

Florence Township Council Regular Session 5/1/19

Florence, New Jersey
May 1, 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 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: Ted Lovenduski, Paul Ostrander, Jerry Sandusky, Dave Woolston

Absent: Frank Baldorossi

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

MINUTES

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

- Township Council Closed Session of April 10, 2019.
- Township Council Regular Session of April 17, 2019

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

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

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Lovenduski, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous vote – Motion carried

APPLICATIONS

- A. Social Affair Permit for American Legion Riders Annual Picnic, at Francis W. Robbins Post 194 American Legion, June 1, 2019, 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Motion of Woolston, seconded by Ostrander to approve all applications. Voice vote – all ayes.

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PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Ostrander to open the public hearing. Voice vote – all ayes.

Mayor Wilkie explained that a lot of hours were put into preparing the 2019 the budget. The tax rate is the same as it has been for the last seven years. Water and sewer rates are the same basic rates since 2012. We have worked hard to make sure we have the surplus and the resources available to maintain all current services and to add a few new things including the concerts in the park and the addition of the officers that were sworn in at the last meeting.

The Mayor asked if at this time anyone from the public has any questions regarding the budget. Seeing no one come forward, a motion was made by Ostrander and seconded by Lovenduski to close the public portion.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Fred Wainwright, 1011 Cedar Lane, stated that across from the farm they put up a guardrail. and if the farmers are coming down Florence-Columbus Road with wide base farm equipment, a car cannot safely pass on the other side because there is no room. He doesn't want to see anyone get hurt.

Mayor Wilkie said that a letter should be sent to the county requesting they reconsider the location of the guardrail. The farm has been in that location for hundreds of years, and the ability of the farm to continue has not been taken into consideration. It is important that we document that this needs to be looked at because it is infringing upon the operations of a farm that has been there for over 100 years.

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to close the public portion of the meeting. Voice vote – all ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION 2019-90
Read Budget by Title Only**

**RESOLUTION 2019-91
Adopt 2019 Budget**

**RESOLUTION 2019-92
Amend 2019 Capital Budget**

**RESOLUTION 2019-93
Release Maintenance Bond, 1270 Emerick Avenue**

**RESOLUTION 2019-94
Release Maintenance Bond, McHugh Court**

RESOLUTION 2019-95

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Reconfirm Continuing Disclosure Agent Appointment and Independent Registered Municipal Advisor

**RESOLUTION 2019-96
Reject Bid-Sewage Plant Blower Piping Replacement**

**RESOLUTION 2019-97
Authorize Refund of Construction Permit Fee**

Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolutions 2019-90 through 2019-97.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Lovenduski, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval – Motion carried

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE 2019-11
AMEND CH. 64 FLAT FEE FOR CERTAIN POOL BARRIER FENCES
(2nd Reading, Public Hearing & Adoption)**

Motion by Woolston, seconded by Ostrander to open this ordinance to the public.

The Mayor explained that instead of figuring out a cost based on the value of the fence, there would be a flat fee for the fences. This would be a more realistic approach as to what is currently being paid for some of the more decorative fences.

Seeing no one wishing to comment, motion was made by Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to close the public hearing on Ordinance 2019-11. Voice vote – all ayes.

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Lovenduski to approve Ordinance No. 2019-11.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Lovenduski, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval. Motion carried

**ORDINANCE 2019-12
RECREATION FEE AMENDMENT
(Intro & 1st Reading, 2nd Reading & Public Hearing 5/15/19)**

Mayor Wilkie explained that a fee was instituted a number of years ago for the participation in recreational activities. At one time, depending on the program, it was \$5. At another time it was \$15 and then it went to a flat fee of \$10. After the economy went bad, we started charging \$25. We are bringing in about \$17,000 with the \$25 fee. If we took it back to \$10 it wouldn't be worth the efforts involved between the Clerk's Office or the Recreation Department. We can make it much more efficient if we put it all online and not worry about the fee but still require registration. There will only be a fee if the children are involved

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in the summer camp program, which is operated by the Township, or the tennis program, which is paid through the process. But the general recreation programs would no longer have fees.

Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Ostrander to approve Ordinance No. 2019-12.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Lovenduski, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval. Motion carried

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and officers

Administration

Councilman Lovenduski

Councilman Lovenduski explained that a few weeks ago Mr. Kamienski approached him and asked if there was something that could be done about cars speeding in Marter Park. Councilman Lovenduski said he himself had seen a multitude of cars move through there way too fast. He asked Mr. Sahol for some sort of speed bumps or regulations to slow people down. It was parents, as well as teen drivers driving through there. The road is winding and you really can't see what is coming at you, and it's in a park. It would be in everyone's best interest if we could somehow get people to slow down.

Mr. Sahol said that you can purchase in-road measures; some lag-bolt down, some are held by epoxy. You see them a lot in private parking lots. They are available and he did reach out to a supplier that provides highway projects for a price quote. He had public works do the dimensioning and verify what we would need and it was spaced out so it would slow cars down coming around the curves and also prior to the one crossing. It looks like they would be needed in five locations, which is good because it is a park. He said he is sure it will be done easily once he gets pricing. We have a project that is already underway in that park and funding is set aside for the purpose of improvements there.

The Mayor recommended having the recreation director, Marty Eckert reach out to the soccer association and ask them to remind parents and coaches about their speeds. We don't want anyone getting hurt. Mr. Sahol explained that this has already been done and that they encouraged the soccer association to help enforce that as well.

Mayor

The Mayor stated that the weather has been really wet lately and the last two weekends the Roebing Museum hosted major activities. He said he was able to stop in for both; the MDA seemed to have a great gathering and he heard a lot of positives about the event and the run. And the car show was well attended in spite of the rain.

Also, Andrew Ferdetta is getting his Eagle Scout on May 11, 2019. He did park work at Roebing Park. We will be having a rededication on May 16, 2019 at 6pm. As part of the rededication we will be honoring Paul and Loretta Varga, who passed away last year. He asked Council if they know any individuals that should be invited, to let Marty Eckert know so we can be sure they are included. The first Concert in the Park will be at 6:30pm that same night. Paul and Loretta were very instrumental in making sure the concerts in the park happened as often as possible and they constantly gave back to the community without expecting anything in return.

The Day of Prayer Service will be held on May 2, 2019 at 10:00am in front of the municipal building. We asked a minister from the community to perform the service.

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The Mayor explained that he was required to attend a meeting regarding drugs at the high school before his daughter was able to attend the prom. He recalled Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" philosophy on drugs. The officer at the meeting mentioned that after 12 years this campaign was discontinued. They presented a graph showing that after that campaign stopped, the drug use numbers have consistently risen. He believes that slogan "Just Say No" is still very effective.

The Mayor stated that Marty Eckert, the Recreation Director, passed along the field day summer camp program. It's a two-week program beginning on August 12, 2019. He went into detail about the different trips they will be taking to include touring the Eagles stadium, bowling, hiking in Roebing parks, a trampoline park, the aquarium, a Trenton Thunder game, a magician, a tour of the fire house, kick ball, water ice and other fun events. He stated that there was a great effort put in to the events by Marty and that the camp had sold out shortly after the information was sent out. This is all funded by the township budget.

Municipal Administrator

Administrator Brook extended his appreciation to the Falls Township supervisors for voting down the Elcon hazardous chemical facility. That facility would not be too far from the Delaware River with respect to its tributaries. It is important for Florence Township, Bordentown Township and all municipalities that are along the Delaware River, to include those that draw their drinking water from the Delaware like the city of Philadelphia. He wanted to mention this because a hazardous waste facility anywhere near this area is something that is a terrible situation for residents on both sides of the river.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

Assistant Administrator Tom Sahol discussed the electronic pet containment fences. He looked at some legislation that may limit the placement. Sometimes people who are using sidewalks where there is no apparent containment for dogs, could feel threatened as that dog is heading right at them. At least on one occasion that was witnessed, the person was so startled, they actually ran into traffic on Delaware Avenue. This could be a serious issue. Upon researching this, typically what was referred to most is that people feel so scared that they often will dart away from the animal and they're putting themselves into harm's way. It looks to basically follow the same guidelines as our physical fences; you wouldn't want to put it past the front setback of the house. Policy calls may want to be considered when looking at properties like on Potts Mill Road. You could have 100-150 feet of frontage setback and to say that the dog couldn't possibly use any portion of nearly a quarter of an acre of their property may not be reasonable. Terminology that talks about a certain distance from a paved sidewalk or a right-of-way, where you have a greater setback may be necessary. There are some things to think about and can be brought forward for an ordinance in the very near future.

Councilman Lovenduski stated that he asked Mr. Sahol to look into this about a year ago. He said that there was a young man bouncing a basketball down the street and he was startled by dogs coming at him and he ran right out in front of his wife's car. Fortunately, no one was hurt, but something needs to be done before someone does get hurt.

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that it would call for a zoning permit similar to installing a regular physical fence. As of right now, there are no permits required for the invisible fencing. There would be no need for electrical permits but there would be a zoning permit review. There may be an administrative fee of \$5, a zoning fee or perhaps no fee, where it would be only a compliance statement or verification of compliance replacement. This would be something to discuss.

Assistant Administrator Sahol also stated that at a prior meeting the Mayor had indicated that there would be a conversation in regard to the sidewalk and fencing along the frontage of Wilkie Park. Some funding has been set aside in the past. The fence came down while the water main was going in and there has been

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a lot of conversation about where we go from here with regard to reinstalling a fence. It is a policy call in regards to the placement of the fence along the front of the park. He passed along some photographs to give a little perspective.

Council President Sandusky voiced his concern about the need for a fence along such a heavily traveled road. He stated that people cutting through the park in their vehicles could be a problem.

Mayor Wilkie suggested getting a landscape architect to give us an idea of what could be done. He said a fence may not be needed the entire length and maybe the sidewalk will create the barrier. He is in agreement with Council President Sandusky, there is a need for something in place for safety reasons due to it being a main road. He would like to visually see a design as to what the park is going to look like with the additional parking that is being planned. The old fence was a 6-foot aluminum fence, perhaps a 4-foot fence would be sufficient.

Assistant Administrator Sahol mentioned that the overlay project on Dulty's Lane does not impact us here in town but because they are using John Galt Way, which comes through our community, he would like everyone to be aware of what is taking place. The State and Burlington Township have done all of the notifications necessary for the public.

Division of Law

Nothing at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Nothing at this time

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, spoke again about the guardrail; they used to be able to go straight across the road but they are no longer able to do so with the placement of the guardrail. He also asked Assistant Administrator Sahol about brush removal in front of the farm.

Melanie Mieczkowski, 1000 West 4th Street, commented on the fence at Wilkie Park. She asked that the fence be decorative to make the park more beautiful. She suggested maybe a split rail fence to keep the park pretty.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to adjourn at to Closed Session 8:36pm.

Council returned to the Regular meeting at 9:05pm. No action was taken. Motion of Woolston, seconded by Lovenduski to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:06pm.

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Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/jns