

Florence Township Council Regular Session 10/20/21

Florence, New Jersey
October 20, 2021

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 welcome to attend in person or to attend virtually 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: This meeting is being held in accordance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act. Adequate notice was published in the Burlington County Times on January 10, 2021; placed on the Township website, and given to the Trenton Times for information.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Paul Ostrander, Jerry Sandusky, Dave Woolston, Bruce Garganio

Also Present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Thomas J. Hastie, Jr. Township Solicitor; Stephen Fazekas, Administrative Assistant; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk; Jenise Silinsky, Deputy Township Clerk

Absent: None

OATH OF OFFICE NEW OFFICERS AND CHAPLANS

Officers:

Officer Kenneth Meisner

Officer Meisner was sworn in by Mayor Wilkie. He thanked Mayor and Council, Administration, Command Staff, the residents and his family for all of the support along the way and he appreciates all of the support of the town.

Officer Matthew Lloyd

Officer Lloyd was sworn in by Mayor Wilkie. He thanked his family, Council, Command Staff and the Township. He explained that he came to Florence halfway through his career because he wanted to be a part of this community and he is very happy to be here.

Officer Shane Krywy

Officer Krywy was sworn in by Mayor Wilkie. He thanked his family, Administration and Town Council for the support.

Officer Kyle Pukenas

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Officer Pukenas was sworn in by Mayor Wilkie. He thanked his family, the Township, Command Staff and all in attendance. He stated that working for Florence Township has always been a dream of his.

Chaplains:

Pastor Danita Thompson

Pastor Danita Thompson was sworn in by Mayor Wilkie. Pastor Thompson stated that she was honored to be able to serve. She is looking forward to getting to know everyone and practicing an administrative presence and to be available for anyone in need. She thanked everyone for inviting her and also her husband, her children, her church family and those that were able to attend.

Rabbi Shmuel Wilhelm

Rabbi Shmuel Wilhelm was sworn in by Mayor Wilkie. Rabbi Wilhelm thanked Council and Detective Jacoby for helping him. He also thanked his family and stated that it is a privilege and opportunity to be able to serve as Chaplain for the Police Department. Every day the officers put on the uniform and they wear their heroic cape and hide behind the badge of selflessness, devoted and dedicated only for the care of other people. This is just a little way to be able to show them that the community stands behind them and supports them and wish everyone of them to stay safe and healthy moving forward.

Chief Boldizar thanked Council the opportunity to make these hires. He explained that the officers sworn in are not all new, but due to Covid they were not able to hold the swearing in ceremony until now.

Mayor Wilkie welcomed the officers to the Florence Township family. He expressed his appreciation and stated that the Police Department always goes above and beyond for the community and he thanked their families for the support. He also gave special recognition to our Chaplains. When people are in need, we do what we have to do to help each other. They volunteer their time and services and we are so grateful that in our time of need they stepped forward to help.

Mayor Wilkie also shared that NJ.com has an article coming out and that Florence Township has the honor of being one of the highest paid Police Departments in Burlington County. He wanted to acknowledge that we are probably one of the most senior Departments in Burlington County so naturally this would be the case. He is proud of the Department as they work very hard and they deserve where they are and he supports them one hundred percent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Closed Session of October 6, 2021
- Regular Session of October 6, 2021
- Closed Session of October 13, 2021

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to approve the minutes as submitted. Voice vote – all ayes.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to receive and file the following reports. Voice vote – all ayes.

- Tax Collector's Monthly Tax Report and Water & Sewer Report for September 2021
- Tax Collector's Affidavit of Tax Bill Mailing

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- Municipal Treasurer's Cash Reports and Budget Reports for September 2021
- Tax Collector's Report of Tax Sale

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Baldorossi to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Garganio
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

- A. Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle for Riverbank Charter School of Excellence, 1300 Hornberger Avenue, Roebling, NJ on November 24, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

Motion by Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to approve the application.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Garganio
 - NOES: None
 - ABSENT: None
- Unanimous vote – Motion carried

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Seeing no one wishing to be heard it was a Motion of Sandusky, seconded by Woolston to close public comment. Voice vote – All ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-195

Canceling Taxes on Property Owned by a Totally Disabled Veteran

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-196

Authorize Placement of Liens for Property Maintenance Violations

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-197

Updating Personnel Policies and Procedures

Administrator Fazekas explained that we have to update the Policies and Procedures every two years through the JIF and MEL. Due to Covid, there was a one-year extension granted this year. It has been reviewed by our Municipal Clerk and Solicitor and everything will be submitted well before the November 1st deadline.

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-198

Refund Housing Inspection Fee

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-199
Current Estimate No. 11 Water Treatment Plant Phase 2**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-200
Partial Payment No. 3 Potts Mill Road Phase 2**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-201
Partial Payment No. 1 Potts Mill Road Phase 3**

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolution Nos. 2021-195 through 2021-201.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Garganio

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous vote – Motion carried

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2021-23
Amending and Supplementing Ch. 4 Regarding Hiring Police Officers
(1st R. & Intro) (2nd R., Public Hearing & Adopt)**

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2021-23.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Garganio

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous vote – Motion carried

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

None at this time.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie stated that the museum is having ghost walks and they were sold out very shortly after it was posted. The Charter School is hosting their annual Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 23rd and the Fire Department, in conjunction with the school district is having a Halloween parade/Trunk or Treat from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 24th. Sunday, October 31st is Halloween and he would like to remind everyone to be safe and pay attention out there.

Next week is Red Ribbon Week and he participated in a virtual ceremony today. This is about being drug free and encouraging our children to live a drug free life. On November 11th the American Legion Post 194 will be conducting their Veteran's Day ceremony at 11:00 a.m. at Front and Broad Streets at the Eagle Monument and the Township ceremony will be held at the Veteran's Monument at 11:30 a.m.

This is the last Council meeting until November 3rd.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Website Update

Mayor Wilkie explained that there are weekly meetings being held with the website developer. A number of things have been updated and they are on schedule to be live by January. There are a number of things that have to get done and, as he explained last week, we can not turn one on and leave the other one up so the entire switchover has to happen at the same time. It is progressing and he hopes to share the progress with Council sometime at a meeting in the near future.

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 up to the public at this time.

Kristan Marter, 220 East Front Street, asked for a follow up on a letter Council sent to the County back in July with regards to weight restriction of Front Street and Delaware Avenue.

Mayor Wilkie stated that it was a Resolution that was passed by Council on a Wednesday and then given to the County in a meeting the following day. There were a number of conversations going on and things that had to happen and, unfortunately, we have not had responses from the other municipalities so we are back in talks with the County about getting the meeting scheduled. In order to do this, the County explained that we need both municipalities in agreement and, once the County agrees the request is sent to the NJ/DOT. The NJ/DOT will not accept it separately.

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to close public comment. Voice vote – all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Sandusky to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/js