

\*\* The public will be able to fully participate in the meeting through their smart phone or computer by accessing this **Website:** <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/106827708>

Or you may call any of the following numbers with your phone. Meeting ID# **106 827 708**

+1 (312) 626 6799	+1 (301) 715 8592
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**\*\* Please note: by calling in you will only be able to hear the meeting and will not be able to participate with any public comment.**

THE FOLLOWING IS A **PRELIMINARY AGENDA** AND THERE MAY BE CHANGES MADE TO THE AGENDA BEFORE OR AT THE MEETING, AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

**SPECIAL MEETING  
OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**

**JANUARY 20, 2021**

**AGENDA**

1. Agenda Meeting Called to Order. (6:30 p.m.)
2. Salute to the Flag.
3. **ROLL CALL:**

Councilman Leonard Baskin  
Councilman Stephen Dalina  
Councilman Charles Dipierro  
Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider  
Council President Miriam Cohen

4. Council President Cohen to request the **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 has been provided by the following:

1. Posted on the Bulletin Boards within the Municipal Building on December 29, 2020 and remains posted at that location for public inspection;
2. Printed in the **HOME NEWS TRIBUNE** and noticed to the **CRANBURY PRESS** on January 15, 2021;
3. Posted on the Monroe Township website; and
4. Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

The Township of Monroe will be holding all public meetings **electronically only** via zoom until the State of Emergency has been lifted and further action has been taken by the Township Council authorizing the resumption of meetings in the Monroe Township Municipal Building.

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.

5. In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:16-1 et seq, the Monroe Township Democratic County Committee has submitted to this Governing Body three (3) nominees for the selection of a successor to fill the vacancy of the Office of Mayor.

**NOMINATION TO FILL THE VACANCY FOR OFFICE OF MAYOR:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

ROLL CALL: AYES \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

**FURTHER NOMINATION** (if needed):

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NOMINATED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

SECONDED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

ROLL CALL: AYES \_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: \_\_\_\_\_

**If no further nomination MOTION to CLOSE NOMINATIONS.**

MOTION: \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND: \_\_\_\_\_

ROLL CALL: Ayes \_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_

**R-1-2021-044 RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE MAYOR OF MONROE TOWNSHIP  
PURSUANT TO THE MUNICIPAL VACANCY LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:16-1, et  
seq.**

MOTION: \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND: \_\_\_\_\_

ROLL CALL: Ayes \_\_\_ Nays \_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*\*OATH OF OFFICE- Administered by the Township Clerk**

6. Mayor's Report.

7. Administrator's Report.

8. Council's Reports.

9. Public Comments. (5 Minutes per Speaker)

OPEN: MOTION: \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND: \_\_\_\_\_

CLOSE: MOTION: \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Adjournment. MOTION: \_\_\_\_\_ SECOND: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOWNSHIP OF MONROE**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – JANUARY 20, 2021**

The Council of the Township of Monroe met remotely via Zoom for a Special Meeting.

The Special Meeting was Called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Council President Miriam Cohen with a Salute to the Flag.

**UPON ROLL CALL** by the Township Clerk, Patricia Reid, the following members of Council were present: Councilman Leonard Baskin, Councilman Stephen Dalina, Councilman Charles Dipierro, Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider and Council President Miriam Cohen.

**ALSO, PRESENT:** Business Administrator Alan M. Weinberg, Township Attorney Lou Rainone, Engineer Mark Rasimowicz, Utility Director Joseph Stroin, Chief Michael Biennas and Deputy Township Clerk Christine Robbins.

There were approximately thirty-four (34) members of the Public who joined remotely.

Council President Miriam Cohen requested the Township Clerk to read the following **SUNSHINE LAW** 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 has been provided by the following:

1. Posted on the Bulletin Boards within the Municipal Building on January 15, 2021 and remains posted at that location for public inspection;
2. Printed in the **HOME NEWS TRIBUNE** and noticed to the **CRANBURY PRESS** on January 15, 2021;
3. Posted on the Monroe Township website; and
4. Sent to those individuals who have requested personal notice.

The Township of Monroe will be holding all public meetings **electronically only** via zoom until the State of Emergency has been lifted and further action has been taken by the Township Council authorizing the resumption of meetings in the Monroe Township Municipal Building.

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.

**UPON MOTION** made by Councilman Baskin and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the **PUBLIC COMMENTS** portion of the Meeting was opened. All were in favor, none opposed.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Lucille DiPasquale, 70 Ave K** – Mrs. DiPasquale wished all of Council a Happy New Year and luck in their endeavors and extended her prayers and good wishes to all during this difficult time.

**UPON MOTION** made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Councilman Baskin, the **PUBLIC COMMENTS** portion of the Meeting was closed. All were in favor, none opposed.

Township Clerk, Patricia Reid read aloud the following:

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:16-1 et seq, the Monroe Township Democratic County Committee has submitted to this Governing Body three (3) nominees for the selection of a successor to fill the vacancy of the Office of Mayor.

Council President Miriam Cohen announced Nominations were in order to fill the vacancy for Office of Mayor and stated it was her pleasure and privilege to Nominate Councilman Dalina to fill the vacancy for Office of Mayor which was seconded by Councilman Dipierro.

Council President Miriam Cohen asked if there were any further Nominations, there being none, she requested a Motion to Close the Nominations.

**UPON MOTION** made by Council Vice-President Schneider and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the **NOMINATIONS** were **closed**. All were in favor, none opposed.

**UPON MOTION** made by Council President Cohen and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the following Resolution was moved for Adoption:

**R-1-2021-044                    RESOLUTION APPOINTING THE MAYOR OF MONROE TOWNSHIP  
PURSUANT TO THE MUNICIPAL VACANCY LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:16-1, et  
seq.**

**WHEREAS**, due to the unfortunate and untimely death of Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro on December 31, 2020, a vacancy was created in the Office of the Mayor of Township of Monroe; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:9-131, Council President Miriam Cohen is serving as the lawful Acting Mayor; and

**WHEREAS**, the Municipal Vacancy Law, at N.J.S.A. 40A:16-11, sets forth the procedure for the selection of a mayor to serve during the period prior to a special election to fill the unexpired term; and

**WHEREAS**, the Township Council has received three candidates for nomination from the Monroe Township Democratic Committee, as required by law, to fill the vacancy during the period prior to a special election pursuant to Municipal Vacancy Law N.J.S.A. 40A:16-11; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that effective this day the Township Council of the Township of Monroe appoints **Stephen Dalina** to fill the vacancy in the Office of the Mayor until a special election is held and certified to fulfill the unexpired term; and

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
	Councilman Stephen Dalina	Aye
	Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
	Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
	Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

Copy of Resolution Duly Filed.

Township Clerk, Patricia Reid administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Stephen Dalina; his wife Sue and two sons held the bible.

**Mayor's Report** – Mayor Stephen Dalina started his report by thanking the Council for selecting him as he is truly honored to fulfill this role as Mayor. He noted that it was a difficult decision, as both Miriam and Terry are outstanding public servants in their own right and he acknowledged Council President Cohen's role as Acting Mayor and noted that she deserves a round of applause for a job well done. He noted that he is looking forward to continuing to work together and proceeded to thank the Democratic Committee for putting his name in the running, as well as, his family including his wife Sue and his two sons as family means everything to him. He thanked his father, Pete Dalina, who is always in his heart and has set the standard on being an outstanding public servant. He added that his brother and nephew have also followed his father's footsteps in public service. He extended thanks to his mother Eleanor whose patience and kind heart has set an example for all. Mayor Dalina stated that he has heard a lot lately that he has big shoes to fill as he heard it when he first joined Council and replaced Councilman Irwin Nalitt and now as he takes over as Mayor filling former Mayor Tamburro's shoes. He added that he is just a simple man trying to make his way through the universe and welcomes the opportunity to continue working for Monroe and continue the quality of life that makes Monroe Township so great. He hopes he has proven himself as someone who is willing to listen and work for the residents and added that Council can attest to his willingness to work together for the betterment of the residents. In his years of public service he has always acted fairly and impartially and plans to bring that philosophy to the Mayor's Office. He stated that his focus will be to continue to the implementation of the Covid vaccine within the Township, as the groundwork has already been laid by the Administration and Council which he thanked. He added that he will continue to work hard to ensure that the Township has the resources, tools and infrastructure to have access to the vaccine and will prioritize communication to ensure that the residents are kept updated. He noted that there are many moving parts to this but will ensure that the Township will do everything

possible to be ready as this is a matter of life and death in the community. Additionally, Mayor Dalina stated that he plans to reach out in the next few weeks to various individuals and groups to start conversations and foster inclusivity. Lastly, Mayor Dalina shared a quote from his favorite football player, Roger Staubach, which goes: “All of us get knocked down, but it’s resiliency that really matters. All of us do well when things are going well, but the thing that distinguishes athletes is the ability to do well in times of great stress, urgency and pressure”. Mayor Dalina ended his report by highlighting that during every roll call he’s taken he always says “Count Me In” and the same holds true in this new position as Mayor. Count him in to promote working together and for all of us to be Monroe Strong. Be well, be safe, God Bless and thank you.

#### **Council’s Reports:**

##### **Council Vice-President Schneider** –

- Shared her memories of meeting Mayor Dalina and stated that she knew when she first met him that he was a natural leader and he was going to go far. She added that she is available for whatever he may need and will always have his back.

##### **Councilman Baskin** –

- Stated that Steve has been promoted from Master of Ceremonies to Mayor and extended congratulations.

##### **Councilman Dipierro** –

- Wished Mayor Dalina nothing but the best and that when Mayor Dalina speaks he is sincere and will work towards the betterment of the Township. He added that if there is someone who has a specialty to please call on the Council to help so we can continue to move forward. He added that he will be there to support him and wishes him well in his new role.

##### **Council President Cohen** –

- Congratulated Mayor Dalina in his new role and is looking forward to their continued work together.

**UPON MOTION** made by Councilman Baskin and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the **PUBLIC COMMENTS** portion of the Meeting was **opened**. All were in favor, none opposed.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

**Andy Paluri, 16 St. James St.** – Mr. Paluri congratulated Mayor Dalina on his new role. He extended best wishes to all of the Township.

**Terry Van Dzura, 18 Guinevere Rd.** – Mr. Van Dzura congratulated Mayor Dalina; he met him several years ago when their children were in grammar school and they coached together. He added that Mayor Dalina was a born leader and is a great listener. Mr. Van Dzura added that the irony of inaugurating a new president today whose objective is to bring unity and the swearing in of Mayor Dalina on the same day shows what is important for this country and our Township. He called for continued unity for the Township and its residents to come together and work together for the betterment of the community.

**Prakash Parab, 33 Dayna Dr.** – Mr. Parab congratulated Mayor Dalina and knows that he will do the best for this Township.

**Gary Busman, 7 Monarch Rd.** – Mr. Busman stated that he wanted to express his excitement for Mayor Dalina in his new role. He stated that he knows he will do a good job and hopes he will have some time to attend some Rutgers Basketball games together. Go Rutgers!

**Diana Kerievsky, 49 Timberhill Dr.** – Mrs. Kerievsky stated that she believed that tonight the public would have an opportunity to vote for who would fulfill the vacancy of Office of Mayor to which Attorney Rainone explained that the vote took place earlier in the meeting amongst Council as to who would be filling that role. Mrs. Kerievsky commented that she was misled to believe the public would be voting and asked that the communication be made clearer next time.

**Audrey Tumpowsky, 188 Diamond Spring Dr.** – Mrs. Tumpowsky stated that she is a new resident and new Committee Member and called in to extend best wishes to all of Council and our new Mayor.

**Leslie Koppel, 10 Andrew Dr.** – County Commissioner Koppel stated she is so excited for the bright future of Monroe Township as she is a former councilwoman and lifetime resident. She also extended best wishes and congratulations from the County to Mayor Dalina in his new role. She added that she is very excited to continue working together for the betterment of the Township.

**Hemant Patel, 15 El Dorado Way** – Mr. Patel extended congratulations to Mayor Dalina and knows that he will be a great leader for the Township.

**UPON MOTION** made by Councilman Dipierro and seconded by Councilman Baskin, the **PUBLIC COMMENTS** portion of the Meeting was closed. All were in favor, none opposed.

**UPON MOTION** made by Councilman Baskin and seconded by Councilman Dipierro, the Regular Meeting was Adjourned at 7:05pm.

ROLL CALL:	Councilman Leonard Baskin	Aye
	Councilman Charles Dipierro	Aye
	Council Vice-President Elizabeth Schneider	Aye
	Council President Miriam Cohen	Aye

*Patricia Reid*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
PATRICIA REID, Township Clerk

*Miriam Cohen*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MIRIAM COHEN, Council President

Minutes were adopted on: February 1, 2021