

Florence, New Jersey
July 7, 2004

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 President Fratinardo at 8:00 PM. President Fratinardo led the Salute to the Flag.

The Township Clerk read the following statement: "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 4, 2004 and 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:

John Fratinardo, President
Bruce Garganio
Elizabeth Ryan
Jerry Sandusky

Also present:

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

PRESENTATION: CARRICKFERGIS, NORTHERN IRELAND

Maurice and Anne Langley of Carrickfergus, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, attended the meeting of the Florence Township Council. Mr. & Mrs. Langley were visiting friends who live in Roebing, James and Ginny Pereda.

During the meeting Mr. Langley presented, on behalf of the Mayor of Carrickfergus, a plaque, pen and pin to the Township of Florence. In return Mayor Muchowski presented Mr. Langley with a Florence Township flag, which he asked the Langleys to present to Alderman Mrs. May Beattie, Mayor of Carrickfergus, on his behalf.

MINUTES

Sandusky made a MOTION; seconded by Garganio to approve the following minutes. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

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| Regular Session: | May 19, 2004 and June 2, 2004 |
| Closed Session: | June 2, 2004 and June 9, 2004 |

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Ryan; seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Police report for June and the Tax Collector's report on the tax sale. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

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

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

- A. Social Affair: American Legion Post 194, Patriotic Celebration Day, July 10, 2004, Noon – 1:30 AM
- B. Social Affair: Marconi Lodge, Bocce Ball Tournament, August 7, 2004, 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Garganio to approve the above applications.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinardo
NOES: None
ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Varga, 20 Fourth Avenue, asked why the bids for the library's heating system were being rejected? Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that bids came in higher than anticipated and it will be rebid.

Mr. and Mrs. Cheesman, 262 Fifth Avenue, discussed a problem with drug dealing on their street and asked when something would be done. Administrator Brook explained to Mr. and Mrs. Cheesman that he could not go into detail about the investigation but there is an active investigation and it takes time to build a strong case.

Mr. Cheesman continued to speak about the drug activity on his street. Administrator Brook reiterated that he could not go into detail regarding an active investigation in public. He stated the police are diligently working on the situation, which takes time and reviewed the process the police must follow.

Diane De Zutter, 231 Fifth Avenue, discussed a residence where people, over and under 21 years of age, congregate outside and drink alcoholic beverages and smoke marijuana when the father is not home. She asked if something could be done about it if the father says he does not want them drinking on his property? Administrator Brook stated that the police can do something if they are smoking marijuana and the police can verify it. He also explained that the homeowner can file a trespassing complaint and have the parties removed. Administrator Brook will speak with the Chief of Police regarding this residence. Ms. De Zutter also discussed the foul language in her neighborhood.

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Mr. Cheesman asked if the street sweeper could clean Fifth Avenue? Administrator Brook stated that Fifth Avenue has been swept within the last four weeks and the Public Works Department summer help have been working on the avenues picking up trash.

Mr. Cheesman stated that the storm drain at the end of Fifth Avenue needs to be cleaned off. Mayor Muchowski stated that it will be added to the regular maintenance checklist and will be cleaned once a month.

Bill Bott, 64 Riverbank Drive, discussed a house in his neighborhood that was sold recently. Some of the neighbors believe it is being used as a group home or halfway house. He asked that the Township investigate and find out how it is being used. Administrator Brook will look into and report back.

Mr. Langley from No. Ireland discussed living in Northern Ireland and the drug problems there. He reiterated what Administrator Brook was trying to explain that it takes time to complete an investigation.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-139

**AUTHORIZE CONDITIONAL RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE BOND
FOR STANLEY NEUMAN SITE, BLOCK 162, LOT 5
S.N. GOLDEN**

Note: Release is conditioned upon payment of any and all escrow fees due

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-147

**AUTHORIZE INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH
BURLINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS
SLUDGE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-148

**REJECT ALL BIDS FOR HIGH EFFICIENT HEATING
SYSTEM BOILERS FOR
FLORENCE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY AND
AUTHORIZE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR TO
RE-ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-149

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION – NJS 40A:4-48

POLICE CAR PURCHASE

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-150

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF ONE 2004 FORD CROWN
VICTORIA POLICE INTERCEPTORS
POLICE VEHICLE, STATE CONTRACT PURCHASE
A45069**

RESOLUTION NO. 2004-151

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

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan that Resolutions 2004-139, 2004-147 through 2004-151 be approved.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinardo

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2004-08

(2nd Reading)

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING
THE FLORENCE CODE TO ESTABLISH STAFFING LEVELS IN
THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve Ordinance No. 2004-08 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

Nothing at this time.

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

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On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinardo

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCE NO. 2004-09

(2nd Reading)

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
VACATING THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN A CERTAIN 50 FOOT
WIDE STREET RUNNING FROM EAST THIRD STREET
TOWARD EAST FIFTH STREET AND TO PROVIDE THAT THE
VACATED AREA SHALL BE INCORPORATED INTO BLOCK 92,
LOTS 1.02, 3.02, 4, 2, 5.01 AND BLOCK 93, LOTS 1, 2.01, 2.02, 2.03,
3, 5, AND 6, LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE,
BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2004-09 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that this Ordinance vacates Civic Avenue from E. Third Street to E. Fifth Street. All parties have certified that they are interested and will pay the cost.

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: Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinardo

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCE NO. 2004 – 10

(1st Reading)

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

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It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve Ordinance No. 2004-10 on first reading and set adoption for July 21, 2004.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Fratinardo

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Nothing at this time.

Mayor Muchowski

- Mayor Muchowski asked Administrator Brook to explain to the public what has been done recently in the 200 block of the avenues in Roebling. Administrator Brook explained that Tom Sahol, Assistant Administrator and Tom Layou, Code Enforcement Official, inspected every property, front and back, and prepared a report on every property that was in violation. The property owners were notified of the violations. Two weeks later Mr. Layou inspected the properties again to verify which properties had fixed the problems. The property owners that have not complied were sent violation notices. Administrator Brook explained that in New Jersey violation notices are sent by regular and certified mail; the property owner has so many days to comply; if they do not comply, they are cited to court. Once a citation is issued to court it cannot be withdrawn. A full report was distributed to the governing body and kept on file. Administrator Brook explained that Assistant Administrator Sahol also inspected the recreation vehicle parking area on South Street to identify illegally parked vehicles.
- Assistant Administrator Sahol gave an overview of the events for **the Patriotic Day Celebration, which will be held Saturday, July 10, 2004.**
 - 9:00 AM Walk to benefit a young resident
 - 11:00AM Flag Raising
 - 12:00 AM Parade with Eugene Olaff as the Grand Marshall (Front Street at Oak Street to the Boulevard to W. Fourth Street to Broad Street ending at the American Legion on Sixth Street)
 - 7:00 PM Concert
 - 9:10PM Fireworks

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the Parade will be held in Florence for the second consecutive year due to a request from different organizations in Roebling, which would like the parade to be in Roebling next year for their centennial celebration.

Administrator

- Administrator Brook explained that the tax rate has not been received from the State, therefore there will be a delay in mailing the Township's tax bills to the residents. The

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governing body will be advised when the tax rate is received. The due date for the tax bills will need to be amended.

- Administrator Brook stated that the governing body will be receiving a report on Tilton Lane. Roebing Bank will be upgrading their property along with the old trailer park property.

Assistant Administrator

- Nothing at this time.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, reported that progress on the new public work's building is coming along very well.
- Mr. Guzzi also reported that the sidewalk project will begin on Tenth Avenue tomorrow. The entire project should be completed in approximately a week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mayor Muchowski asked that any agenda items that Solicitor Kearns needs to be present for next week be placed first on the Agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing at this time.

9:30 PM MOTION by Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:30 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab