

## Florence Township Council Regular Session 12/4/24

Florence, New Jersey  
December 4, 2024

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 7:00 p.m.

The Opening Statement was read by the Township Clerk: Notice was posted on the municipal bulletin board on January 7, 2024; published in the Burlington County Times on January 7, 2024, placed on the Township website and given to the Trenton Times for information on January 7, 2024.

### ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Joseph Frappolli, John Fratinardo, Talaya Loftin, Frank Baldorossi

Also Present: Mayor Kristan I. Marter; Thomas A. Sahol, Administrator, Robert Wright, Esq., Township Solicitor; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk; Jenise Silinsky, Deputy Township Clerk

Absent: Nicholas Haas

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Session November 13, 2024
- Closed Session of November 13, 2024

Motion of Frappolli, seconded by Fratinardo to approve the minutes. Voice vote – All ayes.

### FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Motion of Fratinardo, seconded by Loftin to receive and file the following correspondence. Voice vote – All ayes.

- Tax Collector's Monthly Tax Report for October 2024

Motion of Loftin, seconded by Frappolli to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Frappolli, Fratinardo, Loftin, Baldorossi
  - NOES: None
  - ABSENT: Haas
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

### REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 12/4/24**

**APPLICATIONS**

- A. Transient Merchant License for Abry Edwards (Ma’Mom Mabel’s Kitchen)
- B. On-Premise Basket Raffle on March 9, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Florence Memorial High School to benefit the Florence Township Student Performing Arts Booster Club

Motion of Fratinardo, seconded by Frappolli to approve the applications. Voice vote – All ayes.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

Gina Sullivan, 147 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, voiced concerns about some ongoing issues with police activity and incidents that have occurred recently in the area around her block. She stressed that there needs to be heavier police presence in that area but the response from the police was that it is not just Roebing. She does not feel safe and stated that there must not be enough police presence otherwise they would not feel comfortable enough to do these things. If the police were patrolling more, she doesn’t believe these things would be happening as frequently. She is asking Council to put more police presence in that area, especially along Hornberger and the Avenues, and near the Riverline.

Steve Rudolph 149 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, stated that since they moved in about 3 weeks ago they have seen some things that are concerning including indication of drug use and multiple domestic disturbances and he agreed with Ms. Sullivan that something needs to be done.

Administrator Sahol agreed to speak to the Chief on their behalf.

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-209  
Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayments**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-210  
Rescinding Resolution 2024-198 and Appointing Assistant to the Tax Assessor**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-211  
Authorizing Refund of Tax Overpayments**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-212  
Authorize the Issuance of a Duplicate Tax Sale Certificate**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-213  
Canceling Tax Overpayments Less Than \$10.00**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-214  
Adopting the 2024 Burlington County Hazard Mitigation Plan**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-215  
Transferring certain 2024 Budget Appropriations – Current Fund**

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 12/4/24**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-216  
Transferring Certain 2024 Budget Appropriations – Utility Fund**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2024-217  
Fixing the Compensation of the Construction Official/Building Official for the Year 2024**

Motion of Fratinardo, seconded by Loftin to approve Resolution Nos. 2024-209 through 2024-217.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Frappolli, Fratinardo, Loftin, Baldorossi
  - NOES: None
  - ABSENT: Haas
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

**ORDINANCES**

**ORDINANCE NO. 2024-18  
Amending Ordinance 2024-13 and Chapter 130 of the Township Code Entitled  
“Towing and Storage of Motor Vehicles”  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Read, Public Hearing & Adoption)**

A motion of Frappolli, seconded by Fratinardo to open the public hearing.

Gabriella Risoldi and Michael Risoldi, 1435 Woodlane Road, Eastampton, addressed issues with the ordinance and listed a few things that they felt needed to be included in the ordinance to bring it up to date with the law. They also mentioned that the towing companies within the 5-mile driving distance do not have the capacity to house and service heavy duties and electric vehicles according to the state requirements.

Solicitor Wright explained that the state requirements do not need to be repeated in the ordinance. In order for a tower to operate within the state, the requirements set by the state are still binding upon the tow truck operator and the township cannot waive those. Just because our ordinance is silent as to those aspects, they are still applicable. We only utilize state approved licensed towers so they would have to abide by the state regulations in order to be included in our list of towers. If our providers are not abiding by the state law that would be reason to remove them from the list and have them cease being operators. He stated that the ordinance could be written differently to incorporate by reference the state requirements, but it is not necessary. The Risk Management professionals reviewed the ordinance and the language that is currently in the ordinance is the language that is recommended.

Administrator Sahol addressed the 5-mile driving distance and explained that Chief Boldizar presented 19 pages of incidents where a tow service had been summoned in Florence Township and there was not a single incident where the tower was not able to provide service. He stated that the 5-mile travel distance is more than adequate for the number of calls that we get in the township based on the Chief’s professional opinion. Regarding the equipment requirement, he explained that they leave it up to the operators to decide what equipment is needed to properly service the call. And according to the Chief and his personnel there has not been a problem with there not being a set standard for what equipment is on the truck.

## **Florence Township Council Regular Session 12/4/24**

John Wagner, All About Towing, explained that he has been covering for all of the towers that haven't been showing up for service. They are all sharing the same municipalities with the same towing companies. He stated that there is a problem and that it needs to be fixed, there needs to be an extra person on. The other companies do not have a big enough truck.

Administrator Sahol explained that in order to not have this ordinance in limbo, Council needs to move forward with the ordinance now and we can reconvene with the Chief and some of the tow professionals and see what recommendations come out of that and come back to Council.

Seeing no one else wishing to be heard, a motion of Loftin, seconded by Fratinardo to close the public hearing. Motion of Frappolli, seconded by Fratinardo to adopt Ordinance No. 2024-18.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Frappolli, Fratinardo, Loftin, Baldorossi
  - NOES: None
  - ABSENT: Haas
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

### **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS**

Council Representative Loftin mentioned that they had a Green Team meeting where they discussed the pollinator garden and how they were going to get the plants and volunteers. Ted Lovenduski and Martin Eckert joined the meeting and it was nice to have township representatives there to explain what we could and couldn't do.

Council Representative Fratinardo asked about parking at the Community Center for events. He asked about considering opening the islands up for parking in the future. Mayor Marter explained that it was addressed previously and the issue is that parking in that area would create the possibility of backing into those cars there.

### **REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION**

#### **Mayor**

Mayor Marter explained that curb work is ongoing on Broad Street. We had received a grant for that work and we also got another grant for the other half of Broad Street which will include the islands in the middle for calming. She also mentioned that we received over \$700,000 for a Safe Streets to Transit grant and that gives us the ability to do improvements on sidewalks and anything that would be getting to either the bus or the train from Woodlawn to Hornberger Avenues.

Mayor Marter also explained that lithium ion batteries cannot be recycled in the recycling toters or at the recycle center. They can short out and become a fire hazard. They have separate bins at the landfill specifically for those types of batteries. Notices go out each year on the recycle fliers and it has been posted on social media and the website.

## **Florence Township Council Regular Session 12/4/24**

Mayor Marter reminded Council of the tree lighting Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at the municipal complex at 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> is Breakfast with Santa and Grinch at the Community Center from 8-11:00 a.m. Next Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> is a holiday craft day from 3-5:30 p.m. at the Roebling Museum followed by the tree lighting in Roebling at 5:30 p.m. where township residents Joan and John Groze will be honorary tree lighters. December 21<sup>st</sup> at 1:00 p.m. there will be a vegan potluck meal being presented through the Florence Township Recreation Committee at the Community Center. That same day is when Santa tours the town on the fire truck. And throughout December, Brookdale resident will be touring town in their decorated bus checking out holiday lights and spreading holiday cheer throughout the community. The Florence Township Fire Department will also be celebrating the Chanukkah tour with the Menorah but that date is TBD because Chanukkah falls on Christmas Day this year. Rabbi Wilhelm is working with the Fire Department to figure out the best time would be for them to go out with the Menorah.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Council Representative Frappolli asked if there had been any feedback from residents of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue regarding the parking situation there and Administrator Sahol explained that he has not heard anything since they put up signs and sent the letters to the homeowners and landlords.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Council Representative Frappolli asked for additional decorations added out in front of the municipal building. He also asked about the community center and the use and maintenance for the events that are being hosted there. Administrator Sahol stated that adequate help from the Public Works Department is available when necessary.

Council Representative Loftin asked about the Comcast renewal. Administrator Sahol explained that there are two options, either allow it to automatically renew or, if you want to try to add stipulations you have to be able to document where they have failed the franchise. By failing the franchise that means they didn't do certain things that the state of New Jersey Department Board of Public Utilities and the Office of Cable Television Services says that they must do. Council Representative Loftin asked for a list of what they are. She stated that many residents have issues with Comcast and Xfinity and she would like to see if there are other options out there. Administrator Sahol explained that they are the only franchise that wants to come into town and build the infrastructure.

### **BOARD OF HEALTH**

None at this time.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

Council Representative Loftin asked for clarification on the hazard risk vulnerability ranking. Administrator Sahol explained that it is an emergency management response plan, and when recognizing a hazard, you actually decide what the hazard is and how you need to prepare. You prepare by recognizing resources. The county is just asking to acknowledge that part of the document and endorse that portion of the plan so that they can put together the state requires which is required by the federal government.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Council President Baldorossi opened the meeting to the public at this time. Seeing no one wishing to be heard, it was a Motion of Fratinardo, seconded by Frappolli to close public comment. Voice vote – All ayes.

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 12/4/24**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion of Frappolli seconded by Loftin to adjourn. Voice vote – All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC  
Township Clerk  
/js