

Florence Township Council Regular Session 11/8/23

Florence, New Jersey
November 8, 2023

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date in the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey. Members of the public were invited to attend the meeting in person or electronically via Zoom.

The meeting was called to order by Council President Garganio at 7:00 p.m. Council President Garganio led the Salute to the Flag.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was posted on the municipal bulletin board on January 8, 2023; published in the Burlington County Times on January 8, 2023, placed on the Township website and given to the Trenton Times for information on January 10, 2023.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Nicholas Haas, Kristan Marter, Paul Ostrander, Bruce Garganio

Also Present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Michael J. Muchowski, Township Administrator; Thomas J. Hastie, Jr., Esq., Township Solicitor; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk; Jenise Silinsky, Deputy Clerk; Ted Lovenduski, Administrative Assistant

Absent: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None at this time.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Ostrander to approve the following correspondence.

- Township Clerk’s Monthly Report for October 2023
- Treasurer’s Bill List

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Haas, Marter, Ostrander, Garganio
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

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REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Letter from NJ Dept. of Transportation awarding the 2024 Municipal Aid Program grant in the amount of \$239,360.00 for Broad Street Improvements

Motion of Marter, seconded by Haas to receive and file the correspondence. Voice vote – All ayes.

APPLICATIONS

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Council President Garganio opened the meeting to the public at this time.

Don Kamienski, 10 McCay Drive, asked Council Representative Marter if she met with the Turnpike Authority and the results of that meeting.

Council Representative Marter explained that she did indeed meet with them and the result is that we have to send them the documentation of reports in order to show a pattern and Chief Boldizar has already provided them. They are going to look at the ramp as well as signage and talk to NJDOT to see what the options are. They can not put a stop sign at the bottom, that would be the responsibility of the NJDOT because that is considered Route 130 and not the turnpike, but they are going to change and/or add signage to the ramp. She spoke to them about rumble strips but their concern with those with it being a curve is that when you put rumble strips down you end up losing some of the grip of the tires going down the ramp so they are concerned about doing anything on the curve. She asked that they try and do this as quickly as possible and it is in the works.

She stated that after she and Chief Boldizar spoke with the NJDOT today they agreed that the ramp is an issue. They only have the one rollover from October on record because the State Police were not involved so we have provided them with those reports and they now know there are more incidents there than what the State Police records show.

Jim Fevola, 39 Ridgway Drive, asked about the traffic on Old York Road. He said he got a response back from Dave Lewinski of the Burlington County Board of Commissioners and asked Council if this is going to move at all because basically what he put in his latest email and what he saw from the NJDOT is that the municipality needs to put this forward for any sort of restrictions on the road whether it be a stop sign, weight restrictions or whatever it may be, we need to have that move forward somehow for the municipality to NJDOT. He stated that in the last Council meeting there was a discussion around a meeting that had taken place with the NJDOT or Burlington County and he asked if there is any possible movement forward on this.

Mayor Wilkie explained that Council will be speaking on this later because they received a request from Burlington Township to do something on roads near them.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, it was a Motion of Haas, seconded by Ostrander to close the public comment portion. Voice vote – All ayes.

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RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-212

Authorizing the Placement of Municipal Liens on Certain Properties for Failing to Address Property Maintenance Violations, Block 36, Lot 20 & Block 136, Lot 27

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-213

Approve Payment No. 4 for the Public Works Fuel Station

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-214

Transferring Certain 2023 Budget Appropriations

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-215

Providing for the Insertion of a Special Item of Revenue in the Budget, Chapter 159 NJDCA Local Recreational Improvement Grant, \$78,000.00

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Marter to approve Resolution Nos. 2023-212 through 2023-215.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Haas, Marter, Ostrander, Garganio
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-19

**Adopting Chapter 71 of the Township Code – Film Making
(Intro. & 1st Read)(2nd Read, Public Hearing and Adoption 12/6/23)**

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-20

**Adopting Section 91-87.1 Lighting Standards for Non-Residential Uses
(Intro. & 1st Read)(2nd Read, Public Hearing & Adoption 12/6/23)**

ORDINANCE NO. 2023-21

**Supplementing Chapter 129 of the Township Code Entitled “Taxation”
(Intro. & 1st Read)(2nd Read, Public Hearing and Adoption 12/6/23)**

Council Representative Haas had a few questions regarding Resolution #2023-19 which were all debated and answered. In the event that an off-duty officer was to get hurt or injured, language will be added to state that this situation be handled in accordance with the ordinance we already have in place.

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Motion of Marter, seconded by Baldorossi to approve Ordinance Nos. 2023-19 through 2023-21.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Haas, Marter, Ostrander, Garganio
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

Council Representative Marter mentioned that they accompanied the Film Ready photographer and took pictures for hours. He was very impressed with our town and the things that we have here that would be of interest to filmmakers. He is uploading the pictures to the website within the next few days and that is where filmmakers will look for locations. We will then have access to continue to upload. There needed to be at least 15 sites, which they had gotten so that will give us what we need to be certified. We just need to put together a list of five resources and continue to add to that list.

Council Representative Marter took a moment to recognize Alice Earls, a member of the Florence Township Fire Department, for being nominated for EMT of the Year at the National Conference.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie extended his congratulations to those that were successful in the election. He thanked both sides for running a positive campaign. He mentioned that American Legion Post 194 will be holding their Veteran’s Day ceremony at the Eagle Monument on Front and Broad Streets at 11:00 a.m. followed by the Township’s service at the Veteran’s monument in front of the Municipal Building at 11:30 a.m.

Mayor Wilkie mentioned that Burlington Township has a request concerning two resolutions requesting our support to get approval from the state to restrict truck traffic. None of them are actually on our roads but when our high school was built the County agreed to de-certify Cedar Lane in front of the high school and his assumption is at the same time they did Bustleton Road to the Burlington Township line but they never approved no trucks in Burlington Township. Police can’t enforce no truck traffic on Bustleton Road because it is permitted in Burlington Township.

Mayor Wilkie further explained that Burlington Township is requesting that truck traffic be restricted but it needs state approval because the state governs any truck traffic. In 2021 we passed our resolution requesting for Delaware and Front Street and had meetings with Burlington Township in 2022 to try and get their support for us. Inevitably the state was somewhat supportive and he remembers in our meeting with Burlington Township that we never got a yes or no but then the county came back and said when we put the bypass in we will talk about the truck restrictions.

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Council President Garganio stated that he believes it should be tied to Delaware Avenue and Front Street. If we are going to help Burlington Township, they should do that to help us. They never signed on to helping us take trucks off our streets so he would think this is one big piece and it is all or nothing. Ultimately if the county is going to build that bypass, which so far it sounds like they are going to, there is no reason why they can't push that traffic down Dulty's Lane on a temporary basis. They say that road is going to fail in 10 years, it'll be done in 10 years if everyone does what they are supposed to do.

Council Vice President Haas stated that it would be nice to add Old York Road to the list for weight restriction. Administrator Muchowski added that we should incorporate all and have a conversation advising Burlington Township that we are willing to support you but here is what we want, these are our areas of concern. Council agreed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

BOARD OF HEALTH

None at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

None at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Council President Garganio opened the meeting to the public. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was a Motion of Haas, seconded by Marter to close public comment. Voice vote – All ayes.

ENTER INTO CLOSED SESSION

Resolution 2023-216 Resolution Authorizing the Mayor, Township Council and Support Staff to meet on Closed Session and Authorizing the Exclusion of the Public from that Portion of the Meeting Dealing with Specific Issues Requiring Non-Public Discussions:

Litigation: PFAS

It was a Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Haas to adjourn to Closed Session at 7:30 p.m. where no action will be taken. Voice vote – All ayes.

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ADJOURNMENT

Council returned to the Regular meeting at 7:52 p.m. on a Motion by Haas, seconded by Marter. Voice Vote – All ayes. No action was taken. Motion of Marter seconded by Baldorossi to adjourn. Voice vote – All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/js