

Florence, New Jersey
June 15, 2016

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 Vice President Ostrander at 8:00 PM. Vice President Ostrander led the Salute to the Flag.

At this time there was **moment of silence** for those who were senselessly killed in an mass shooting in **Orlando, Florida**.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was sent to the Trenton Times for information; posted on the municipal bulletin board; placed on the web-site on January 7th, 2016; and advertised in the Burlington Co. Times on January 3rd, 2016 and January 10th 2016.

Present: Jerry Sandusky, David Woolston, Paul Ostrander
(Ted Lovenduski and Frank Baldorossi were absent due to family commitments.)

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Kelly Grant, Esq., Township Attorney; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk
(Assistant Administrator Thomas Sahol was absent for a family commitment.)

MINUTES

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

- Township Council Regular Session – April 20, 2016 and May 4, 2016
- Township Council Closed Session – June 1, 2016

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Woolston to receive and file the Township Clerk's Report for May. Roll call vote - all ayes. Unanimous approval.

It was on the MOTION of Woolston; seconded by Sandusky to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi, Lovenduski

Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE None at this time.

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APPLICATIONS:

- A. Bingo – The Church of Sts. Francis & Clare
McGrath Hall, Hornberger Avenue, 7:15pm-10:15pm
July 4, 11, 18, 25; August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; September 5, 12, 19, 26
October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; November 7, 14, 21, 28
December 5, 12, 19, 26 - 2016

- B. Transient Merchant License: Mr. Softee Truck

- C. Social Affair: Francis W. Robbins American Legion Post 194
July 9, 2016, 11:00 a.m. - Midnight

It was the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Woolston to approve Applications A through C.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi, Lovenduski

Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, said he didn't know who was involved with replacing the light at the boat dock but he wanted to thank them. The new lighting is outstanding. Mayor Wilkie said the lights are energy efficient and will be a cost savings for the township.

Mr. Kamienski said he met with Assistant Administrator Sahol on May 24th and discussed various topics. One of the topics that was discussed was the continuous deterioration of the Conrail train tracks on Railroad Avenue. He asked if Assistant Administrator Sahol or anyone else had taken any action on this problem? He provided photos that he said showed that the wood is deteriorating and there are bolts and such sticking out. The traffic is going to be heavier when the new facilities on Cedar Lane open and this will be a problem. He said the photos were from that morning.

Mayor Wilkie said he knew that Assistant Administrator Sahol met with Conrail, but he didn't know if it was about this issue specifically because the township and Conrail are working on a few issues. He said the township is hoping to have this spur vacated and turned over to the township. Griffin Pipe was the balance of the user and he believed at Pine Street ownership turns over to them. They have no use for it. The new owner of the property is going to vacate it and turn the property over to the township. The township will work with First Industrial to create a multi-purpose pathway that will allow people to get from Olive Street to Railroad Avenue. There is a safety issue with the tracks and it will be addressed. The Mayor and Council thanked him.

Joe Csik, 45 East Fifth Street, asked if the railroad tracks that run down Fifth Street were going to be taken out? Mayor Wilkie said that has not been agreed to and the township is working with the owner but the goal is to get the tracks out.

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Jane Brennan, 700 Olive Street, said trucks turning onto Railroad Avenue from Delaware Avenue are causing a safety hazard because vehicles get stopped on the railroad tracks waiting for them to turn.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, it was the motion of Woolston and seconded by Sandusky to close the public comments. Roll call vote - all ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-141
Authorizing Approval of 2016-2017 Renewal of
Plenary Retail Distribution License
(Punam)

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-142
Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Not to Exceed
\$3,000,000 Tax Anticipation Notes of 2016 of the Township of
Florence, in the County of Burlington,
State of New Jersey

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-143
Water & Sewer Payment Plan for Block 38, Lot 7.01
333 West Fourth Street

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-144
Authorizing an On-Line Auction with
Govdeals for
Disposal of Municipal Property

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-145
Resolution to Remove Properties from Tax Sale

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-146
Approval to Submit a Grant Application and
Execute a Grant Contract with the
New Jersey Department of Transportation for the
SRS-I-2016 Safe Routes to Schools Grant

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-147
Authorize Refund
Use of FAAD Building Fee
Due to the Event Being Cancelled**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-148
Authorize Refund
Use of FAAD Building Fee
Due to the Event Being Cancelled**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-149
Approve Change Order No. 1 and Payment No. 1 for the Contract
Florence Township CDBG 2015
Hamilton Avenue and Railroad Avenue Sidewalk Improvements
S. Batata Construction, 238 Ernston Road,
Suite 1 R, Parlin, NJ 08850**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-150
Water & Sewer Payment Plan for Block 98.06, Lot 5
25 Riverbank Drive**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-151
Authorizing Refunds of Certain Tax Overpayments**

It was the Motion of Sandusky and seconded by Woolston to approve Resolution No. 2016-141 through Resolution No. 2016-151.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi, Lovenduski

Motion carried.

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ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-18
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 134 OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE TO
ESTABLISH PARKING RESTRICTIONS ON PORTIONS OF
TENTH AVENUE AND NINTH AVENUE
(2nd Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption)**

Administrator Brook said the new park opened in Roebbling and many people are using one location to park and it is creating difficulties for the homeowners who live in the area. The problem is at the end of Ninth and Tenth Avenues.

The meeting was opened to the public at this time regarding Ordinance No. 2016-18. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was the Motion of Sandusky and seconded by Woolston to close the public hearing. Roll call vote – all ayes.

It was the MOTION of Woolston, seconded by Sandusky to adopt Ordinance 2016-18.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi, Lovenduski

Motion carried.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-19
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 22 OF THE TOWNSHIP CODE
OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE ENTITLED “POLICE DEPARTMENT”
TO SUPPLEMENT THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF
POLICE CHAPLAIN WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
POLICE DEPARTMENT
(1st Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 7/13/16)**

It was the MOTION of Sandusky and seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2016-19 and set the public hearing and adoption for July, 13, 2016.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi, Lovenduski

Motion carried.

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**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-20
AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES
FOR THE ALLOCATION AND RECAPTURE OF THE COST OF
OFF-TRACT STREET IMPROVEMENTS PAID FOR OR
CONSTRUCTED BY DEVELOPERS PURSUANT
TO N.J.S.A. 40:55D-42
(1st Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 7/13/16)**

It was the Motion of Woolston and seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2016-20 and set the public hearing and adoption for July 13, 2016.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Sandusky, Woolston, Ostrander

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi, Lovenduski

Motion carried.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers:

Administration

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie, in response to Mr. Csik's question regarding the Resolution for the auction, explained Resolution No. 2016-144. He said years ago the township used to have an auction for surplus equipment. Very few people would come and it really cost more to advertise than what the items would sell for. A number of years ago the township signed up with Govdeals and it has proven to be much better for the township. It is an on-line auction site.

The Mayor said there are a number of activities going on. **Main Street** was paved. The township is looking at a striping pattern for Ninth and Tenth Avenue. Main Street used to have parallel parking in the center of the street. In order to relieve some of the issues from the parking restrictions on Ninth and Tenth Avenues the township is creating angled parking that will allow for more vehicles to park there. That is going to be done tomorrow. It is a trial to see how it works. If it works well, it might be done in other areas.

The **carnival** will be returning tomorrow after at least 11 years. It is being held at Nyikita Field and is sponsored by the Roebing Museum. He reviewed the opening times for the four days. As he told Jack Ulmer, the new president of the Florence Senior Citizens, if you are looking for Father Dennison's recipe for fried dough, that won't be there. There are a few things that won't be there that people may remember from the Holy Assumption Carnival. It will be a little different than Holy Assumption but there will be bacon bread. There are many organizations in the community that are coming together to make this work.

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Next Thursday the township will be holding a **farmer's market** at Nyikita Field near Main Street. Behind the baseball field there is a parking lot area and that is where the market will be held. There will be traditional farmer's market items. There will also be food items and other different items. It will be posted on the township website and on Channel 19. He is hoping for participation from the community and that the market will grow.

Last Saturday he attended **Trinity United Methodist Church's 100th Anniversary** celebration and presented them with a Resolution. It was well received.

Regarding the parking request from St. Mary's, Administrator Brook received the approval of the Township Attorney and Chief of Police. At the last meeting, there was some mention of St. Nick's. There was no request from them for restricted parking but the conversation needs to include them.

The next **Council Meeting** is **July 13th**. There won't be a meeting the first Wednesday of July.

The Mayor explained the front garage of the former Florence Rescue Squad is being used by the police department. The back part is not currently being used by anyone. There were some issues with mold but it has been remediated. There was a request from softball for an indoor batting cage. He asked for Council to consider it and if they concurred, he would ask the engineer to come up with plans involving gutting out the rear portion and creating an indoor batting cage. The building has been vacant for at least ten years. This would be an option to consider.

Sojourners is a non-profit group that encourages the use of waterways. They will be at the Roebling Museum Friday and Saturday. They will kayak from the Florence boat dock. On Friday they will be going toward Burlington to explore Burlington Island. On Saturday they will be kayaking to Bristol. They partnered with the Roebling Museum to use their facility and will be camping there. The VFW is letting them use their facility for cooking.

Council Member Sandusky said years ago the community tried to put together a **community calendar**. It was meant to make things easier but it didn't work. Last Saturday there were three events being held almost simultaneously. This weekend is the carnival. Mayor Wilkie said the town does do a calendar but people are not submitting information for it. Council Member Sandusky said last weekend there was a fishing tournament, the softball parade and the bike rodeo. All three were very successful. Mayor Wilkie said each of those could have been on the township calendar and he has been encouraging people to do so. The calendar goes to print after the November election. He always recommends groups try and plan events in advance and get them included in the calendar. He noted that the events would also be put on the calendar on the township's website.

Mayor Wilkie said this morning the township was honored at the **Select Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce**. This is an organization that represents one county in Delaware, seven in South Jersey and seven in the Philadelphia area. It was at the WHYY studio. The township did a presentation about how it worked together with different facets to make the Amazon facility a possibility.

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A number of business interests were there and it was well done. Burlington County was originally contacted but the county directed them to the administration of Florence Township.

He wished everyone a **Happy Father's Day**.

July 9th is the **Patriotic Day celebration**. The parade route is being changed a little this year. It will go from Fifth Street and then left onto Olive Street. It will go left onto Delaware Avenue, continue to Front Street and proceed to make a left onto Broad Street. The new route makes the parade a little bit longer. The flag raising ceremony is still at the monument. This means parade participants can also participate in the ceremony.

Township Administrator

Administrator Brook wanted to thank the **Police Department** for their hard work. They have had some very productive raids recently. He also thanked the other law enforcement agencies who participated. The department's Facebook page shows some of the arrests that were made and the charges that resulted. They did a tremendous job with some very difficult situations. The police need to have facts and reasonable suspicion and must be able to secure a search warrant. They did a tremendous job putting together the investigation and it was extremely fruitful.

He said he wanted to acknowledge and **thank Marty Eckert**. Regarding the carnival, the Roebbling Museum has been doing a great deal on their own, but Marty has been like a spoke in the wheel. He has done a fantastic job working with them and did a great deal of it on his own time. He helped guide them and got everything put together. Having a carnival is a significant undertaking. He thanked everyone that had been working together.

Mayor Wilkie said regarding the carnival, there were many informal meetings and then there were official meetings happening every Tuesday for the past one and a half months with all those involved including the police and fire. He said Marty was a central piece. He also thanked Assistant Administrator Sahol for his help.

Administrator Brook said he spoke to Ms. Brennan earlier in the day about the **Amazon property**. She expressed concern about the potential noise that could be generated once it is up and running. He gathered information for her from the approval in respect to a sound wall and a study that would have to be done if there were issues after it was built. The board acknowledged that if there are issues, they would have to return to the planning board for site plan approval from the board. He wanted to put everything together for Ms. Brennan in a comprehensive package and also provide to her what the sound expert provided to the planning board. Her concerns are sincere and he wants to make sure the township does its best to try and address them.

One issue that comes up in projects of this magnitude is the pouring of concrete. They all have to pour outside of regular hours because of the size of the slab. NFI had to do the same thing for all of their projects on Route 130 and will have to do it again.

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First Industrial is now beginning the process. They received their permits yesterday for the sound wall that they have to install. They will be coming to the township to get permission to pour during off hours. They will be required to provide notice to the homeowners and the township will work to minimize how many times they pour. Information will also be posted on the website.

Public Comments: Open to the Public

Bill Bott, 64 Riverbank Drive, asked if something was going to be done to the whirlybird on Cedar Lane because of the truck traffic that will be generated by the new facilities? Mayor Wilkie said the whirlybird would remain intact, there would be no changes to that. There will be a roundabout installed at Cedar Lane and Railroad Avenue. As part of the proposal, there will also be an adjustment to the timing of the light on Route 130 at Cedar Lane. Mr. Bott said there is heavy traffic at that light because the high school is on Cedar Lane. Mayor Wilkie said he met with representatives from Amazon and they plan on starting their shift at 7:00 a.m. The staff would have to be in before the students were arriving for school. Mr. Bott asked if there were specific times for trucks arriving to the facility? Mayor Wilkie said there has not been a schedule set for that. Amazon came out and observed the area for a couple weeks to determine what the peak traffic times were and adjusted their schedule accordingly.

Mr. Kamienski said he wanted to thank the Mayor for sharing the opening times for the carnival. The information is not on the signs. He asked about parking for the event. Mayor Wilkie said parking would be in the Roebling School parking lot. Overflow would go onto what was the old carnival grounds, the grassy area next to the parking lot. Handicapped parking would be at the empty building on the corner of Hornberger and Tenth Avenues.

Ms. Brennan asked if Amazon would be operating on Sundays? Mayor Wilkie said yes they would, it will be a twenty-four hour a day, seven day a week operation.

Mr. Csik said he spoke to Administrator Brook about illegals being detained at a large warehouse in Burlington. He wanted to know if there had been any follow-up on the issue? Mayor Wilkie said he had not received a recent update from Burlington Township. It has been a few months since he has heard anything. That was supposed to only be for a temporary amount of time. Administrator Brook said he would reach out to Burlington Township for an update.

It was the Motion of Woolston and seconded by Sandusky to close the public comments. Roll call - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

8:35 PM MOTION of Woolston; seconded by Sandusky to adjourn. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy M. Weiler, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/aek