

Florence, New Jersey
December 5, 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
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; William Berry, Mayor Elect; Dennis O'Hara, Council Member Elect; Sean Ryan, Council Member Elect

MINUTES

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

Regular Session	October 17, 2007
Executive Session	November 7, 2007

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

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

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing at this time.

APPLICATIONS

- A. BINGO: R.C. Church of the Holy Assumption, January – June 2008, Mondays, 7:15PM – 10:30PM

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve the above application.

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On the Question

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, provided a picture of water ponding in the street in front of his house. He requested that Council President Baldorossi look into when it would be repaired.

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. 2007-187

**RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE
TO MODIFY IT'S POLICY ON PROCESSING FINGERPRINTS FOR
BACKGROUND CHECKS TO CONTINUE TO ALLOW THE FINGERPRINTS
TO BE SUBMITTED BY LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-188

**APPROVE AGREEMENT WITH
COMMERCE NATIONAL RISK CONTROL
FOR ALCOHOL AND DRUG TESTING SERVICES**

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-189

**AMEND INTERLOCAL SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN
FLORENCE TOWNSHIP AND FLORENCE TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT NO. 1
FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-190

**AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE BURLINGTON COUNTY COOPERATION
AGREEMENT FOR MUTUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AID**

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-191

REFUND TAX OVERPAYMENTS

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Garganio that Resolutions 2007-187 through 2007-191 be approved.

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On the Question

Council Member Garganio asked if Resolution No. 2007-187 (Background Checks) referred to employee or recreation program volunteer background checks? Solicitor Kearns stated that this Resolution refers to the volunteers for the recreation programs. This Resolution is the same Resolution that was adopted by the New Jersey League of Municipalities. He stated that he has had discussions with the Superintendent and a Sergeant of the New Jersey State Police and they feel very strongly that the fingerprints have to be done electronically; those discussions are ongoing. Council Member Garganio does not like that the fingerprints cannot be done electronically through the township. He expressed concern that there may be a problem getting volunteers to go to a facility miles away to be fingerprinted. Council Member Sandusky believes there should be supporting Resolutions from the other municipalities in the State and petition the State Representatives to be able to fingerprint the volunteers in house. Mayor Muchowski stated that the first round of 2-year renewals are coming due and a decision will have to be made regarding maybe extending to a 3-year renewal.

Solicitor Kearns stated that in talking to the Sergeant at the State Police, he has no authority to make a change. When speaking with the Superintendent, Solicitor Kearns explained to him that they are looking for a change in the fingerprinting of volunteers. He expressed concern that the township will lose volunteers that do not want to travel to get fingerprinted. Solicitor Kearns feels another meeting should be set up with the Superintendent of the New Jersey State Police.

Council Members asked what is being done for the new volunteers coming in to be fingerprinted? Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that this change does not take place until March 2008; so at the present time they still come to the Florence Police Department to be fingerprinted. Mayor Muchowski explained that if things go as discussed, any volunteers after March 2008 will have to go to Cherry Hill or Ewing to be fingerprinted. The applicant would have to pay and be reimbursed from the township. Solicitor Kearns stated that the fee is coming down, they are waiving the State fee and in discussion with the Federal Government to waive the federal fee on volunteers.

Council Member Ryan suggested that this topic be put on January's Worksession Agenda.

Council Member Garganio asked Assistant Administrator Sahol to look into, if a year's extension were given to the volunteers to renew their background check, if a less extensive sexual crime check could be done. Assistant Administrator Sahol will look into.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

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

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-16
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING THE
FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 134-34 –
SCHEDULE II: NO PARKING CERTAIN HOURS BY REPEALING THE
PROVISION FOR EMERICK AVENUE DURING SCHOOL HOURS AND
BY AMENDING SECTION 134-45 SCHEDULE XIII: LOADING ZONES BY
REPEALING THE PROVISION FOR PARISH LANE**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve Ordinance No. 2007-16 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

No public comment.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Garganio 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, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: Fratinardo

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-17
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR TAX
ABATEMENT WITH CHRISTMAS TREE SHOPS, INC.
FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 270 DANIELS WAY
BLOCK 158, LOT 2**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve Ordinance No. 2007-17 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: Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi
NOES: None
ABSENT: Fratinardo

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-18
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR TAX
ABATEMENT WITH HAINES CENTER - FLORENCE, L.L.C.
FOR THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 280 DANIELS WAY
BLOCK 158, LOT 3**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2007-18 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

No public comment.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan 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, Baldorossi
NOES: None
ABSENT: Fratinardo

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-19
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT FOR TAX
ABATEMENT WITH HAINES CENTER-FLORENCE, L.L.C. FOR
THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 1500 JOHN GALT WAY, BLOCK 158, LOT 1**

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It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2007-19 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

No public comment.

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, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: Fratinardo

Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Council President Baldorossi stated that there has been a dirt pile behind the **Sunoco Gas Station** for a long time and asked that it be looked into as to why it is there. Mayor Muchowski questioned need for the portable booths at the Sunoco Gas Station, also.
- Mayor Muchowski stated that there are soda machines in between the gas tanks at the **Amoco Gas Station** and asked if they should have received site plan approval? Administrator Brook will look into.

Mayor Muchowski

- Since **former Mayor George Sampson** was instrumental in moving the **Roebing Steel Plant** forward to the point of negotiations, Mayor Muchowski suggested that a **street** in the Roebing Steel Mill site be named in **honor** of George Sampson once the site is developed. Council Member Sandusky agrees and believes that should be one of the last official acts before Mayor Muchowski leaves office.
- Mayor Muchowski joined a committee at the school called the Community Relations Committee. The committee was revived to gain community input. It was said the **school** wanted to **expand their recycling**, that Assistant Administrator Sahol had spearheaded, but were told they could not get funds from the township like they did last time. Mayor Muchowski did not believe that to be an accurate statement. They would like to ask that the success of the recycling efforts be advertised on Channel 19 and since part of the success is due to the effort of the schools, they would like to ask that some of the funds be given to the schools to continue their efforts.
- Mayor Muchowski discussed the **Tree Lighting** that is normally held by the Roebing Historical Society, which they will not be doing this year. Administrator Brook obtained outdoor lights and the Public Works Department will be decorating the **Roebing Circle** beginning Monday, but there will be no tree lighting ceremony. Council Member Ryan asked if there was anyway for the township to put together a tree lighting ceremony? Mayor

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Muchowski gave it thought but since the official township tree lighting is done at the municipal complex and a volunteer group, with support of the township, did Roebeling's, he did not want the group to begrudge the township and think that the township tried to take it over. Discussion followed regarding, if the volunteer group does not plan a tree lighting next year, the township may organize one and discussed alternative locations in Roebeling. The township will check with the group in September 2008 whether they will be having a tree lighting or not.

Fred Wainwright stated that Mansfield Township will be having tractors and wagons to take people around town to see the decorations. He believes it would be nice to organize a similar event in Florence Township in the future and offered to loan some of his equipment.

Administrator

- Administrator Brook acknowledged the **favorable report** from the County concerning **Darlene Taylor, Court Administrator, and the Court Department**. He praised her accomplishments in running the department. Council Member Ryan asked that Administrator Brook commend Mrs. Taylor on behalf of Mayor and Council.
- Administrator Brook stated that the State is looking for a response by next week on whether or not the township wants to participate in **spraying for gypsy moths**. Administrator Brook called the State and explained that the 2008 budget would not be in place until March 2008 and asked if the township can say that they are interested now and pull out if there is a budget issue. They stated yes, the township could back out. Administrator Brook stated that there is a possibility that the township will be reimbursed 25% of the cost from the State through federal funds. He spoke to other municipalities who said they have received the reimbursement. Administrator Brook stated that now is the time to treat while it's a small infestation, before it gets worse. Mayor Muchowski asked if the infested area was sprayed, would it force the gypsy moths to another area? Administrator Brook responded no. Council Member Ryan asked if there have been any issues with other municipalities? Administrator Brook stated that the big issue is the type of chemical being used. The State claims that the chemical is approximately 70% effective, yet a lot of municipalities are pressing them to use another specific chemical that is much more effective. Council Member Elect O'Hara stated that there is a problem with gypsy moths in the Hoffner Tract area and would like Council to move forward with having the area sprayed. Council Members in agreement to have the State spray for gypsy moths.

Assistant Administrator

- Nothing at this time.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, walked the **Greenbriar Horizon** site with Justin Bloch of Lennar to go over the remaining punch list items. They are getting to the punch list items slowly but there has not been a lot of progress. They are pushing for resolution on some of the storm water issues including the basin. The last set of as builts they submitted had some deficiencies, which Mr. Guzzi sent a letter following up asking them to address those issues. Will discuss further at next week's Worksession.

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- Mr. Guzzi stated that **Wawa on Route 130** is anxious to obtain their CO. The big issue for the holdup is the pole line on Cedar Lane; Verizon has still not moved the poles and relocated the lines. He has received conflicting reports on when they will be moved. Wawa stated that Verizon would be there tomorrow. Mayor Elect Berry will contact Verizon tomorrow. Mr. Guzzi expressed concern, with the amount of traffic Wawa generates, opening with the poles like that; it's an accident waiting to happen. He has been in touch with the County and they are also concerned with opening like that. The County is considering allowing Wawa to move forward but is concerned that the situation with the poles might be there for months. The County will not move forward with permitting Wawa to open unless the township is in agreement. Wawa has offered to provide a hold harmless to the township in order to move forward. The barrels that are there now would remain along the shoulder, the rear parking lot for cars would be open but not the overflow vehicle parking lot; that would remain closed. The County is hesitant but would agree to allow them to open if the township agrees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Delaware Avenue

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the County will have the plans to the township next week showing the new site triangles and outlines of the allowed parking and the restricted parking. Assistant Administrator Sahol did notify Mr. Kaminski. At Council Member Elect Ryan's suggestion, Mayor Muchowski asked if the township could begin the process of no parking now? Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that an Ordinance could be adopted if they knew the cut off distance from the intersection. He is concerned that there may end up being amendments. Mayor Muchowski suggested setting up a meeting to go over the report with the County Engineer.

Marter Park

Council Member Ryan stated that a vehicle that she had previously mentioned is still in the woods. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that he could not get to the woods to check it out without sinking. He will work something out to get to the woods.

Council Member Ryan stated that there are a lot of tree stands and asked if they would be removed? Administrator Brook stated that two (2) tree stands were taken down and any left on municipal property will be removed. Mayor Muchowski asked if it was posted "No Hunting". Administrator Brook will check to see if it is posted.

Zip Code Consolidation

Council Member Ryan stated that the letter from the United States Postal Service only references the change to Burlington; they do not mention Bordentown. Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the United States Postal Service would like to implement the fastest route that they can put directly into the Florence Post Office. The Florence Post Office could not handle the merger of both Burlington and Bordentown at the same time. Council Member Ryan stated that is fine if it is being done in two (2) phases but they only reference the Burlington deliveries and the township's Resolution, which references both Burlington and Bordentown. She would like that clarified to the United States Post Office. Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that Burlington is in the South Jersey District and Bordentown is in the Central Jersey District. Mayor Muchowski suggested that a letter be sent out just for clarification.

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NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Muchowski expressed concern regarding some residents that have to cross Florence-Columbus Road to get their mail. He stated that two (2) letters have been sent to the post office without a response. Administrator Brook ran into the Postmaster of Bordentown, who has not seen the second letter yet because he was away. He doesn't think there is anything that can be done now but he believes that the township's zip code request will go through and when that occurs, he believes positive movement on things like that will be able to be done.

Council Member Sandusky requested that a thank you letter go out to all of the people that made the township's annual tree lighting possible.

As previously discussed, Council Member Sandusky believes that the creek on Hornberger Avenue was posted "No Fishing" at one time.

Council Member Sandusky complimented Assistant Administrator Sahol on the good job on the recycling program; Assistant Administrator Sahol's name was mentioned in the article and the woman stated that she wished that the other communities would do the same.

Council Member Sandusky congratulated Council Member Ryan on her promotion in her professional career.

9:06 PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:06 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab