

Florence Township Council Regular Session 5/15/19

Florence, New Jersey
May 15, 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. There was a brief moment of silence for Police Officer Memorial Day and Officer Walter Kotch of the Florence Township Police Department.

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, Paul Ostrander, Dave Woolston, Jerry Sandusky

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

- Township Council Closed Session and Regular Session of May 1, 2019
- Township Council Regular Session of May 8, 2019

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Township Clerk's Monthly Report for April 2019
- Court Administrator's Monthly Report for April 2019
- Police Chief's Monthly Report for March 2019

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

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried

Florence Township Council Regular Session 5/15/19

APPLICATIONS

- A. Off-Premise 50/50 Raffle benefitting Florence Township Baseball Association, June 12, 2019 at 7:15 p.m. at Coates Field, Summer Street, Florence

Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Ostrander 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 Baldorossi to close Public Comment. Voice vote – all ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION 2019-99
Truck Purchases, Public Works and Water & Sewer**

**RESOLUTION 2019-100
Approve Fireworks Display for Annual Patriotic Celebration**

**RESOLUTION 2019-101
Award Contract for Mallard Creek Pump Station Electrical Upgrades**

**RESOLUTION 2019-102
Chapter 159, Transportation Trust Fund Grant, Potts Mill Road**

**RESOLUTION 2019-103
Award Contract 2019 Road Program to Richard T. Barrett Paving Co.**

**RESOLUTION 2019-104
Award Contract 2019 Parks Improvement to Richard T. Barrett Paving Co.**

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Lovenduski to approve Resolutions 2019-99 through 2019-104.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski; Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval – Motion carried

ORDINANCES

**. ORDINANCE 2019-12
RECREATION FEE AMENDMENT
(2nd Reading, Public Hearing & Adoption)**

The Mayor explained that this ordinance will eliminate the current recreation fees. It has been decided that the time and effort to collect the money is unnecessary and the collection of the information is more important. With the elimination of the fees, our databases will be more effective and more children will be able to participate. There will still be a fee for the tennis and summer camp programs.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 5/15/19

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

Seeing no one wishing to comment, motion was made by Lovenduski, seconded by Baldorossi to close the public portion on Ordinance 2019-12. Voice vote – all ayes.

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

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval. Motion carried

**ORDINANCE 2019-13
FINANCIAL AGREEMENT, BURLINGTON STORES, PHASE 2 EXPANSION
(Introduction & 1st Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 6/5/19)**

Administrator Richard Brook explained briefly that this is the corporate headquarters for Burlington Stores. They constructed their first building about 3 to 4 years ago. They approached Florence Township with an interest in building a second office center which will be well in excess of 200,000 square feet. It will add approximately 700 to 800 employees and it will ultimately be connected to their current building. They have received approval from the Planning Board. Florence Township worked with them on a financial incentive; they will continue to pay full land taxes over the period of the time related to the agreement but it does make an adjustment with respect to the taxes that are paid on the building values. It should be noted that their fees are extensive. For example, their affordable housing fees are probably going to exceed just over \$500,000. It is very difficult in the state of New Jersey when it comes to building projects of this magnitude coming into the community. Burlington is a very well-established financially strong company and they have been a great commercial partner for Florence Township.

Motion of Baldorossi, seconded by Lovenduski to approve Ordinance No. 2019-13.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval. Motion carried

**ORDINANCE 2019-14
ELECTRONIC PET CONTAINMENT FENCES
(Introduction & 1st Reading) (Public Hearing & Adoption 6/5/19)**

Assistant Administrator Tom Sahol explained that this ordinance came about due to observations regarding homes in the community where dogs were contained by electronic fences but it is not evident to pedestrians that the dogs are contained. Two incidents were recently reported about a home in the community with electronic fencing to contain two German Shepherds. One incident involved a set of adults who were startled by the dogs charging towards them. The other incident was reported last week by our retired police captain. In that incident two children were walking past the same house; the dogs ran towards them and they did not realize there was an electric fence and they ran directly into the street on Delaware Avenue. Luckily there were no cars at that time or this could have ended tragically.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 5/15/19

This ordinance looks to provide for setback requirements that would have to be maintained so that the pets could not get that close to the sidewalk. It also provides for proper signage so people may understand that they are not in harm's way. The use of these types of fences have become more and more prevalent and, unfortunately, just a Google search of this confirms more and more dangerous situations where people don't realize that the dogs are contained and react to the charging dogs without thinking. We are being proactive and addressing this one property in particular where we will be talking to the resident and making sure they are aware. The ordinance won't be retroactive, so the resident won't be required to change their existing electric fence, but it would probably be in their best interest to do so as at least two incidents are attributed directly to this one home that is located on a heavily traveled road.

Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2019-14.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval. Motion carried

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

None at this time

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie stated that on Friday, May 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. the entryway to the Roebing Park will be rededicated honoring the memory of Paul and Loretta Varga who spent a lifetime volunteering their time and service to beautifying the village of Roebing and the community. Both the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts contributed together to the clean up around the Golden Jubilee Monument last week and the monument will be unveiled tomorrow at 6 p.m. The first concert in the park starts at 6:30 p. m. and because Paul and Loretta were the ones that made sure everything was done for the music in the park, we thought it would be perfect to have the dedication at the time of the music in the park.

Also on Friday, May 17, 2019 at 12:00 p.m., there will be a memorial for Officer Walter Kotch. He was an on-duty officer who was killed on April 15, 1965. The FOP will be conducting that service at the front of the municipal building.

Friday night is the high school Prom so there may be some limos or groups of kids at the parks taking pictures.

Saturday night there will be a dinner honoring Lou Borbi, a local resident, who has spent a good part of his life compiling information about the early years in the village of Roebing and recently published a book about the village. The event is sold out.

The Mayor's Cup will be held on Muchowski Field on Friday, May 31, 2019 at 6 p.m.

The next Council meeting will be held June 5, 2019.

Mayor Wilkie explained that Mark Hollern, a local resident, reached out to him regarding signage and truck traffic on Delaware Avenue and Front Street. He asked to be placed on an upcoming Council agenda to

Florence Township Council Regular Session 5/15/19

give a power point presentation of his observations and ideas. Mayor Wilkie asked Council to decide which Council meeting would be best to meet with Mr. Hollern.

The Mayor stated that the DVRPC has recommended that Florence Township be awarded the Rails to Trails grant in the amount of \$500,000. Hopefully it will be approved and we will move forward with that project. We were made aware that another round will be open for the Transportation Trust Fund. Tom Sahol will work with Engineer Jim Biegen to finish the Potts Mill Road project. Money was put into local ordinances to help with the process and he is hoping there will be enough funds to extend the work all the way to Route 130. Hopefully, the overlay of Route 130 will have been completed by then.

The Mayor mentioned that the high school graduation has been rescheduled to June 19, 2019. Council has a meeting scheduled for that evening. He stated that he would not be at the meeting since his daughter is graduating. He mentioned that Councilmen Lovenduski and Woolston also have children graduating that night so they would also not be able to attend the meeting either.

Administrator Brook asked Council to consider rescheduling of the June 19th meeting to either Tuesday, June 25th, early before the Planning Board meeting or Wednesday, June 26th. Council President Sandusky asked for a vote from Council and it was decided the meeting would be held Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 6:30 p. m.

Administrator

Administrator Brook noted that Marty Eckert, the Recreation Director, included an extensive report in the packet. He said Marty has offered that if there are any particular projects that anyone would like to discuss, he is always willing to do so. It was a very good report that he put together.

Assistant Administrator

Assistant Administrator Tom Sahol explained that the new application for municipal aid is coming up. It has a quick turnaround date; the state would like to receive the applications in July. They want to have the funding out to the towns or dedicated by November. He spoke with Township Engineer Jim Biegen and they both agreed that the grant should be used for the completion of Potts Mill Road and even tying in with the state's paving project taking place any day now at Route 130. He and Engineer Biegen will put the application together and hopefully have authorization at the June 5 meeting so the application can be submitted in July.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business at this time.

BOARD OF HEALTH

There was no Board of Health at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Florence Township Council Regular Session 5/15/19

Council President Sandusky asked if there are plans in the future for asphalt at the scout house on Potts Mill Road. Tom Sahol explained that this was authorized last year but due to the weather and the fact that Public Service had not installed the gas line needed; they just installed the new utility pole last week so the electricity can now be buried. Barrett Paving won the bid for that project and will hopefully will be tying it in with a few asphalt repairs on Potts Mill Road at the same time. The electrical installation should be scheduled within the next week and as soon as that is finished, Barrett will be in there creating a nice loop driveway and parking for the scouts.

The Mayor was reminded of the Eagle Scout presentation from Andrew Ferdetta. The Scout Master spoke very highly of the partnership with Florence Township. When he tells other scout organizations what we do and how we partner with them, they are in disbelief. When the Potts Mill Road property is ready, they want to host a camp out there for other scouting troops to come in and see the facility.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Lovenduski to approve Resolution 2019-105 for Closed Session to discuss negotiations at 8:25 p.m.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval. Motion carried

Council returned to the Regular meeting at 8:46 p.m. No action was taken. Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/jns