

COUNCIL OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
MINUTES
SPECIAL & AGENDA MEETING – JUNE 24, 2013

The Council of the Township of Monroe met in the Municipal Building, 1 Municipal Plaza, for a Special Meeting.

The Special Meeting was Called to Order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Gerald Tamburro with a Salute to the Flag.

UPON ROLL CALL by Township Clerk, Sharon Doerfler, the following members of Council were present: Councilman Stephen Dalina, Councilwoman Leslie Koppel, Councilman Michael Leibowitz, Council Vice-President Henry L. Miller and Council President Gerald W. Tamburro.

ALSO PRESENT for Council was: Mayor Richard Pucci, Business Administrator Wayne R. Hamilton, Township Attorney Joel L. Shain and Engineer Mark Rasimowicz sitting in for Township Engineer Ernest W. Feist.

There were approximately seven (7) members of the Public present in the audience.

Council President Tamburro requested the following **SUNSHINE LAW** be read into the record:

In accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act, it is hereby announced and shall be entered into the Minutes of this meeting that adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by the following:

1. Posted on June 17, 2013 on the Bulletin Board of the Office of the Township Clerk in the Municipal Building, 1 Municipal Plaza and remains posted at that location for public inspection;
2. Communicated to the **CRANBURY PRESS** on June 17, 2013 and printed in the **HOME NEWS TRIBUNE** on June 20, 2013;
3. Posted on June 17, 2013 on the Bulletin Boards within the Municipal Complex;
4. Posted on the Monroe Township website; and
5. Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

In accordance with Chapter 3, Section 17 of the Monroe Township Code, Public Comment shall be limited to five (5) minutes unless further time is granted by the Council President.

Council President Tamburro announced that the Special Meeting is being held for the Consideration of Resolutions authorizing and approving renewal of liquor license for 2013-2014 license term and any other business that may come before the Council. The regularly scheduled Agenda Meeting will immediately follow.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Leibowitz and seconded by Councilman Dalina, the following entitled Resolution was moved for adoption: **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF LIQUOR LICENSE FOR THE 2013 – 2014 LICENSE TERM.** (Garvey's Pub, Inc.)

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Stephen Dalina	Aye
	Councilwoman Leslie Koppel	Aye
	Councilman Michael Leibowitz	Aye
	Council Vice-President Henry L. Miller	Aye
	Council President Gerald W. Tamburro	Aye

R-6-2013-161 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF LIQUOR LICENSE FOR THE 2013-2014 LICENSE TERM.

Copy of Resolution Duly Filed.

The following Proclamation of Mayor Richard Pucci was read into the record by title:

***National Mosquito Control Awareness Week
June 23 thru June 29, 2013***

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Councilman Leibowitz, the Special Meeting was Adjourned and the regularly scheduled Agenda Meeting Called to Order at 7:03 pm.

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Stephen Dalina	Aye
	Councilwoman Leslie Koppel	Aye
	Councilman Michael Leibowitz	Aye
	Council Vice-President Henry L. Miller	Aye
	Council President Gerald W. Tamburro	Aye

Council President Tamburro read the following entitled **ORDINANCE** for **SECOND READING** at the **MONDAY, JULY 1, 2013** Regular Council Meeting:

- a. **BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS 2013 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, ALL LAWFUL AND PUBLIC PURPOSES, BY AND IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, IN THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY (THE "TOWNSHIP"); APPROPRIATING \$1,975,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$1,880,200 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE COSTS THEREOF.**

Council President Tamburro read the following entitled **ORDINANCE** for **INTRODUCTION** at the **MONDAY, JULY 1, 2013** Regular Council Meeting:

- a. **ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 108 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE ENTITLED, "LAND DEVELOPMENT".**

Council President Tamburro mentioned that the above Ordinance for Introduction will be removed and placed on the August Meeting.

Council President Tamburro requested the Council to review the following entitled **RESOLUTIONS** for **CONSIDERATION** at the **MONDAY JULY 1, 2013** Regular Council Meeting.

- a. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXTENSION CONTRACT WITH DOT DESIGNING, LLC FOR MONROE TOWNSHIP SHIRTS AND HATS.**
- b. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING A PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSFER OF LIQUOR LICENSE.** (Monroe Liquors, Inc. to Franklin Plaza Spirits, Inc.)
- c. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A FINAL CLOSE-OUT OF CONTRACT NO. 395 WITH LIBERTY CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPING, INC. FOR "LIGHTING AND VENTILATION AT PUMP STATION #1 FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT ("M.T.U.D.").**
- d. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER NO. 5 SUBMITTED BY ALLIED CONSTRUCTION GROUP, INC. FOR M.T.U.D. CONTRACT NO. 389 – WELLS 20 & 23 IRON REMOVAL SYSTEM.**
- e. **RESOLUTION REFUNDING TAX OVERPAYMENTS.**
- f. **RESOLUTION REFUNDING THIRD PARTY TAX LIEN PREMIUM PAYMENT.**
- g. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXTENDED SICK LEAVE.**

- h. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REDUCTION OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES POSTED WITH THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (“M.T.U.D.”) FOR W & S 890R VALLEY VIEW ESTATES.**
- i. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF CONTRACT TO HAZEN AND SAWYER, P.C. FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL EVALUATION OF SEWAGE PUMPING STATION NO. 5 FOR THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT (“M.T.U.D.”).**
- j. **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID FOR SALE OF CELLULAR COMMUNICATIONS TOWER LEASE.**
- k. **RESOLUTION PROVIDING ADVICE AND CONSENT TO THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL COURT JUDGE.**
- l. **RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR INSERTION OF SPECIAL ITEM OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948) Grant in the amt. of \$580.52 – Municipal Court Alcohol Education, Rehabilitation and Enforcement Fund**
- m. **RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE SUSTAINABLE JERSEY GREEN TEAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE (“GTAC”).**
- n. **RESOLUTION GRANTING AUTHORITY TO FILE LIEN FOR TOWNSHIP’S ABATEMENT OF SANITARY CONDITIONS AT 228 MATCHAPONIX ROAD.**

Councilwoman Koppel inquired about Item #10.m. Sustainable Jersey Green Team Advisory Committee. Council President Tamburro advised her that some recommendations have been received from Mr. Riggs, the Environmental Protection Manager, but the Mayor has not seen the recommendations as of yet.

Mayor – No report.

Administrator – No report.

Engineer – No report.

Council Reports:

Councilman Leibowitz – mentioned that the County of Middlesex, Public Housing Agency, sent out a ballot to all the representatives with reference to allocation of funds from the state. The two choices were to take the portion allocated per town, for the town, or to vote so that the County would have bulk money for the people who have low income & need assistance. No decision has been made as of yet.

Councilman Dalina – spoke about the dedication of a statue at the Library, to Joe Valenti. On June 29th there will be an event sponsored by the Recreation Dept. & Make-A-Wish Foundation. It’s called Wacky Bowling and it will be held at the Knob Hill Bowling Alley on Route #33.

Councilwoman Koppel – spoke on the Grand Opening of the new Senior Center on Wednesday at 11:30am.

On July 11th the Summer Concert Series will begin @ 6pm by the Lake in Thompson Park.

Also advised she had attended a Thank-You Dinner for the Patrons of the Cultural Arts at Forsgate Country Club. There will be a Program starting, an Art Program, at the Community Center for 4th and 5th Graders throughout the summer on Saturdays.

Council Vice President Miller – No Report.

Council President Tamburro - spoke on the Grand Opening of the Senior Center on Wednesday. In anticipation of a large crowd, a shuttle will be provided from Oak Tree School to the Senior Center.

PUBLIC:

Charles Petretti, 4A Wingate Ct. – Congratulated the Council on the Grand Opening of the Senior Center.

He mentioned that the July Calendar on the Township Website has very little information posted. Council President Tamburro stated that the website is being changed and that might be part of the problem. Administrator Hamilton further explained that the host has switched over to a new server and there are some glitches that need to be worked out.

Mr. Petretti asked about the 9-1-1 System in the Township, asking if it is staffed by part-time and full-time personnel. Administrator Hamilton explained that there are two (2) full-time dispatchers per shift on duty to handle the 9-1-1 dispatch center and any other incoming routine calls to Police Headquarters.

Stated that in looking at the budget, he questioned MTUD personnel and accumulated time. Asked that since acquiring this agency, are all those hours within our rules and regulations and Administrator Hamilton responded that when they came over to the Township, whatever time they had accrued and earned as part of the Utilities Authority, they were able to carry-over.

Questioned Item #10.j. – Sale of Cell Tower Lease. Administrator Hamilton explained and informed all that the high bidder was \$406,000. He stated that money will go into MRNA, which is Miscellaneous Revenue Not Anticipated which, at the end of the year, will be rolled into surplus to offset taxes next year.

Item #10.n. – Resolution granting authority to file a lien @ 228 Matchaponix Rd. - Council President Tamburro explained these are having to do with health and maintenance issues that the township has had to address at the township's expense.

He next referenced an old budget on the website with a red notation from March 7, 2011. It was having to do with the Division of Ambulance Service where third party billing was changed. Administrator Hamilton explained that it was an Ordinance change which increased the revenue stream coming in for the ambulance billing. He is not familiar with the notation marks that Mr. Petretti is referencing but in looking at the print out the Administrator was able to explain.

Stephen Uccio, 661 Abbingdon Dr., East Windsor, NJ – Introduced himself as being from the Libertarian Party and also introduced his running mate Sean O'Connor. Both are running for the State Legislature in the 14th District.

Council President Tamburro announced that Political issues are not handled at Council Meetings and thanked Mr. Uccio for introducing himself.

Mr. Uccio explained that one of his biggest concerns in the district is property taxes and debt. They are going to the various Townships and asking for their help to identify unfunded State Mandates that are unnecessarily raising the cost of property tax for the citizens of the State. They are hoping to work together to identify ways to reduce property tax.

Administrator Hamilton explained that he could summarize some of them but the best thing to do is to make an appointment with him and he can outline these issues more succinctly.

Sean O'Connor, 152 Hickory Corner Rd., East Windsor – asked the amount of debt in the Township. Administrator Hamilton stated that he does not have the budget with him this evening but that the town has made substantial gains with two bond sales and refunding where the debt has substantially come down. Administrator Hamilton stated he believes it is less than \$5 million dollars.

He then questioned the establishment of the "Sustainable Jersey Green Team Advisory Committee".

Council President Tamburro explained about the statewide project to encourage energy and preservation of streams and open space. Grants are given to promote sustainable projects within the township.

Michele Arminio, 9 Nathaniel St. – She first asked if there was a Public portion in between the Special Meeting and the Adjournment. Council President Tamburro responded that there wasn't.

She then asked why the renewal of a liquor license requires a Special Meeting. Council President Tamburro explained that all liquor licenses expire at the end of the month and all the needed documentation had not received for this particular license at the June 5 Regular Meeting.

Next she asked for an explanation of the Ordinance Amending Chapter 108. Council President Tamburro stated that this Ordinance for Introduction was pulled off at the beginning of the meeting. She then asked what it was for and he stated that it was for a parcel of land on Spotswood-Englishtown Rd. approved by the Planning Board last month for Senior housing for Toll Bros.

She next asked about the COAH money in Trust that the State wishes to acquire, asking if there is an issue with the State, and they take the money, does that change the towns' obligation to build affordable housing in town. Council President Tamburro responded that these are all unanswerable questions at present. She asked if there is any documentation passed down from the State and he advised that according to the Appellate Court, the Governor had the right to do what he did. It is now before the Supreme Court.

George Gunkelman, 5 Kelly Court – Asked what the Capital Improvement items are in the Bond Ordinance. Administrator Hamilton named (2) generators, one for the Senior Center and one for the Community Center, Road Paving, Sidewalks, Drainage Improvements & Traffic Signalization.

He next spoke on the conflict between the Municipality and the School District regarding School Board Fees for Building Use. The Policy enacted by the School Board this year has tiers of rates for use. In this system there is a lower tier for community organizations such as the Recreation Department. The Board, in making these policies, put the Cultural Arts Commission into a higher tier, which is the rate for outside/non-municipal agencies. It reduces the amount of programming that Cultural Arts can provide to the community.

He stated he can understand the School Board trying to generate revenue wherever they can, but he believes it is misplaced. Regardless of the Programs, students get in free and have for years. It seems to him to be a bias against this particular group.

Administrator Hamilton gave an update regarding a meeting between the Mayor and himself with the Superintendent and Administrator of the Board of Education. This was an issue they touched on, namely, the outstanding bill from last year of \$21,000. The Mayor made it clear that we would be happy to pay at the old rate, prior to the fee change. Ample notice was not given regarding the fee increase. They took it back to their Policy Committee and reaffirmed that Cultural Arts should be in a different category. At the same time we are still haggling over the bill that goes back to last year.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Councilman Leibowitz, the meeting was Adjourned at 7:40 pm.

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Stephen Dalina	Aye
	Councilwoman Leslie Koppel	Aye
	Councilman Michael Leibowitz	Aye
	Council Vice-President Henry L. Miller	Aye
	Council President Gerald W. Tamburro	Aye

Sharon Doerfler, Township Clerk

Gerald W. Tamburro, Council President

Minutes were adopted on _____