

Florence, New Jersey
January 16, 2008

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

The following statement was read by the Township Clerk: "Notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was published in the Burlington County Times on January 6, 2008; given to the Register News for information. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board."

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Frank Baldorossi, President
Bruce Garganio
Dennis O'Hara
Sean Ryan
Jerry Sandusky

Also present:

Mayor William Berry; Richard Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

PRESENTATION:

CHIEF GORDON R. DAWSON & CAPTAIN L. JOSEPH GADBOIS, RETIREES

Chief Gordon R. Dawson

On behalf of Mayor and Council, Council President Baldorossi presented Chief Gordon R. Dawson with a plaque in honor of his retirement after 25 years of service to the Florence Township Police Department.

Mayor Berry thanked Chief Dawson for his years of dedicated service. He presented Chief Dawson's wife, Debbie, with flowers and thanked her for the sacrifices she has made over the years and for being the lady behind the man.

Chief Dawson thanked his wife for her "unwavering support" over the years. He would have not made it through this career without such a strong, dedicated woman.

Chief Dawson recalled some changes that have taken place in the Police Department over the years and thanked the past and present Mayors, Council Members and Administration throughout his career.

Chief Dawson is very proud to have worked with the police officers on the force and very proud to have been a part of the hiring process for some of the officers standing here this evening. He stated that the men and the woman on the Florence Township Police Force are the reason why this

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department is looked upon so well. He asked them to keep up the good work and they will retire proud one day just as he is.

Chief Dawson thanked his friends and family in the audience this evening. He has gained support from his family and friends.

Chief Dawson stated that the department is in good hands with the new Chief of Police, Stephen Fazekas. He looks forward to seeing nothing but continued progress from the Florence Township Police Department.

He thanked Mayor and Council for the opportunities that have been given to him over the years; he hopes he has made them proud.

Chief Gordon Dawson stated that retires a very happy, satisfied man.

Captain L. Joseph Gadbois, Jr.

On behalf of Mayor and Council, Council President Baldorossi presented Captain L. Joseph Gadbois, Jr. with a plaque in honor of his retirement after 24 years of service to the Florence Township Police Department.

Mayor Berry thanked Captain Gadbois for his years of dedicated service. He presented Captain Gadbois's wife, LuAnn, with flowers and thanked her for the sacrifices she has made over the years and for being the lady behind the man.

Captain Gadbois stated that retirement is great. He recognized and thanked the members of his family in attendance this evening.

Captain Gadbois looked back over the start of his career in police work at the Bridge Commission. It was a very happy day when he was hired as a patrolman by Florence Township.

Captain Gadbois thanked Richard Brook, Florence Township Administrator, who he feels in invaluable. "He is the best thing to ever happen to Florence Township." He thanked the past and present Mayors and Council Members during his career.

Captain Gadbois stated that he has had a great career and has had a wonderful working relationship with Chief Dawson. He has been privileged to work together with Chief Dawson.

Captain Gadbois praised the Police Officers on the Florence Township Police Force and thanked them.

Captain Gadbois thanked his wife, LuAnn, who is "the most thoughtful, caring, understanding person" he has ever known.

Administrator Brook stated that over his years of working with Chief Dawson and Captain Gadbois, he has been impressed. They embody everything that you would believe that a Police Officer should be. When you think of a Police Officer you think of the terms: protect, serve, dedication and commitment, which is Chief Dawson and Captain Gadbois in a nutshell. Everything was for the

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Florence Township Police Department, never “I” or “me”, it was always the team. He expressed his respect for the Chief and Captain and thanked them for all they have done.

Chief Stephen Fazekas, thanked Chief Dawson and Captain Gadbois and along with the other Police Officers presented arms.

Betty Wargo, secretary in the Florence Township Police Department, stated that Chief Dawson and Captain Gadbois are the most caring men she has ever worked with. Nothing was too much. She thanked them for all they have done and wished them well in their retirement.

Mayor Berry thanked Chief Dawson and Captain Gadbois for what they have done for the department. They have left their footprint on this department for years to come. They have done an outstanding job. He appreciates what they have done for the future of the community. As a new Mayor he is proud of the Police Department.

Mayor Berry stated that there was a bank robbery in town last week and recognized Detective Jon Greenberg and Detective Albert Jacoby on the outstanding job they did on solving the crime within 24 hours.

Chief Fazekas thanked Chief Dawson and Captain Gadbois; they came in at a difficult time as leaders and guided the department. The police officers are a good bunch of men and women and he is proud to be Chief of the Florence Township Police Department. He congratulated Chief Dawson and Captain Gadbois on their retirement.

Council President Baldorossi announced that there were refreshments in the front conference room.

8:20PM: RECESS

8:33PM: MEETING RESUMED

MINUTES

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

Regular Session	November 7, 2007 and December 5, 2007
Closed Session	November 7, 2007, December 5, 2007 and December 12, 2007

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Garganio to receive and file the Court Administrator’s report, Township Clerk’s report and Chief of Police’s report for December. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Sandusky made a MOTION; seconded by Garganio to approve the Treasurer’s Bill List. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing at this time.

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APPLICATIONS

- A. RAFFLE: Florence Township Civic Association, Inc., Penny Auction and On Premise 50/50, April 12, 2008, 6:00PM – 2:00AM, Holy Assumption Church

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to approve the above application.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: O'Hara, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: Garganio

Motion carries.

- B. AMEND BINGO LICENSE #BL734: Holy Assumption Church, Change the Secretary/Treasurer/Pastor to the parish's new Secretary/Treasurer/Administrator

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by O'Hara to approve the above application.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, O'Hara, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Don Kaminski, 10 McCay Drive, stated that over the past 14 months he has been addressing Council and presenting evidence as to why something should be done regarding the parking situation on Delaware Avenue near the deli at the intersection of Station Road. This evening he presented more evidence in the form of a picture of a large truck parked on the southbound lane and another large truck parked on the northbound lane; anyone traveling on Delaware Avenue has to cross over the double yellow lines. He sees that that the first reading for an Ordinance that will help is on the Agenda this evening. He hopes the Council Members will do the right thing when it comes time to vote on the Ordinance.

All residents having an opportunity to be heard, MOTION by Sandusky; seconded by O'Hara to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-32

**APPROVE CURRENT ESTIMATE NO. 6 FOR
WELL NO. 6, WELL PUMP, BUILDING & APPURTENANCES
B&H CONTRACTING, INC., 1022 BLACK HORSE PIKE,
FOLSOM, NEW JERSEY, 08037**

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-33

**DENY REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF MAINTENANCE BOND
ATLANTIC COAST/SALSON LOGISTICS, INC.
BOND NO. 5020351 (M)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-34

**AUTHORIZE FILING OF RECYCLING TONNAGE GRANT
APPLICATION**

RESOLUTION NO. 2008-35

TRANSFERRING CERTAIN 2007 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Ryan that Resolutions 2008-32 through 2008-35 be approved.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, O'Hara, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2008-01

(1st Reading)

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE BY
AMENDING SECTION 134-35 – SCHEDULE III: NO STOPPING
OR STANDING BY ADDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS FOR
DELAWARE AVENUE**

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It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Garganio to approve Ordinance No. 2008-01 on first reading and set adoption for February 6, 2008.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Garganio, O'Hara, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE 2008-02
(1st Reading)**

**AMENDING THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, AND
CHAPTER 65A THEREOF, TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENTS AND
PROCEDURES FOR BACKGROUND CHECKS ON CERTAIN
MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS**

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Ryan to approve Ordinance No. 2008-02 on first reading and set adoption for February 6, 2008.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Garganio, O'Hara, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Nothing at this time.

Mayor Berry

- Nothing at this time.

Administrator

- Administrator Brook explained that normally once a year the township sells **Bond Anticipation Notes**, which is the rolling over of short-term bonds. It was done recently in December in the amount of \$3,743,500, which is a combination of the Current Fund and the Water and Sewer Fund. The bonds were sold to Commerce Capital Markets at an interest rate of 3.6%.

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Assistant Administrator

- Nothing at this time.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, brought with him this evening the as built plan of the **berm** for **Legacy**, development off Olive Street. The as built were compared to the plans approved by the Planning Board and it shows that the berm, at its highest section, is approximately two feet low. They will be adding to the berm. The section that is two feet low is approximately a couple hundred feet long. They should start addressing in the spring. Discussion followed regarding either adding more, taller trees or installing a fence. Will be discussed further at the next Worksession.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council Member Sandusky stated that it has been customary for over the past few years for the township to honor State Championships by putting up signs at the bend on Front Street. The **girl's softball team** won the **State Championship** last year. He asked if their **sign** was close to completion? Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the winning team designs the sign; and as of yet, he has not received a design. Council Member Garganio, who is involved with Girl's Softball, will remind them.

Council Member Garganio discussed the **Philadelphia Airport Environmental Statement**. The document is very vague. Administrator Brook believes it is in regard to changes in the airspace and flight patterns. He will double check to see if there is any impact to Florence Township.

Council Vice President O'Hara asked if they would be discussing the **Economic Development Advisory Committee revised Draft Ordinance**? Mayor Berry has spoken to one (1) existing member and has not received a concrete answer. He still needs to speak to two (2) more individuals. Will hold off on discussion until the February 6, 2008 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Vice O'Hara stated that the two (2) Catholic Churches in Florence Township, St. Clare's and Holy Assumption, went into a merger agreement though the Diocese of Trenton. He has been a member of St. Clare's Parish for 41 years and **Father Felix Venza** has been the Pastor for nearly 20 years. He has been relocated to St. Mary's Parish in Bordentown. Council Vice President O'Hara asked for permission to draft a **Proclamation** from the Mayor and Council thanking Father Felix for all he has done for the parish and the community over the past 20 years. Council Vice President O'Hara will work with Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, to draft the Proclamation and Council Vice President O'Hara will make the presentation on behalf of Mayor and Council.

Council President Baldorossi asked what the **registration cost** for registering for the **recreational programs** is? Assistant Administrator Sahol stated it is \$10 per child. Council President Baldorossi suggested raising the fee to \$15 a child to help **compensate for the background checks for volunteers**. Administrator Brook explained that administration has been reviewing all of the fees the township collects, including recreation. A comparison has been made with other municipalities and a comprehensive report will be provided to Mayor and Council. He stated that it is appropriate for the

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township to pay for background checks for volunteers. Raising the registration fee would help to offset the cost of the background checks.

Mayor Berry stated that originally the date for the **Patriotic Celebration** was set for July 12, 2008. One of the main reasons being that July 4th is on a Friday this year and if other municipalities events for the day are rained out, the rain date would be Saturday, July 5th, meaning it would be difficult to get commitments from bands and other entertainment that takes place during the parade. Then the calendar came out with the day for the Patriotic Celebration as July 5, 2008. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that he can make it happen if the date is July 12, 2008. Mayor Berry would like direction from Council and would like to know for sure which date the Patriotic Celebration will be held on. Council Member Sandusky stated that it has always been easier to get bands and other activities on the second Saturday in July, so the 12th is good with him.

Council Member Garganio believes that one of the reasons July 5th would not work for Florence Township is that we are not in the marketplace for that date because other municipalities have been booking companies for years and years. He thought maybe if the township started holding their celebration on the 4th, after a few years the spot would be established. Council Member Sandusky agrees but believes the cost to hire bands and have the fireworks is higher on July 4th. Mayor Berry stated if they want to start a new tradition and change the date for 2009, they should start planning and booking now. July 4th will be on a Saturday in 2009. Council Member Garganio does not mind having the patriotic Celebration on July 12th this year but would like to try to have a true Fourth of July Celebration in 2009.

Council in agreement to hold the Patriotic Celebration on July 12, 2008. Roll call vote – all ayes. Notification of the date change will begin right away.

Council Member Ryan discussed the **Asset Monetization** and his concern that if this goes through, after the presentations are made in the 21 counties in New Jersey, the township will have concerns to take into consideration with regard to the Route 130 Corridor. Council Vice President O'Hara agrees that the toll increases will dramatically impact Route 130 and Florence Columbus Road (access road to Interstate 295) and how the Route 130 Corridor is developed. Council Member Ryan has not seen anything on the impact on smaller communities because of the new flow of traffic that could be pushed onto Route 130. He believes the governing body needs to discuss and take a position. He would like to be proactive and make the township's position known before it becomes a circumstance where the township has to be reactive. Council Member Garganio agrees and believes a letter should be sent regarding the failure of the intersections on Route 130 where they will be pushing the traffic on. They are all left intersections and all fail now on the Route 130 Corridor. Additional traffic on Florence Columbus Road to Route 130 will destroy that intersection. It does not handle the traffic now. Council Member Sandusky agrees that it is time to write to the governor and legislators telling them how the township feels. Council Member Ryan believes there are some meetings scheduled that the Mayors are invited to. Council Vice President O'Hara believes it is imperative that the township has representation to voice the township's concern. Council Member Garganio stated that their concerns should also be addressed during the comment period of the **COAH plan**. As the township is trying to redevelop the COAH Plan, with the new State numbers, it is going to destroy any redevelopment or any type of development along the Route 130 Corridor for the township. Administrator Brook will prepare two (2) draft letters (COAH and Asset Monetization) for the governing body to review at their first meeting in February.

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BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing at this time.

9:15 PM MOTION by Garganio, seconded by Ryan to adjourn meeting. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:15 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/mab