

**MINUTES
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
APRIL 27, 2020**

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

By way of electronic communication/live streaming, the Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at approximately 7:00PM by **Cncl. Pres., Joseph P. Marino, III.**

This meeting was advertised pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (*N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 thru 10:4-21*). Adequate notice was placed in the official publications for the Township of Monroe (i.e.: South Jersey Times, Courier Post and The Sentinel of Gloucester County).

A public notice was posted on the Township's website on Thursday, April 23, 2020 advising that a public meeting will be held on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:00PM by way of electronic communication/live streaming pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 10:4-8(b)* consistent with Executive Order 103 signed by Governor Murphy on March 9, 2020 in an abundance of caution and to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Said Public Notice stated that all regular business that was scheduled to be conducted at the 8:00PM Council Meeting will be conducted during the Work Session Meeting previously scheduled to take place on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 7:00PM and will be broadcasted live via UberConference.com.

The public was notified that they may access the meeting via URL by downloading the UberConference App or visiting the following website: uberconference.com/jmccrea3. By phone only, dial in to (856) 441-3536.

The public was notified that they can participate in said meeting by submitting comments (and objections/comments/questions for the public hearing portion regarding the adoption of the 2020 Municipal Budget) by email to the Municipal Clerk, Aileen Chiselko, at AChiselko@monroetownshipnj.org by 3:00PM the day of the meeting, April 27, 2020. The comments should be limited to 250 words. These comments will be read into the record. This is a temporary policy only put in place due to a public health emergency. The Uber platform we are using tonight will limit the amount of people that can log on to 100, however, this recording will be posted on the Township's website, www.monroetownshipnj.org, following the meeting.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Cncl. Garbowski led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag. **Cncl. Wolfe** offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Cncl. Marvin Dilks	Present
Cncl. Katherine Falcone	Present
Cncl. Ronald Garbowski	Present
Cncl. Cody Miller	Present
Cncl. Vice-Pres. Patrick O'Reilly	Present
Cncl. Gregory Wolfe	Present
Cncl. Pres. Joseph P. Marino, III	Present
Mayor Richard DiLucia	Present
Deputy Mayor, Joseph DiLolle	Present
Solicitor, John Trimble	Present
Business Administrator, Jill McCrea	Present
Dir. of Code Enf./Comm. Dev., Ralph Manfredi	Excused
Dir. of Community Affairs, Brandee Derieux	Present
Dir. of Finance, Lorraine Boyer	Excused
Dir. of Parks & Recreation, Brent Salvadori	Present
Dir. of Public Safety, Joseph Kurz	Present
Dir. of Public Works, Nicholas Mercado	Present
Dir. of Real Estate, Angelina Matese	Present
Police Chief James DeHart	Present
Municipal Clerk, Aileen Chiselko	Present

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**PUBLIC HEARING
2020 MUNICIPAL BUDGET
7:00 PM**

Cncl. Miller made a motion to open the Public Hearing for the 2020 Municipal Budget. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Cncl. Pres. Marino stated, the Public Notice posted on Thursday, April 23, 2020, advised all members of the public to submit comments by email to the Clerk, Aileen Chiselko, at AChiselko@monroetownshipnj.org by 3:00PM the day of the meeting, Monday, April 27, 2020. No comments were submitted regarding the 2020 Municipal Budget. **Cncl. Miller** made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes as submitted of the Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of April 14, 2020. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

B.) CORRESPONDENCE – None

C.) PUBLIC PORTION

Cncl. Pres. Marino stated, the Public Notice posted on Thursday, April 23, 2020 advised members of the public to submit comments by email to the Clerk, Aileen Chiselko, at AChiselko@monroetownshipnj.org by 3:00PM the day of the meeting, April 27, 2020. **Cncl. Miller** made a motion to open the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Solicitor Trimble read aloud an email submitted through the Township website by Randy Weible on Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 11:22pm. Mr. Weible thanked the Mayor and Council for all of the work they have done to combat COVID-19 and support the residents of Monroe. He asked that they support the recent federal legislation that will provide \$2,000.00 payments each month to eligible recipients until the end of the crisis.

Solicitor Trimble read aloud an email regarding Peach Country, located at 1463 N. Tuckahoe Road, which was submitted by Glenn Groves and Jerry Lodge on Monday, April 27, 2020 at 1:39pm. They expressed their concerns, that despite the COVID-19 situation, illegal operations appear to be ongoing at the Peach Country Tractor properties (1463 N. Tuckahoe Road – Gloucester County Route 555). Traffic volume in and out of the properties continues to be very heavy, as well as outside of business hours. For example, business operations were being conducted on Sunday April 19, 2020 at 8:30am, 3:10pm, and 4:30pm, as well as April 26, 2020 at 2:00pm, all times when the business is supposed to be closed. Also, the illegal structures and stored items have not been removed from the properties. If anything, there appears to be an even greater number of unapproved storage units at the properties. All of these activities, structures, and stored materials can be easily observed by travelers on N. Tuckahoe Road, and from their property which is across from the Peach Country entrance. They asked, as Municipal Court will be closed until at least June 1, 2020 and the court case for Peach Country Tractor and Mulch and their owners was scheduled for May 12, 2020, what is the Township's plan of action in the present for enforcement of their ongoing violations first cited on January 19, 2020? They also asked, has the Township been in touch with the NJDEP regarding the violations cited by that agency and are the two entities coordinating efforts in any way with regards to enforcement? Solicitor Trimble advised that he will follow up with Mr. Groves and Mr. Lodge after he speaks to the representatives from the Township who are handling these matters.

With no other public comments submitted by 3:00pm, this afternoon, April 27, 2020, **Cncl. Pres. Marino** asked for a motion to close the Public Portion for Resolutions, Ordinances and General Public Discussion. **Cncl. Miller** made a motion to close the Public Portion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Wolfe** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

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D.) RESOLUTIONS

R:73A-2020 Adoption Of 2020 Municipal Budget, Township Of Monroe, County Of Gloucester, State Of New Jersey

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve Resolution R:73A-2020. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and approved by all members of Council.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION R:73A-2020
7 AYES (Dilks, Falcone, Garbowski, Marino, Miller, O'Reilly, Wolfe)**

Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent. Resolution **R:73A-2020** was duly approved.

Cncl. Miller made a motion to bracket for approval, by Consent Agenda, Resolutions R:89-2020 through R:91-2020. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS R:89-2020 THROUGH R:91-2020

R:89-2020 Resolution Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe Awarding Bid To Granturk Equipment Co., Inc. For Supply And Delivery Of Parts And Accessories For Labrie And Leach Refuse Collection Vehicles As Specified In The Bid Specifications For The Monroe Township Department Of Public Works

R:90-2020 Resolution Of The Township Of Monroe Authorizing An Award Of Contract To Eagle Construction Services, Inc. For The Cecil Fire Station Alterations And Addition

R:91-2020 Resolution Approving The Bill List And Paid List For The Council Meeting Of April 27, 2020

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve Resolutions R:89-2020 through R:91-2020. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

E.) ORDINANCES

Cncl. Pres. Marino turned this portion of the meeting over to **Ordinance Committee Chairman, Cncl. Wolfe**.

O:08-2020 An Ordinance Of The Township Council Of The Township Of Monroe To Amend Chapter 62 Of The Code Of The Township Of Monroe, Entitled "Open Space Advisory Committee"

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

Cncl. Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance O:08-2020 for Second Reading and Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE ORDINANCE O:08-2020 FOR SECOND READING
AND PUBLIC HEARING –**

7 AYES (Dilks, Falcone, Garbowski, Marino, Miller, O'Reilly, Wolfe)

Tally: 7 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstain, 0 Absent. Ordinance **O:08-2020** was duly approved for Second Reading and Public Hearing.

F.) NEW BUSINESS – None

G.) OLD BUSINESS – None

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H.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Cncl. Dilks encouraged everyone to stay patient, safe and stay home.

Cncl. Falcone reported that the second round of funding has been approved to support the small business community. The Paycheck Protection Program is handled by the banks participating in the program and each bank has its own requirements and eligibility. The Governor announced earlier today the New Jersey Back to Recovery, however, he did not announce a date and there are still many unknowns for the businesses. Cncl. Falcone offered her assistance to anyone who may need help with the available small business programs. She can be reached by email at kfalcone@monroetownshipnj.org

Cncl. Garbowski reported, the Law and Tax Abatement Committee held a meeting last Monday, addressed several tax abatement applications and began to address the new Tax Abatement Ordinance. The new Ordinance will be presented and explained at the Ordinance Committee Meeting on May 6, 2020. Cncl. Garbowski encouraged everyone to be safe and stay home.

Cncl. Miller thanked all of the residents that have donated items to the local food pantry. He thanked Gia Nelms, who celebrated her 9th birthday by collecting donations for the food pantry. He invited everyone to watch her story on Fox 29 News on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 10:00pm and Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 5:00pm. Cncl. Miller noted that the food pantry, located at the Pfeiffer Community Center, is open every Friday from 9:30am to 11:30am. Currently, in coordination with the pantry, over 150 families have been fed.

Cncl. Vice-Pres. O'Reilly reported, there are quite a few projects that are still moving along in the Township, although quite a bit slower with the COVID-19 issues. With regards to the Energy LED and HVAC upgrades, all of the LED lighting has been completed and are currently working on the HVAC systems in the various buildings, which is expected to be completed within the next two to three months. With regards to the Joint Solar Initiative with the Township, the MUA and the Board of Education, proposals have been received and are currently being evaluated. Cncl. Vice-Pres. O'Reilly stated that the demolition of the Sykes Lane property along the bike trail will be done later this week, which will allow the beginning stages of the design work to create a municipal parking lot for the residents using the trail.

Cncl. Wolfe thanked all of the Township employees and first responders, along with their family members, for their continued dedication to the Township in dealing with this crisis. Cncl. Wolfe announced his resignation from the Cannabis Committee. As he has been excluded from some meetings and communications, without having all of the information, he is unable to honestly and fairly come back to Council and/or the residents to give his recommendations regarding cannabis matters. Cncl. Wolfe encouraged everyone to stay safe.

Mayor DiLucia thanked all of the Township employees who have diligently come to work during this current state of crisis. He commended the Williamstown and Cecil Volunteer Fire Companies for continuing to be on the job, fighting fires and serving the community. He noted, the town is moving forward and functioning just like it has prior to COVID-19. There are business owners who, although themselves are suffering, have made sizeable donations to the Township in the way of food donations for residents in need and regularly feed the Township employees. The Mayor thanked Grindstone and Peter's Diner. He mentioned, The Estates at Monroe, in conjunction with the Williamstown Rotary, provided between 800 and 1,000 meals to the Township residents last Friday evening. Mayor DiLucia stated, the generosity in the town just keeps coming, even in the face of economic downsizing, local businesses are donating along with individual people who have donated money to the food pantry. Earlier today, a resident donated \$2,400.00 to the food pantry. The Mayor is overwhelmed by the support and generosity of the residents and businesses in Monroe Township. Mayor DiLucia reported, economic development is continuing to move forward, with the potential of three major developers who are in various stages of negotiations to bring businesses into the town; however, given the current situation, they are not able to have a face-to-face meeting to finalize any plans. He realizes this is a difficult time for everyone, but he believes there is an end to this if everyone continues to do the things recommended by the professionals. The Mayor encouraged everyone to stay healthy.

Deputy Mayor DiLolle thanked everyone that has been donating to the food pantry and the many organizations that have participated. He believes, it speaks volumes as to what this town is all about and the residents who live here. He encouraged everyone to stay healthy and stay safe.

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

Director of Public Safety, Mr. Kurz thanked the Mayor and Council for awarding the Cecil Firehouse contract earlier this evening. He thanked all of the first responders. Mr. Kurz noted, there have been members of the Williamstown Fire Department who have tested positive for COVID-19, however, they are doing well.

Director of Public Works, Mr. Mercado announced that the bid opening for Forest Drive Phase III, the final section of the roadway, has been scheduled for May 20, 2020.

Police Chief DeHart reported that Monroe Township is still the #3 municipality for positive tests of COVID-19 within Gloucester County. Earlier today, the town had its highest increase with eleven new positive tests. He encouraged everyone to continue practicing social distancing and work towards flattening the curve. Chief DeHart thanked all of the first responders and all of the Township employees for continuing to work together. He encouraged everyone to stay safe, stay healthy and to please follow the executive orders.

Cncl. Pres. Marino spoke regarding Resolution R:90-2020, awarding contract for the Cecil Fire Station's alterations and addition, which was approved this evening. He thanked the Solicitor, Cecil's Fire Chief, the Architect, the Firehouse Committee and everyone else involved, for working tirelessly on this project. He believes that they will be breaking ground on the project in May 2020. **Cncl. Pres. Marino** thanked the Mayor, Business Administrator Jill McCrea, CFO Lorraine Boyer, Budget Committee Chairman Patrick O'Reilly and Council for another zero increase in the budget on the municipal side. He thanked all of the first responders, public workers, Township employees, and everyone involved in the Township for doing a great job, running things as seamlessly as possible to keep Township business moving forward.

I.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, **Cncl. Miller** made a motion to adjourn the Work Session and Regular Council Meeting of April 27, 2020. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Dilks** and unanimously approved by all members of Council.

Respectfully submitted,



Aileen Chiselko, RMC
Municipal Clerk



Presiding Officer

These minutes were prepared from excerpts of the recorded proceedings, as well as hand-written notes taken, of the Council Meeting of April 27, 2020 and serve only as a synopsis of the proceedings. The official recording may be heard in the Office of the Township Clerk upon proper notification, pursuant to the Open Public Records Act.

Approved as submitted *ADC*
Approved as corrected _____

Date 5/11/2020
Date _____