

Florence, New Jersey
December 19, 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

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

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FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Ryan; seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Court Administrator's report and Chief of Police's report for November. 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

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

William E. Berry, Mayor Elect, recognized that tonight is the last meeting for Council Member Ryan, Council Vice President Fratinardo (not present) and Mayor Muchowski. On behalf of the citizens of Florence Township, he thanked Council Member Ryan for her 4 years of dedicated

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service. Mayor Elect Berry stated that he has been impressed by the questions Council Member Ryan has asked and the way she has conducted herself. Council Member Ryan thanked Mayor Elect Berry.

Mayor Elect Berry stated that Mayor Muchowski's 12 years of service speak for themselves, four years as a Council Member and eight years as Mayor. He thanked Mayor Muchowski on behalf of the community for his dedicated service. He personally thanked Mayor Muchowski for his help in the transition. Mayor Muchowski thanked Mayor Elect Berry.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-196

**RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE INSERTION OF A SPECIAL ITEM
OF REVENUE IN THE BUDGET OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE,
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 40A:4-87
CHAPTER 159, P.L. 1948**

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-197

A RESOLUTION CANCELING TAX OVERPAYMENTS LESS THAN \$10.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-198

**APPROVE CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 AND CURRENT ESTIMATE NO. 2
FOR WATER TREATMENT PLANT AERATOR PAINTING
CONTRACTOR: VALLEY PAINTING, INC., 610 BUCK ROAD,
SOUTHAMPTON, PA, 18966**

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-199

**APPROVE CURRENT ESTIMATE NO. 5 FOR
WELL NO. 6, WELL PUMP, BUILDING & APPURTENANCES
B&H CONTRACTING, INC., 1022 BLACK HORSE PIKE,
FOLSOM, NEW JERSEY, 08037**

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-200

**APPROVE RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND
WHITESSELL CONSTRUCTION – HAINES CENTER
280 DANIELS WAY – SPEC BUILDING #2
CONDITIONED UPON POSTING A TWO YEAR
MAINTENANCE BOND**

NOTE: Also conditioned upon payment of any and all escrow money due.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-201

**APPROVE RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND
WHITESELL CONSTRUCTION – HAINES CENTER
1100 JOHN GALT WAY – SPEC BUILDING #1
CONDITIONED UPON POSTING A TWO YEAR
MAINTENANCE BOND**

NOTE: Also conditioned upon payment of any and all escrow money due.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-202

**AUTHORIZE REDUCTION IN PERFORMANCE BOND
HAINES INDUSTRIAL CENTER – SECTION 1, 270 DANIELS WAY**

NOTE: Conditioned upon payment of any escrow funds due.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-203

**AWARD BID TO METRO PCS FOR
LEASE OF SPACE AT WATER TOWER #1
CEDAR LANE**

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-204

TRANSFERRING CERTAIN 2007 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Garganio that Resolutions 2007-196 through 2007-204 be approved.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-205

**AUTHORIZE THE NAMING OF A STREET AT THE
FORMER ROEBLING STEEL MILL SITE IN HONOR OF
MAYOR GEORGE E. SAMPSON**

Mayor Muchowski thanked Mayor Elect Berry for his kind words. He stated that when kind words are spoken about him they are spoken about the whole governing body. The governing body has worked together and put the needs of the community first. Part of why the governing body has worked well together over the past 8 – 12 years is the foundation that was set by administrations before them. Mayor Muchowski stated that he had the good fortune of serving as a Council Member under a great Mayor, Mayor George Sampson. He learned a lot from Mayor Sampson over those four years, not only about government but how to conduct yourself as Mayor.

Mayor Muchowski personally invited Mayor Sampson and his wife, Mrs. Sampson, to the meeting this evening. They think they are here to support Mayor Muchowski. He stated that Mayor Sampson is a great ambassador for the community. A lot of the discussions over the years revolved around the Roebling Steel Mill and they were able to have those discussions due to the efforts of former Mayor Sampson.

Mayor Muchowski read Resolution No. 2007-205, Authorizing the Naming of a Street at the Former Roebling Steel Mill Site in Honor of Mayor George E. Sampson.

Mayor Sampson stated that he is honored and that there really is a Santa Claus. He recalled walking the streets of the plant when he worked there. He is thrilled to have a street in the former Roebling Steel Mill Site named after him. He thanked Mayor and Council for doing this and stated that it means a great deal to him.

Mayor Muchowski stated that it is a well-deserved honor for Mayor Sampson.

A group from Fountain of Life Center wished everyone a Merry Christmas and sang Christmas Carols.

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution No. 2007-205.

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.

ORDINANCES

None at this time.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Council President Baldorossi thanked Council Member Ryan for her 4 years of dedicated service to Florence Township. He also thanked Mayor Muchowski for his 4 years of service as a Council Member and his 8 years of service as Mayor with the dedication that he showed. He wished them a bright and joyful future.
- Council Member Ryan thanked the members of the public that come to the meetings routinely; what they do is important. She thanked the professionals who serve the town council each and every week; they have always given sound advice. Council Member Ryan thanked the township professionals: Administrator Brook, Assistant Administrator Sahol, Clerk Weiler and Chief Dawson, the governing body appreciates everything they do. They show a special pride and dedication in everything they do and it shines through each and every week. She thanked her fellow Council Members. She is impressed that everyone here is involved for the right reason and that is to do right for the residents of Florence Township. Council Member Ryan stated that Mayor Muchowski served the township exceedingly well over his tenure. She stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the people of Florence Township. Council Member Ryan wished Mayor Elect Berry, Council Member Elect O'Hara and Council Member Elect Ryan the best of luck.
- Council Member Sandusky stated that Mayor Muchowski has served the township well. He expressed his pleasure with working together with Mayor Muchowski, Council Member Ryan and Council Member Fratinardo and wished them well.
- Council Member Garganio stated that as a group the governing body are all there for the right reasons. Four years ago when Council Member Ryan joined the governing body it was great because she brought a lot of new ideas and helped to push the governing body into new directions. He thanked the Mayors he has served under, Mayor George Sampson and Mayor Michael Muchowski, both individuals were great leaders for the community.

Don Kaminski, 10 Mc Cay Drive, stated that he buried his mother this morning; it started as a sad day. He then came here this evening and heard the good news and words about the current Mayor and the past Mayor, and then he heard the singing of Christmas carols by the youth group from Fountain of Life. It has turned into a happy day. He thanked the governing body.

Bill Bott, 64 Riverbank Drive, stated that Florence Township has been very fortunate to have Mayor Muchowski as a Mayor. He stated to Mrs. Muchowski that now she is getting him back. He wished them well.

Mayor Muchowski

- Mayor Muchowski thanked the Council Members; everyone has worked together as a team. As a group there have been differences and debates but in the end everyone is trying to do the right thing. There have been a lot of hours but also a lot of fun trying to make Florence Township a better place. He enjoyed every moment of the privilege of being the Mayor of Florence Township. Mayor Muchowski expressed his appreciation of his family: his wife, Kim, his son, Michael, his daughter, Sarah and his mother and father in-law. He thanked the community members, his fellow Council Members and the township professionals. He is proud of what he and his fellow Council Members have done.

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Administrator

- Administrator Brook thanked Council Member Ryan. He explained that Council Member Ryan is someone who is consumed by knowing the facts and history behind a situation. She is driven by one principle, and that is doing what is right by the township and she always wants to be sure when she makes a decision that her integrity is intact and more importantly that she has protected the integrity of the township. He stated that it is an extremely commendable attribute and he has been extremely fortunate that he has had the opportunity to work with someone of such high caliber and integrity. Council Member Ryan thanked Administrator Brook.
- Administrator Brook reminisced about his many long talks on the phone with Mayor Muchowski. He stated that one of the most impressive things about Mayor Muchowski is that he quickly realized when he became mayor that it is not about “I”, it is not about “me”, it is about “we.” He strived to continually build a consensus among the Council Members and work towards a common goal and a common decision. His motto was that the governing body worked together as a group, worked for the community as one and their decisions were always for the best interest of the residents. Administrator Brook thanked Mayor Muchowski for all he has done; he was a great ambassador for the Township of Florence.

Assistant Administrator

- Assistant Administrator Sahol thanked Council Member Ryan for the opportunity to work with her; it has been a great experience.
- Assistant Administrator Sahol thanked Mayor Muchowski for all he has done for him, the opportunities and lessons; he has learned a lot and will miss him.

Township Solicitor

- Solicitor Kearns stated that he had the opportunity to become involved with the Florence Township Council and Mayor Muchowski six years ago and it has been one of the highlights of his career. Council, no matter the political divisions, has worked together, which is unique. The governing body deserves an immense amount of respect for it. Solicitor Kearns thanked the governing body.

Township Engineer

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, thanked the governing body. It has been a pleasure working with Council Member Ryan and Council Member Fratinardo and he wished them well. He stated that it has been an honor and privilege to work with Mayor Muchowski. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Delaware Avenue

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the Ordinance will be on the Agenda, January 16, 2008, for introduction.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

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MISCELLANEOUS

At this time Mayor Muchowski stated that he would like to take one final official action, besides telling his wife that he loves her. He stated that his father-in-law, Edwin Weeks, is present this evening, believing he is there to support his son-in-law, and asked him to come up to the front.

Mayor Muchowski stated that Florence Township has been very fortunate over the past 22 years to have had the only real Santa Claus. Along with Mayor Muchowski, Mr. Weeks is retiring. Mayor Muchowski read a plaque being presented to Mr. Weeks from Mayor and Council.

The plaque reads: "Presented to Edwin Weeks, the real Santa Claus. For his dedicated service to the children of Florence Township. Wishing you health and happiness in you retirement. Presented with our genuine gratitude, Mayor and Township Council, December 19, 2007."

Mr. Weeks was very surprised. He thanked Mayor and Council and stated that he was the one that had fun serving as Santa Claus.

On behalf of everyone present and the children of Florence Township, Mayor Muchowski thanked Mr. Weeks, the real Santa Claus.

Mayor and Council presented poinsettias to Mrs. Muchowski, Mrs. Weeks, Mrs. Sampson and Council Member Ryan.

ADJOURNMENT

8:47 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab