

Florence Township Council Regular Session 12/18/24

Florence, New Jersey
December 18, 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, Nicholas Haas, 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: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Session December 4, 2024
- Regular Session December 11, 2024
- Closed Session of December 11, 2024

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

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Township Clerk’s Monthly Report for November 2024
- Tax Collector’s Monthly Tax Report for November 2024
- Tax Collector’s Monthly Water & Sewer report for October 2024 and November 2024
- Municipal Court Administrator’s Monthly Report for November 2024
- CFO’s 3rd Quarter Cash Reports and Budget Reports (July – September)

Motion of Haas, seconded by Loftin to approve the **Treasurer’s Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

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REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

A. Police Chief's Monthly Report for November 2024

Motion of Loftin, seconded by Frappolli to approve the correspondence. Voice vote – All ayes.

APPLICATIONS

A. Off-Premise 50/50 for the Florence Township Civic Association at 601 Broad Street, Florence, NJ on March 28, 2025 at 9 p.m. to benefit Francis W. Robbins American Legion Post 194.

Motion of Fratinardo, seconded by Haas to approve the application. Voice vote – All ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Jim Fevola, 39 Ridgway Drive, asked if there is any feedback from the county regarding the turnpike noise barrier. He stated that he feels the town needs to be more vocal concerning changes/updates that the turnpike is planning. He also asked if we are going to be involved in the decision making with the Turnpike Authority, the state and other municipalities in the area. Administrator Sahol explained that a letter did go to the turnpike but there has been no response received from the Turnpike Authority. Mayor Marter further explained that they are in the middle of a bridge expansion and she received a survey in the mail that is open to the public and they are looking for any kind of public comment. Administrator Sahol explained that we are going to host some of the meetings here in the community and they will be open to the general public.

Mr. Fevola also asked if there is any further information regarding the truck traffic and speed on Old York Road. Council Representative Fratinardo explained that we did ask for a speed reduction on Old York Road to 35mph but we are still waiting to hear back from the county. Mayor Marter stated that Old York Road runs through many townships and they are trying to get all of these municipalities together to try to get the road weight restricted. Administrator Sahol also explained that Old York Road is also restricted under the Interstate Commerce Commission and case law that came down that states that they cannot just arbitrarily delist roadways from traffic of certain sorts. Old York Road is a 600 series roadway which is intended and designed to handle tractors and trailers whether we like it or not. Mayor Marter explained that we are doing everything we can to get that speed limit reduced and the weight restriction on that road.

Anne Gliotonne, 33 Ridgway Drive, explained that she attended the meeting to find out if there is anything being done about the same issue. She stated that the noise level has gotten worse over time and asked Council for their help.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-224

Approve Municipal Services Agreement with Carriage Stop Condominiums

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-225

Authorize Refund Housing Inspection Fee

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RESOLUTION NO. 2024-226

Approve Current Estimate No. 11 for Hornberger Avenue Pump Station

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-227

Authorizing Collective Negotiations Agreement between Florence Township and the Florence Township FOP Lodge #210

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-228

Approve Change Order No. 2 for Hornberger Pump Station

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-229

Transferring Certain Budget Appropriations – Utility Fund

RESOLUTION NO. 2024-230

Transferring Certain Budget Appropriations – Current Fund

Motion of Haas, seconded by Fratinardo to approve the Resolution Nos. 2024-224 through 2024-230.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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

ORDINANCES

None at this time.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

Council Representative Haas wished everyone Happy Holidays.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Marter acknowledged the police department for being awarded a certificate of recognition, which is the first step award for the Safe Routes to School program that is put on by Cross-County Connection. We also received a donation from Amazon of 800 winter warm up kits which include gloves, hats, socks, hand warmers and blankets, as well as well over 100 thermal blankets for homeless and people in need. They were distributed to the Burlington County Emergency Management and we kept a case of the kits as well as a case of the blankets for our fire and police departments.

Mayor Marter stated that the Roebling Historical Society hosted the Roebling tree lighting Saturday, December 14th and she acknowledged the Girl Scouts who volunteered to hand out cookies and hot chocolate. Kaleidoscope Academy also handed out popcorn bags and Palermo's offered pizza bites. The museum offered activities and crafts afterward at the museum. The Mayor mentioned there will be a vegan potluck Saturday December 21st at the Community Center and then Saturday evening Santa will be going around on the fire truck and the Hannukah tour with the Menorah will be on December 30th starting at 5 p.m.

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Mayor Marter explained that the Delaware River Bridge Project sent correspondence through the mail looking for feedback from the community. The information will be added to the website and the community page so people have the opportunity to participate in that. Mayor Marter explained that she is hoping to get the recommendations for appointments to Council soon. She also discussed the Economic Development Committee explaining that she felt they were not very effective this year and she would like to possibly change the direction for that committee. She is recommending rather than fill those seats just to fill them, maybe we hold off and really determine the direction of the committee and who should be on the committee who will take it in that direction. They are going to start to do more research into other ways to make the committee effective.

Administrator

Administrator Sahol stated that the concrete work on Broad Street that has been done, includes the curbs, sidewalks and some manhole repairs and storm inlet repairs. The asphalt plant is shutting down this Friday and with the road being buttoned up, we are likely to have to wait for milling and paving on Broad Street until the break in the weather after the winter. We are on contract with them and it is a state grant project so the state won't even allow us to take any chances with paving if it is outside of the temperature window that the state recognizes.

Administrator Sahol also explained that there will need to be some budget meetings and explained that bond ordinances will be necessary. Anything that we don't get through grants we will eventually have to do through bonding. He also explained that they will also need to discuss police vehicles as well as the camera system that is in the community. There is also a great deal of file storage in the basement and the number of files that we store and we would like to be able to have in permanent status in an archive setting, like scanning. There is a lot of data and information that has great value but it is not readily accessible in the boxes. To put that into an archiving or scanning system it is instantly retrievable through a computer program and that is also something that has a long life and it is bondable.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council Representative Haas asked for an update on Grove and Kinsman Streets. Administrator Sahol explained that he met with the Chief after the police department did a study as far as the potential of a stop intersection as well as the speed and speed is not as much as an issue there as it is as the unrestricted corner. The recommendation is going to be to create at least three stop streets there as well as a well-define delineated crosswalk or two and some center line striping that will confine you as to what lane you should be in versus taking long curvatures and things like that. As soon as we get concurrence from the traffic engineer then it will be brought to Council as an ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Representative Loftin asked for a subcommittee for the Housing Authority appointments. She has a lot of outstanding questions and wants to ensure that the people that are being appointed on that board are the right people and they are in there for the right reasons. Representative Loftin and Representative Frappolli agreed to be on that subcommittee. They would like to sit with the board and then the subcommittee will come back to Council with a recommendation that Council would then move on.

BOARD OF HEALTH

None at this time.

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MISCELLANEOUS

None at this time.

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 Haas, seconded by Loftin to close public comment. Voice vote – All ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Frappolli seconded by Fratinardo to adjourn. Voice vote – All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
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