



TOWN OF MONROE

TOWN COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Session # 2021-11

Regular Meeting - Monday, April 26, 2021 – 8:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Chairperson Enid Lipeles (**remotely**)
Vice-Chairperson Sean O'Rourke
Councilmember Jennifer Aguilar (**remotely**)
Councilmember Jonathan Formichella
Councilmember Dee Dee Martin
Councilmember Jason Maur
Councilmember Kevin Reid (**remotely**)
Councilmember Terry Rooney
Councilmember Tony Scott (**remotely**)

ALSO PRESENT:

First Selectman Kenneth Kellogg
Town Attorney Frank Lieto

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairperson Lipeles led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairperson Lipeles stated that this is a hybrid meeting. She further stated that Town Council Members, designated staff, invited presenters, and members of the Press may attend in-person or remotely.

Public access to this meeting will be limited to joining this meeting as follows:

THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED AS A HYBRID MEETING AS FOLLOWS:

Town Council Members, designated staff, invited presenters, and members of the Press may attend in-person or remotely.

Public access to this meeting will be limited to joining this meeting as follows:

1. **A LIMITED NUMBER of IN-PERSON** public attendees will be permitted, based upon the reduced capacity of the meeting room, pursuant to the Governor's Executive Orders. ***Any member of the public wishing to attend in-person must email Meetings@MonroeCT.org at least 24 hours in advance. You will be notified as to whether or not space is available.***
2. **ALL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC may attend remotely as follows:**
 - Via computer, tablet or smartphone at this link:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/235940125>
 - Via phone at: 1-571-317-3122, Access Code: 235-940-125

Please refer to further information provided at the end of this agenda regarding this remote electronic meeting and the use of GoToMeeting. Written public comments in compliance with the Guidelines for Public Participation in Remote Electronic Meetings may be submitted in up to one hour in advance of the meeting via electronic mail to towncouncil@monroect.org.

CONSENT CALENDAR

- A. Approval of the minutes and voting record of the Town Council Regular Meeting held on April 12, 2021 (Session 2021-10).
- B. Acceptance of donations received for the following programs:
 - **EWML:** \$2,804.18, In-Kind donations of café supplies, 2 books and a knitting needle collection
 - **Emergency Management:** In-Kind donations of food for vaccine clinic volunteers
- C. **Resolution #21-43: RESOLVED**, that the Town Council hereby approved the First Selectman's reappointment of Mary Porter (D) of 26 Ridgewood Drive to the Board of Health with a term ending April 27, 2024.

Consent Calendar passed as presented by Chairperson Enid Lipeles.

COMMUNICATIONS

- A. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated April 21, 2021 regarding donations for various departments and programs.
- B. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated April 21, 2021 regarding reappointments to boards and commissions.
- C. Letter of Opinion from the Town Attorney to the First Selectman dated April 21, 2021 regarding Romeo's Deli & Grill, LLC Concessionaire Agreement.
- D. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated April 21, 2021 regarding Romeo's Deli & Grill, LLC Concessionaire Agreement.
- E. Letter of Opinion from the Town Attorney to the First Selectman dated April 19, 2021 regarding Agreements with Diamond Elite Merchant Solutions, LLC, First Data Merchant Services, LLC and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
- F. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated April 21, 2021 regarding Agreements with Diamond Elite Merchant Solutions, LLC, First Data Merchant Services, LLC and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
- G. Memo from the First Selectman to the Town Council Chair dated April 23, 2021 regarding revisions to Social Services Coordinator job description.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

APPOINTMENTS – None

ACTION ITEMS

Town Council Committee on Planning & Zoning, Public Works and Park & Recreation Matters

Councilmember Rooney stated that there was nothing new to report.

Town Council Committee on Legislative & Administrative Matters

Councilmember Reid stated that L&A met and all of the items that were discussed at L&A are before Council this evening.

First Selectman's Update

First Selectman Kellogg stated that he was going to start with a COVID-19 update. He stated that the 2-week rolling case rate in Monroe has gone down slightly again, now at averaging just over 5 new cases per day. As of last week, Monroe has had 1,363 cases, and 15 deaths, since the start of the pandemic. In addition to making an appointment through VAMS, starting on April 28, 2021 the Town will welcome walk-ins to the vaccination clinics from 11am-2pm. The clinics are currently offering Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccine. *First Selectman Kellogg* stated that State Restrictions will be relaxed starting May 1, 2021. The curfew for restaurants, entertainment venues, and theaters will be moved to midnight and that establishments that do not serve food will be allowed to serve alcohol – outdoors only. Also, the 8-person per table limit will be lifted – outdoors only. He also stated that starting May 19, 2021, all remaining business restrictions will end.

First Selectman Kellogg stated that the Board of Finance completed their work on the budget and was submitted for the annual Referendum on Tuesday, May 4, 2021.

First Selectman Kellogg stated that Lash Demand, a new business at 450 Monroe Turnpike was approved and are planning to open on May 1, 2021. He also stated that McDonald's at 390 Monroe Turnpike was approved for significant renovations and a double drive through. *First Selectman Kellogg* also stated that Last Mile Support Facility at 10 Victoria Drive was also approved and that P&Z Regulations have been relaxed and restaurant owners may now submit plans that may be approved administratively by staff under the 'minor change to site plan' process.

First Selectman Kellogg stated that in celebration of Arbor Day, there will be a tree-planting on Friday, April 30, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. on the Stepney Green in collaboration with Save Our Stepney Task Force and Tree Warden Dave Solek.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Resolution #21-44: To consider and act upon a resolution regarding Romeo's Deli & Grill, LLC Concessionaire Agreement.

Motion: **S. O'Rourke**

RESOLVED, that Kenneth M. Kellogg, First Selectman of the Town of Monroe, is authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town of Monroe, the Concessionaire Agreement and any associated documents by and between Romeo's Deli & Grill, LLC for concession services at Wolfe Park.

Second: **J. Maur**

Discussion: *First Selectman Kellogg* stated there is an agreement with Romeo's Deli & Grill, LLC to provide concession services at Wolfe Park and that while the 2020 season was extremely challenging as a result of the pandemic, they are eager to continue providing the service with a three-year agreement and expanded service. *Councilmember Maur* stated that he was happy that Romeo's will

be extending their services and that he would like to see the Town explore the idea of having concessions available at the Senior Center.

Motion passed 9-0

- B. Resolution #21-45:** To consider and act upon a resolution regarding Agreements with Diamond Elite Merchant Solutions, LLC, First Data Merchant Services, LLC and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A..

Motion: S. O'Rourke

RESOLVED, that Kenneth M. Kellogg, First Selectman of the Town of Monroe, is authorized to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town of Monroe, the Merchant Processing Application and Agreement, the Merchant Services Program Terms and Conditions Confirmation Page, and any additional or associated documents by and between the Town of Monroe and Diamond Elite Merchant Solutions, LLC, First Data Merchant Services, LLC and Wells Fargo, N.A. related to Merchant Payment Processing Services, including without limitation, that certain indemnification Letter Agreement with Diamond Elite Merchant Solutions, LLC.

Second: J. Formichella

Discussion: *First Selectman Kellogg* stated that there has been an ongoing initiative to expand acceptance of credit and debit cards for payments for various fees, such as at the Town Clerk's Office, Library and at the Garder Road Landfill. The Town of Trumbull is using the same services at the Spring Hill Transfer Station. He stated research has determined that Diamond Elite Merchant Solutions, LLC and First Data Merchant Services, LLC/Wells Fargo Bank N.A. are able to meet the Town's needs while processing each transaction in the most cost effective way.

Motion passed 9-0

- C. Resolution #21-46:** To consider and act upon a resolution regarding revisions to the Social Services Coordinator.

Motion: S. O'Rourke

RESOLVED, that the Town Council hereby approves the proposed revisions to the Social Services Coordinator Job Description, and authorizes the First Selectman to implement as soon as practical.

Second: J. Formichella

Discussion: *First Selectman Kellogg* stated that there are currently limited clinical services of a Licensed Clinical Social Worker provided to Town residents through a shared position with the Board of Education. He stated that the employee who is providing these services has given notice that she will be limited to providing service to the Board of Education. *First Selectman Kellogg* stated that this situation provides the Town with the opportunity to expand the role of the existing, part-time Social Services Coordinator to include these limited clinical services, as this employee now has the LCSW credentials. *Councilmember Aguilar* stated that she was very happy for the employee in the new position and thinks it's an excellent opportunity.

Motion passed 9-0

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Lipeles adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cat Senenko
Recording Secretary