Florence Township Council Regular Session 12/15/21

Florence, New Jersey
December 15, 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. There was a brief moment of silence for Dick Glass who passed away earlier in the week, a former Councilman, friend and resident of the township.

The Opening Statement was read by the deputy 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, Administrator; Jenise Silinsky, Deputy Township Clerk; Steve Mathews, Court Clerk

Absent: Nancy Erlston, Township Clerk

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of December 1, 2021
- Closed Session of December 8, 2021

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

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Township Clerk's Monthly Report for November 2021
- Court Administrator's Monthly Report for November 2021
- Tax Collector's Monthly Tax Report for November 2021
- Tax Collector's Monthly Water and Sewer Report for November 2021

Motion of Woolston, seconded by Ostrander 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
None at this time.

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

Bill Berry, 17 Challander Way, congratulated Nicholas Haas and Kristan Marter on a successful campaign, he thanked them for stepping up and he wished them success in their new position.

Mr. Berry addressed Councilman Dave Woolston, who he has known since they were kids. Twelve years ago, when he was Mayor, Dave Woolston volunteered to run for Council and, when Dave first came in he brought a new perspective to Council and for the Township being in the construction business. He said that Dave has been very instrumental for the last 10 years and has done a great job for the community.

Mr. Berry also addressed Councilman Jerry Sandusky, who he has known since he was young. He stated that Jerry had brought a perspective of community service to Council. He dedicated his life to this community and during his time as Mayor, Mr. Berry looked to Jerry often knowing that he would get the advice that he needed to help get through some of the situations and issues he had faced. In 40 years, he does not know how he will say goodbye. He said that he could not let the night pass without thanking these two gentleman for their service to our community.

Tara Sandusky, 607 East Sixth Street, stated that her father has been a Councilman almost her entire life and it is going to be different not considering him a Councilman anymore. She remembers growing up and playing sports and the one thing that her dad always taught her is that when you commit to something, you do not quit, you see it through. That is something that she always carries with her, that is something that her father stands for and he has committed 40 years of his life to this town. She knows that he will still remain active and she hopes that he takes up a hobby to keep him busy. This is a thankless job and oftentimes you only hear the negatives. To give 40 years of himself in a role like this is commendable and she wanted to publicly thank her dad for the time that he has given to the community.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-219
Approving Compensation for Board Members of Florence Twp. Fire District No. 1

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-220
Refund Certain Tax Overpayments

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-221
Authorizing joining the Burlington County Cooperative Pricing System #4BUCCP

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-222
Transferring Certain 2021 Budget Appropriations

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-223
Cancel Tax Overpayments Less than $10.00

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-224
Water & Sewer Payment Plans Due to Executive Order #246

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-225
Current Estimate No. 13 for Water Treatment Plant,
Chemical Building Expansion Phase 2

Councilman Sandusky asked for clarification regarding Resolution No. 2021-224, he noticed some of the properties were in the country and asked if they are hooked up to just one meter?

Administrator Fazekas explained that this is under the executive order from the Governor and, due to Covid, residents can agree to a payment plan if they are behind in water and sewer bills.

Council President Garganio asked for clarification on Resolution No 2021-223 and whether or not that will be a credit toward next year's tax bill, or do the amounts have to actually be returned to the twenty-five residents? Administrator Fazekas will check on that.

It was a Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Baldorossi to approve Resolution Nos. 2021-219 through 2021-225.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

- YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston, Garganio
- NOES: None
- ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried

ORDINANCES
None at this time.

REPORTS OF COMMITEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS
Councilman Baldorossi thanked Councilmen Jerry Sandusky and Dave Woolston for their years of service and wished them the best in their future endeavors.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION
Mayor
Mayor Wilkie spoke a little about the passing of former Councilman Dick Glass. He served back in the 80s but he is most well known as "Mr. Veteran." Mr. Glass served in Korea but even during WWII, as a minor, his father had him involved in look out towers throughout the community. He has a long-time history of serving this country and especially our community. He was intricately involved with the veteran's group and putting the monument up here at the municipal building. Sadly, we lost a friend and resident of our community.

This past Saturday, December 11th was the Roebling tree lighting. It was a very nice event with a great crowd that came out. This Saturday, December 18th, Santa will be coming around on the firetruck if the weather allows. Otherwise, he will be coming around on Sunday the 19th.

Mayor Wilkie shared the 2022 community calendar and spoke briefly about the pictures and contents to include that it is the 150th Anniversary of Florence Township. He does not know when the calendar will be in but it is estimated before the end of the year. Our scouts have agreed to distribute them for us again this year and he appreciates their continued support.

This is the last Council meeting of 2021 and he wished everyone a happy holiday and if anyone is interested in serving on a committee within the community he is asking for emails of interest.

He stated that it has been his honor and privilege to serve with both Councilmen Sandusky and Woolston and he thanked them for their service.

Administrator

Administrator Fazekas thanked both Councilmen for their years of service to Florence Township and the opportunity to work with them both previously and now for the last year and a half or so in his current position. He wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Website Update

Mayor Wilkie stated that the website is continuing to be updated and we are looking at a changeover on December 29th. The website will be shut down for about an hour or so and there may be problems accessing during that switchover. We will advertise when the actual website will be shut down.

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.

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

PRESENTATIONS

Councilman Dave Woolston

On behalf of Mayor and Council, Councilman Ostrander presented Councilman Woolston with a plaque commemorating his 10 years as Councilman. He stated that it was a pleasure to serve with him. Councilman Baldorossi presented flowers to Mrs. Woolston.

Councilman Woolston thanked former Mayor Bill Berry and his family for the support over the years. He went on to thank Council, Mayor Wilkie, Administrative staff and attendees stating that it has been a wonderful experience even though sometimes it was not easy. He said a special thank you to former Administrator Richard Brook for everything he did for him over the years, stating he was a great mentor. He thanked former Councilman Lovenduski for all of his help and support and a great big thank you to the residents who put forth their trust in him to get him through three terms. It was a great endeavor. He welcomed Councilwoman Marter and Councilman Haas.

Councilman Jerry Sandusky

On behalf of Mayor and Council, Councilman Garganio spoke a little about Councilman Sandusky and all of his accomplishments during his 40 years on Council. He stated that Councilman Sandusky served this community, whether as Councilman, as a friend, as someone who raised money for every group, every sports league, whether it was the Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, a handicapped child, a church. And, as a resident that has done nothing but serve this community for more than forty years, the best part is that it will be a lot more because he will continue to do so. He stated that he has done a great job with this community and he has his fingerprints on all of the things that make Florence Township special and he has been proud to serve with him over the years. He presented Councilman Sandusky with a plaque commemorating his forty years as Councilman.

Councilman Sandusky thanked former Mayor Micky Muchowski for his kind words a few weeks ago, Mayor Bill Berry for his kind words as well and all of the kind words that he has received. He thanked his family stating that you cannot do anything without your family. Tonight, his daughter stepped forward to speak and he is really proud, he is proud of all of his children. It has been a great run for the past 40 years and he has no regrets. He wished the Councilman and Councilwoman elect good luck in the coming years.

Mayor Wilkie highlighted some of the accomplishments of Councilman Woolston and Councilman Sandusky over the years and he thanked them both for their years of service and continued service to their community. They have both always looked to do what was the best for Florence Township.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jenise Silinsky
Deputy Township Clerk