

Florence Twp Economic Development Committee Minutes 12/5/23

Florence, New Jersey

The Florence Township Economic Development Committee held a regular meeting on the above date in the header at the Municipal Complex, 711 Broad Street, Florence, New Jersey. Members of the public were invited to attend the meeting in person. The minutes reflect the meeting held on Tuesday, October 3, 2023.

The meeting was called to order by Economic Development Chair, Katie Wittkamp at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Katie Wittkamp, Lisa Filippine, Richard Popso, Councilman Nick Haas, Joan Geary

Also Present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie, Martin Eckert Jr., Michael Muchowski

Absent: Marvin Wainwright, Joe Bongiorno, Mike Rinaldi, Melissa Bond

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting of September 5, 2023

Motion of Haas, seconded by Filippine to approve the minutes as submitted.

COORDINATORS REPORT

- **Local Business Outreach:** Marty has continued to meet with local businesses and place periodic local business spotlights on the township website and social media. Mayor Wilkie encouraged members to visit local businesses and engage in conversation. Members may take information and report to Marty or inquire with a local business if they would be interested in being interviewed as a spotlight business. Spotlights are placed on the townships social media and archived on the Economic Development page on the website. Some recent interviews were with B-Unos Restaurant and March 4th Technical Services.

COMMITTEES

- **Vacant Business Properties:** Will be reported on by Mark Remsa prior to the close of the year.

CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- **Roebing Museum and Florence/Roebing Historical Society Events:** Mayor Wilkie shared that our local organizations continue to provide events and activities for our community to participate and enjoy. From the annual scarecrow contest to open houses, walking tours, honoring former colleague, George Lengel and upcoming events of

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Christmas in Roebling and Touch a Truck, these groups provide a great service to our community.

- **2023 Florence Township Fall Festival:** Information was shared about the upcoming fall festival coordinated by the township's recreation committee. Several groups and organizations will place displays and vendors will be on site selling products. Live music, games and food trucks will be located around the complex for everyone's enjoyment. The date for the event may be shifted to late October due to the threat of weather, but more information will be forthcoming.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Burlington-Mercer Chamber of Commerce – Spring Street Fair:** Mayor Wilkie shared that representatives from the chamber met with the township to propose an opportunity to hold a spring fair in Florence Township. The group provided that for over 40 years this event was held in Bordentown, however the proposal was not approved to continue in 2024. The group discussed the potential use of the Roebling Museum grounds and how the layout and management of the fair would work well at a site that is located near the New Jersey Transit River line. The Roebling Museum has committed to hosting the event on their grounds and will be working directly with the chamber securing details associated with the event.

OLD BUSINESS

- **DVRPC Report:** Mayor Wilkie shared that the DVRPC presentation will be at the upcoming township council meeting on Wednesday, October 4th. The presentation will provide an overview of findings from their study on parcels in our community as well as examples of comparable sites and how they were developed. For more information on this presentation, residents may attend the council meeting in person or join the Zoom link on the township website under the council meeting agenda.
- **Township Road Program:** Mayor Wilkie shared that several projects are in the process of completion as the 2023 road program draws to a close. The area of 5th & Walnut Streets has been an active area for the past few months as the driving lane has been modified to improve the flow of traffic on those streets. Additionally, walking path work continues and the crossover and extension of the path near the playground on W Front Street has finishings being completed currently and the potential of an overlook near the water remains of interest should there be a future opportunity create more visibility.
- **Project Bids:** Mayor Wilkie shared that bids are out for the tennis court remediation project as well and for the planned new playground to be installed at the municipal complex, replacing the existing playground nearest W 6th Street.

MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

No members of public present.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Wittkamp, seconded by Filippine – 7:35pm