

Florence, New Jersey  
December 1, 2010

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 O'Hara at 8:00PM. The Florence Township Police Department 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 10, 2010; 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  
Jerry Sandusky  
David Woolston  
Dennis O'Hara

Also present:

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

**PRESENTATION: GLENN PATTIK – RETIRING**

Mayor Berry presented a clock/plaque to Glenn Pattik in honor of his retirement from Florence Township after over 25 years of service. Mayor Berry stated that he was thankful to be able to recognize Mr. Pattik's service this evening. The Mayor stated that he has known Mr. Pattik his entire life; they went through school together; they have been very good friends. Mayor Berry stated that Mr. Pattik has been an outstanding employee and an asset to the community.

Council President O'Hara presented flowers to Mrs. Pattik and thanked her for her support of Glenn on his job.

David Lebak, Director of the Water & Sewer Department, praised Mr. Pattik for his knowledge and all his help over the years; Mr. Pattik had not only knowledge of the system, but knew the history of operations. He noted some of Mr. Pattik's outstanding accomplishments including his help with the Consumer Confidence Report, working with the computer system and assisting in the numbering sequence for the town. Mr. Lebak wished him well in his retirement.

Council President O'Hara invited everyone to the front conference room for a brief reception.

**8:05PM: RECESS**

**8:25PM: MEETING RESUMED**

**MINUTES**

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

Regular Session      October 20, 2010  
Closed Session        November 10, 2010

**Florence Township Council Regular Session: 12/01/10**

**FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

Woolston 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**

Deborah Riley, 223 Fifth Avenue, attended the meeting to inquire about a handicapped parking space on her street that has been vacant for the past three weeks; the resident is bedridden and no longer has the car. She also discussed an abandoned car that was involved in an accident that is parked on her street that had a tow sticker put on it today but is still there. Ms. Riley stated that the parking on her street is already bad; she is permanently disabled and has difficulty walking from her vehicle to her house when she has to park down the street.

Administrator Brook explained, in regards to the vehicle with the tow sticker, that there are specific laws that must be followed. In this instance it is a 48-hour tow sticker; if the owner does not remove the vehicle within 48 hours, the vehicle will be towed and impounded. He explained that there are other tow stickers where the owner has 14 days to remove the vehicle. He assured Ms. Riley that the vehicle will be removed within 48 hours.

In regards to the handicapped parking space that belongs to the resident that has become bedridden, which Administrator Brook has explained to Ms. Riley before, that sign will be taken down. He spoke with a family member of the resident about his medical condition, which is confidential, and compassionately advised that the sign would be taken down. Administrator Brook stated that the sign will be taken down but the sign will not be transferred to Ms. Riley. He explained that he approached the family in a diplomatic way in a time of great distress for them. The family was treated with respect.

Ms. Riley expressed dissatisfaction that the sign would not be transferred to her. Administrator Brook explained that the handicapped parking space was for the gentleman on the street that can longer use it; the sign will now be removed. He explained that handicapped parking spaces are not transferred from one person to another. Ms. Riley explained that she cannot park in close proximity to her house and it is very difficult for her to walk from where she has to park to her house. She discussed the inconsiderate parking of the residents on her street. Council President O'Hara stated that the abandoned vehicle will be removed within 48 hours and the handicapped sign that is no longer being used will be taken down, as Administrator Brook explained, which will allow for two (2) additional parking spaces on the street.

Council President O'Hara stated that Council has been discussing the handicapped parking space issues. Renewal applications for the current spaces have been sent out to the residents. This is an ongoing issue on top of the already difficult parking situation in the Village of Roebling. Council is doing everything they can to be fair but Council cannot legislate how neighbors treat other neighbors. Ms. Riley has tried to organize a committee of her neighbors to address the problems on the street.

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Ms. Riley discussed her health issues that make it difficult for her and create a need for a handicapped parking space.

Council President O'Hara explained that Council discussed the handicapped parking issues for an hour in Closed Session, due to privacy issues of medical conditions, this evening. Council is taking the subject seriously. Once the responses come back from the renewal applications, additional spaces may be removed. Council President O'Hara hopes to come up with a solution that will benefit the community.

Ms. Riley expressed dissatisfaction with the answers given to her. Council Member Ryan explained that none of the questions or concerns brought to Council's attention by any of the residents fall on deaf ears. There are parking problems specifically in the Village of Roebing, yet there is no easy solution to accommodate all the residents that have a need. Various solutions have been discussed over the past few years such as permit parking, striping or limiting parking on the street to one (1) vehicle per household but they are not workable solutions. The parking in the village is at a premium. The township has built overflow parking lots in the Village of Roebing. The bottom line is there is no easy solution to the parking problems and the need for handicapped parking spaces in the Village of Roebing. Council Member Ryan has seen the correspondence from Senator Diane Allen and questions whether she would be willing to participate in the discussions with the governing body to try to come up with a workable solution. He would like to come up with a solution for all of the residents that are in need of handicapped parking spaces but there is no way to accommodate everybody. Ms. Riley stated that she is asking for herself, no one else. Council Member Ryan explained that as a governing body, when they make a policy decision, it has to be for the entire community; they cannot make a policy decision based on one specific individual. Ms. Riley stated that she will do what she has to do for herself, not for anyone else. Council Member Sandusky stated that there have been others here asking for handicapped parking spaces and Council has been sympathetic but they cannot give everyone that asks a handicapped parking space, as much as they would like to do so. He explained that Florence Township does not have to provide handicapped parking spaces; no other municipality issues them. Florence was fortunate enough to try but received an overabundance of residents applying for the spaces. It was very difficult for the township to deal with each one on a personal basis so the township hired a doctor to review the applications. Council Member Sandusky sympathizes with Ms. Riley but also sympathizes with another woman from Roebing who was bent over and had a very difficult time walking that was here a few years ago asking for a handicapped parking space. Council Member Sandusky wishes that residents would be sympathetic of their neighbors and their medical conditions.

Ms. Riley stated that the handicapped parking sign for the bedridden resident should have been taken down or covered up so someone else could use that parking space. Administrator Brook accepts full responsibility for the respectful way he dealt with the resident that is bedridden and would treat any other resident the same way. It is Ms. Riley's right to disagree.

Ms. Riley stated that she feels that she is leaving with no answer. Council President O'Hara stated that she was treated no differently than anyone else that has applied for a handicapped parking space. Ms. Riley did apply through the proper channels and was denied a handicapped parking space.

Council President O'Hara stated that the governing body will continue working on a solution to satisfy the entire community.

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Ms. Riley asked if there was an Ordinance and how many handicapped parking spaces were allowed in the township? Council President O'Hara stated that the township does not have to allow for any handicapped parking spaces. Ms. Riley does not feel that there is any legitimate reason she cannot have the handicapped parking spot that belongs to the bedridden resident that is being taken off of her street. She stated that the governing body should show her compassion.

Council President O'Hara stated that he has allowed Ms. Riley to speak her peace without interruption. Ms. Riley applied and the application was denied. The governing body will continue to work on a solution. He thanked Ms. Riley for her time.

Joe Brice, 227 Fifth Avenue, stated that Administrator Brook handled the situation with the bedridden gentleman in a very appropriate manner.

Mr. Brice stated that he understands that striping for parking will not work but believes permit parking (one (1) vehicle per household) can work. He would like to see it tried to alleviate the parking problem. Council Member Ryan explained that the number of houses on the avenues greatly outweigh the number of parking spots. With striping, parking spaces would actually be lost. Even with permit parking there is not enough space for street parking for one (1) vehicle per household; there would then be the problem of where to park the excess vehicles. There are some municipal lots, which some are over utilized and some may have more room but are not in the most conducive location. Council Member Ryan stated that with every possibility the governing body has explored, there is no conceivable way to accommodate everybody that wants or needs a parking space in front of their home.

Council Member Ryan has been researching how handicapped parking spaces are issued in New York City. A certain number of spaces are issued on a block if there is a need but the spaces are not earmarked for a certain license plate. Even in that situation it is not possible to accommodate everyone with a need.

Mr. Brice understands that the governing body has to address the issue for the whole community not just for one person.

Mr. Brice suggested permit parking on the street but not necessarily in front of a resident's home, that way at least one (1) vehicle per household would be parked on the street. There is overflow parking in the area for the households that have multiple vehicles.

Mr. Brice noted that there is a handicapped sign on his street where the license plate number is missing. He asked that it be replaced before other people start parking there. That resident is deserving of that handicapped parking space.

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

Council President O'Hara announced that next week an organization is coming in regarding how to volunteer in your community. He invited the residents to attend to see how to get involved. He suggested residents of the Village of Roebing come in to discuss various ideas to deal with the parking in Roebing.

**Florence Township Council Regular Session: 12/01/10**

**PUBLIC HEARING: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)**

*The Public Hearing for the CDBG Project was advertised in the Burlington County Times on November 7, 2010, given to the Register News for information and posted on the municipal bulletin board on November 4, 2010.*

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the municipality is required to hold a public hearing for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to present the concept plan of what they would like to use the funds for in this cycle. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the township is trying to address the need for the installation of additional handicapped access ramps at certain intersections in the community as well as the replacement and installation of new sidewalks in the community that are in the eligible areas for this grant funding based on census data. The township is looking to remove some of the raised and deteriorated sidewalks that can cause pedestrian trip hazards. The areas that have been identified initially, based on the census data, are: Hamilton Avenue, Cherry Street, Norman Avenue, Amboy Avenue, James Street, Church Street, Woodlawn Avenue, 1000 block of W. Third Street, 800 block of W. Second Street, Cedar Street near Fifth Street, Third Street near Oak Street and Grove Street and Boulevard Street. It is not likely that the municipality will receive enough funding to do all of this project, but the project has been structured in such a way so that if there is enough funding the township would not have to return any of the funds to the county. The grant runs from \$75,000 - \$85,000 and Florence Township has been very successful in the past years.

A cost estimate was provided by the Township Engineer, Dante Guzzi, P.E., C.M.E.

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Sandusky to open the hearing to the public.

No comments.

All residents having an opportunity to be heard, MOTION by Sandusky; seconded by Baldorossi to close the public hearing. All ayes - motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS**

Council Member Woolston asked that Resolution No. 2010-250 be voted on separately.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-248**

**AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT APPLICATION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-249**

**AUTHORIZE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
FOR BUC'S PROPERTY  
Block 125, Lot 20**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-251**

**AUTHORIZING REFUNDS OF CERTAIN TAX OVERPAYMENTS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-252**

**RESOLUTION AMENDING 2010 CAPITAL BUDGET**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve Resolutions No. 2010-248, 2010-249, 2010-251 and 2010-252.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2010-250**

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING RECOMMENDATION OF TOWNSHIP PLANNING BOARD REGARDING BOUNDARIES OF PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT AREA FOR GRIFFIN PIPE PROPERTIES PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING LAW, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1 et seq.**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to approve Resolution No. 2010-250.

On the Question

Council Member Ryan was approached by a resident regarding Resolution No. 2010-250 and wanted reassurance that the township was in no way participating in the purchase of the Griffin Pipe property. He would like clarification on the record that is not the case as part of the redevelopment study. Administrator Brook stated that this is simply an effort by the township to try to expedite and encourage the ultimate redevelopment of the property. This Resolution only reaffirms the approval that was granted by the Planning Board to designate this property as an area in need of redevelopment. That helps open up the door to redevelopment possibilities and opportunities in the future.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan, Sandusky, O'Hara

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

NOT VOTING: Woolston (due to a conflict of interest)

Motion carried.

**ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2010-18  
(1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ACQUISITION OF TAHOES  
FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF  
FLORENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY,  
APPROPRIATING \$90,000 THEREFORE AND AUTHORIZING THE  
ISSUANCE OF \$85,500 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO  
FINANCE PART OF THE COST THEREOF**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance 2010-18 on first reading and set adoption for December 15, 2010.

**On the Question**

Council Member Ryan stated that he understands that the township is limited to Tahoes by bonding. Unfortunately the Dodge Charges, which are less costly and more fuel efficient, cannot be bonded. He did some research and found out that the Dodge Charger can be leased. Council Member Ryan spoke with Administrator Brook and asked him to research all of the costs in doing a three-year lease of a Dodge Charger. There have been concerns regarding the interior space in a Dodge Charger. The nature of his request is to illustrate a comparison between a Charger and a Tahoe and weigh the pros and cons. Council Member Ryan asked if the Bond Ordinance could be cancelled if Council ultimately decided against purchasing a Tahoe? Solicitor Kearns stated that there is flexibility even after adoption of the Bond Ordinance up until Council authorizes the purchase. Administrator Brook stated that he spoke to Chief Fazekas and he will do a fair analysis and report back.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ryan, Sandusky, Woolston, O'Hara  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2010-19  
(1<sup>st</sup> Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING SECTION 140-40  
AND 140-46 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE  
ESTABLISHING WATER AND SEWER SERVICE CONNECTION FEES WITHIN THE  
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance 2010-19 on first reading and set adoption for December 15, 2010.

**On the Question**

Nothing at this time.

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Upon roll call Council voted as follows

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

### **REPORTS**

#### **Committees, Boards and Officers**

- Council President O'Hara thanked Administrator Brook and the staff for the beautiful job on the holiday decorations throughout the inside and outside of the municipal building.

#### **Mayor**

- Mayor Berry also praised the holiday decorations. He stated that the Florence Township Tree Lighting Ceremony will be held this Friday at 7:00PM. The administration and staff work very hard to make it a very nice evening for the community residents, especially the children of the community.

#### **Administrator**

- Administrator Brook stated that the staff worked tremendously hard on the holiday decorations and they do it with a passion and love for the community. An employee of the Public Works Department even checked on the outside decorations on his own time after a day of bad weather. Council President O'Hara asked Administrator Brook to extend the governing body's appreciation.
- Administrator Brook was contacted by someone who had heard that Ryan Homes has pulled out of the Legacy development. Administrator Brook spoke to Ryan Homes and they explained that they have not pulled out of the development; they decided to close for the month of December and plan to reopen in January of 2011. Sales in December are slow and it is not cost effective for them to remain open in December.
- Administrator Brook noted that an additional date needs to be set up for a meeting regarding contract negotiations for the Roebing Steel Plant. Council will return to Closed Session to discuss.

#### **Assistant Municipal Administrator**

- Assistant Administrator Sahol provided a memo outlining the Route 130 bridge replacement. It will be approximately a 15-month project.
- Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the township was successful in receiving Hepatitis B reimbursement from the State forfeiture funds. He thanked Janice Carey and Chief Fazekas for their diligent work.
- Assistant Administrator Sahol reported that the township received a \$250,000 grant for substantial park upgrades. They will be working on going out to bid. Council President O'Hara complimented Assistant Administrator Sahol on the application he submitted to Burlington County. He noted the township received a letter from Burlington County Freeholder Director Bruce Garganio that the application was very well put together and Florence Township received the maximum amount a municipality could receive. Assistant Administrator Sahol gave a lot of credit to Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer and Janice Carey, Administrative Secretary.

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- Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the online auction of surplus municipal equipment and vehicles is going very well. The bids are at a substantial dollar amount right now and far exceed what the township has ever generated in the past on the local level. The auction closes on December 21, 2010.

**Township Solicitor**

- Nothing at this time.

**Township Engineer**

- Nothing at this time.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Nothing at this time.

**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Nothing at this time.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Council President O'Hara stated that the Knights of Columbus, Holy Name Society and the Altar Rosary Society prepared and delivered full course dinners to the needy this past Thanksgiving. He stated that the residents of Legacy had a social affair and in order to get in you had to bring a canned good, which they donated to the food pantry. This is a very special community; the residents go out of their way to help others in need. The families that were fed on Thanksgiving were very appreciative. He noted that Rocco's Pizza allowed the organizations to use their ovens to cook some of the turkeys that were prepared.

9:35PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carries.

**ADJOURNMENT**

9:35PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC  
Township Clerk

/mab