

## **FLORENCE TOWNSHIP COUNCIL EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**January 09, 2013**

**8:00PM**

### **CALL TO ORDER & FLAG SALUTE**

Council President Sandusky called the meeting to order. The **Flag Salute was led by Boy Scouts from Scout Troop 3:** Ryan Weise, Matt Swart, John Boracci, Will Lazdins, Will Blakeslee, Griffin Yaede, Andrew Ferdetta, Harrison Goff, Greg McDonald, Chris Childs, Kyle Sedor, Pat Allen, Ramel Franta and Assistant Scoutmaster Scott Weise.

### **SUNSHINE STATEMENT**

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was sent to the Register News for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board; placed on the web-site on January 3, 2013; and advertised in the Burlington Co. Times on January 6, 2013.

### **ROLL CALL**

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 Administrator; Anthony T. Drollas Jr., Township Solicitor (with Kelly Grant, Esq.); Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Council President Sandusky opened the meeting to the public. No comments at this time. A Motion was made by Woolston, seconded by Baldorossi to close the public comments. Roll call vote – all ayes.

### **BUSINESS**

#### **Township Water & Sewer Engineer**

Administrator Brook explained that the Water and Sewer Engineer was not required this evening because there are only two items. Administrator Brook reported to Mayor and Council.

#### **Deny Release of Performance Bonds: Manors at Crossroads Pump Station**

He said it was just a basic denial of the pump station. He said a formal motion would be done at the next meeting. The contractor will get the work done and will request another inspection. He said the contractor is aware of the denial.

#### **Deny Release of Performance Bonds: Estates at Oak Mills**

Administrator Brook explained that the Estates at Oak Mill is the development being constructed by Pulte Homes near Summer Street at the end of Boulevard. He said a request for release was submitted by Pulte on November 13, 2012. He said the township has 90 days to take formal action on the request.

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In the first 45 days of that period the township must receive a report from its engineer to forward to the contractor so any work that is required can be completed. The township received a letter from Alaimo around January 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> that said the punch list items were not completed. This gives the impression that the developer received the punch list. In reality there was a miscommunication at the engineer's office. The contractor would not be able to complete work he was unaware of. He provided a revised punch list to Mayor and Council with the final items, including the control panel that is the software program for the pump station. This item is very important to the township. Upon receipt of the report from Alaimo, the developer has been working diligently to complete what is needed. The developer was told that if they can complete the list before the meeting next Wednesday and everything passes inspection, the performance bond can be released. In all likelihood the bond will be released upon submission of the software. Administrator Brook does not believe there will be a problem.

### **Township Engineer**

Nothing at this time.

### **Assistant Township Administrator**

Council President Sandusky asked Assistant Administrator Sahol about the status of the FAAD Building. Assistant Administrator Sahol said that yesterday the mechanical contractor was at the site and began the layout work and the work should start within the next few days. He said the delay was because the storm made it impossible for the utility company to install the gas line. The building is being converted to natural gas. He said the building is being maintained to prevent any freezing. It is a priority and he looks forward to getting the Scouts back in the building soon.

Assistant Administrator Sahol referred to a letter from the New Jersey General Assembly about a Department of Transportation meeting that is going to be held January 25. The meeting is going to address highway traffic safety on Route 130. There are many fatalities on the corridor. The police department will be compiling data regarding how many pedestrian accidents and fatalities have occurred on the highway and parallel roads that are used to get to and from the highway and the rail line. The information hopefully will enlighten the State of NJ and result in more grant funds for the township to improve infrastructure to keep people off the shoulder and away from the lane of travel.

Mayor Wilkie said there has been press about the issue. There were two articles in the Burlington County Times about the problems and a television news crew is doing a report on the dangerous highway.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said the Police Department's efforts and the steps that the township is taking with the Department of Transportation regarding the Route 130/Hornberger Avenue closing is paying off. He said there have not been complaints and the police are being diligent with enforcement.

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Mayor Wilkie said it was the township's initiative to make sure that information was provided. He said once pressure was put on, the result was positive. He credited Assistant Administrator Sahol, Administrator Brook, Chief Scully and the officers for getting the lines of communications opened. He said the township was at the whim of the DOT for information being provided in a timely manner.

Councilman Baldorossi said he heard concerns from some residents about the traffic light at Delaware Avenue and Route 130. He said the timer was fixed and it has eased some of the back-up.

Mayor Wilkie explained the on-going situation for the benefit of the Boy Scouts present at the meeting. They asked him earlier what some of the current issues were and he said the no turn out of Roebling onto Route 130 has been an important issue recently.

### **Township Administrator**

Administrator Brook distributed the Police Activity Report for 2012. He said there are monthly reports provided that give the governing body an in-depth view of what happens in the township on a monthly basis. According to the yearly report, the police officers responded to over 1,000 squad calls. He said a majority of the officers are EMT certified and this is a blessing for the residents. He said the Chief of Police said the last page of the report shows there were 7,067 motor vehicle stops and officers handled 21,407 calls. He said for a township of this size that is a massive amount of calls handled by a small but extremely efficient police department. He said if there are any questions the Chief would be more than happy to answer them.

Administrator Brook stated that when permits are issued for an in-ground pool a grading plan is required to be provided to be sure there will be no impact on neighbors or properties nearby. He said there is nothing in the code requiring a grading plan, and it is something that should be included. He said information would be provided to the attorney to draft an ordinance for review that would require a grading plan with an application for an in-ground pool. Council is in agreement to reviewing an ordinance.

Administrator Brook said the township gets a large number of what are called bulk variance requests, for example to build a deck or install a pool. The township created a flat fee structure, so a homeowner would not be required to pay a large amount of money to get a variance.

He noted that as there is increased enforcement, more people are being found to have completed work without permits. People found in this situation must go before the Zoning Board to be in compliance after the fact. He said it is unfair to the professionals to collect a lower fee when they will need to review the application. Administrator Brook said it is not fair for the homeowner that complies to pay the same as someone who did not follow the rules and get a permit.

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He believes that the homeowner that does not comply should be responsible for the escrow to pay for the professional reviews. He said the township Code Official usually gives residents in non-compliance the opportunity to appear before the Zoning Board before he files any charges. Council agrees that those who are not in compliance should incur the cost. An ordinance will be drafted.

Administrator Brook said there may not be a Bill List for the next meeting because the township is switching software. He said it may be necessary to have a motion at that time to pay all the bills.

### Super Bowl Sunday: Resolution Permitting Additional Hour: Close 1:00 A.M.

Council President Sandusky explained that he asked Clerk Weiler to add a resolution allowing extended hours for Consumption and Club liquor licenses on Super Bowl Sunday. He said the extra hour will let the establishments stay open until 1:00 a.m. The game starts at 6:30 pm. Council agreed to the extra hour. Chief Scully spoke with the Township Clerk earlier and said he was only comfortable with the one hour extension.

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Lovenduski to extend Super Bowl Sunday consumption hours by one hour. All ayes – motion carried. A Resolution will be prepared for the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Township Clerk will send letters to the licensees informing them of the approved Resolution and the extension of time.

### Patriotic Celebration and Mayor's Softball Tournament

Mayor Wilkie said he met with the Chief of the Fire Department and a representative of the teachers to see if they would be interested in organizing the parade. Once approvals are in place, Assistant Administrator Sahol will coordinate meetings with those involved to plan the day's events. Mayor Wilkie requested that Council participate. He asked that Council Members Sandusky and Lovenduski participate in the meetings. The event is scheduled for July 6, 2013.

The Mayor's Softball Tournament is scheduled for June 1, 2013. Retired Police Chief Fazekas has agreed to organize the tournament. Mayor Wilkie requested that Council Members Baldorossi and Woolston participate in the planning. He said these are two special events that the community looks forward to.

### Richard Coates Memorial

A letter was received from Mr. Coates' sister. There will be a dedication in Florida on Memorial Day Weekend. That is also the Little League All Star Day here in Florence.

Mayor Wilkie would like to have a rededication of Coates Field on that day. Mayor Wilkie asked that Council President Sandusky and Councilman Ostrander, a veteran, work with the Little League to coordinate the day.

Mayor Wilkie said that Saturday is the grand opening of the Dunkin Donuts in Harkins Plaza. He said Council President Sandusky will be attending and cutting the ribbon at the ceremony.

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He said notice was received that the applicant for the solar farm on Bustleton Road has withdrawn their application. He said he would like to see an ordinance regarding appropriate placement of solar arrays. He would like solar regulated and plans to work with township professionals to draft an ordinance to regulate the placement of all solar panels.

He said on January 25, 2013 there is a Safety Meeting regarding the change of traffic patterns on Route 130. There is also a Winter Summit scheduled for January 24, 2013 at 10:30 A.M. It is a chance to hear Governor Christie if anyone would like to attend.

The Florence Township High School Football will be having their banquet on January 26, 2013. The township is preparing proclamations from the Mayor. Assistant Administrator Sahol is coordinating the traditional sign the township displays. It will be placed by the High School on Cedar Lane.

There is a national record holder in the community. Mayor Wilkie said Lexi Smith holds a national field hockey goal record. He is working on something to honor her. Council President Sandusky requested a sign be hung for her as well. Mayor Wilkie said former Mayor Berry is helping with the honors for all of the athletes.

#### **Public Comments**

Council President Sandusky opened the meeting to the public.

John Boracci, 14 Tall Timber Lane, said there are some procedures at the high school that are not working well. He said a door that is a major entrance to the building was locked, forcing students to walk around the outside of the building to enter. He has concerns with the student ID cards also.

Council President Sandusky said someone will reach out to the Board of Education to discuss the issue. Assistant Administrator Sahol said he will research the problem.

8:40 PM MOTION by Woolston, seconded by Lovenduski to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

8:37 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC  
Township Clerk

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