

**FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
(Reflecting October 6, 2020)

MEETING DATE/TIME: Tuesday, December 1, 2020 at 7:00 PM
Florence Township Municipal Complex
Front Conference Room (Virtual Meeting)
711 Broad Street
Florence, NJ 08518

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. <u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Joan Geary	_____	___X___	_____
Nick Haas Jr	___X___	_____	_____
Newell Ker	_____	___X___	_____
Kevin Minton	___X___	_____	_____
Paul Ostrander	___X___	_____	_____
Diane Carey	___X___	_____	_____
Tara Sandusky	___X___	_____	_____
Marvin Wainwright	___X___	_____	_____
Katie Wittkamp	___X___	_____	_____

Quorum Present (7 Voting Members) Yes X No _____

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Minutes from the meeting of February 4, 2020 were approved (N. Haas/T. Sandusky)

4. CORRESPONDENCE, EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

A. **Burlington County OEM (Drive thru Covid-19 Testing & Flu Clinic:** In an effort to support the Burlington County Office of Emergency Management the township had volunteered to take part in hosting a drive thru Covid-19 testing site as well as a drive thru Flu vaccine clinic. Florence Township along with many municipalities throughout Burlington County have teamed

with the county to create safe testing sites for residents and residents residing in neighboring communities to have a close to home location to visit. Both clinics were successful in that they were well organized and safe locations to visit. The township plans to continue to maintain dialogue with the county should a Covid-19 vaccine become available or for other public outreach needs.

B. Fight to Exist – Virtual Town Hall: On Wednesday, September 23rd Mayor Wilkie took part in a virtual discussion relating to the current social climate both nationally and locally. The panel shared various ideas and resources as to how to continue lines of communication within the community. Discussion touched on the school district resource officer's impact on the students, the interest of establishing a diversified presence on local boards and committees as well as inquiries as to how businesses manage diversity in the workplace.

C. Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders & Burlington County Bridge Commission Small Business Loans: Marty shared the announcement of an interest free loan program aimed specifically at aiding small businesses impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. There is a total of \$660,000 available in the federal CARES Act funding. Businesses operating in the county may use the funds for business related purchases, expenses and improvements.

5. COMMITTEES

A. 2021 Small Business Gathering: The committee discussed the interest in developing a small business gathering when appropriate in 2021. Due to the current pandemic, gatherings are limited and most organizations have gone to virtual meetings. Locally it will be important to connect our local businesses and organizations once there are safe means to do so from a public health standpoint.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Shops at Florence (Route 130 & 7th Street:** Formerly Big Apple Plaza, this parcel will be the future site of Shops of Florence. Approvals were acquired in the past to develop a strip plaza, however upon selling the property the new owners were subject to update the existing plans per the current code requirements. All plans have been received and they are approved to move forward with the project.
- B. Modern Equipment Expansion (Cedar Lane & Harkins Drive:** Several years ago, Modern Equipment received approval for an expansion of their current facility. Recently they've expressed that they plan to move forward with the expansion. They are in the process of cleaning up the property and the addition to the facility will aid in that effort as well.
- C. Bonduelle Fresh Americas (Utilizing former JET Building on Route 130):** Bonduelle (Ready Pac Foods) is now utilizing the building on Route 130 that was formerly the JET building located just South of Dunkin Donuts. The use is consistent with the current shipping practices of Bonduelle and it is positive to have the building occupied and in use.

- D. **2001 Route 130 (Last parcel located in Florence Twp):** This is the last parcel along Route 130 South that is located in Florence Township. The property is approved for a small warehouse.

7. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Florence Township Master Plan:** Mayor Wilkie shared that our various departments and professionals are working on the update to the townships Master Plan. Each section is being reviewed and looking to completion in 2021.

8. MEETING OPEN FOR PUBLIC COMMENT & REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There were no members of public present.

9. ADJOURNMENT – 8:00pm (Haas/Wittkamp)