

Florence, New Jersey
August 12, 2009

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 9:20PM. 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 11, 2009; 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:

Bruce Garganio
Dennis O'Hara
Sean Ryan
Jerry Sandusky
Frank Baldorossi

Also present:

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

MINUTES

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

Regular Session	August 5, 2009
Closed Session	August 5, 2009

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by O'Hara to receive and file the Chief of Police's report for July. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

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

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing at this time.

APPLICATIONS

A. Raffles: Florence Township High School Marching Band Booster Club, Inc.

- On Premise 50/50, 9/11/09, 9/17/09, 10/30/09, 11/6/09, 11/26/09, Florence Township High School Football Field, 7:00PM
- Off Premise 50/50, 11/26/09, Florence Township High School Football Field, 11:00AM

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

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Garganio, O'Hara, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nothing at this time.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-183

**APPROVE CURRENT ESTIMATE #1 AND CHANGE ORDER #1 FOR THE CONTRACT
FOR 2009 ROAD PROGRAM
ASPHALT PAVING, 500 EGG HARBOR ROAD, HAMMONTON, NJ**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-184

APPROVE ANNUAL AUDIT

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-185

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PAYMENT OF TAX BILLS

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-186

APPROVE AFFIRMATIVE FAIR HOUSING MARKETING PLAN

It was on the MOTION of O'Hara, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution No. 2009-183 through 2009-186.

Administrator Brook noted that he will prepare a Corrective Action Plan tomorrow on the Audit.

Administrator Brook will make sure that the CFO has the appropriate account number for Resolution No. 2009-183 for the Change Order.

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On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Garganio, O'Hara, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2009-18
(1st Reading)**

**THIRD ROUND FAIR SHARE ORDINANCE
FLORENCE TOWNSHIP, BURLINGTON COUNTY**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance 2009-18 on first reading.

Administrator Brook stated that this is a standard Ordinance that the State of New Jersey requires as part of the township's certification. Adoption is tentatively set for September 2, 2009.

Solicitor Kearns stated that section numbers will be assigned.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Garganio, O'Hara, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Nothing at this time

Mayor

- Nothing at this time.

Administrator

- Administrator Brook stated that per State of NJ requirements the letter regarding **Storm Water Management** will be included with the tax bills when they go out.
- Administrator Brook stated that **Greenbriar** has made a request to release Sections 3 & 5 of their Performance Bond. They have made a significant amount of progress. Will discuss at a future meeting. Greenbriar's Homeowners Association will be notified of potential action in September.

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- Administrator Brook stated that one of the **Police Officers** will be **retiring** in January. There are other Police Officers that are potentially able to retire next year and one in early 2011. He is looking for a consensus from the governing body; he can move forward in notifying Civil Service, get a list and begin the process for possibly the fall **Police Academy** of this year. Council Member Sandusky asked if only sending one to the academy in the fall would leave the department short handed where a lot of overtime would have to be paid out? He asked if there was a possibility to send two candidates to the academy? Administrator Brook stated that it would be preferable to look at the spring academy when there is a better idea of what the 2010 budget looks like. They will also have a better idea of who is actually retiring since they have to make a commitment to the township seven to eight months in advance. Council Members are in favor of sending a candidate to the fall Police Academy.
- Administrator Brook explained that luckily the Police Officer whose **police vehicle** was hit by another vehicle, while he was sitting in the police vehicle, during a car stop was not seriously injured. He asked for a **MOTION to replace the vehicle with a vehicle that is under State Contract**. The MOTION will be memorialized with a Resolution at the September 2nd meeting.

Administrator Brook gave details of the accident and praised the heroics of the police officers that responded to the scene.

Council Vice President O'Hara asked if they would be purchasing a Tahoe? Administrator Brook explained that they have to look at how to budget the purchase and the best way is to use the Ordinance that was passed earlier in the year and take any money from the insurance company and apply it against the costs. It would be more difficult to finance a car out of the current fund budget unless he did it as an emergency appropriation. This way the township can buy something that is under State Contract, which would be a Tahoe. The cost between a cruiser and a Tahoe is only \$500 to \$800.

Council Member Ryan questioned the fuel efficiency of a Tahoe versus a cruiser?

Administrator Brook explained that the problem with buying a cruiser is it cannot be done out of a Bond Ordinance, it has to be done out of the budget. If he cannot get it under State Contract, then an emergency appropriation outside of the bid threshold has to be done without any bidding. He knows they can get a Tahoe. Council Member Garganio asked if the Police Department had a preference? Administrator Brook stated that the Chief of Police advised him that he has no preference; he stated what ever fits into the budget. The Police Department does like the Tahoes and the way that they operate; along with the fact that they are also multi-faceted from the standpoint of how many police officers are EMS. Majority of the time the police arrive on scene before the EMS. Administrator Brook believes the preference would be a Tahoe but the Chief would be happy with a replacement either way. Administrator Brook is looking for an easier way for the township to finance it.

Discussion followed regarding the fuel efficiency difference between a car and a Tahoe. Administrator Brook will look into the fuel efficiency difference for future purchases and report back.

Administrator Brook believes the State of NJ allows a Tahoe to go under a Bond Ordinance but not a car due to the five-year life of a Tahoe.

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It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by O'Hara to replace the police vehicle that was involved in an accident with a Tahoe under State contract. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carries.

- Administrator Brook noted that action may be taken following Closed Session.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

- Assistant Administrator Sahol reported on the harassment program lead by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that was carried out Monday to rid the **Wilkie Park of turkey buzzards**. Three (3) effigies were hung Tuesday morning and the harassment continued that night. When the USDA went back to the park last night, none of the turkey buzzards came near the park; they flew by and got out of the area as soon as possible. The USDA stated that is an indication that they are spooked from the area. Unfortunately the turkey buzzards are in great numbers by the end of the Boulevard at W. Fifth Street. When the USDA scared them out of that area, close to 100 turkey buzzards fled and flew south past the turnpike bridge. They tried to locate them without success. Council President asked if they would try to come back to their home? Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that they will try to come back and it is now up to the township to continue with harassment such as noise and lights. The USDA left literature on how to carry out the harassment program and the equipment that needs to be purchased, which is inexpensive. Tomorrow the USDA will be hanging effigies in the area of the Boulevard and W. Fifth Street.

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that there were no complaints from the residents; they were very understanding of the noise and effigies. Some residents came out and thanked them.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Council Vice President O'Hara asked Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, to check **Norman Avenue**, there is no striping. Mr. Guzzi will look into.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Council President Baldorossi asked what is being done with the ball field in **Nykita Field**? Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the first concern to address is the safety concern of the condition of the fence and dugouts. He consulted with the baseball association, who is the heaviest user of the field, to get their opinion on what could be done to make the field safe and playable. The president of the baseball association gave dimensions that are somewhat shorter than the existing dimensions of the field. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the highest level of play on the field now is the Sophomore Legion level, which is not a recreation program. Mayor Berry noted that there is an over 25-year-old league that plays on Nykita Field on Sundays. Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the men's league, which has yet to seek municipal approval or show insurance for proper use of the facility, is there on Sundays. The Police are aware and have done what they can. David Dennison, Recreation Director, has discussed with the league what they need to use that field but they have not come to the office. Assistant Administrator Sahol does not recommend creating that field for anything other than township programs.

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Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the recommendation from the Mike Pepe, Little League President, is to go from 340 feet to 320 feet, with power alleys all laid out by people that play the game. Mr. Pepe offered to meet with Assistant Administrator Sahol and Rich Pendle, Public Works Superintendent, to go over the league's interest. Mr. Pepe brought back the entire league's opinion; only one parent felt the field should be made bigger.

Assistant Administrator Sahol noted that the dugouts will be coming down. Council Member Sandusky feels that the dugouts are the first thing that needs to be dealt with; they are in deplorable condition. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that he must get a permit for the demolition of the dugouts because there is electric. He believes the dugouts will come down the beginning of September.

Mayor Berry asked Assistant Administrator Sahol to find out what the dimensions down the lines need to be to qualify for high school baseball? He would like to be sure that if the high school ever has to play a game there, it would meet the standards. Council Vice President O'Hara would like Senior Babe Ruth to be able to play on that field.

Council will discuss dimensions of the field further after the report is received from Little League.

The men's league and the Chief of Police will be advised that the men's league is playing at Nykita Field without township approval; the township would be liable if someone were to get hurt. The Police will remove them from the field if they play there.

Council Vice President O'Hara discussed the letter from the **Burlington County Chamber of Commerce**. They are offering **free membership** into the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Berry recommends that the township take advantage of the offer. It may help the Economic Development Committee. Council Members are in agreement to join the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council Member Ryan stated that the Sterling Bank project turned out very well.

Council Member Ryan stated that the Delaware Avenue project is also coming out very well. Doctor Manser is making a productive use of a historic building.

10:00PM MOTION by O'Hara, seconded by Sandusky to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

10:00PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/mab