

**MINUTES
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
JANUARY 11, 2016**

The Reorganization Meeting of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission was called to order by Secretary Jacquelyn Allen at 7:03pm in the 3RD Floor Economic Development 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, Ernie Carbone, Robert Bender, Christine Feggans, Aileen Chiselko, Natalie Wentz, Cncl. Bart McIlvaine

Absent:

NOMINATIONS & ELECTION

As 2015 Secretary of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission, Jacquelyn Allen conducted nominations and election. Jacquelyn asked for a nomination for the 2016 Chairperson. Ernie Carbone nominated Tony Langella as the Chairperson, seconded by Natalie Wentz; no other nominations from the floor. All in favor no oppositions. Tony Langella is the Chairperson of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission for 2016.

Chairperson Tony Langella asked for a nomination for the 2016 Vice-Chairperson. Ernie Carbone nominated Jared Valdez as the Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Robert Bender; 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 2016.

Chairperson Tony Langella asked for a nomination for 2016 Secretary. Christine Feggans nominated Jacquelyn Allen as Secretary, seconded by Ernie Carbone; no other nominations on the floor. All in favor, no oppositions. Jacquelyn Allen is the Secretary of the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission for 2016.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ernie made a motion to approve the minutes of the Economic Development Commission Meeting of December 14, 2015 as corrected. The motion was seconded by Jared and approved by all members in attendance of the Commission.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Rosemary Flaherty, Monroe Township zoning officer, is a certified zoning officer, recycling coordinator, housing official, economic and redevelopment professional for the state of New Jersey. She has 24 years experience and a passion to revitalize the township and bring it into compliance. She is a compliance enforcer, everyone treated the same, fairly and with respect. She believes in serving, believes that Monroe Township is going to grow, it has all the arteries but needs someone to help get it done. Rosemary is a people person, very open and looking forward to working here and getting a lot accomplished.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

Tony said we are moving forward and turning the township around and we are going to need the zoning officials to help with that. Rosemary stated that the zoning officer is the backbone of the township, they make sure the town is in compliance, planning is the hub of the township and you need good planning in order for the township to survive. Ernie has been involved with Rosemary on a lot of issues and Rosemary has sat with them and helped them with the process. Jared asked Rosemary what her position entailed. In addition to zoning officer she will also handle community development, rehabilitation, redevelopment, short and long term tax abatements, recommending overlay districts in the township, designating Main Street as a downtown Main Street, along with working with EDC and the Main Street committee. Robert said that he has a client at his bank that has recently dealt with Rosemary buying a property in town and they told him what a pleasure it was to deal with Rosemary.

Robert announced that he is an alternate board member for the Monroe Township MUA.

2016 EDC Meeting dates will be 2/8 at 5:30pm and 3/21, 4/18, 5/16, 6/20, 7/18, 8/15, 9/19, 10/17, 11/21, 12/19 at 7pm. Aileen made a motion to approve the resolution for the 2016 meeting dates. The motion was seconded by Ernie and approved by all members of the Commission.

Ernie brought to the commission the idea of adding another member or members to the commission or to have alternate members. This would make it possible for a real estate professional to be added to the commission. Jared made a motion to add two alternate members; the motion was seconded by Robert, all in favor.

Ernie, Mayor Teefy and Rosemary Flaherty went to Trenton to file an application to become an associate tier to the Main Street of NJ program. This would make Main Street recognized as an entity and there will be many things available, one example is tuition-free quarterly training programs on topics such as organization, promotion, design, economic restructuring. If they are fortunate enough to comply with all the rules for the state it will open up many doors for Main Street in the future. Tony asked what the status was with the brewery, Ernie stated they are currently looking for financing. The urgent care is on a very rigid timeline to get the building ready for a fall opening. There is also going to be an indoor trampoline park opening in the Williamstown Shopping Center.

Jared said that Suasion is ready to meet with 5 different people from the town, Mayor Teefy, Tony, a city council member and a few other people to discuss how they would like to move forward. Ernie and Jared have to meet with TV One, the interviews are all done, the B roll filming still needs to be done.

Tony asked where we were with the 2015 budget, Aileen said that there are 3 PO's that still need to be paid from the 2015 budget, but the money was all encumbered. The PO's are for Suasion, TV One and Astro Signs, \$450 for sign hardware. The 2015 budget was spent to its entirety. The budget was not determined yet for 2016.

Christine spoke to the The Shop and they are interested in doing the spotlight on business, Anthony and Cleopatra's needed to cancel in December, they would like to do it in February. She also thanked Rosemary for all that she is doing.

Rosemary said that the Main Street Committee is doing a Main Street minute at the council meeting to give an update on what is going on, she is suggesting that the EDC does the same. Natalie volunteered to do the EDC minute at the council meeting. Rosemary said that she likes people and she likes to develop a friendship with business owners.

CORRESPONDENCE, REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS (cont'd)

Tony asked Cncl. McIlvaine what he would like to see happen this year, he said that he would like to see the tax card program get started and the Mayor and council have a lot of things that they want to accomplish but things take time. He thanked the Commission for their time, he realizes that volunteering takes time away from their families.

Tony said that Waterford Township has their own Pinelands Committee and they make decisions without having to go to the state each time, he wanted to know how Monroe can do the same. Rosemary said we could start by asking Waterford Township how they got their committee accomplished.

Robert said the application for the loan program will be getting done and the plan is to have it up and running in February or March.

Natalie said that she thinks the communication to businesses from Rosemary is going to be great.

Aileen said that she will bring the information for the map to the next meeting. She also wanted to know if anyone wanted to revisit the blue directional signs that show where business are located with arrows and distance. The signs are paid for by the business that is on the sign and there is a yearly fee.

Tony asked what else has to be done to get the tax card program going by August of this year. Cncl. McIlvaine said that the township needs to be able to designate an employee to take care of the work that has to be done on the townships end, right now there is not an employee available. Rosemary suggested having the Permit office distribute the cards, after the main distribution was done. She also said that she had suggested having an intern from Rowan come to the township, maybe the intern could handle the initial promotion of the tax card.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Tony asked for a motion to adjourn Ernie made a motion to adjourn the Monroe Township Economic Development Commission Meeting of January 11, 2016. The motion was seconded by Jared; all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jacquelyn Allen

The next scheduled Monroe Township Economic Development Commission meeting is Monday, February 8, 2016 at 5:30pm.

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the tape-recorded proceedings of the Regular Economic Development Commission Meeting of January 11, 2016 and serve as only a synopsis of the proceedings.

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