

Florence, New Jersey
August 10, 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 President Lovenduski at 8:00 PM. Council President Lovenduski led the Salute to the Flag.

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: Frank Baldorossi, Paul Ostrander, Jerry Sandusky, David Woolston, Ted Lovenduski

Also present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Administrator; Kelly Grant, Esq., Township Attorney; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

MINUTES

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

- Township Council Closed Session – August 3, 2016

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was the MOTION of Ostrander; seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Court Administrator's Report for July. 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: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

- To: Mayor & Council From: Judith King, President, Florence Historical Society
Re: Open House, Saturday, September 17, 2016, 11:00am-2:00pm and
General Mercer Chapter DAR, Saturday, October 1, 2016, 10:00am-2:30pm
Use of West Third Street Firehouse

It was the Motion of Woolston and seconded by Baldorossi to approve the requests.

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On the Question:

Council Member Sandusky asked that the Public Works Department inspect the facility before the events. Administrator Brook said Assistant Administrator Sahol will be paying very close attention to the building because it was just discovered that there is a leak inside the building and he is working on remediating that. The carpet will be removed and the leak will be fixed. The township will be paying more attention to make sure the building is ready.

Mayor Wilkie asked where the damage was located? He was concerned that it was in the weight room or the meeting room area. Assistant Administrator Sahol said the damaged carpet was in the back room where there are display cases. It is only the floor. The first floor was where the problem was. The supply line let go. It is the two rooms, the kitchen and the hallway. Administrator Brook said in this kind of weather it is not good to let water sit. The humidity creates other issues. Assistant Administrator Sahol has spent a lot of time on the issue and it is being taken care of.

Roll call vote - all ayes. Motion Carried. Unanimous approval.

APPLICATIONS:

- A. On-Premise Merchandise Raffle, Civic Association to benefit the Soccer Association
September 10, 2016, Veterans Park Field, 5:00pm-10:00pm

It was the Motion of Ostrander and seconded by Sandusky to approve application A.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Sandusky, Ostrander, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Helen Steck, 624 Station Road, said near the Dollar Tree store on Route 130 there is a bush that is causing a safety hazard for people entering and exiting Route 130 at Station Road. Mayor Wilkie said the township does trim that a few times a year and it will be taken care of.

Mrs. Steck said there needs to be a light at the bend in Station Road, it is very dark there. There are also large vines there. She asked a tree trimmer about clearing the vines and he advised her she would need to contact the township. Assistant Administrator Sahol advised her he would take care of the issues.

Mrs. Steck said the Public Works Department has been terrific about helping her when she calls. She cleans areas and they are good about coming to pick stuff up.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, said the Dollar Store does not own the bush, Burlington County does. He trims it back.

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Mayor Wilkie said he didn't believe it was owned by Burlington County; he thinks it's either the State of NJ or the township. Mayor Wilkie said Assistant Administrator Sahol would address it. Mr. Kamienski said it really should be removed. Administrator Brook said Assistant Administrator Sahol just told him it was going to be removed.

Mrs. Steck said she cleans the street every morning and early this morning there was a car speeding. Cars speed a lot on her street. The police told her there really isn't much that can be done.

She said there is a section of land behind the car dealership on Parkside Drive that is in need of attention. The man who owns the car dealership told her he cleaned up his part and he doesn't own the lot. The owner of Mario & Franks told her it isn't his either. She said it is in awful shape. Assistant Administrator Sahol said he will look into it.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-166
Approve Request for Release of Bond for
Building A, Phase II Water Distribution
NFI Real Estate

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-167
Approve Payment No. 1 for Contract for
Salt Storage Building
To: Levy Construction
134 Cuthbert Boulevard
Audubon, NJ 08106

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-168
A Resolution Canceling Taxes on a Property
Owned by a Totally Disabled Veteran
(Block 106, Lot 5)

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-169
A Resolution Canceling Taxes on a Property
Owned by a Totally Disabled Veteran
(Block 167.03, Lot 31)

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-170
A Resolution Canceling Taxes on a Property
Owned by the Township of Florence**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-171
Authorize Replacement and Acquisition of Trucks and
Vehicles Under State Contract**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-172
Resolution Authorizing an Agreement Between
The Township of Florence and the Burlington County
Board of Chosen Freeholders
Concerning the Disposition of Wastewater from the
Burlington County Resource Recovery Complex**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-173
Authorizing a State Contract Purchase for
Court Room/ Council Chambers and
Conference Room Chairs**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-174
Authorize the Assistant Township Administrator to
Prepare Plans, Specifications, and Obtain Bids for a
Truck Replacement for the Water & Sewer Department**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-175
Authorize Refund
Construction Permit Fee**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2016-176
A Resolution Canceling Taxes on Property
Owned by the
Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders**

It was the Motion of Ostrander and seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution Nos. 2016-166 through 2016-176.

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Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-26
AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF
CERTAIN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
(1st Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 9/7/16)**

It was the Motion of Sandusky and seconded by Ostrander to approve Ordinance No. 2016-26 and set the public hearing and adoption for September 7, 2016.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2016-27
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 134 OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE
TO ESTABLISH PARKING RESTRICTIONS AND IMPLEMENT A
PERMITTING PROCESS ON A PORTION OF ALDEN AVENUE
(1st Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 9/7/16)**

It was the Motion of Baldorossi and seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2016-27 and set the public hearing and adoption for September 7, 2016.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Lovenduski

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Motion carried. Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers:

Administration

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie said the **community recreation sports** have started. They began last week. The high school will be starting during the day next week. He asked that people be aware that the children are out.

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This Saturday is the Post 194 **Annual Car Show**. It was postponed from May. It is scheduled from 9:00am-2:00pm on Broad Street.

He reminded the Members of Council that the **Fire Department picnic** is on August 27th. He said the RSVP's are due.

To the public, there will not be a Council Meeting until September 7. That is also the first day of school. All children will be back in then. He asked that everyone try and be aware.

At the Reorganization Meeting in January, Mayor Wilkie said he made an announcement about a **Park Committee** to design the new section of the **Roebing Park at Riverside Avenue**. He would like Council Member Baldorossi to be part of the committee. He is proposing the first meeting be held on September 7 at 6:00pm. Council Member Baldorossi agreed to be a member. Mayor Wilkie said he sent letters to others he thought would be a help in designing the park. To start the meeting he would like to hear what else the Environmental Protection Agency plans to do. Assistant Administrator Sahol had discussed with them about putting in on Second Avenue the access down to the park that the township had requested. The EPA seemed to be agreeable. Mayor Wilkie said funding was received for trees, park benches and trash receptacles under a grant from the county. He would like for everyone to present their ideas and would like everyone to keep an open mind and think about ideas that were presented. At the next meeting the pros and cons of the ideas could be discussed. The key piece is to get the trees planted this fall. That would be one of the first priorities for the committee. He explained that Council is not giving up authority to the committee. The committee would draft a plan and present it to Council for final approvals. Mayor Wilkie presented a list of people he has reached out to and all were willing to serve.

Council Vice President Ostrander said there was an informative meeting with **Congressman Tom MacArthur at DC Fabricators**. There were representatives from the different companies that are associated with DC Fabricators. They stressed how important the plant was for the future of building submarines. It was a good tour.

Mayor Wilkie said there was a very nice groundbreaking last Thursday morning at **QPSI**. The township received many accolades about how good all the people were to work with. There was praise from the developer, QPSI and the Lt. Governor's Office, among others. The township's reputation for working with projects is very good and businesses are referred here.

Township Administrator

Administrator Brook said John Groze, Sr. came in to see him yesterday. He has been cleared to return to work and will be back working at the **Recycling Center** in September. It was very good to see him. He is a very nice man and is well respected. He has a great personality and is very good with the public.

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Administrator Brook said he saw that Michael Bunnick was in attendance this evening. He wanted to thank him for all of the time he took to meet with the township and review a revised parking schedule for Alden Avenue in an effort to make it work better for everyone, not only the church members but also the people who live in the area. A plan was created that Mr. Bunnick is very satisfied with that should work well. The timetable had to be pushed back to September for approval but the township will work to be sure the signs are ready for when the ordinance is approved and takes effect.

Marty Eckert notified Administrator Brook of a situation recently. He asked if everyone was familiar with Commander Robert Yancy? He had a problem with his utility lines. Director of Water & Sewer David Lebak and some employees went to the residence to help. Mr. Eckert told Administrator Brook that what they did for him warmed his heart because they took a lot of time with Mr. Yancy and saved him several thousand dollars. They intervened and helped him so he wouldn't have to call a private contractor. He thanked Mr. Eckert for sharing the information with him. It is an exemplary example of the efforts of Mr. Lebak and the employees of the **Water & Sewer Department**. They do things like that with great frequency, especially when dealing with seniors. They are always willing to step in and help as far as they can.

Mayor Wilkie said along the same line, Mrs. Griffith from Riverfront School told him Sunday she had water in her basement/crawlspace. She had nothing but praise for the department. Mr. Lebak was at the residence and went into the crawlspace to try and figure out what the problem was. He wanted to echo the sentiments regarding Mr. Lebak and the Water & Sewer Department.

Administrator Brook said the employees formed a **Safety Committee**. Mr. Lebak is the head of the committee. It is very important to keep employees safe. There was an excellent report that came from the Safety Coordinator for the Joint Insurance Fund. He said he had provided a copy to the Mayor and Council. The report said the Safety Committee is not only productive but that every department has a representative and each representative plays an active role. In the end, it helps the township prevent accidents, work gets done and the employees are more productive in providing services for the residents of the community. That is a tribute not only to Mr. Lebak but to all the other department heads and the employees.

Assistant Administrator

Assistant Administrator Sahol said there are two steel benches in the Municipal Building. A third was donated by **Maser Engineering**. It was a very nice gesture.

Last week at the meeting a resident expressed concern about the **hedgerow** next to the **solar facility on Cedar Lane**. The minutes were pulled and there was nothing in the resolution. The township's Conflict Engineer is working with the company's engineer and the developer to see if something can be done to make sure they address the area next to the cemetery property. He spoke to the resident and the resident said he understood and appreciated the efforts of the township.

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Regarding the **Salt Barn**, there is no visible progress at the site because unfortunately the engineer that the contractor hired was having some difficulty with some of the geotechnical work and they had to wait for some studies to come back. Engineer Biegen was finally comfortable accepting some of that information. The permits were issued last week. They intend to break ground this Friday. Engineer Biegen said he doesn't think the setback will have a real effect on the estimated time frame. The township will also be working with the contractor to transfer the existing materials to the new building.

There has been some really nice progress with the **Road Program**. It is slow and steady and that is deliberate because the township wants to make sure it is on top of all the major concerns. It is a big project and there haven't been many complaints. The contractor and his crew have been very good with communicating with the residents. Chestnut Street and Walnut Street should be milled and paved next week. There will be some preliminary work on Hornberger Avenue to make the sidewalks safe. It may not involve paving but it will ensure the school route sidewalks are safe for the opening of school.

Administrator Brook asked Assistant Administrator Sahol to explain why Hornberger Avenue hasn't been paved. Assistant Administrator Sahol said everyone has probably heard or seen that the State of New Jersey and the **Transportation Trust Fund** is sitting in flux now. Any funds that came to the township through this fund are basically frozen. The municipality cannot continue with the project. In the interest of public safety, the township is permitted to do the school walk work. That is the only place there will be movement on until the state either releases the funds or they come to some way to again fund the transportation trust fund. That is why Hornberger Avenue is unfortunately sitting in limbo right now. The people on Hornberger Avenue have been very understanding. He hasn't received a single call. The township was very proactive in getting the information to the residents. If there were any concerns, they were addressed right away and inspections were done to make sure the road is safe in its current condition.

Council Member Sandusky said he thinks the people on Hornberger Avenue understand the situation. There is one business there that had a lot of the brickwork in front of his funeral parlor torn up. He said he spoke to the business owner and he was very understanding of the township's situation.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said he wanted to mention that there are only a few sections of the Road Program that remain. They are Broad Street, Olive Street and Cedar Lane. The sections were marked on Cedar Lane and the tree work will take place in the next week. As the township nears the end of the project, it will know better what it can do to leverage the flexibility of the contract. As long as there is funding available, he would like to exercise some minor modification to the contract, he would like to recommend to Council that a Change Order be done to add a retaining curb on the **Nyikita Field parking lot**, also known as the Farmer's Market parking lot, and then pave the lot. He has what he considers to be a really good number for such a big lot and the amount of work it would take.

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He said Engineer Biegen agreed. It would benefit the Farmer's Market and the carnival. It would be a good stable surface that can continue to be used for other park projects.

Council Member Sandusky said he was in favor and asked if there needed to be a motion? Assistant Administrator Sahol said it was more in concept. He was making sure Council was comfortable with the idea. At some point in time he would come back with it reflected in a change order. Administrator Brook said the concern for this particular area is from a safety standpoint. With all the activity in the area, it would be safer to improve the area. Council could do a motion with the acknowledgement to proceed with the work as long as it is within the twenty percent (20%) threshold of adjustments. If it is, there would be a Change Order provided. It would be documented and there would be a formal resolution that would adjust the contract.

It was the MOTION of Sandusky and seconded by Baldorossi to proceed with the paving project as long as the funds are available. Roll call vote - all ayes.

NEW BUSINESS: Nothing at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nothing at this time.

Public Comments: Open to the Public

Mr. Kamienski said the tax bills were received in the mail by residents this week. In years past there were stickers with tax due dates that could be put on calendars. This was replaced by a paper calendar. He asked how much was saved by eliminating the stickers? Administrator Brook said he didn't think it was done as a cost savings measure. The calendar and the online calendar have the information. People seem to be used to it. The township does not put as much in the tax bills as it used to. He doesn't know the reason it changed but it was not as a cost saving measure.

Mrs. Steck asked why there were two times during the meeting when the public could talk? Council President Lovenduski explained there were two because if something was discussed during the meeting that someone had a question about they would have a chance to ask it or express an opinion.

Mrs. Steck said on Delaware Avenue in front of the firehouse there are crosswalks and no one stops to let pedestrians cross. Administrator Brook said Assistant Administrator Sahol would meet with her to review the issue. He said there might be additional signage that could be added.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, it was the Motion of Sandusky and seconded by Ostrander to close the public comments. Roll call vote - all Ayes. Motion carried.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Joy M. Weiler, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk
/aek