

** 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
+1 (929) 205 6099	+1 (346) 248 7799
+1 (253) 215 8782	+1 (669) 900 6833

**** 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.

**COMBINED AGENDA AND REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**

MAY 4, 2020

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 May 1, 2020 and remains posted at that location for public inspection;
2. Printed in the **HOME NEWS TRIBUNE** and **CRANBURY PRESS** on May 1, 2020;
3. Posted on the Monroe Township website; and
4. 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.

5. **PROCLAMATIONS** and **PRESENTATIONS:**

Proclamation - May 14, 2020 – Apraxia Awareness Month

Proclamation - May, 2020 – Honoring Essential Workers

6. **ORDINANCE(S)** for **SECOND READING** at the May 4, 2020 Regular Meeting:

O-4-2020-006 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF PROSPECT PLAINS ROAD (CR 614) AND PERRINEVILLE ROAD (CR 625) IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.** (Middlesex County Dept. of Transportation project)

O-4-2020-007 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION, BY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT, REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS TAX BLOCK 18, LOT 17 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, LOCATED ON PERRINEVILLE ROAD FOR OPEN SPACE AND GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES.**
(76-acre parcel located on Perrineville Road)

7. **ORDINANCE(S) for INTRODUCTION** at the May 4, 2020 Regular Meeting:

O-5-2020-008 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION, BY DEDICATION, OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS TAX BLOCK 17, LOT 3.40 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, LOCATED OFF ENGLAND ROAD AND BRENTWOOD PLACE NEAR CRANBURY BROOK FOR OPEN SPACE AND GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES.**

8. **RESOLUTIONS for CONSIDERATION** under **CONSENT AGENDA** at the May 4, 2020, Regular Meeting: (R-5-2020-119 – R-5-2020-128)

R-5-2020-119 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES UPON THE POSTING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MAINTENANCE GUARANTEES FOR COLT'S RUN, PHASE 2 - W&S 1124 - POSTED WITH THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT ("MTUD") PB #1109-11.** (subdivision off England Road)

R-5-2020-120 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CENTER STATE ENGINEERING FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH 2020 VARIOUS MUNICIPAL ROADWAY AND CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS.** (180,000.00)

R-5-2020-121 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE REHABILITATED AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT AND LIEN ON BLOCK 160.06, LOT 26.** (Evergreen Terrace)

R-5-2020-122 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE REHABILITATED AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT AND LIEN ON BLOCK 169.1, LOT 1.** (Monmouth Road)

R-5-2020-123 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBORDINATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING LIEN (BLOCK 14.13, LOT 59, QUALIFIER C-082).** (Morgan Way)

R-5-2020-124 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX OVERPAYMENTS.** (totaling \$10,905.09)

R-5-2020-125 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF THIRD-PARTY TAX LIEN PREMIUM PAYMENTS.** (totaling 10,000.00)

R-5-2020-126 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF A 2012 CHEVY TAHOE FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TO THE MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

R-5-2020-127 **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF UTILITY OVERPAYMENT.** (refund \$313.97)

R-5-2020-128 **RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR 2020 SECOND QUARTER PROPERTY TAXES TO JUNE 1, 2020.**

9. **Public Comments.** (limited to **Agenda items only** - 5 Minutes per Speaker)

OPEN: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

CLOSE: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

10. Agenda Meeting Adjournment. Time: _____

MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

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

**REGULAR MEETING
OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL**

MAY 4, 2020

AGENDA

1. **REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** Time: _____

MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

2. **MOTION** to approve the payment of **CLAIMS** per run date **April 29, 2020**.

MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

MOTION to approve the **MINUTES** of the following Meeting as written and presented

April 6, 2020 – Council Meeting

MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

4. **ORDINANCE(S)** for **SECOND READING:**

O-4-2020-006 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF PROSPECT PLAINS ROAD (CR 614) AND PERRINEVILLE ROAD (CR 625) IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.** (Middlesex County Dept. of Transportation project)

PUBLIC HEARING OPEN: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSE: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

ADOPTION: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

O-4-2020-007 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION, BY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT, REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS TAX BLOCK 18, LOT 17 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, LOCATED ON PERRINEVILLE ROAD FOR OPEN SPACE AND GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES.**
(76-acre parcel located on Perrineville Road)

PUBLIC HEARING OPEN: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSE: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

ADOPTION: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____ ROLL CALL: Ayes _____ Nays _____

8. Mayor's Report.

9. Administrator's Report.

10. Engineer's Report.

11. Council's Reports.

12. Public Comments. (5 Minutes per Speaker)

OPEN: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

CLOSE: MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

13. Adjournment. MOTION: _____ SECOND: _____

Time: _____

TOWNSHIP OF MONROE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MEETING OF THE MONROE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL – MAY 4, 2020

The Council of the Township of Monroe met remotely via Zoom for a Combined Agenda/Regular Meeting.

The Combined Agenda/Regular Meeting was Called to Order at 6:33 p.m. (to allow the public time to log into the meeting) 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: Mayor Gerald W. Tamburro, Business Administrator Alan M. Weinberg, Township Attorney Lou Rainone, Engineer Mark Rasimowicz, Deputy Township Clerk Christine Robbins, Utility Director Joseph Stroin and Chief Michael Biennas.

There were approximately twenty (20) members of the Public who have 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 May 1, 2020 and remains posted at that location for public inspection;
2. Printed in the **HOME NEWS TRIBUNE** and **CRANBURY PRESS** on May 1, 2020.
3. Posted on the Monroe Township website; and
4. 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 Cohen read aloud by title the following Proclamation:

Proclamation - May 14, 2020 – Apraxia Awareness Month

Township Clerk Patricia Reid read aloud in full the following Proclamation:

Proclamation - May, 2020 – Honoring Essential Workers

Township Clerk Patricia Reid read the following entitled **ORDINANCES** for **SECOND READING** at the **MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020** Regular Council Meeting:

O-4-2020-006 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF PROSPECT PLAINS ROAD (CR 614) AND PERRINEVILLE ROAD (CR 625) IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.** (Middlesex County Dept. of Transportation project)

O-4-2020-007 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION, BY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT, REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS TAX BLOCK 18, LOT 17 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, LOCATED ON PERRINEVILLE ROAD FOR OPEN SPACE AND GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES.**
(76-acre parcel located on Perrineville Road)

Township Clerk Patricia Reid read the following entitled **ORDINANCES** for **INTRODUCTION** at the **MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020** Regular Council Meeting:

O-5-2020-008 **ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION, BY DEDICATION, OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS TAX BLOCK 17, LOT 3.40 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, LOCATED OFF ENGLAND ROAD AND BRENTWOOD PLACE NEAR CRANBURY BROOK FOR OPEN SPACE AND GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES.**

Township Clerk Patricia Reid read the following entitled **RESOLUTIONS** for **CONSIDERATION** at the **MONDAY, MAY 4, 2020** Regular Council Meeting (R-5-2020-119– R-5-2020-128):

- R-5-2020-119** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES UPON THE POSTING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MAINTENANCE GUARANTEES FOR COLT'S RUN, PHASE 2 - W&S 1124 - POSTED WITH THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT ("MTUD") PB #1109-11.** (subdivision off England Road)
- R-5-2020-120** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CENTER STATE ENGINEERING FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH 2020 VARIOUS MUNICIPAL ROADWAY AND CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS.** (180,000.00)
- R-5-2020-121** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE REHABILITATED AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT AND LIEN ON BLOCK 160.06, LOT 26.** (Evergreen Terrace)
- R-5-2020-122** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE REHABILITATED AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT AND LIEN ON BLOCK 169.1, LOT 1.** (Monmouth Road)
- R-5-2020-123** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBORDINATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING LIEN (BLOCK 14.13, LOT 59, QUALIFIER C-082).** (Morgan Way)
- R-5-2020-124** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX OVERPAYMENTS.** (totaling \$10,905.09)
- R-5-2020-125** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF THIRD-PARTY TAX LIEN PREMIUM PAYMENTS.** (totaling 10,000.00)
- R-5-2020-126** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF A 2012 CHEVY TAHOE FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TO THE MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION.**
- R-5-2020-127** **RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF UTILITY OVERPAYMENT.** (refund \$313.97)
- R-5-2020-128** **RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR 2020 SECOND QUARTER PROPERTY TAXES TO JUNE 1, 2020.**

Councilman Dipierro requested to add a Resolution to our Regular Meeting; Township Attorney Rainone commented that now would be the time to add a resolution. Councilman Dipierro stated that we do a resolution which acknowledges that we will do a sound off for the graduating classes on June 24th being that their graduation has been cancelled due to the pandemic. This will be Resolution **R-5-2020-129**.

All in favor; Township Clerk Patricia Reid noted this resolution would be added to our Regular Meeting.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Council Vice-President Schneider, the **PUBLIC COMMENTS** portion of the Meeting was opened. All were in favor, none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Township Clerk Patricia Reid read aloud questions submitted electronically prior to the virtual meeting.

The first set of question were electronically submitted by Mrs. Lucille Panos and read aloud by Township Clerk Patricia Reid:

Lucille Panos, 1208C Landera Plaza – The first question Mrs. Panos had was whether or not the Mayor and Council received and read her emails sent last week; Council President Cohen stated that they did receive and read them.

Next, she asked if Clearbrook is considered a hotspot for Covid-19 being that it has been rumored to have the most reported cases. She also asked if there are any other reported hotspots in the Township.

Next, she asked in regards to Resolution R-5-2020-120, if the \$180,000 contract was in addition to the annual salary paid to the Township Engineer. She also asked what roads are covered and did if this went out to bid.

Next, she asked if any consideration had been made to putting links to the backup information to the resolutions on the website. She added that this is the third time asking and hopes that this time it will be addressed in detail.

Lastly, she asked why the Bill List is not read at the Council Meetings.

Prior to answering Mrs. Panos' questions, Administrator Weinberg asked if the five-minute time limit would start now as he wants to ensure that there is enough time to properly address the questions. Township Attorney Rainone stated that being Mrs. Panos is not on the virtual meeting live then the questions submitted would be answered at the end of the public comment portion as it would only be fair to continue through with those who are awaiting their turn to speak live during the public comment portion of the meeting.

It was noted that Mrs. Panos electronically submitted questions would be answered at the end of the public comment portion of the meeting.

Prakash Parab, 33 Dayna Dr. – Mr. Parab stated that he appreciates the virtual meeting, as well as, all of our frontline and essential workers.

Mr. Parab extended his appreciation for Ordinance O-4-2020-007 as any acquisition of land for Open Space purposes are favorable in his opinion.

Lastly, Mr. Parab noted that this week is National Nurse's Week commenting that all of our nurses have been doing a great job, as well as, it being Teacher's Appreciation Week. He extended thanks to all of them as well for a job well done.

Lucille Panos, 1208C Landera Plz. – Mrs. Panos thanked everyone including the workers at Stop & Shop who have been working tirelessly through this pandemic.

Mrs. Panos went through her electronically submitted questions, starting with asking if anyone clicked on the link to the Old Bridge site she had sent; Township Attorney Rainone answered that they have not done so.

Mrs. Panos asked about whether or not Clearbrook was considered a hotspot, to which Township Attorney Rainone answered that all of the information is given out by the Middlesex County Health Department as they give the Township a community wide update, as well as, an update on the long-term care facilities.

Mrs. Panos asked in regards to R-5-2020-120 if the contract being awarded was different than the annual contract and what roads were going to be worked on; Engineer Rasimowicz answered that the roads have not been determined yet but will be determined once the resolution is approved. Mrs. Panos asked if that information would be made public as she does not understand how this resolution could be approved prior to knowing what types of work will be done as in her opinion the Township Engineer should work on the list of roadways to fix and then a resolution should be passed. Engineer Rasimowicz added that this will include guiderail replacement as well. Mrs. Panos asked if professional contracts went out to bid to which Township Attorney Rainone answered that it is not required to go out to bid for professional contracts. Mrs. Panos countered by asking how is it ensured that a fair and open process is being followed. Administrator Weinberg cited N.J.S.A. 40A:11 which is the laws for public contracts.

Mrs. Panos asked if any consideration had been given to adding links to the website for the backup information to each resolution. Township Attorney Rainone answered that all of the resolutions are loaded with backup on the website. Mrs. Panos cited Old Bridge Township's website which has a direct link on each resolution which provides all of the backup information that way.

Lastly, Mrs. Panos asked why the Bill list is not read at the Council Meetings; Township Attorney Rainone stated that the bill list is approximately 30-40 pages long and is made available in full on the Township website as well. Mrs. Panos explained that she is suggesting a summary of amounts and totals expended be given to which Township Attorney Rainone stated that those figures are all available to be viewed on the Bill List which is already loaded on the township's website.

Michele Arminio, 9 Nathaniel St. – Mrs. Arminio had a question regarding R-5-2020-120; she asked if the \$180,000 contract amount was only for soft costs and designs. Administrator Weinberg answered yes, further explaining that we did a \$1.4 million bond back in February which included this contract noting that this is also the same way it was done in the previous year. This contract includes not only the design, bidding, inspection, sidewalk design and work but also includes guiderail design as well. Mrs. Arminio asked how we were supposed to know which roadways are being done as she believes it to have been stipulated in the bond. Administrator Weinberg answered that the roadways were not stipulated in the bond and the Township Engineer is reviewing all roadways along with the advice from the Police Department and other pertinent departments.

Mrs. Arminio stated that she tried to find the Ordinances on the Township’s website but does not find the new website to be user friendly whatsoever. Township Attorney Rainone guided her to where they can be found.

Mrs. Arminio questioned regarding Ordinance O-5-2020-008, where the last sentence states for Open Space and Governmental Purposes, asking for clarification of what exactly that means as she feels that Open Space should be reserved for just that Open Space. She added that Governmental Purposes eludes that it can also be used for municipal purposes and there is a big difference between the two as Open Space can be used for recreational or passive purposes and Governmental Purpose means it can be built on. Administrator Weinberg answered that this is a directive from a Planning Board resolution where we get the Right of Way and Detention Basins with no money involved. Mrs. Arminio asked how many acres of wetlands there were to which Engineer Rasimowicz answered that there are 27 acres total with 22 being wetlands and the remaining being two detention basins. Mrs. Arminio commented that generally that is used for cluster zoning to which Engineer Rasimowicz agreed. Mrs. Arminio stated that her objection is that the land is not suitable so essentially the developer gave it up, the Planning Board asks for it and it does no good for the Township. She added that it allows the builder to put a higher density on the property and not have the correct division of property. Engineer Rasimowicz stated that Mrs. Arminio is incorrect and explained further that there was a density transfer done on property to be developed on the corner of Buckelew Avenue and Schoolhouse Road. The Township gave land to the firehouse and the Board of Education and this land was always wetlands. He added that wetlands was not part of the density where they got additional units.

Chrissy Skurbe, 21 Preakness Dr. – Mrs. Skurbe had a question regarding Ordinance O-5-2020-008, asking if the land that the Township is acquiring could have been purchased by the property owners living in that area, as her property backs up to that area. Mrs. Skurbe asked what area this affects and would any property be taken back from the property owners. Engineer Rasimowicz answered that it is the area that goes along the Cranbury Brook which is located to the rear of the Colts Run development. He added that there are two detention basins with one being at each end of the cul de sac. Engineer Rasimowicz added that no land would be taken away from the property owners.

Mrs. Skurbe asked regarding R-5-2020-128 if by extending the grace period for taxes would affect the payment made by the Township to the Board of Education as it was discussed at their meeting that a delay in receiving payment would result in bills, including teacher salaries, not being able to be paid. Administrator Weinberg answered that the Township would be keeping with the bill payment schedule and it was conveyed to the Board of Education as well. Mrs. Skurbe remarked that was great news as it was a concern.

Lastly, Mrs. Skurbe extended thanks to all of the essential workers and noted that it is wonderful to honor them with the proclamation read aloud at tonight’s meeting. She added that many essential workers are also the teachers who are at home doing all they can to teach children virtually, working harder than they ever have during these hard times.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Council Vice-President Schneider, the **PUBLIC COMMENTS** portion of the Meeting was closed.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Baskin and seconded by Council Vice-President Schneider, the Agenda Meeting was Adjourned at 7:06pm.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Councilman Baskin, the Regular Meeting was Called to Order at 7:06pm.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Baskin and seconded by Councilman Dalina, the **CLAIMS** per run date of **4/29/2020** were approved for payment as presented.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Baskin and seconded by Council Dalina, the **MINUTES** of the **April 6, 2020 Council Meeting** was approved as written and presented.

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

UPON MOTION made by Council Vice-President Schneider and seconded by Councilman Dalina an Ordinance of which the following is the title was moved on second reading for final passage:

O-4-2020-006 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF PROSPECT PLAINS ROAD (CR 614) AND PERRINEVILLE ROAD (CR 625) IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY. (Middlesex County Dept. of Transportation project)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No Public Comment.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Councilman Baskin the **PUBLIC COMMENTS for Ordinance O-4-2020-006** portion of the Meeting was closed. All were in favor, none opposed.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Baskin and seconded by Councilman Dalina, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was passed on Second Reading and Final Adoption:

O-4-2020-006 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A TRAFFIC CONTROL SIGNAL LOCATED AT THE INTERSECTION OF PROSPECT PLAINS ROAD (CR 614) AND PERRINEVILLE ROAD (CR 625) IN THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX, STATE OF NEW JERSEY. (Middlesex County Dept. of Transportation project)

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

SECTION 1. The intersection of Prospect Plains Road (CR 614) and Perrineville Road (CR 625) shall be controlled by a Traffic Control Signal in accordance with the As-Built Traffic Signal Plan dated December 12, 2019, prepared by Ameritech Engineering, Inc., and Traffic Signal Timing Directive, revised April 2019, prepared by CME Associates.

SECTION 2. The Traffic Control Signal shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, Title 39 of the Revised Statutes and the New Jersey Administrative Code, and ADA Standards. Said Traffic Control Signal shall be operated in conformance with the designated Plan.

SECTION 3. All prior Ordinances and/or Resolutions or portions thereof of the Township of Monroe inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance shall be and the same are hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. That this Ordinance shall become effective upon adoption and publication as required by law.

SECTION 5. That if any clause, section, paragraph, subdivision, or provision of this Ordinance

declared invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, such provision shall be deemed a separate distinct and independent provision and shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion hereof.

SECTION 6. When the Ordinance is finally adopted, the Township Clerk will send a certified copy of the Ordinance to Ronald Sendner, PE, Acting Middlesex County Engineer, P.O. Box 871, 75 Bayard Street, 5th Floor, New Brunswick, N.J. 08901, for submission to the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders for a consenting resolution.

SECTION 7. Any section of any other Township rule, regulation, policy, ordinance or requirements that conflicts with any part of this Ordinance is repealed to the extent of the conflict.

SECTION 8. If any chapter, section, subchapter or paragraph of this Ordinance be declared unconstitutional, invalid, or inoperative, in whole or in part, by a court of competent jurisdiction, such chapter, section, subchapter or paragraph shall to the extent that is not held unconstitutional, invalid, or inoperative remain in full effect and shall not affect the remainder of this Ordinance.

SECTION 9. This Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage and publication as provided by law.

SO ORDAINED, as aforesaid.

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

Copy of Ordinance Duly Filed.
O-4-2020-006

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Councilman Baskin an Ordinance of which the following is the title was moved on second reading for final passage:

O-4-2020-007 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION, BY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT, REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS TAX BLOCK 18, LOT 17 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, LOCATED ON PERRINEVILLE ROAD FOR OPEN SPACE AND GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES. (76-acre parcel located on Perrineville Road)

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Michele Arminio, 9 Nathaniel St. – Mrs. Arminio asked what is the negotiated agreement terms and the amount as she is still having difficulty finding it on the website. Township Attorney Rainone and Administrator Weinberg answered that the Ordinance is for \$395,000 to purchase the noted parcel. It was explained further that the Township would purchase this parcel for \$395,000 and the County would then reimburse the Township \$395,000 with the intention of it being strictly Open Space. Mrs. Arminio asked if there was anything written within the Ordinance that would allow for future building to happen; Township Attorney Rainone stated there is not. Mrs. Arminio asked if governmental purpose and municipal use are different to which Township Attorney Rainone answered yes and noted that with the source of funds for this purchase it would be required to be dedicated as Open Space. Mrs. Arminio asked if there were any Green Acres or State monies being used for this purchase to which Township Attorney Rainone answered no. Mrs. Arminio asked for the answers to her questions on this Ordinance be clearly put into the record as she commented that we may need to refer to them in the near future.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Baskin and seconded by Councilman Dipierro the **PUBLIC COMMENTS for Ordinance O-4-2020-007** portion of the Meeting was closed. All were in favor, none opposed.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Council Vice-President Schneider, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was passed on Second Reading and Final Adoption:

O-4-2020-007 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION, BY NEGOTIATED AGREEMENT, REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS TAX BLOCK 18, LOT 17 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, LOCATED ON PERRINEVILLE ROAD FOR OPEN SPACE AND GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES. (76-acre parcel located on Perrineville Road)

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Local Land and Building Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12-1, et seq. the Township has the power to acquire real property; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:12-5, the Township has the power to acquire any real property for a public purpose through a negotiated agreement process; and

WHEREAS, the Township desires to purchase certain land known as and designated as Tax Block 18, Lot 17 on the Official Tax Map of the Township of Monroe located on Perrineville Road between Federal Road and Union Valley Road (the "Property") for the purpose of open space and/or other governmental use pursuant to a negotiated agreement for a consideration of \$395,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Township has previously adopted Ordinance 0-9-2016-032 for the expenditure of public funds for the acquisition of real property including this property; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer for the Township has determined that there are sufficient funds toward the acquisition of said property through Ordinance 0-9-2016-032 as a funding source; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED, by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, Middlesex County, State of New Jersey:

1. The voluntary acquisition by negotiated agreement of the Property known as Block 18, Lot 17 located on Perrineville Road between Federal Road and Union Valley Road (the "Property") for the purpose of open space and/or other governmental use in the Township of Monroe for a consideration of \$395,000.00 be and is hereby authorized using Ordinance 0-9-2016-032 as a funding source.
2. The Township Attorney and Business Administrator are hereby authorized to take all actions necessary to acquire the Property through negotiation.
3. The Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign and witness, respectively, any contract of sale or other documents necessary to acquire the Property; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that if any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged by the courts to be invalid, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudicated, and the remainder of the Ordinance shall be deemed valid and in effect; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any ordinance or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that this Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication in accordance with applicable law.

SO ORDAINED, as aforesaid.

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

Copy of Ordinance Duly Filed.
O-4-2020-007

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Councilman Baskin, an Ordinance of which the following is the title was introduced on first reading for Final Passage:
O-5-2020-008 ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION, BY DEDICATION, OF REAL PROPERTY KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS TAX BLOCK 17, LOT 3.40 ON THE OFFICIAL TAX MAP OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE, MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY, LOCATED OFF ENGLAND ROAD AND BRENTWOOD PLACE NEAR CRANBURY BROOK FOR OPEN SPACE AND GOVERNMENTAL PURPOSES.

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

Copy of Ordinance Duly Filed.
O-5-2020-008

Councilman Dipierro asked for clarification regarding R-5-2020-128 as this extension is only good until June 1, 2020 but if the tax payment is not made by that date, the interest due will go back to the original May 1, 2020 due date. Township Attorney Rainone explained further and clarified. Councilman Dipierro commented that he hopes the Governor would act more swiftly in passing any extension for 3rd quarter taxes instead of waiting until the last moment to do so as a lot of towns were left scrambling to pass a resolution allowing this extension to occur.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Council Vice-President Schneider the following Resolutions were moved for Adoption under the **CONSENT AGENDA:**
(R-5-2020-119 – R-5-2020-129)

R-5-2020-119 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE GUARANTEES UPON THE POSTING AND ACCEPTANCE OF MAINTENANCE GUARANTEES FOR COLT'S RUN, PHASE 2 - W&S 1124 - POSTED WITH THE MONROE TOWNSHIP UTILITY DEPARTMENT ("MTUD") PB #1109-11. (subdivision off England Road)

WHEREAS, Toll Brothers, Inc. has posted a Performance Guarantee with the Monroe Township Utility Department ("M.T.U.D.") for W&S 1124 – Colt's Run, Phase 2; and

WHEREAS, Toll Brothers, Inc. has requested the release of the Performance Guarantee upon posting and acceptance of a Maintenance Guarantee for water and sewer; and

WHEREAS, as defined in N.J.S.A. 40:55Dd-53 et seq., the M.T.U.D. has inspected the work performed and the work to be completed and has recommended the Township Council approve the release of the performance guarantee as detailed in a letter dated February 7, 2020, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and as shown herein below:

Reduced Performance Bond #105973656 for water - Sec 2 in the amount of \$62,856.00 to be released and replaced with a maintenance guarantee in the amount of \$31,428.00 (15% of original bond).
Cash Performance Guarantee in the amount of \$6,984.00 for water to be returned in full to the developer.

Reduced Performance Bond #105973655 for sewer Sec. 2 in the amount of \$181,980.00 to be released and replaced with a maintenance guarantee in the amount of \$27,297.00 (15% of original bond).
Cash Performance Guarantee in the amount of \$6,066.00 for sewer to be returned in full to the developer.

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Council has reviewed and hereby approves the recommendations of the M.T.U.D. Director;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey that Performance Guarantees posted for Colt's Run, Phase 2, W&S 1124 be released upon establishment of maintenance guarantees as reflected above and in the M.T.U.D. letter annexed hereto. Release of the Performance Guarantee and acceptance of Maintenance Guarantee is conditioned upon the posting of a Maintenance Guarantee and the payment of any outstanding balances attached to the project escrow accounts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Monroe Township Utility Department is hereby authorized and directed to forward a certified copy of this Resolution to the developer, and to his attorney, if applicant has been represented by counsel in this matter.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

R-5-2020-120 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH CENTER STATE ENGINEERING FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH 2020 VARIOUS MUNICIPAL ROADWAY AND CONCRETE IMPROVEMENTS. (180,000.00)

WHEREAS, the Township of Monroe seeks professional engineering, surveying and planning services in connection with the *2020 Various Municipal Roadway and Concrete Improvements*; and

WHEREAS, Center State Engineering possesses the technical expertise required to perform said professional engineering services for this project; and

WHEREAS, the fees for such services will not exceed one hundred and eighty thousand dollars (**\$180,000.00**); and

WHEREAS, the Certified Municipal Finance Officer has certified the availability of funds for such an engagement in Certificate No. C-2000037, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A"; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-1 et seq.) authorizes the award of

contracts for “professional services” without competitive bids and further provides that the contract itself must be available for public inspection; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey as follows:

- (1) The Mayor and Township Clerk be and are hereby authorized and directed to execute the attached contract with *Center State Engineering, 481 Spotswood-Englishtown Road, Monroe Township, NJ 08831*, in accordance with the Agreement annexed hereto;
- (2) The Department of Finance is hereby authorized and directed to pay Invoices for services rendered by Center State Engineering for the professional engineering, surveying and planning services in connection with *2020 Various Municipal Roadway and Concrete Improvements* in an amount not to exceed one hundred and eighty thousand dollars (**\$180,000.00**);
- (3) The Contract is awarded with the stipulation that *Center State Engineering* shall include within the Contract Mandatory Affirmative Action language and shall submit to the Township of Monroe any appropriate Affirmative Action document within the time period prescribed by law;
- (4) A notice of this action shall be printed once in the Home News Tribune.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-5-2020-121 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE
REHABILITATED AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT
AND LIEN ON BLOCK 160.06, LOT 26. (Evergreen Terrace)**

WHEREAS, on August 4, 2009, Joseph & Mary Vena (“Vena’s”) entered into a Rehabilitated Affordable Housing Agreement with the Township of Monroe restricting the Caffrey’s from selling or conveying title to the property for a period of ten years pursuant to Monroe Ordinance 131-8 and N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq, said Agreement having been recorded with the Middlesex County Clerk on April 4, 2010, in Mortgage Book 13818 on Page 0700; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Housing Lien state that “the terms, restrictions and covenants of this Agreement shall automatically expire ten (10) years from the date that the housing rehabilitation work was completed”; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Affordable Housing Board advises of the successful completion of the Affordable Housing Lien and has consented to the termination of the Affordable Housing Lien annexed hereto as Exhibit “A”; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Affordable Housing Lien held by Joseph & Mary Vena are hereby satisfied and the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Release of Rehabilitated Affordable Housing Agreement, annexed hereto as Exhibit “B”.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-5-2020-122 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF THE
REHABILITATED AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT
AND LIEN ON BLOCK 169.1, LOT 1. (Monmouth Road)**

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2009, Lawrence & Deborah Caffrey (“Caffrey’s”) entered into a Rehabilitated Affordable Housing Agreement with the Township of Monroe restricting the Caffrey’s from selling or conveying title to the property for a period of ten years pursuant to Monroe Ordinance 131-8 and N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq, said Agreement having been recorded with the Middlesex County Clerk on November 14, 2011, in Mortgage Book 06301 on Page 0561; and

WHEREAS, the Affordable Housing Lien state that “the terms, restrictions and covenants of this Agreement shall automatically expire ten (10) years from the date that the housing rehabilitation work was completed”; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Affordable Housing Board advises of the successful completion of the Affordable Housing Lien and has consented to the termination of the Affordable Housing Lien annexed hereto as Exhibit “A”; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Affordable Housing Lien held by Lawrence & Deborah Caffrey are hereby satisfied and the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Release of Rehabilitated Affordable Housing Agreement, annexed hereto as Exhibit

“B”.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-5-2020-123 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBORDINATION OF
AFFORDABLE HOUSING LIEN (BLOCK 14.13, LOT 59,
QUALIFIER C-082). (Morgan Way)**

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2018, Jigna & Pratik Parikan, married, (“Parikan’s”) gave a repayment mortgage in accordance with the State’s Affordable Housing Program, to the Township of Monroe, requiring the Parikan’s to pay the sum of \$235,724.00.00 to the Municipality upon the first non-exempt sale of their property having an address of 82 Morgan Way, as provided under the rules of the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.5(c), said mortgage having been recorded with the Middlesex County Clerk on September 25, 2018, in Book 17304, Page 1862 *et seq.* (the Affordable Housing Lien); and

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2018, the Parikan’s gave a mortgage to Unity Bank, in the amount of \$111,475.00, said mortgage having been recorded with the Middlesex County Clerk on September 25, 2018 in Mortgage Book 17304, Page 1846 *et seq* (the “2018 Unity Bank mortgage”); and

WHEREAS, the Parikan’s have applied to refinance the 2018 Unity Bank mortgage and has asked the Township of Monroe to subordinate the Affordable Housing Lien; and

WHEREAS, the proposed refinancing qualifies for the subordination of Monroe’s affordable housing lien under the New Jersey Fair Housing Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-301 et seq and the rules of the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:80-26.1 et seq;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and Township Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to execute the Mortgage Subordination, annexed hereto as Exhibit “A”.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-5-2020-124 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TAX OVERPAYMENTS. (totaling
\$10,905.09)**

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector for the Township of Monroe has recommended this Council’s approval to make refunds for tax overpayments in the amount of Ten Thousand Nine- hundred Five dollars and Nine cents (\$10,905.09) for the amounts described on Schedule A and attached hereto

WHEREAS, good cause has been shown

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe in the County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey that the Township’s Certified Municipal Finance Officer be and is hereby directed to draw a check from the General Account refunding the Tax overpayments described above to be distributed as set forth on the attached Schedule A:

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-5-2020-125 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF THIRD-PARTY
TAX LIEN PREMIUM PAYMENTS. (totaling 10,000.00)**

WHEREAS, Premiums have been paid for various properties for the purchase of Tax Lien Certificates for properties listed on the Tax Map of the Township of Monroe, in the amount of Ten Thousand dollars and no cents (\$10,000.00),

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54: 5-33 said premiums must be returned to the purchasers upon redemption:

WHEREAS, The Tax Lien Certificates as outlined on Schedule A have been redeemed:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township of Monroe in the County of Middlesex in the State of New Jersey that the Township’s Certified Municipal Financial Officer is hereby authorized and directed to draw a check from the Township’s Trust Account in the amount listed on Schedule A and forward same to the Tax Collector for distribution to the purchasers.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-5-2020-126 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DONATION OF A 2012
CHEVY TAHOE FROM THE TOWNSHIP OF MONROE TO THE
MONROE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Department of Public Works has a 2012 Chevy Tahoe, VIN #1GNSKLE05CR204551, it wishes to donate to the Monroe Township Board of Education; and

WHEREAS, this vehicle has an automatic transmission with approximately 103,650 miles on it and is in good running condition; and

WHEREAS, the Monroe Township Department of Public Works is willing to transfer ownership and title of this vehicle to the Monroe Township Board of Education for **\$1.00** since the vehicle is no longer being used by their department; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:11-36(2) provides that such personal property may be sold to another governmental unit or quasi-governmental unit in the United States by private sale;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, authorizes the Department of Public Works to donate the 2012 Chevy Tahoe, VIN #1GNSKLE05CR204551, to the Monroe Township Board of Education.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-5-2020-127 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND OF UTILITY
OVERPAYMENT. (refund \$313.97)**

WHEREAS, the Utility Department, by copy of a letter dated April 21, 2020, copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "A", has recommended the Council approve the following utility overpayment refund:

<u>Refund to:</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Frank Goodman 24 Fisher Island Ct. Monroe Twp., N.J. 08831	requesting credit balance	\$313.97

WHEREAS, Council has reviewed the recommendation of the Utility Department and finds the request for the above refund to be reasonable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of Monroe, in the County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey that the request is hereby authorized and that a refund be made to **Frank Goodman in the amount of \$313.97**.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

**R-5-2020-128 RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE GRACE PERIOD FOR 2020
SECOND QUARTER PROPERTY TAXES TO JUNE 1, 2020.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:4-66(a), second-quarter property taxes are due May 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, property taxpayers in the Township may be suffering from one or more financial hardships caused by or related to the COVID-19 pandemic, including but not limited to a substantial loss of or drop in income and additional expenses such as those relating to necessary healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 outbreak has caused substantial disruption for many property taxpayers in the Township, making it difficult for many residents to meet the May 1, 2020 due date for timely payment of real property taxes; and

WHEREAS, under N.J.S.A. 54:4-67(a), local governments may fix the rate of interest to be charged for the nonpayment of taxes, assessments, or other municipal liens or charges, on or before the date when they would become delinquent, and may provide that no interest shall be charged if payment of any installment is made within the tenth calendar day following the date upon which the same became delinquent, thereby establishing a grace period running through May 11, 2020 for second-quarter property taxes in the case of municipalities on a calendar year budget cycle; and

WHEREAS, Governor Philip D. Murphy issued Executive Order No. 130 allowing a governing body of a municipality with a calendar year budget cycle to adopt a resolution extending the grace period for the payment of second-quarter property taxes to a date no later than June 1, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Council of the Township of

Monroe, in the County of Middlesex and State of New Jersey that the grace period for the payment of second-quarter property taxes is extended to **June 1, 2020**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the municipal clerk shall notify the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs of this resolution not later than the third business day next following the adoption of said resolution.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

Resolution requested by Councilman Dipierro

**R-5-2020-129 RESOLUTION HONORING ALL TOWNSHIP GRADUATES WITH
A SOUND-OFF.**

WHEREAS, there exists a State of Emergency in our nation, state and municipalities that is having an impact on all of our communities because of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on May 4, 2020 Governor Murphy determined that all schools in New Jersey would be closed for the remainder of the academic year due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the students in grades PreK-12 in our Township who were scheduled to graduate in 2020 have been severely impacted by this disruption in their lives; and

WHEREAS, the residents of the Township of Monroe should be given an opportunity to honor these students for their hard work and academic accomplishments over the years; and

WHEREAS, these students should be honored for their successes;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the Township Council of Monroe Township extend their sincere congratulations to all of the 2020 graduating students who continue to attend classes and pursue their studies under these circumstances;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the Township Council wish to acknowledge their achievements and on June 24, 2020 at 7:00 PM wish to request the residents of the Township to join them in a Sound Off honoring the Monroe Township graduates by asking all residents to stop what they are doing for a moment and step outside to make some noise and salute these local graduates in order to celebrate their hard work and achievements and to extend our pride in their personal successes.

SO RESOLVED, as aforesaid.

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 Resolutions Duly Filed.

REPORTS:

Mayor's Report – Mayor Tamburro read aloud the following:

“I think we can safely say this is a challenge like no other in our lifetime. We are living through history each day.

I want to start my message by saying how immensely proud I am of our community, each one of you, for protecting each other by staying home. I have asked a lot of you to completely change your daily lives, and you have delivered by putting others above yourselves.

It is a real sacrifice. It is painful. And as I have said before, it is the opposite of who we are as social beings.

But our efforts to stay home are slowing the virus, and right now it's the only tool we have. Without the sacrifices that we have each made over the past 7 weeks, there would have been so many more cases, many more deaths, more crowded hospitals and greater suffering. That is why we must continue our social distancing practices.

Yet even with our efforts, the virus has taken a significant toll. 66 residents have died from official data of the Middlesex County Department of Health. Those are the current official numbers, but I think time will show with more testing – and confirmations, the real number is sadly much higher.

Fifty residents, or 76% of the COVID-19 deaths in our community are in private long-term care communities. As a Township, we have given much of our PPE supplies to these facilities to help fight the

Coronavirus. I have contacted Governor Murphy and the Commissioner of Health to provide additional assistance, and I agree the National Guard must be dispatched across the State to help in this specific crisis.

Last week, we surpassed 500 confirmed cases, but with the likelihood of so many undocumented cases, that too is likely well short of the true count.

We all expect our elected leaders to provide guidance, honesty and leadership in times of crisis like this.

As much as I want to tell you we are through the woods or when this will end – the answer is we just do not know the course of this virus. Much of it depends on our actions. It could be a while, so we must be guided by two central pillars to make it through this.

First, we all must listen to scientists and medical professionals to help guide the way forward. We are undoubtedly the greatest country in the world, and we can rebuild our lives, our businesses, and our community, but our health must come first.

Second, we must act as community. This virus binds us together like never before. We hold each other's fate in our hands.

We are all suffering, but today, like no time in the past, we must love each other, be kind to each other.

We must lift each other up – and unite as a community and a nation. Kindness and helping others have never been more important.

It is working as a united community that makes us great. I want to thank the doctors, nurses and medical workers that put their lives at risk. Many of those are our family, neighbors and friends.

I want to thank all the essential workers who are protecting us. Our Township EMS workers, grocery store workers, pharmacists, police and firefighters, postal workers, restaurant employees, and all those who are keeping us going.

You deserve our praise. And I want to thank each of us who are helping our neighbors during these difficult times. The thousands of kind acts that happen each day that go unnoticed.

As always, if you need something essential – the Township stands ready to help in any way we can.

My Council Colleagues and I will be continuing to work hard each and every day to help get us through this pandemic.

In closing. We are in this together. If we stick together, follow the science and love each other, I know we can make it through this Monroe Strong!

Because WE ARE MONROE!

I will be praying for everyone in our community. Thank you.”

Administrator's Report – Administrator Weinberg reiterated Mayor Tamburro's message that we are living through history and extended his thanks to both the Mayor and Council for their leadership and focus during this challenging time. He also extended thanks to all of the Department Heads, OEM, DPW, Police Department and employees for their hard work in working together during this time.

Noted that several weeks ago, in trying to move ahead of this pandemic, the Mayor had worked tirelessly to determine how to effectively shut down certain Township services. In keeping the residents safe, and as we continue to navigate through this pandemic, Administrator Weinberg commented that we will continue to be tested and thanked everyone for their continuous cooperation and understanding.

He once again thanked the EMS, Fire District Firefighters, Police Department, DPW, M.T.U.D. employees and Department Heads and noted that we will continue to move forward being guided by data and science.

Lastly, it was mentioned that a Special Meeting will be held on May 18th as we have been working very hard on the budget amongst the everchanging world we are living in. We are looking at all of our revenue, and know that some tough decisions will be made but we will continue to work together to make wise choices.

Engineer's Report – Reported that the Applegarth Park & Ride is now complete as the contractor recently completed their punch list items.

The Traffic Signalization/Intersection Improvement Project at the intersection of Matchaponix Avenue/Spotswood Gravel Hill Road and Pergola Avenue is anticipated to begin at the end of the month and with that a Nixle Alert will go out prior to.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Councilman Dipierro–

- Thanked all of the First Responders, Chief of Police, Fire Chiefs, EMS, OEM, Administration, Township employees and Business Owners for doing all they can during this trying time. The hardest thing he has seen is the Chief of Police enforcing all of the guidelines that are mandated to be put into place, so many thanks and appreciation to him and his department for doing everything they can. Also thanked the Fire Chiefs for doing the drive by birthdays that you may have seen on Facebook. It is extremely uplifting to see the faces of the children who are also affected during these times as well.
- Questioned the status of the Stonebridge bond and asked for an update; Township Attorney Rainone stated that the lawsuits have been filed and it is in the beginning stages of discovery with files being transferred over to his office from the prior counsel. Engineer Rasimowicz added that Lennar has responded and is supposed to start working this week on punch list items. He added that he will follow up to see if they start the work.
- Thanked DPW for their hard work as it is very difficult to do their job under the circumstances we are under.
- Asked Administrator Weinberg if he could have the figure on how much tax revenue has been collected for the 2nd quarter taxes which are due May 1st; Administrator Weinberg answered that thus far we have collected \$34.6 million of the \$50.6 million we collect per quarter which is approximately 69% so we are in good shape.

Council Vice-President Schneider –

- Thanked all of the essential workers for their selflessness during this tragedy. She stated that she does not believe she has seen anything like this in her lifetime and is very appreciative of all of their hard work. Watching the News coverage on Covid-19 is such a tragedy. Hoping for a return to normalcy soon, hopefully July or August.

Councilman Dalina –

- Extended thanks to all of the essential workers. In looking for some semblance of normalcy, he extended his appreciation to our DPW for opening the yard and allowing residents to come and go. Their hard work has not gone unnoticed.
- Commended all of the residents who he has seen at Veteran's Park for practicing social distancing and remaining vigilant during these times.
- Commented that this virus has been a tragedy at the assisted living facilities and hopes the State will look at the seriousness of the issues that has come about with this.
- Urged everyone to continue patronizing the local businesses as they need our support.
- To all of the Star Wars fans, May the 4th be with you.

Councilman Baskin –

- Concurred with all that was said by the Mayor and Council regarding appreciation of the First Responders.
- The main area that seems to be problematic is people congregating and not keeping a safe distance and that happens at the nursing homes which has attributed to such a great tragedy at those facilities.
- Urged all residents to obtain a Mail In Ballot that way they stay protected. Noted that many poll workers are seniors foresees that being problematic for the Clerk in finding enough people to work the election. Hopes for a remedy and everyone can remain safe during the elections.

Council President Cohen –

- Stated she is very proud of living in the Township and extremely proud of all of the employees for their vigilance. Also noted the toll it takes on the First Responders and their families but believes that we will all persevere and recover as a Township, State and Country.

Public Comment:

Lucille Panos, 1208C Landera Plaza – Mrs. Panos questioned why there was no public comment for O-5-2020-008 and asked if that was legal; Township Attorney Rainone answered that this was the first reading for this Ordinance therefore there is no public comment. Mrs. Panos asked how many tax dollars we would be losing by purchasing the property.

Mrs. Panos rolled into her next comment stating that she is very appreciative of everyone working hard during this pandemic but does not understand why we have refused to have open communication with the residents by not making information available on the Township website. She added that it is not right in this day and age to not have the information available and if we did it would have avoided the other residents' questions about what the negotiated terms and amount was for O-4-2020-007. Mrs. Panos stated that she is formally requesting to have the Council reconsider.

Urged all residents to Vote by Mail as poll workers are hard to come by and will be even more so during this pandemic.

Prakash Parab, 33 Dayna Dr. – Mr. Parab commented that this epidemic has hit us all with schools closing and the constant news coming in. He noted that our First Responders and their families are stressed. Mr. Parab shared that the Monroe Indians for Civic Action have created several initiatives to help support those on our front lines and the Township residents. He shared that they have made masks and supplied PPE to our front-line workers and those in need, as well as, raising money to provide meals to our front-line workers and to supply our food pantry with needed stock so all of those affected can utilize.

Mr. Parab shared a concern that he has seen at Stop and Shop where the self-check out area is not properly marked for social distancing within the area. He noted that area becomes very crowded with both seniors and young adults utilizing those check outs and not maintaining properly distanced. Administrator Weinberg stated that Chief Biennas is in regular communication with the manager to ensure they are complying with social distancing and will follow up.

Mr. Parab asked if we could add how many people have been admitted to the hospitals as this was given at one point but has not been received lately. Chief Biennas stated that the information released is what is given from the Department of Health and if they do not provide that specific report than he cannot give it out.

Chrissy Skurbe, 21 Preakness Dr. – Mrs. Skurbe questioned where the two detention basins were located in reference to O-5-2020-008; Engineer Rasimowicz stated that one is located behind Mrs. Skurbe's lot and the other one is located on the northern side. Mrs. Skurbe asked if the Township will be maintaining these to which Engineer Rasimowicz answered yes as per the requirements of the Ordinance. He added that the developer has provided basin contributions to the Township and the Township will take over maintaining. Mrs. Skurbe asked how much that will cost the taxpayers and commented that many neighborhoods have them and finds it odd that the Township would take over paying for these and not the other ones. Engineer Rasimowicz clarified that the stormwater basins belong to the Township therefore the Township would be responsible to maintain and the others are in privately owned areas where the HOA would be responsible to maintain. He explained this is a Township road with no HOA similar to the Colts Run community. Mrs. Skurbe asked why the builders are not responsible with it instead of it being the taxpayer's responsibility, to which Administrator Weinberg answered, that when the developer transfers the basins, they also pay a fee to the Township to maintain these basins in perpetuity which goes into the basin trust fund. This trust account has approximately \$1.7 million and is what is used to maintain the basins not taxpayer money.

Mrs. Skurbe shared that her youngest son attends Kiddie Corral and they organized a drive through parade for Teacher Appreciation Week. She noted that only 20 teachers were in the parking lot, properly social distanced standing approximately 8 feet apart and during the last half hour of the event someone called the police citing a noise complaint and the drive by celebration was asked shut down. Mrs. Skurbe commented that the young children are especially having a hard time understanding what is going on and this event was a nice break for the teachers and students until residents called to complain about it. Mrs. Skurbe asked if there was a change in the noise ordinance as this was at 11:00am. She asked if this would affect the schools from having a drive by celebration for the graduates if they choose to do so. Mrs. Skurbe also commented that this particular event was on such a small scale that she has seen more traffic and packed parking lots from Stop and Shop and the parks and would like an explanation given to the residents to explain what is permitted and what is not. Chief Biennas commented that he is unaware of why this particular event was shut down but he asked Mrs. Skurbe to contact him via phone or email so he can get her an answer.

Michelle Arminio, 9 Nathaniel St. – Mrs. Arminio asked what the percentage of participation in taxes was before the Covid-19 pandemic; Township Attorney Rainone asked Mrs. Arminio for clarification on her question; Administrator Weinberg responded that the collection rate is normally 99.02% and for the 1st quarter of this year it was 99%. He added that for the 2nd quarter we are closing in on 70% which is great being that the deadline is not until June. Mrs. Arminio asked what the proper terminology is when asking this question and Administrator Weinberg answered it would be "Tax Collection Rate".

Mrs. Arminio asked in regards to O-4-2020-007 what the nearest intersection is to which Engineer Rasimowicz answered that it is midway between Federal and Union Valley Road on the west side. Mrs. Arminio stated that she thought there was discussion of having a passive water retention basin in that area to which Engineer Rasimowicz responded that he was not aware. Administrator Weinberg clarified.

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Councilman Baskin, the **PUBLIC COMMENTS** portion of the Meeting was closed.

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

UPON MOTION made by Councilman Dalina and seconded by Council Vice-President Schneider, the Regular Meeting was Adjourned at 8:05pm.

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

Patricia Reid

PATRICIA REID, Township Clerk

Miriam Cohen

MIRIAM COHEN, Council President

Minutes were adopted on: June 22, 2020.