

Florence Township Council Regular Session 4/3/19

Florence, New Jersey
April 3, 2019

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 Sandusky at 8:00 p.m. followed by 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 posted on the municipal bulletin board on January 3, 2019; published in the Burlington County Times on January 6, 2019; placed on the Township website, and given to the Trenton Times for information on January 3, 2019.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Present: Frank Baldorossi, Ted Lovenduski, Dave Woolston, Jerry Sandusky

Absent: Paul Ostrander

Also Present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas A. Sahol, Assistant Administrator; Kelly Grant, Township Solicitor; Nancy L. Erlston, Township Clerk

MINUTES

Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to approve the following minutes. Voice vote – all ayes. Unanimous approval. Motion carried.

- Township Council Closed Session and Regular Session of March 13, 2019.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Township Clerk's Monthly Report for March 2019.

Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to approve the **Treasurer's Bill List**.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: Ostrander

Unanimous vote – Motion carried

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

- Social Affair Permit for Eats N Beats Fundraiser for MDA, Roebling Museum, April 20, 2019, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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- Social Affair Permit for Testimonial Dinner for Author Lou Borbi, Florence Township Community Center, May 18, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to approve A & B.

On the Record: Council President Sandusky stated that he would not be voting on the Social Affair permit for the Louis Borbi Testimonial Dinner.

Voice vote – all ayes.

APPLICATIONS

- A. Florence Township Education Foundation, Inc., 201 Cedar Street, Florence, NJ 08518
On-Premise Merchandise Raffle at Firemen’s Hall, 69 Main Street, Roebling, on April 20, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
On-Premise Merchandise Raffle at Riverfront School, 500 East Front Street, Florence, on May 4, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- B. Request from Florence Township Volunteer Fire Co., No. 1 and Boyd’s Pharmacy to use Wilkie Park on Saturday, April 13, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt (rain date 4-20-19)
- C. Florence Township Civic Association, On-Premise Merchandise Raffle and On-Premise 50/50 Raffle at Florence Township Community Center, 69 Main Street, Roebling, NJ on May 18, 2019 from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Lovenduski to approve all applications. Voice vote – all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Seeing no one wishing to be heard, motion was made by Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to close Public Comment. Voice vote – all ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2019-73

Authorize Purchase of Accessory Equipment for Skid Loader for Water & Sewer Department

RESOLUTION 2019-74

Authorize Shared Services Agreement with Bordentown Township for Animal Control Officer

RESOLUTION 2019-75

Deny Request for Performance Bond Release, MEND-Duffy Apartments

RESOLUTION 2019-76

Establish Capital Budget

Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolutions 2019-73 through 2019-76.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

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YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Woolston, Sandusky
NOES: None
ABSENT: Ostrander Unanimous approval – Motion carried

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE 2019-03
NON-UNION SALARY ORDINANCE
(Introduction & 1st Reading) (2nd Reading, Public Hearing & Adoption 4/17/19)**

**ORDINANCE 2019-04
APPROVE SHORT-TERM LEASE AGREEMENT WITH PSE&G, BLOCK 164.01, LOT 3.01
(Introduction & 1st Reading) (2nd Reading, Public Hearing & Adoption 4/17/19)**

**ORDINANCE 2019-05
BOND ORDINANCE- LIGHTS, PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS AT MUNICIPAL PARK ON
CEDAR LANE
(Introduction & 1st Reading) (2nd Reading, Public Hearing & Adoption 4/17/19)**

**ORDINANCE 2019-06
BOND ORDINANCE MALLARD CREEK PUMP STATION IMPROVEMENTS
(Introduction & 1st Reading) (2nd Reading, Public Hearing & Adoption 4/17/19)**

**ORDINANCE 2019-07
BOND ORDINANCE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS
(Introduction & 1st Reading) (2nd Reading, Public Hearing & Adoption 4/17/19)**

**ORDINANCE 2019-08
BOND ORDINANCE PURCHASE POLICE EQUIPMENT & MUNICIPAL BUILDING
IMPROVEMENTS
(Introduction & 1st Reading) (2nd Reading, Public Hearing & Adoption 4/17/19)**

**ORDINANCE 2019-09
BOND ORDINANCE REPLACE ABOVE GROUND STORAGE TANKS
(Introduction & 1st Reading) (2nd Reading, Public Hearing & Adoption 4/17/19)**

**ORDINANCE 2019-10
BOND ORDINANCE 2019 ROAD PROGRAM
(Introduction & 1st Reading) (2nd Reading, Public Hearing & Adoption 4/17/19)**

Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Lovenduski to approve Ordinances 2019-03 through 2019-10.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Woolston, Sandusky
NOES: None
ABSENT: Ostrander Unanimous approval – Motion carried

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REPORTS

Committees, Boards and officers

Administration

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie stated that Saturday, April 6, 2019 is Opening Day for Baseball and Softball. Next Saturday, April 13, 2019 is the Annual Easter Egg Hunt at Wilkie Park sponsored by the Florence Volunteer Fire Company and Boyd's Pharmacy. This year there will be a petting zoo and other activities starting at 9:00 a.m. with the egg hunt starting at 10:00 a.m. sharp.

Mayor Wilkie stated that the township had received notice that they were awarded a grant for the second phase of Potts Mill Road improvements. He also stated that Council would see in their packets the letters he sent to Burlington City, Burlington Township and Burlington County about not approving any sewer lines going down Burlington Columbus Road and a letter to Mansfield Township stating that Florence Township would not be providing sewer to them. Mansfield's response and Burlington Township's response letters are also included. Mayor Wilkie stated that he attended the last Freeholder meeting and brought it to everyone's attention that Florence Township was against the extension of sewer lines through Florence Township into Mansfield until the traffic situation on Florence Columbus Road is resolved. Mayor Wilkie stated that he would be responding to the letters from Mansfield and Burlington Township.

Mayor Wilkie stated that the Florence Historical Society would be holding their Open House at the 3rd Street Firehouse in Florence, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, 2019. He advised Council that he had been made aware that the heater at the 3rd Street Firehouse needed to be replaced.

Mayor Wilkie read a Proclamation establishing Arbor Day in Florence Township as April 26, 2019. Mayor Wilkie stated that Council had received an email from Assistant Administrator Sahol regarding a resident that took down trees in the township right of way in the Morris Court development without township authority. They will have to make restitution in some way.

Mayor Wilkie asked Assistant Administrator Sahol if there were plans for Arbor Day. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the Shade Tree Commission is going to do projects this year. They will do the Emerald Ash Borer root drench, trying to alleviate the negative impact of the Emerald Ash Borers in the township. Also in late April or early May there will be a group of volunteers planting trees in Roebing Park and in the area of the proposed dog park. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that there was an Eagle Scout that had expressed interest in taking on construction of the dog park as his Eagle project.

Mayor Wilkie stated that he had attended the Blue and Gold Dinner on Saturday and there are 5 scouts in line to become Eagles this year.

Municipal Administrator

Administrator Brook stated that there were two recent Facebook posts that were disturbing and he wanted to address them on the record. The first involved Water & Sewer employees who were out surveying a job that will be taking place over the next few months and will save the town a considerable amount of money. Someone posted a comment asking how many county employees does it take to do this type of work. This was upsetting to the employees. They were out surveying the scope and amount of the project work that would be required to do the job safely and minimize the inconvenience to the public. If the resident called the township, they could have gotten the truth as to what the employees were doing.

The second post was regarding a rumor that the alpacas at the Liquor Barn were going to have to be removed because the township would not let them stay due to non-working solar panels. The animals have nowhere to go and might have to be put down. This is totally untrue. Florence Township has nothing to do with the

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alpacas at the Liquor Barn. The truth is that the individual who applied for the solar panels many years ago, got his approvals, agreed to follow through with the work that was required as part of the site plan and ultimately refused to do that work. That meant that the municipality could not issue a Certificate of Approval so that the solar panels could be energized. The township is working with this individual's attorney to try and get him to finalize the work that he has to so that the solar panels could be energized. Again, if anybody ever has questions regarding a municipal decision or operation they can always reach out to the assistant administrator or the administrator for a truthful accurate answer.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

Assistant Administrator Sahol introduced Joe Barton and his team from PSE&G. Mr. Barton stated that the Bustleton substation needs to be upgraded. As part of the upgrade, they will have to change one transformer at a time. If the second transformer should fail, the entire town would lose power. In order to avoid a possible loss of service PSEG will construct a mobile substation on a piece of township owned property across from the high school. One of the ordinances that was introduced tonight was to approve the short-term lease for this property. The mobile substation will not be used unless power from one of the transformers fails during the switch.

Division of Law

Nothing at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Fred Wainwright, 1011 Cedar Lane, stated that he also owns the farm at 1091 Florence -Columbus Road and asked how much longer they would have to put up with the mess out there caused by the repair work that Burlington County is doing. Mr. Wainwright stated that the water is seeping underneath Florence Columbus Road and into their farm field on the other side. He expressed concern that this water is going to undermine the integrity of the road. Mayor Wilkie responded that the township would contact Burlington County to try to get some answers about the situations.

Mr. Wainwright stated that he could not hear everything that was said by Mayor, Council and administrative staff. He requested that everyone look toward the audience when speaking. He also said that with the issue with the sewer extension into Mansfield Township, that Florence Township should have allowed the extension. The development is going to happen anyway and the developers would have had to work together to solve the traffic problems. He expressed his disappointment and stated that because of the township's refusal to extend sewer, he has not been able to develop his farm property.

There was no one else wishing to offer comment, motion was made by Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to close the public comment. Voice vote – all ayes.

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Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to adjourn at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk