

**MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
JUNE 26, 2023**

A.) OPENING CEREMONIES

CALL TO ORDER

The Council Meeting of the Township of Monroe was called to order at 7 p.m. by **Cncl. Pres., Carolann Fox** in the Courtroom 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 (*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 copy of that notice is posted on the bulletin board at the Municipal Complex and on the Monroe Township website.

Cncl. Pres., Carolann Fox stated, the Clerk has placed a sign-in sheet in the rear of the meeting room. If anyone would like to address Council, please sign-in and raise your hand and you will be asked to come forward to the microphone. Kindly state your name and address for the record.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Cncl. McKinney led the Assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to Our Flag. **Cncl. Heverly** offered the Invocation.

ROLL CALL

Cncl. Denise Adams	Present	
Cncl. Ronald Garbowski		Excused
Cncl. Donald Heverly		Excused
Cncl. Steven McKinney	Present	
Cncl. Patrick O'Reilly	Present	
Cncl. Vice-Pres. Chelsea Valcourt	Present	
Cncl. Pres. Carolann Fox	Present	
Mayor Gregory A. Wolfe	Present	
Deputy Mayor, Joseph Kurz	Present	
Solicitor, Sandra Graise	Present	
Business Administrator, James V. DeHart, III	Present	
Dir. of Code Enforcement, William Sebastian	Present	
Dir. of Community Affairs, Donna Park	Present	
Dir. of Community Development, Joseph Marino	Present	
Dir. of Parks & Recreation, Brian Cope	Present	
Dir. of Public Safety, Jon Rumpf	Present	
Dir. of Public Works, Marvin Dilks	Present	
Dir. of Real Estate, Jennifer Pesotski	Present	
Chief Financial Officer, Lorraine Boyer	Present	
Police Chief Craig Monahan	Present	
Municipal Clerk, Aileen Chiselko	Present	

B.) PRESENTATIONS / PROCLAMATIONS

- Certificate of Recognition – Donation of 12 Picnic Tables, R.E. Pierson Construction Co.

Cncl. Pres. Fox and Mayor Wolfe presented to Jim Park a Certificate of Recognition to R.E. Pierson Construction Co. for the donation, construction and delivery of 12 picnic tables to be placed at multiple Township parks.

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C.) MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION

- Cannabis Establishment Municipal License Application

Cncl. Adams made a motion to approve the Cannabis Establishment Municipal License Application. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. O'Reilly** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

- Resolution R:94-2023 Amendment

Cncl. Pres. Fox advised that Resolution R:94-2023 had been prepared and approved as Block 1401; however, the Block should have been listed as Block 14101.

D.) QUESTIONS REGARDING RESOLUTIONS SCHEDULED – None

E.) QUESTIONS REGARDING ORDINANCES SCHEDULED – None

F.) APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

G.) CORRESPONDENCE

- Limousine License – Platinum Premier, LLC

Cncl. Adams made a motion to approve a Limousine License for **Platinum Premier, LLC**. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. O'Reilly** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance with the exception of **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Valcourt**, who Abstained.

H.) COUNCIL PRESIDENT APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES 2023

Cable Television Franchise Renewal

Patrick O'Reilly
Ronald Garbowski
Carolann Fox

I.) RESOLUTIONS

Cncl. McKinney made a motion to open the public portion for Resolutions scheduled. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Valcourt** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Stu Gerstein, 116 Castlebay Drive addressed Council to express his concerns with Resolution R:148-2023, the reduction of the Performance Bond for the Stirling Glen Basin. He explained his concerns with the basins, noting there have been problems since their installation and the problems have continued throughout the revisions. Mr. Gerstein requested that Council Table Resolution R:148-2023 from this evening's Agenda and offered to provide any necessary documentation to explain why any Performance Bond release or reduction is a mistake. **Cncl. O'Reilly** asked the Solicitor, since this is not a basin that the Township is taking ownership/responsibility of, who is the Township to release the bond if they are not the ones who will be ultimately responsible for the basin. **Solicitor Graise** advised she will look into the matter and report back, noting it is her understanding that the work that needed to be completed was in fact completed on the basin. **Mayor Wolfe** stated, the Township has several issues with the Stirling Glen Development, the basins, curbing and handicapped accessible items. He advised, the Township can not hold the bond up for the curbing and the handicapped accessible items, noting the Township Engineer has recommended this reduction and he is asking if a further discussion can be had with the engineer to discuss the stated concerns. **Business**

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I.) RESOLUTIONS (cont'd)

Administrator, Jim DeHart confirmed, further conversations can be held with the Township Engineer and asked if there was a deadline for the reduction. **Municipal Clerk, Aileen Chiselko** advised, this is a reduction of the Performance Bond, noting the developer requested the reduction, which the engineer performed an inspection and recommended the reduction, and there is no time constraint for the reduction. Mayor Wolfe recommended that Council Table Resolution R:148-2023 pending further discussion with the Engineer. Cncl. O'Reilly agreed with the Mayor's recommendation to Table; however, he asked why the Township is involved with the inspection and reduction if ultimately the Stirling Glen HOA will be responsible for the basin. Solicitor Graise advised, she will review all of the documentation and report back to Council. **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Valcourt** made a motion to Table Resolution R:148-2023. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. O'Reilly** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance. Mr. Gerstein stated, he will provide Council with the Stirling Glen's Board of Trustees' documentation on why the basin is no further along now as compared to when it was it was initially commissioned to be installed.

With no one else wishing to speak, **Cncl. McKinney** made a motion to close the public portion for Resolutions scheduled. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Adams** and unanimously approved by all members in attendance.

At this time, **Mayor Wolfe** spoke regarding Resolution R:142-2023 concerning the appointment of a board for the Green Team Advisory Committee and explained how this matter has fallen under the direction of the Environmental Protection Commission. He explained, this Board has to be put into place and updated every three (3) years; however, it has not been done properly since 2018 and the Township would like to correct this matter. The way the Board is formed, they require individuals' names be listed on the Resolution. He asked if titles can be placed on the Resolution, instead of individual names. The Mayor noted, the submission deadline is approaching, asking if a Resolution can be passed this evening by title and/or specific names if that is what the State requires. **Solicitor Graise** stated, she does not see any issues with proceeding that way, noting if any issues arise, an amendment can be made in July. **Cncl. O'Reilly** clarified, Resolution R:142-2023 is staying as written for now and depending on what the State advises, it may be amended at a later date.

Cncl. Vice-Pres. Valcourt made a motion to bracket for approval, by Consent Agenda, Resolutions R:136-2023 through R:147-2023, Resolutions R:149-2023 through R:157-2023 and Resolutions R:161-2023 through R:169-2023. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. O'Reilly** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS R:136-2023 THROUGH R:147-2023,
RESOLUTIONS R:149-2023 THROUGH R:157-2023 AND
RESOLUTIONS R:161-2023 THROUGH R:169-2023**

R:136-2023 Resolution Authorizing Closed Executive Session of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe

R:137-2023 Resolution Approving the Bill List and Paid List for the Council Meeting of June 26, 2023

R:138-2023 Resolution Adjusting Township of Monroe Tax Records

R:139-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe Amending Resolution R:121-2023 Adjusting Township of Monroe Tax Records for Block 13401, Lot 3

R:140-2023 Resolution Establishing Zoning Department Change Fund Township of Monroe, County of Gloucester

R:141-2023 Resolution of the Township of Monroe, County of Gloucester Supporting Senate Bill 3807 and Assembly Bill 5567

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R:142-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe Establishing a Green Team Advisory Committee Within the Township of Monroe

R:143-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe Authorizing a Lien Be Placed on Various Properties for Failure to Comply with Chapter 295 of the Code of the Township of Monroe

R:144-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe Accepting the Donation of Twelve Picnic Tables from R.E. Pierson Construction Co.

R:145-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe in Support of the Location and Operation of a Class 5 Cannabis Retail Facility by Not Your Mother's Garden, LLC

R:146-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe in Support of the Location and Operation of a Class 5 Cannabis Retail Facility by HOFC NJ LLC

R:147-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe Approving a Shared Service with the Monroe Township Public Library for the Qualified Purchasing Agent

R:149-2023 Resolution of the Township of Monroe for Approval to Submit a Grant Application and Execute a Grant Contract with the New Jersey Department of Transportation for Improvements to the Monroe Township Bike Trail

R:150-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe Accepting Land Sale Bids from Township Owned Property, Authorizing and Ratifying a Contract for Sale Regarding Same Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-13(a) and Authorizing the Solicitor to Prepare Deeds of Conveyance

R:151-2023 Resolution Authorizing the Township of Monroe to Enter into a Contract with Keith Bonchi, Esquire to Provide Professional Legal Services for the Handling of Foreclosures on Behalf of the Township of Monroe for the Year 2023

R:152-2023 Resolution of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Settlement Agreement and Mutual Release Between the Township of Monroe, Nissan Motor Acceptance Corporation, and Steve's Autobody & Repair, LLC

R:153-2023 Resolution of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Increase in Salary Compensation of the Chief of Police

R:154-2023 Resolution of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Increase in Salary Compensation of the Deputy Chief of Police

R:155-2023 Resolution of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Agreement Between the Township of Monroe and United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 360

R:156-2023 Resolution of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Side Letter Agreement Between the Township of Monroe and United Food & Commercial Workers Union Local 360

R:157-2023 Resolution of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Participation in a Shared Services Agreement with the Monroe Township Municipal Utilities Authority

R:158-2023 Resolution of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Reading of the 2023 Municipal Budget by Title Only

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I.) RESOLUTIONS (cont'd)

Cncl. Vice-Pres. Valcourt made a motion to approve Resolution R:158-2023. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Adams** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:159-2023 Public Hearing of 2023 Municipal Budget 7:00PM
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Cncl. Vice-Pres. Valcourt made a motion to approve Resolution R:159-2023. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Adams** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

With no one wishing to speak on the 2023 Municipal Budget, **Cncl. Adams** made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. O'Reilly** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

R:160-2023 Adoption of 2023 Municipal Budget

Cncl. Vice-Pres. Valcourt made a motion to approve Resolution R:160-2023. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Adams** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

**ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE RESOLUTION R:160-2023 –
ADOPTION OF THE 2023 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

5 AYES (Adams, Fox, McKinney, O'Reilly, Valcourt), 2 ABSENTS (Garbowski, Heverly)

Tally: 5 Ayes, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain, 2 Absents. Resolution R:160-2023 was duly approved.

R:161-2023 Resolution of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Mayor of the Township of Monroe to Enter Into Developer's Agreement Among the Township of Monroe and Grandview Mews, LLC Concerning Real Property Identified as Block(s) 801, Lot(s) 7, 8, 10, 11, 14 & 15.01

R:162-2023 Resolution of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Mayor of the Township of Monroe to Enter Into Developer's Agreement Among the Township of Monroe and Blaze Mill Development Group, LLC Concerning Real Property Identified as Block(s) 14101 & 141.0602, Lot(s) 1 & 1.01

R:163-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Acceptance of a Performance Guarantee in the Amount of \$150,943.80 for Blaze Mill Development, Subdivision #1838, Phase I, Block 14101, Lot 1 and Block 141.0602, Lot 1.01

R:164-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Acceptance of a Performance Guarantee in the Amount of \$45,840.00 for Blaze Mill Development, Subdivision #1838, Phase I, Block 14101, Lot 1 and Block 141.0602, Lot 1.01 (Landscape Buffer)

R:165-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Acceptance of a Performance Guarantee in the Amount of \$6,599.66 for Blaze Mill Development, Subdivision #1838, Phase I, Block 14101, Lot 1 and Block 141.0602, Lot 1.01 (Safety and Stabilization)

R:166-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Acceptance of a Performance Guarantee in the Amount of \$217,719.00 for Blaze Mill Development, Subdivision #1838, Phase II, Block 14101, Lot 1 and Block 141.0602, Lot 1.01

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I.) RESOLUTIONS (cont'd)

R:167-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Acceptance of a Performance Guarantee in the Amount of \$7,035.81 for Blaze Mill Development, Subdivision #1838, Phase II, Block 14101, Lot 1 and Block 141.0602, Lot 1.01 (Safety and Stabilization)

R:168-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Acceptance of a Performance Guarantee in the Amount of \$111,135.00 for Blaze Mill Development, Subdivision #1838, Phase III, Block 14101, Lot 1 and Block 141.0602, Lot 1.01

R:169-2023 Resolution of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe Authorizing the Acceptance of a Performance Guarantee in the Amount of \$5,000.00 for Blaze Mill Development, Subdivision #1838, Phase III, Block 14101, Lot 1 and Block 141.0602, Lot 1.01 (Safety and Stabilization)

Cncl. Vice-Pres. Valcourt made a motion to approve, by Consent Agenda, Resolutions R:136-2023 through R:147-2023, Resolutions R:149-2023 through R:157-2023 and Resolutions R:161-2023 through R:169-2023. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. O'Reilly** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

J.) ORDINANCES

O:23-2023 An Ordinance of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe to Amend Chapter 175 of the Code of the Township of Monroe, Entitled "Land Management"

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. Adams made a motion to approve Ordinance O:23-2023 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Pres. Fox** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

O:24-2023 An Ordinance of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe to Amend Chapter 169 of the Code of the Township of Monroe, Entitled "Junkyards"

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. Pres. Fox made a motion to approve Ordinance O:24-2023 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. O'Reilly** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

O:25-2023 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 267 of the Code of the Township of Monroe Entitled "Vehicles And Traffic" to Create Sections 267-17.4 and 267-17.5 to Govern the Installation of In-Street Pedestrian Crossing Signs

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. Adams made a motion to approve Ordinance O:25-2023 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. O'Reilly** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

O:26-2023 An Ordinance of the Township Council of the Township of Monroe to Amend Chapter 69 of the Code of the Township of Monroe, Entitled "Police"

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J.) ORDINANCES (cont'd)

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. Adams made a motion to approve Ordinance O:26-2023 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. O'Reilly** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

O:27-2023 An Ordinance Fixing the Salaries of Officers and Employees of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Gloucester, State of New Jersey

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. O'Reilly made a motion to approve Ordinance O:27-2023 for First Reading and Publication. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Adams** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

K.) NEW BUSINESS – None

L.) UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Wolfe spoke regarding the funding concerns, that Cncl. Garbowski raised at the previous Council Meeting regarding to an old redevelopment area, known as Williamstown Square. The Business Administrator has repeatedly attempted to contact the developer and the owner of the property; however, there have not been any return phone calls. The Township Planner has had discussions with the Pinelands Commission and there is no expiration on the funding, so the Township is not in jeopardy of losing the funding; however, it has spurred some conversations on the possibility of using that funding and extending it to potentially deal with the intersection located at Corkery Lane and the Black Horse Pike that has received numerous complaints. The Mayor noted, he will report back when he has more answers.

M.) REPORTS AND OTHER MATTERS

Mayor Wolfe thanked the Budget Committee and all of Council for the approval of the Municipal Budget. The Township was able to keep 0% on the municipal side for six (6) years in a row. The Mayor is proud to say that he was on Council for four (4) of those six (6) years and now being in the Mayor's seat, he would like to continue with being responsible for the taxpayers. He noted, it is great to see the working relationships that the Township has developed with the school district, which is a large portion, as well as the county, who control that portion of the taxes. When the Budget was initially reported as a zero-dollar amount for the average homeowner within the Township and taxes should not increase, the Township was presented with an equalization table, which means the houses in our community are selling for much more than they are appraised for which is mandated by the State, and unfortunately the Township has been "hit" with the equalization table, but the good news is, it is not substantial. The average homeowner, owning a \$300,000.00 assessed home, their taxes will increase a total of \$44.00, which is \$11.00 per quarter. The Mayor noted, with the contracts that have been settled over the last few years, the Township is required to pay those contracts, along with the inflation rate of 8% or 9%, which this increase is less than 0.5 % increase overall, school, municipal, and county. The Mayor believes this is a great job by not only the Township with regard to the municipal portion, but the school district as well as the county withholding taxes to a minimum of \$44.00. He congratulated everyone who were involved and stated he looks forward to working with everyone moving forward to try and continue either 0% or a very minimal cost to the taxpayers. On May 29th, he attended a Vietnam Veteran statue dedication at the Pfeiffer Center Memorial for a Boy Scout, Chase Kephart, who is working towards his Eagle Scout rank. Mayor Wolfe stated that Chase is a fine young man who just graduated high school and has already left for bootcamp, because he enlisted in the military. He wished Chase well and thanked him for his

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

dedication of the statue for the veterans. The dedication was followed by the annual Memorial Day Parade, which was very well attended by the residents supporting and honoring the fallen service men and women of this country, as well as veterans who walked in the parade. The parade concluded with a ceremony at the monument located at Main Street/Sicklerville Road and that was also very well attended, and very patriotic. On May 30th, the Township hosted a small land sale, where there was a lot of interest in a couple properties, one property was a junkyard facility, which has sat vacant for quite some time and when the Township became the owner of the property, we became responsible for the cleanup of the property and the cost estimates were approximately a 1/4 million dollars. A scrapyard owner showed interest and made a bid to purchase, which was accepted and alleviated the burden of the cleanup cost from the Township. The land sale purchase is beneficial to the Township as the property will be placed back on the tax rolls and there are plans to place a building on the property, which will bring revenue to the town. Mayor Wolfe credited the Business Administrator and the Superintendent of Public Works who helped with the sale of the property. On May 31st, the Mayor attended the Gloucester County Mayors' Meeting along with Police Chief Monahan. On June 1st, he attended Lt. Bonsall's last call from the Monroe Township Police Department, where Mayor Wolfe thanked Lt. Bonsall for his service and wished him and his family well on his retirement. Lt. Hoffman also retired from the Monroe Township Police Department, which Mayor Wolfe thanked Lt. Hoffman for his service and wished him and his family well on his retirement. On June 2nd, he attended a Memorial Day Service at Holiday City, where he presented a Proclamation to Major General William Terpeluk, who was the speaker of the event. On June 3rd, he attended the Monroe Township Appreciation Day, also known as the Music Festival, noting the event was very well attended. Mayor Wolfe thanked the Director of Parks & Recreation, Director of Community Affairs, who is also the Vice-Chairperson of the Parks & Recreation Commission, volunteers of the Parks & Recreation, the Parks & Recreation Department, Community Affairs Department, Buildings & Grounds Department, the police, fire and EMS for a job well done. On June 4th, he attended the South Jersey Track & Field Youth Championship, which were hosted at the Williamstown High School with runners from throughout the entire state of New Jersey, noting it was nice to see Monroe Township being showcased to all of the other communities from North, Central and South New Jersey. On June 7th, he attended a dedication of the municipal bike path with the Sunshine Rotary, who donated funds to fund a project to place mile markers along the entire length of the bike trail. The Mayor noted the benefits the mile markers provide to the bike trail and the residents who use the trail, and thanked the Police Department for connecting the mile markers to the 911 dispatch center, Road Department for creating the mile marker signs and the Sunshine Rotary Club for donating the funds for the project. Mayor Wolfe attended the Planning Board Meetings on June 9th and June 20th. On June 11th, he attended the Open Space Advisory Committee Meeting, where the Committee is discussing ideas for projects in the near future, which he is excited to work with them on. On June 15th, he attended a Welcome Back to the Pfeiffer Center Luncheon with the seniors, who are happy to be back at the Pfeiffer Community Center. He noted, the Pfeiffer Community Center had some structural issues, which have all been corrected, but after closing the building for several months for safety reasons, it has all been corrected and he is happy to have the seniors back. On June 19th, he attended the Monroe Township Youth Basketball Summer League Opening Ceremony, where he was honored to take the first shot, noting he did practice earlier in the day prior to making the shot at the ceremony. On June 21st, he attended the Williamstown High School Graduation. Mayor Wolfe congratulated all of the graduates in Monroe Township, not only at our high school, but all of the other schools, noting he is looking forward to seeing these students doing big things within the community moving forward. The Mayor mentioned that prior to this evening's Council Meeting, there was a budget meeting with the Budget Committee. He thanked the Committee for all of their hard work, as well as the CFO and the Business Administrator working together with the Budget Committee to ensure the Township is being responsible for the taxpayers. He and Council President Fox attended the Flag Dedication to the Veterans at Stirling Glen Development, where he presented a Proclamation to the residents. Stirling Glen is a newer adult community, located off of Fries Mill Road who have recently formed a Veterans Committee. He noted, he is looking forward to working them in the future. Mayor Wolfe said, he has officiated seven (7) weddings over the past month, has held many staff meetings, weekly meetings with new businesses who want to come to the township, noting he is hopeful that the township is turning the corner and get some things rolling.

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Deputy Mayor Kurz accompanied the Mayor on Memorial Day at the Statue Dedication and Memorial Day Parade Ceremonies. He attended a meeting, in place of the Mayor and in company with the Business Administrator, with the New Jersey Department of Transportation, which the topic of the meeting was "Route 42 Berlin-Cross Keys Road Improvement Project". The Department of Transportation Officials announced that the project is moving forward and they anticipate the project to begin in the spring of 2024. Deputy Mayor Kurz is hopeful that this will minimize a lot of the congestion at Route 42 and Berlin Cross Keys Road. During the month of June, he attended numerous meetings accompanied by the Mayor and other township officials regarding potential new businesses seeking information to open in Monroe Township.

Business Administrator, Mr. DeHart reported that he is working on the Sustainable New Jersey Certification to renew Monroe Township's Bronze Certification. He thanked the Environmental Protection Commission, Mr. Gerstein who is assisting with the Community Garden, the Township's Recycling Coordinator, and the Clean Communities Coordinator for all of their hard work over the last three (3) years. Mr. DeHart spoke in reference to the new phone system, in which he spoke about at a prior meeting, noting that the system has been delivered. Rivell has been running the phone lines in the building to switch over to Voice Over IP, and he is optimistic that by the next Council Meeting he will be able to report that the project is complete. Mr. DeHart stated, he met with a developer who has some unique funding opportunities for South Jersey, specifically the new firehouse project. He is confident that this will provide further help with the project and help alleviate some of the burden on the taxpayer.

Director of Code Enforcement, Mr. Sebastian reported, for the month of May, the Construction Department has performed 367 building inspections, 76 fire inspections, 319 electrical inspections, 189 plumbing inspections, and 101 mechanical inspections, for a total of 1,052 inspections. The Housing Department has performed 592 inspections, they are currently performing the annual apartment complex inspections, and the Zoning Department had 171 applications reviewed, for a grand total of 1,815 inspections for the month of May, and year-to-date through May, a grand total of 7,318 inspections.

Director of Community Affairs, Mrs. Park stated, the seniors were welcomed back to the Pfeiffer Community Center at a luncheon held on June 15, after several months of the center being closed due to some necessary building renovations. The Gloucester County lunch program at the Pfeiffer Community Center resumed on June 20th. The 5th Annual Patriotic Puppy Pageant will be held on Saturday, July 1st at the Pfeiffer Community Center. Bingo has also resumed on Wednesdays from 12:00pm to 2:00pm. There is no cost to play and prizes will consist of household products and gift cards for everyone. The Food Pantry is open every Friday from 9:30am to 11:30am at 408 Church Street.

Director of Parks & Recreation, Mr. Cope reported, the annual Music Festival was held on June 3rd at Owens Park. He thanked, the Mayor and Council, the Parks & Recreation Commission, Anne Bracarello, Tiffany Carney, Joe Bruno and the entire Parks & Recreation and Public Works Departments, the Williamstown Fire Department, the Monroe Police Department, Monroe EMS, Monroe OEM and the sponsors, R.E. Pierson Construction, Newfield Bank, Century Water, First Class Painting, White Horse Leisure, Diamond Tools and United Rentals for all of their help with the event.

Director of Public Safety, Mr. Rumpf attended the Memorial Day events, noting the parade was excellent and was a proud moment for all of the veterans. He expressed his appreciation to the Monroe Township Police, Fire and EMS for their participation.

Director of Public Works, Mr. Dilks reported, Whispering Woods Phase II is completed, discussing his hopefulness that in the near future he can meet with the contractors and get the 2023 program underway.

Chief Financial Officer, Ms. Boyer thanked Council for the approval of the Budget, the Budget Committee for all of their hard work and Business Administrator, Jim DeHart for his help.

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

Police Chief Monahan stated, the Police Department has been very busy. He thanked Sgt. Eric Dare for completing the recent accreditation inspection with the New Jersey State Police's Association on June 12th. He noted it was a very long process but they received a lot of positive feedback from the accreditation inspection team and they should expect to hear the team's findings when they are brought before the board in October. Chief Monahan congratulated Lt. Tom Bonsall and Lt. Dave Hoffman on their retirements after twenty-five (25) years of service. Chief Monahan acknowledged Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.), as they held their annual police officer appreciation for the officers' dedication to their cause, recognizing M.A.D.D.-honored Officer Mike Fitzgibbon, as one of Gloucester County's leading officers for DWI arrests in 2022. The Police Department has concluded the Click It or Ticket Grant, which ran from May 22nd through June 4th, noting the department worked 104 hours in that enforcement detail with 327 summons and 2 DWI arrests. Police Chief Monahan reported that as of 5:00pm this evening the Police Department has had 29,752 calls for service for this year and the Department did not reach that number last year until November. He stated, the departments' call volume is increasing, the number of summons have increased, fatal accidents have decreased, collisions have decreased, and burglaries have decreased, so the officers' visibility is evident. Chief Monahan thanked the Police Officers and extended his appreciation for all of their dedication to the township.

Cncl. Adams stated that June has been long recognized as Pride Month, which celebrates the diversity and achievements of the LGBTQ community while raising awareness for the community's fight for equal rights. She noted, it was a fun event and she was honored to attend the township's Pride event and was pleased to see it was very well attended by the residents, members of the LGBTQ community, as well as traditional families, allies, seniors and people from all demographics. She commended the Community Affairs Department and all of the volunteers who organized the event, noting she is honored to represent a town that support inclusivity. On June 12th, she attended the Municipal Alliance event that provided an overview of the R.I.S.E. Program, which stands for Recovery Initiative Support and Engagement Program in New Jersey. R.I.S.E. provided statistics regarding Monroe Township and surrounding areas substance use disorder and recovery topics for individuals and families, as well as distribution and introduction on how to use Narcan kits, which were distributed to everyone in attendance. The Municipal Alliance Commission would like to find ways to ensure that this information can be presented to a wider audience, as they believe more residents as well as the school district would benefit from the information. Cncl. Adams noted that on June 28th herself and other members of Council were invited to participate in the dunk tank booth at the Our Lady of Peace Carnival. She invited everyone to come and visit them at the booth on Wednesday at 7:00pm. Cncl. Adams wished everyone a safe and happy 4th of July holiday and asked to please remember to thank the veterans, military personnel and families, law enforcement personnel, and first responders because the freedoms we enjoy, certainly are not free and are not guaranteed but are provided for us by the sacrifices of those individuals.

Cncl. O'Reilly congratulated the Class of 2023.

Cncl. Vice-Pres. Valcourt attended the Music Festival on June 3rd. She stated the Music Festival is a wonderful offering to the community and thanked everyone who worked on the festival from the volunteers, employees, emergency workers, food truck owners and more for a successful event. Cncl. Vice-Pres. Valcourt acknowledged the excellent community policing of the township police department, noting it was great seeing the police officers forming friendly connections with the community. Cncl. Vice-Pres. Valcourt congratulated all of the high school graduates of the Class of 2023.

Cncl. Pres. Fox reported that she had the honor of attending alongside the Mayor several of the events that he previously reported on. The Senior Commission has several upcoming events planned, a Phillies game in July and a Paddleboat ride in September and information regarding these events will be coming soon. Cncl. Pres. Fox congratulated the Class of 2023 and wished everyone a happy and safe 4th of July.

MINUTES
COUNCIL MEETING
TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
JUNE 26, 2023

N.) GENERAL PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Cncl. Vice-Pres. Valcourt made a motion to open the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. O'Reilly** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Marlene McMahon, 173 Palomino Place questioned the Resolution regarding support of a Cannabis Class 5 License for Not Your Mother's Garden, praised the police officers who assisted a lady who fell in Friendly Village, informed Council that she attended a Municipal Alliance Commission Meeting where she learned a lot, and informed Council of who in particular she will be inviting to a meeting at the Friendly Village Clubhouse.

Fernando Powers, 717 Meade Court read aloud a written depiction of his alleged encounter and conversation with Mayor Wolfe on June 19, 2023 at the Monroe Municipal Building, regarding the Monroe Township Courtroom to be used by the Republicans who were trying to conduct a political reorganization meeting on June 21, 2023 without his authorization; he is still the Chairman of the Republican party.

With no one else wishing to speak, **Cncl. Adams** made a motion to close the General Public Discussion. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. O'Reilly** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.


Cncl. Pres. Fox advised that Council will be going into Closed Session to discuss Resolution R:136-2023, relating to potential litigation. **Solicitor Graise** advised action will not be taken.

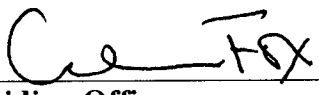
CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

O.) ADJOURNMENT

With nothing further to discuss, **Cncl. Vice-Pres. Valcourt** made a motion to adjourn the Council Meeting of June 26, 2023. The motion was seconded by **Cncl. Adams** and unanimously approved by all members of Council in attendance.

Respectfully submitted,


Aileen Chiselko
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 June 26, 2023, 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 Asc
Approved as corrected _____

Date 8/28/2023
Date _____