

Florence, New Jersey  
April 4, 2012

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 Sandusky at 8:00 PM. Post Commander Lou Wargo of The American Legion Post 39 led the Salute to the Flag.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was sent to the Register News for information on 1-5-12; posted on the municipal bulletin board on 1-5-12 & placed on the web-site; sent on 12-21-11 to the Burlington Co. Times for publication on 1-8-12, but due to the newspaper's error, the notice was not published until 1-11-12.

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Frank Baldorossi  
Ted Lovenduski  
Paul Ostrander  
David Woolston  
Jerry Sandusky

Also present:

Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Anthony Ogozalek, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

### **MINUTES**

None at this time.

### **FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Reports to receive and file**

It was on the MOTION of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to receive and file the Police Chief Law Enforcement Officer's and Township Clerk's Reports for March.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None Motion carried.

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 04/04/12**

**Treasurer's Bill List**

It was on the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Lovenduski to approve the Treasurer's Bill List.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None Motion carried

**REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE**

None at this time.

**APPLICATIONS**

A. Amend Raffle License, Civic Association, Relay for Life, April 28, 2012  
From Off Premise to On Premise 50/50

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Lovenduski to approve the amendment. All ayes – motion carried.

**PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2012-95**

Council President Sandusky welcomed guests from Maryland, Carolyn Seaman Scott and JoAnn Seaman, who were at the meeting tonight for Resolution 2012-95, naming a street for their father, Joseph Seaman, a fallen veteran of WWII from the Township.

Council President Sandusky also wanted to acknowledge others in the audience. He noted former Councilman John Hofflinger and his wife. Mr. Hofflinger was a strong supporter of doing something to honor fallen veterans. He also noticed former Mayor George Sampson, past Commander of Post 194. Also in attendance were Fire Chief Kevin Mullen and Post 39 Commander Lou Wargo.

A MOTION was made by Woolston, seconded by Baldorossi to approve Resolution 2012-95.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky  
NOES: None  
ABSENT: None Motion carried.

At this time, Ms. Scott and Ms. Seaman were asked to receive the Resolution at the front of Council Chambers. Council President Sandusky read the Resolution aloud. Mayor Wilkie said that former governing bodies and community members made sure that honoring Florence Township's fallen veterans was a priority and he is proud to be able to see it come to fruition.

## **Florence Township Council Regular Session 04/04/12**

The Mayor said he was honored to be able to present the visitors with two books “Images of America – Florence,” and “Roebing Revisited.” He also presented them with the current township calendar distributed by the Fire Department.

Councilman Baldorossi presented, on behalf of Mayor and Council, a Roebing Village throw blanket.

Ms. Scott and Ms. Seaman thanked everyone for inviting them to honor their father. They thanked the Township for honoring all of its fallen heroes. Ms. Scott read a citation given to her father by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt that hangs with his Purple Heart Citation. She said that even though she and her sister grew up without a father, their mother never let them forget him. They again thanked everyone for honoring their father who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Brief Recess: Motion made and seconded to hold a brief recess; motion made and seconded to continue the meeting.

### **Public Hearing on 2012 Municipal Budget**

A budget handout was distributed to the members of the public at the meeting.

Mayor Wilkie explained basically the goal was to maintain efficiency in government. There were five positions that were not filled when they were vacated. A new software program has been installed in the Tax Department to make it run more efficiently. There were some positions that were shifted and will be monitored on a day to day basis to make sure no services are compromised. There are vacancies in some very key positions.

The main impact, he explained, is the debt service. The next four years are the highest level of debt service. Because of the economy, there was a decrease in tax collection. This means there must be an increase in the reserve. He said that a new health insurance broker is on board that he hoped will get the employees out of the state health program. He hoped to get control of the health care plan.

Administrator Brook said that included in the budget checklist there is required to be a budget overview. The first page of the handout is the overview. The second sheet shows where the increases were in the budget. He said Mayor Wilkie gave him two charges when the budget was being put together. The first is to stabilize costs and the second is reducing costs wherever possible, and that is exactly what he tried to do with this budget. The next sheet shows how much the state is holding from the township in aid that was provided in years past. The next sheet outlined the Township’s Debt Service. The next is a pie chart that shows what percent of the budget goes where and the last is a pie chart for the 2011 Budget to use as a comparison. He explained that when work begins on the budget, you are not only looking at this year but also a few years ahead as well.

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 04/04/12**

Michael Sawka, 75 Riverbank Drive, questioned a line for recreational fields. He wanted to know what the money is being spent on?

Administrator Brook explained that it is part of the Capital Budget required by the state. It is a list of items that may or may not be purchased. Any expenditure would have to be approved by Ordinance by Mayor and Council. There is no funding set aside for this work, it is just a list of things the Township would like to do.

Mr. Sawka asked about a Resolution tonight for open space?

Administrator Brook explained that the Township is considering purchasing a piece of land in the country area of the Township. He said there is an Ordinance tonight to authorize the preparation of the funds to do a Bond Ordinance and there is a Resolution amending the Capital Budget to allow the purchase out of the Open Space Trust Fund.

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, said the water towers need to be fixed up; he is glad that it seems to all be under control. He said his questions were already answered about the property acquisition.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, confirmed that the local purpose tax will be going up \$79 for the average assessed home.

Administrator Brook said that was correct, but the township has no control over the school tax or the county tax.

Mr. Kamienski asked if this year was as bad as what was expected?

Administrator Brook explained that the township needed to be aware of the Debt Service for the next few years. This year is not as bad as last year but the township is looking ahead to next year. He said there are tax incentive programs to lure developers to increase ratables in the township. Administrator Brook said the budget is still under the tax cap levy.

Mr. Sawka asked how the salary lines went up but the pension payments went down?

Mayor Wilkie explained that Governor Chris Christie changed the pension laws and reduced the obligation of the Township.

Mr. Sawka asked about the drop in salaries in two offices?

Mayor Wilkie explained that a person retired from the Tax Office and an administrative assistant is retiring. The Clerk of the Planning and Zoning Boards will take on the administrative assistant position and also do Land Use duties along with Administrator Brook and Assistant Administrator Sahol.

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 04/04/12**

All residents having the opportunity to be heard a MOTION was made by Ostrander, seconded by Lovenduski to close the public hearing of the 2012 Budget. Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Sawka would like notices that are published in the newspaper to also be posted on the website.

Administrator Brook explained that the notices can be on the website. He said that unlike many other municipalities Florence posts its entire budget on the website after it is approved.

Mr. Sawka asked about the Fire District Elections and why they were not advertised?

Council President Sandusky said he understands the concern, and he advised Mr. Sawka to attend a meeting of the Fire Commissioners to share his concern with them.

Mr. Kamienski wanted to thank Public Works for putting in the old floating dock temporarily. He asked when the new dock was going in?

Assistant Administrator Sahol said right now he does not have a firm date.

Joseph Csik, 45 East Fifth Street, said there was a horrible odor detected on Cedar Lane this evening. Assistant Administrator Sahol will look into it.

Paul Varga, 20 Fourth Avenue, thanked Public Works for fixing the benches in the Roebling Park. He said it was a job well done. He wanted to especially thank Gino James from PW Dept.

All residents having the opportunity to be heard, a MOTION was made by Woolston, seconded by Ostrander, to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes – motion carried.

**RESOLUTIONS**

**Resolution No. 2012-93  
AMEND MUNICIPAL BUDGET  
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE**

**Resolution No. 2012-94  
ADOPT MUNICIPAL BUDGET  
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE**

**Resolution No. 2012-96  
APPROVE REDUCTION OF PERFORMANCE BOND  
MIKE SASSMAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY  
1301 HORNBERGER AVENUE  
BLOCK 126.02, LOT 1  
BOND NO. S14070**

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 04/04/12**

**Resolution No. 2012-97  
AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT  
TO J.H. SERVICES, INC.**

**Resolution No. 2012-98  
AUTHORIZE REFUND  
USE OF FAAD BUILDING FEE  
DUE TO AN EVENT CANCELED**

**Resolution No. 2012-99  
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE  
COUNTY OF BURLINGTON  
RESOLUTION AMENDING 2012 CAPITAL BUDGET**

It was on the motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolution Nos. 2012-93 through 2012-94 and 2012-96 through 2012-99.

On the question

Councilman Baldorossi asked if the property named in Resolution 2012-96 has been cleaned up at all?

Administrator Brook said he had a blunt conversation with the owner about the condition and it was cleaned up within twenty-four hours. It is in better shape. This resolution is only a reduction of the bond.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried.

**ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2012-10**

**(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing and Adoption)**

**An Ordinance of the Township of Florence Amending Section 64-3 of the Code of the Township of Florence Establishing Construction Code Fees within the Township of Florence**

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 04/04/12**

A MOTION was made by Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to open the meeting for public comments on Ordinance No. 2012-10. No comments.

All residents having an opportunity to be heard, a MOTION was made by Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to close the public hearing.

A MOTION was made by Baldorossi, seconded by Lovenduski to adopt Ordinance 2012-10.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2012-11**

**(2<sup>nd</sup> Hearing) (Public Hearing & Adoption)**

**An Ordinance of the Township of Florence Amending Section 140-43 and 140-48  
of the Code of the Township of Florence Establishing Water and Sewer Rates  
within the Township of Florence**

A MOTION was made by Lovenduski, seconded by Baldorossi to open the meeting for public comments on Ordinance 2012-11.

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, asked for an explanation of the ordinance.

Mayor Wilkie explained that the ordinance increased the regular rate by one penny and for those that go over the regular usage, there is more of an increase. It is to stabilize the Water and Sewer Utility costs.

All residents having an opportunity to be heard, a MOTION was made by Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to close the public hearing.

A MOTION was made by Lovenduski, seconded by Ostrander to adopt Ordinance No. 2012-11.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried.

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 04/04/12**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2012-12**

**(1<sup>st</sup> Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 4/18/12)**

**An Ordinance of the Township of Florence, in the County of Burlington, New Jersey  
Providing for the Acquisition of Real Property adjacent to Marter Park  
for Open Space and Recreational purposes and related expenses in and for the Township,  
Appropriating \$600,000 therefore, and Authorizing the Issuance of  
\$570,000 in General Improvement Bonds or Notes of the Township to Finance the same**

A Motion was made by Lovenduski, seconded by Ostrander to approve Ordinance 2012-12 on first reading and set the public hearing and adoption for April 18, 2012.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**ORDINANCE NO. 2012-13**

**(1<sup>st</sup> Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 4/18/12)**

**An Ordinance Authorizing the Township of Florence to Implement the Five-Year  
Exemption and Abatement Law, Granting Tax Exemptions for Certain Industrial and  
Commercial Improvements and Projects, and Superseding all other Ordinances  
Granting such Exemptions**

A Motion was made by Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance 2012-13 on first reading and set the public hearing and adoption for April 18, 2012.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

**ORDINANCE NO. 2012-14**

**(1<sup>st</sup> Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 4/18/12)**

**An Ordinance of the Township of Florence Amending Chapter 140, Article VI  
of the Code of the Township of Florence Establishing Fees  
and Charges for the Disposal of Septic and Grey Water**

## **Florence Township Council Regular Session 04/04/12**

A Motion was made by Woolston, seconded by Lovenduski to approve Ordinance 2012-14 on first reading and set the public hearing and adoption for April 18, 2012.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS**

Councilman Baldorossi wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Council President Sandusky inquired about painting lines on Front Street crossing from Deb's Snack Shop to the park and boat dock area. He said he got a call from a resident asking for lines to slow the cars.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said he will contact the County. It is a County road.

Council President Sandusky said that with the weather getting nice, children are out riding. He said he would like to start the program again of handing out coupons to kids wearing helmets.

Administrator Brook said he will let the Chief Law Enforcement Officer know. He said there is also going to be a Bike Rodeo held in the back parking lot to be able to get the kids connected with the Police Officers and have a good time.

### **REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Mayor:**

#### **Arbor Day Proclamation**

Mayor Wilkie read the proclamation into the record. Arbor Day will be April 27<sup>th</sup> this year.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said the week of April 23<sup>rd</sup>, volunteers and employees will be planting 272 trees throughout the municipality.

Mayor Wilkie said he is glad there will be trees planted at Nykita field.

He said this Saturday the Roebbling Museum is reopening with a new exhibit on the Titanic and the tragedy's connection to the Roebbling family.

## **Florence Township Council Regular Session 04/04/12**

He said on June 2<sup>nd</sup> the Fire Company is hosting the New Jersey State Exempt Fire Association. It is a large convention. It will be at Florence High School at 9am.

Mayor Wilkie received a letter from the Florence Historical Society. The letter thanked the Township for its support with the recent open house and also specifically thanked Gino James from Public Works and Assistant Administrator Sahol.

The Mayor said this was his ninety-fifth day as Mayor. He was proud to: open the Main Street Community Center in Roebing (Fireman's Hall); hold the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Township of Florence; honor Norman P. Hamilton the former Township Clerk (for almost 30 years) and former Committee Member, along with Charles "Scoots" Adams (currently 97 years old) who was the first Township Administrator and a previous Committee Member and Freeholder; and have Governor Chris Christie visit the Township of Florence. He thanked Council for their support. He thanked Clerk Weiler for her professionalism and noted remembering working with her when he was an employee. He particularly thanked Administrator Brook and Assistant Administrator Sahol for keeping everything moving and for all their hard work.

### **Administrator:**

Administrator Brook said that two of Florence's Police Officers, Officer Michelle Hollins and Sergeant Jon Greenberg, were in a harrowing situation recently when they had to remove a despondent gentleman from the railroad tracks. They removed him seconds before the train came. He said they are a credit to the Department.

### **Assistant Administrator:**

Assistant Administrator Sahol said Recreation Committee members will be attending the next meeting to discuss the 2012 Parks Grant Application for the County. He said the recommendations will be presented at that time.

**Division of Law:** Nothing at this time.

**Division of Engineering:** Nothing at this time.

**Division of Water and Sewer:** Nothing at this time.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Mayor Wilkie said there will be a commendation presented by the Police Chief Law Enforcement Officer to the officers that saved the man on the train tracks.

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 04/04/12**

Council President Sandusky said the Fire Department/Boyd's Pharmacy Easter Egg Hunt is at 10:00 a.m. Saturday at Wilkie Park. He said the two organizations have been holding the event for many years and he would like to send each a letter of thanks.

Mayor Wilkie suggested presenting a Resolution signed by all. Council agreed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Nothing at this time.

**BOARD OF HEALTH:**

Nothing at this time.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

Mayor Wilkie said he would be remiss if he did not acknowledge the Florence Township calendar put together by the Fire Department. It was distributed two weeks ago and he said it turned out very well.

Council President Sandusky opened the meeting to the public again at this time.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, confirmed that trash collection is back to twice a week.

Michael Sawka, 25 Riverbank Drive, commended Mayor and Council for their work on the budget. He said it was a good job.

9:10 PM MOTION by Ostrander, seconded by Lovenduski to adjourn.

Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

9:10 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC  
Township Clerk

/aek