

Florence, New Jersey
February 6, 2013

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. President Sandusky led the Salute to the Flag.

At this time there was a moment of silence in honor of former Township Engineer ***R. Louis Gallagher***.

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.

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; Kelly Grant, Esq., Township Attorney; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

MINUTES

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

Reorganization – January 2, 2013

Executive Session – January 9, 2013

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Lovenduski, to receive and file the Chief of Police's Report for January. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

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

On the question

Administrator Brook said that the township is dealing with a litigation issue and he incorrectly told the Finance Department there were bills for the firm of Capehart Scatchard. He said the money is actually being paid to MEND and they will pay Capehart Scatchard.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 02/06/13

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. Chinese Auction – Florence HS Parents’ Organization
March 14, 2013, Florence Twp. H.S. (Prom Fashion Show)

- B. On Premise 50/50 – Florence HS Parents’ Organization
March 14, 2013, Florence Twp. H.S. (Prom Fashion Show)

- C. Off Premise 50/50 – Florence H.S. Parents’ Organization
April 5, 2013, to benefit the Girls’ Softball Team

- D. On Premise 50/50 – Riverfront PTO
April 17, 18, 19, 20 during the Spring Musical

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Lovenduski to approve applications A-D.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

John Lauricella, 3 Applegate Drive, said since the shootings in Sandy Hook about 1,500 people nationally have been killed in gun related incidents. Recently there have been programs to buy back guns in places like Camden and Trenton and many weapons were turned in. He would like to see Florence do something like that. He said he realizes Florence is not Camden or Trenton but any guns collected would be a positive thing. He said if every community in New Jersey had a collection thousands of guns would be off the streets. He asked for the Mayor and Council to give it some consideration.

Mayor Wilkie said he had a brief conversation earlier with the Chief of Police on this very item and there will be more discussion. History has found that typically the people that should not have guns don’t turn them in, especially in a small community like this. He said the township will discuss it with the County Prosecutor.

Joseph Kostrub, 260 Delaware Avenue, offered concerns regarding truck traffic on Delaware Avenue. He requested that the truck traffic be diverted another way through the township. He would also like to see the speed limit lowered to 30 miles per hour. He said he sees the police giving tickets to motorists, but he has never seen a truck driver receiving a ticket. He said there is a specific company’s trucks he sees.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 02/06/13

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that it is a county road.

Mr. Kostrub said he also sees trucks parked illegally on Route 130 in front of the WaWa. He said it blocks a motorist's view leaving the parking lot and is very dangerous.

Council President Sandusky said he occasionally sits in on Court Sessions and he saw a truck driver appear who had stopped at the WaWa for a cup of coffee and he was fined about \$300.00 and the judge asked him if it was worth that cup of coffee. He said the police do ticket, even if you don't see it.

Regarding the traffic on Delaware Avenue, Council President Sandusky thinks the company in question has a repair shop in that area and he thinks the trucks are coming out of there or from the warehouses in the area.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said he personally reached out to the company when the issue was first raised and he contacted the County Engineer's Office with a question about speed. Regarding speed, the county said it has done all it can already and can't substantiate lowering of the speed through engineering standards or to the State of New Jersey, who would have to approve the speed reduction.

Mr. Kostrub said it is 30 miles per hour on Front Street in Florence. He said the trucks are very loud in the early morning hours.

Assistant Administrator Sahol will reiterate to the company that there is an alternate route available and the township would like them to use it. He will draft a letter and provide a copy to Mr. Kostrub.

Mr. Kostrub asked if there is an ordinance regarding snow removal on sidewalks?

Administrator Brook said no there is not, but he would like to explain this difficult topic. He said many Councils over the years have discussed and debated it. Most common, reasonable people who are able bodied are going to go out and shovel the snow to clear the sidewalks. Sometimes there are issues where neighbors complain about neighbors. Sometimes these neighbors are elderly, and if there is a complaint a ticket would be issued to a person who really can't shovel. He said he would hope that a neighbor would help people in this situation, but that is not always the case. The township decided it would not be put in the position to ticket those elderly people who can't shovel.

Mr. Kostrub said recently there was a dusting and people waited for it to melt and it didn't. He walks every other day and felt it was unsafe. He said it is the same people that don't shovel and they are not elderly. He said the sidewalk in front of the Main Street Fireman's Hall was not shoveled.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 02/06/13

Cynthia Capritti, Sixth Street & Wallace Avenue, said she is active in the community and the school's parent organizations. She said the Riverbank Charter School is seeking expansion and she feels it will be a detriment to the Florence Township School District. She said school officials have met with State Representatives to discuss the issue and stop the expansion. She is concerned what this will do to the budget of a small school district.

Mayor Wilkie said that he met with the Superintendent and from what he understands the decision falls on the Commissioner of Education. He suggests people contact the Commissioner of Education. He said as Mayor he is not going to get involved in the direct issues because the school is a separate entity from the township. He said as Mayor he will not share his own personal opinion publicly.

All residents having the opportunity to be heard, MOTION by Ostrander; seconded by Lovenduski to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes – motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-46

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
WAIVING THE APPOINTMENT
OF A RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT/INSURANCE PRODUCER
AND INDEMNIFYING AND HOLDING HARMLESS
THE BURLINGTON COUNTY MUNICIPAL JOINT INSURANCE FUND
AS A RESULT OF ANY CLAIMS ARISING FROM SAID ACTION**

RESOLUTION 2013-47

**AUTHORIZING REFUNDS OF CERTAIN OVERPAYMENTS
WATER AND SEWER DEPARTMENT**

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-48

**WATER AND SEWER PAYMENT PLAN FOR BLOCK 147.01, Lot 15.01
777 RAILROAD AVENUE**

It was on the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolution No. 2013-46 through 2013-48.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 02/06/13

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-01

Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriations Limits

And to Establish a Cap Bank

(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

(1st Reading) (Public Hearing and Adoption 02/20/13)

Administrator Brook said the State of New Jersey imposes two caps on municipal budgets. One is called an appropriations cap that limits how much you can physically spend each year. The other is called a tax cap levy which limits the amount of money that can be raised through taxation. This ordinance is designed to deal with the appropriations cap. Every year Florence Township, along with many other municipalities, increases its appropriations cap in case it is ever needed. The ability to spend the money is banked to protect the Municipality in the future. The cap this year is two (2) percent. The cap can be increased an additional 1.5 percent. The amount is banked and set aside in case it is ever needed. If it is not used over the next couple of years, you lose it.

It was on the MOTION of Lovenduski, seconded by Baldorossi, to approve Ordinance No. 2013-01 and set the Public Hearing and Adoption for February 20, 2013.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 2013-02

An Ordinance of the Township of Florence Amending Section 91-24.B(4)(b)[2] of the Code of the Township of Florence Establishing Fees within the Land Development Code of the Township of Florence

(1st Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 02/20/13)

Florence Township Council Regular Session 02/06/13

Assistant Administrator Sahol said right now if a resident comes in for a minor variance application before the Board the applicant can get a lower escrow fee for the professional reviews of the applications. In some cases, the Code Official or Zoning Officer finds that someone has done something unlawfully and made improvements without permits or approvals. The improvement might require a variance application before the Board. That person, under the old ordinance, would get the benefit of the lower cost. Unfortunately, under those circumstances the professionals will have to do much more regarding the application. There is more inspection time and review. This will right that wrong. These individuals will now need to post escrow that is appropriate for the work involved on reviewing their application.

It was the MOTION of Lovenduski, seconded by Ostrander to approve Ordinance No. 2013-02 and set the Public Hearing and Adoption for February 20, 2013.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie asked Council to approve moving Joseph Csik from Alternate #2 to Alternate #1 on the Environmental Commission.

It was the MOTION of Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to move Joseph Csik to Alternate #1 on the Environmental Commission. All ayes – Motion carried.

Mayor Wilkie said that the FAAD Building is again open for use.

The Federal Government notified the township that the Florence Township Fire District received a grant for a little over \$37,000. It is going to be used for heat detectors and infrared-type equipment. The grant was anticipated but it is something that won't have to be funded locally. Some of the items were beyond their useful life and needed to be replaced.

The Fire Department Dinner is scheduled for February 23, 2013. He asked that if anyone is attending they let him know.

He said there are a couple of items for closed session dealing with negotiations, personnel and possible litigation.

The Mayor offered his appreciation to everyone and thanked all for their support over the last couple weeks.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 02/06/13

Administrator:

Administrator Brook said the draft budget is completed and it will be introduced on March 6, 2013. Once the copies are distributed, he will meet with any Council Members privately if they desire or if Council would like, a meeting could be scheduled before March 6 to discuss. He said the members are familiar with the budget process and the immense amount of documentation and various reports that go with it.

Mayor Wilkie said that at the first meeting in March there will be residents honored and a retirement presentation for Butch Reed. March 6th is the 141st anniversary of the township's incorporation, so he thought this would be a fitting meeting to honor residents.

Assistant Municipal Administrator: Nothing at this time.

Division of Law: Nothing at this time.

Division of Engineering: Nothing at this time.

Division of W & S Utilities: Nothing at this time.

Unfinished Business: Nothing at this time.

New Business: Nothing at this time.

Board of Health: Nothing at this time.

Miscellaneous: Nothing at this time.

Public Comments:

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

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, wanted to thank the Public Works Department. The trash haulers left a garbage can in the middle of the road. One of the Public Works employees took the time to get the can from the middle of the road. He really appreciated it. Council President Sandusky said he will let the Director of Public Works know.

Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the MOTION of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes – motion carried.

8:28 PM MOTION by Woolston, seconded by Ostrander to adjourn to closed session.

Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT:

8:28 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/aek