

Florence, New Jersey
May 2, 2007

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Baldorossi at 8:00 PM. President Baldorossi led the Salute to the Flag.

The following statement was read by the Township Clerk: "Notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was published in the Burlington County Times on January 7, 2007; given to the Register News for information. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board."

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Frank Baldorossi, President
John Fratinardo (8:05 PM)
Bruce Garganio
Elizabeth Ryan
Jerry Sandusky

Also present:

Mayor Michael Muchowski; Richard Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; William John Kearns, Jr.; Township Solicitor; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

MINUTES

None at this time.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Ryan; seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Township Clerk's report for April. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Ryan made a MOTION; seconded by Sandusky to approve the Treasurer's Bill List. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing at this time.

APPLICATIONS

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Maryann Marian, 131 Third Avenue, stated that she thought it would be nice to honor Florence Township residents that have served in Iraq during the Patriotic Celebration Parade. She thought about reaching out to the American Legion and the VFW, but a lot of times the younger people in the military are not joining those organizations. Ms. Marian also suggested that Council pass a

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Proclamation honoring the service men and women. Council Member Ryan believes it is a good idea. Council Member Garganio also believes it is a good idea and feels that even if they are not members, the American Legion and VFW may have contact information.

Mayor Muchowski stated that Post 194 walks with colors in the parade and stated that the township could invite anyone who has served in any of the recent conflicts to walk behind the color formation with a banner.

NOTE: 8:05PM, Council Member Fratinardo present.

Council Member Garganio suggested that Administrator Brook or Assistant Administrator Sahol send out a letter to the American Legions and VFW and also post on Channel 19 and advertise in the Register News.

Fred Wainwright, Florence-Columbus Road, wanted the governing body to be aware that he spoke to Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, about a problem. Mr. Guzzi stated that the problem is in regards to some drainage and standing water issues and requested that it be put on the Agenda for next week.

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, commended the Police Officer and Animal Control Officer who responded to his neighbor's house this past Sunday when their dog had a seizure. He did not get the Police Officer's name.

Mr. Lotter stated that he was here at the last meeting and a little upset. He appreciates that the governing body and administration were understanding and addressed his concerns.

Richard Cheesman, 262 Fifth Avenue, commended the Police Department and has seen increased police presence in his neighborhood. He believes they are going in the right direction and hopes it continues.

Mr. Cheesman stated that at the last Council Meeting he attended he informed the township of a dip in Fifth Avenue at the corner of Hornberger Avenue that has not been addressed. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that he did look at it and explained that Hornberger Avenue is a concrete roadway that has been overlaid. When that was done, that dip has to be there to the extent that it is so the water will continue to flow along the curb line so it properly goes to the inlet basins. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that there is a dip at the end of every avenue. Mr. Cheesman does not believe that any avenue has a dip as bad as the one at the end of Fifth Avenue. Assistant Administrator Sahol, Mr. Guzzi and Mr. Cheesman will meet on site to look at it.

Mr. Cheesman asked if a stop sign could be installed at the end of Fifth Avenue at South Street? He has seen "some close calls." Administrator Brook will speak to the Chief of Police. He explained that stop signs are regulated by the State; he is not sure if they would permit the township to put one there that is enforceable. If there is any form of regulatory sign that can be put up, the township will do it.

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All residents having an opportunity to be heard, MOTION by Sandusky; seconded by Ryan to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-82

**ADOPT MUNICIPAL BUDGET
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE**

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-83

**A RESOLUTION FIXING THE COMPENSATION
OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
FOR 2007**

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-84

**A RESOLUTION CANCELING TAXES ON PROPERTY USED FOR
RAILROAD PURPOSES**

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-85

**AUTHORIZE CONTRACT WITH THIRD PARTY FOR
COAH (AFFORDABLE HOUSING) TO
NEW JERSEY HOUSING AND MORTGAGE
FINANCE AGENCY (HMFA)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-86

**A RESOLUTION CANCELING TAXES ON PROPERTY
OWNED BY A TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN**

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-87

**APPROVE THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OF FIREWORKS
FOR FLORENCE TOWNSHIP'S PATRIOTIC CELEBRATION DAY**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky that Resolutions 2007-82 through 2007-87 be approved and act on Resolution No. 2007-88 separately.

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On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Fratinaro, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-88

APPROVING 2007-2008 FLORENCE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BUDGET

It was on the MOTION of Fratinaro, seconded by Ryan that Resolution 2007-88 be approved.

On the Question

Council Member Sandusky explained that the residents voted down the school budget, even though there was no increase in the tax rate. The subcommittee of the governing body asked the School Board to reduce the tax by ½ cent, which they did. Council Member Ryan commended the subcommittee for working with the School Board

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Fratinaro, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Garganio

Motion carries.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-06
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN
OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2007-06 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

Council President Baldorossi opened the meeting to the public for comments at this time.

No public comment.

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It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to close the public hearing. All ayes – motion carried.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Fratinaro, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-07
(1st Reading)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING CHAPTER 134 OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE TO PROVIDE FOR TRUCK ROUTES AND FOR STREETS OR PARTS OF STREETS WHERE TRUCKS OVER FOUR TONS GROSS VEHICLE WEIGHT ARE PROHIBITED

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Garganio to approve Ordinance No. 2007-07 on first reading and set adoption for May 16, 2007.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Fratinaro, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Nothing at this time.

Mayor Muchowski

- Mayor Muchowski thanked Administrator Brook and all of the department heads for working diligently and effectively on this year's **budget** and keeping the tax rate stable.
- Mayor Muchowski spoke with Rick Cureton, **Whitesell Construction**, who discussed their future growth. He asked that Mayor Muchowski advise the governing body that Whitesell has expressed interest in the Roebing Steel Mill site, which would be distribution type warehouses. Mayor Muchowski advised Mr. Cureton that the governing body will be meeting with the EPA to go over concerns, hurdles and financial cost considerations of the redevelopment of the site.

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Mr. Cureton also expressed interest in some of the acreage located next to the Water and Sewer Plant.

Mr. Cureton also discussed the municipality's overtaking one of Whitesell's internal roadways. Whitesell may also meet with the County to discuss the possibility of them building a bypass road through their development; then Florence Township would take ownership of Front Street. The bypass would be a County Road.

Mayor Muchowski will provide more specific detail in a memo later in the week.

Administrator

- Nothing at this time.

Assistant Administrator

- Nothing at this time.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, reminded Council that he would like to discuss the **Bike Way Grant** at next week's meeting.

Council Member Garganio stated that there has been discussion in the past of a **walkway from the Wawa to the new high school**, but one problem would be the creek. He suggested a small bridge to cross the creek. Mr. Guzzi stated that from a permitting standpoint it would be an easier task to widen the existing crossing then to create a new structure. He suggested speaking to the County about a cooperative effort; it would be to their benefit to get pedestrians off the roadway. Mr. Guzzi will contact the County to begin discussions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, stated that Council does a "public relations" type ad during different times of the year in the **Burlington County Times** regarding staying safe and not drinking and driving. The newspaper has asked if the township would like to do a similar type **ad for Teacher Appreciation Week**. The ad will cost approximately \$50. Council in agreement to run the advertisement.

Council Member Garganio stated that two trees were donated and planted in the park area here and suggested since there is money left in the Bond Referendum for the Public Works Building, buying some **trees and planting** them in the same area. In the years to come it could create a nice picnic area for families. Council Member Ryan agrees to look at the cost. Council Member Garganio stated that Waste Management is paying for the bonding money. Will discuss further at next week's Worksession.

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BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council Member Ryan requested that when discussions take place with the **EPA** regarding the **Roebing Steel Mill site**, the town ask if EPA thinks additional federal dollars are needed for additional work. It may be time for the township to go to Washington and get the Congressional Delegation engaged and do something for Roebing. Mayor Muchowski agrees.

8:30 PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to adjourn the meeting. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

8:30 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab