 AYES, 1 ABSTAIN WITH CAUSE (Heffner), 2 ABSENT (Dilks, Miller)**

Tally: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Abstain with Cause, 2 Absent. Motion to remove Resolution R:209-2016 from the agenda and appoint a committee to review the matter was duly approved.

Cncl. DiLucia made a motion to bracket the Resolutions for approval by consent agenda with the exceptions of Resolutions R:207-2016, R:209-2016 and R:210-2016. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Caligiuri and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

CONSENT AGENDA

R:204-2016 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Execution Of A Qualified Private Community Reimbursement Agreement Between The Township Of Monroe And Brandywine Homeowner's Association

At this time a short recess was taken while the residents of Forest Hills left the meeting.

R:206-2016 Resolution Requesting Approval Of Items Of Revenue And Appropriation N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (2016 Body Armor Grant)

R:207-2016 Resolution Appointing A Member To The Monroe Township Board Of Health

Cncl. Heffner made a motion to open nominations for a member to the Monroe Township Board of Health. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Caligiuri and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Cncl. Bryson noted William McCool is the alternate member to the Board of Health and he would like to nominate him to move into the regular member position. Cncl. DiLucia seconded the nomination of Bill McCool as a member to the Monroe Township Board of Health.

With no other nominations Cncl. Caligiuri made a motion to close nominations. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Heffner and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON NOMINATION OF WILLIAM MCCOOL AS A MEMBER OF THE
MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF HEALTH - 5 AYES, 2 ABSENT (Dilks, Miller)**

R:208-2016 Resolution Authorizing The Execution Of A Lease Agreement Between The Township Of Monroe And The Board Of Chosen Freeholders Of The County Of Gloucester For The 2017 Nutrition Project At The Pfeiffer Community Center

R:209-2016 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 To Terminate The Agreement For Forest Hills Gas Street Lights And Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Agreement Between The Township Of Monroe And Atlantic City Electric To Install Electric Street Lights To Replace The Gas Lights In Forest Hills Within The Township Of Monroe **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

R:210-2016 Resolution Approving The Bill List For The Council Meeting Of October 24, 2016 **REMOVED FROM AGENDA**

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

R:211-2016 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Purchase Of One (1) 4-Ton Falcon RME Asphalt Hot Patcher Recycling Dump Trailer Under The National Joint Powers Alliance

R:212-2016 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Extension Of The Plenary Retail Consumption License No. 0811-33-099-006 Originally Issued To NJK Hospitality, LLC To Joseph D. Marchand As Chapter 7 Bankruptcy Trustee For NJK Hospitality, LLC

R:213-2016 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Extension Of The 2016 Towing List Within The Township Of Monroe

R:214-2016 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Releasing The Maintenance Bond Posted For "Cross Keys Pavilion - IHOP Restaurant", Site Plan # SP-444 PS-2, Block 101, Lot 3.03

R:215-2016 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing The Reduction Of An Irrevocable Standby Letter Of Credit For "Stirling Glen 1" Development Phase 1, Section 1, Subdivision #1713, Block 14201, Lot 10

R:216-2016 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Transferring Funds For The Budget Year 2016

Cncl. Caligiuri made a motion to approve the bracketed resolutions (R:204-2016 to R:206-2016, R:208-2016, R:211-2016 to R:216-2016). The motion was seconded by **Cncl. DiLucia** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

D.) ORDINANCES - None

E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Caligiuri reported attending the Planning Board Meeting on October 13th. Litznails received approval to open a nail salon at 1203 South Black Horse Pike, First Haitian Baptist Church received approval at 10 Chestnut Street and Anytime Fitness received approval for operations at 1041 Glassboro Road. On October 16th he attended the dedication of the Howell Facility (*primary building*) at the 4-H Nature Preserve on the Black Horse Pike. Sue and Bucky Howell were recognized for their countless hours of volunteer work to bring the 4-H Nature Preserve to Monroe Township. On October 17th he attended the Environmental Commission meeting where an update was given on the 4-H Nature Preserve to restore it to operating conditions as water and sewer are needed. Also a detailed explanation was given regarding ARH's Multi-Modal Transportation Plan that will be funded in phases as money becomes available through the State and Federal Grants. It was also reported that ARH is exploring grant money options to extend the Township Walking Path through the Petro Kurik Property and Victory and Timber Lakes.

Cncl. DiLucia reported this week the government came out with the Consumer Price Index that Social Security increases are based upon. Last year there was a zero increase and this year the increase will be .003%, which is 3/10th of 1%. The average Social Security recipient in this township receives \$1,500.00 a month so that calculation will yield \$4.50 a month for seniors. He added he did not know who put these calculations together but he can say that they are not shopping or using electric, gas, cable TV, buying gas, cars or food like he is. To say in the last two years that the cost of living for the average person went up less than 1% is absolutely ridiculous. Tonight this council appointed a committee to draft a resolution to address the issue of taxation in New Jersey but that will be a long term project and it will not help senior citizens because they cannot come under the same formula as the disabled in this country. He felt it was a disgrace that this country tries to manipulate the process the way it does, as people are suffering for it. There must be an end to this and he has not heard either of the two candidates running for president address these bread and butter issues so there may be no change regardless of who wins this election.

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TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
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E.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

Cncl. McIlvaine thanked the Public Works Department, Parks and Rec Department and all the volunteers on the Parks and Rec Commission for the great job they did putting together an awesome Halloween Parade and Fall Festival. The Halloween Parade was very well attended but the Fall Festival had a little less turn out than normal due to the change in the date. He noted every year the turnout for Halloween Parade is outstanding but less people come out for the Memorial Day Parade and he urged everyone who attended the Halloween Parade and Fall Festival to also come out and support the veterans on Memorial Day.

Director of Public Safety Jim Smart reported Williamstown and Cecil Fire Departments held their annual open houses last week and each event was well attended.

Director of Community Development Rosemary Flaherty reported Rock & Jump will be holding a soft opening on October 27th at 5:00 PM and all of Council is welcome to come.

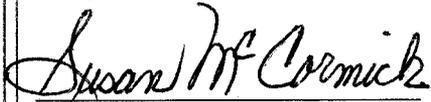
F.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Cncl. Caligiuri made a motion to open the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Heffner and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance. With no one wishing to speak Cncl. Heffner made a motion to close the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Bryson and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

G.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss Cncl. Caligiuri made a motion to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting of October 24, 2016. The motion was seconded by Cncl. Heffner 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 October 24, 2016 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 _____ Sm _____
Approved as corrected _____

Date 11/14/16
Date _____