

## Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/7/19

Florence, New Jersey  
August 7, 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 pm 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, Paul Ostrander, Jerry Sandusky, Dave Woolston

Absent: None

Also Present: Mayor Craig H. Wilkie; Richard A. Brook, Township Administrator; Tom Sahol, Assistant Township 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 Regular Session of July 10, 2019
- Township Council Closed Session of July 10, 2019

### FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

- CFO's reports dated July 16, 2019 regarding the sales of Bond Anticipation Notes and Tax Anticipation Notes
- CFO's Cash Reports and Budget Reports for June 2019
- Police Chief's Monthly Report for May 2019
- Municipal Court Administrator's Monthly Report for July 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 8/7/19**

**REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE**

Nothing at this time

**APPLICATIONS**

- A. Approve Transient Merchant License for Greg & Jeff Food Truck LLC
- B. On-Premise 50/50 to benefit Mary, Mother of the Church Parish August 25, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. located at Holy Assumption Campus, 1290 Hornberger Avenue, Roebling, NJ

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve the applications.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous vote – Motion carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

**RESOLUTION 2019-140**

**Appointing Tax Search Officer (Christine M. Swiderski)**

**RESOLUTION 2019-141**

**Deny Bond Release Whitesell Construction Co., Inc.**

**RESOLUTION 2019-142**

**Extension of Time for Payment of Tax Bills**

**RESOLUTION 2019-143**

**Appointing Registrar of Vital Statistics (Jenise Silinsky)**

**RESOLUTION 2019-144**

**Approve Renewal ABC License, Fine Foods and Spirits, Inc.**

**RESOLUTION 2019-145**

**Cancel Taxes on Property Owned by a Totally Disable Veteran**

**RESOLUTION 2019-146**

**Authorize Placement of Liens for Failing to Address Property Maintenance Violations**

**RESOLUTION 2019-147**

**Approve Proposed Bus Stop Locations on Route 130**

**Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/7/19**

**RESOLUTION 2019-148  
Approve Annual Audit for 2018**

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolutions 2019-140 through 2019-148.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski; Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval – Motion carried

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS**

Councilman Dave Woolston explained that they received a letter at Monday evening’s Recreation meeting asking to name the football fields after the Cleveland and Pasqueline families, the originators of the pee-wee football club. The committee agreed that it was a great idea. Mr. Woolston thought that a vote from Council is necessary to approve.

The Mayor and Administrator Brook explained that a vote of Council is fitting but a Resolution memorializing the decision at next week’s meeting would be appropriate.

Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Baldorossi to approve the renaming of the recreation fields to the Cleveland and Pasqueline families.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski; Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval – Motion carried

Council President Sandusky explained that at the Environmental Commission meeting they voted to join the Coastal Coalition Committee. David Mudge and Paul Ordog will be representing the Environmental Commission. The Mayor spoke about how he went to a meeting regarding flooding in various areas of the township and the erosion of the river bank over the years. He said his understanding is that if there is a coalition being put together that means there will probably be some attention at a federal and state level and if there is some type of funding, it would be better to be a part of it, so that maybe something can be addressed. He asked Council to hold a voice vote and if interested, the next meeting is on August 12, 2019.

Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Woolston to approve joining the Coastal Coalition Committee.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski; Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval – Motion carried

Council member Dave Woolston requested to have a flag pole put up near the soccer, baseball and football fields that could be viewed by all of the fields during the National Anthem during the games there. The Mayor explained that there are a lot of flag poles in the community and we will have to be respectful of the complications of adding another flag. Council President Sandusky agreed and recommended putting a flag pole hanger on the concession stand which can be removed after the games. The Mayor said we will work with the league to be sure a flag will be out there for the first game.

## Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/7/19

### REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

#### Mayor

The Mayor talked about National Night Out on Tuesday, August 6, 2019. He said it was a beautiful night and attendance was much larger than in the past. He thanked the Police Department and all of the volunteers for a great job, and more specifically SRO Officer Jason Shafer, who was instrumental in pulling it all together.

The Mayor also spoke about the weather-related incident on July 22, 2019, where a bad storm took out power for some. He commended everyone for the response and the patience of our community and for everyone who did their part in handling the situation and making sure everyone was safe.

Just after the storm, there was a major water main break at the Greenbriar community. The Water and Sewer Department had to close up a project on Cedar Lane to take care of the water main break. The bolts on top of the valve corroded because of the acidic soils that are present in that area. If those bolts were stainless steel it may not have occurred. The Mayor said that they will take a look at our code to see if we can require that higher level because it was an inconvenience for the residents and a lot of work for the Water and Sewer Department.

Florence Field Days start Monday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. The camp is at maximum capacity and there are a lot of activities, including a visit to the Eagles Stadium.

The Police Department hosted the Youth Academy the week of July 29<sup>th</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Attendance was excellent and the Police Department is looking to hold it for two weeks next year. It is a very nice program and a great opportunity for the children to get to know our Police and Fire Departments.

As mentioned at the July meeting, there was a meeting scheduled with the Transportation Commissioner through the Senator's Office and everyone within the Department of Transportation was there to hear what our concerns are in our community. The follow-up was that the Turnpike will host the next meeting in August to discuss their concerns as we continue to move forward with how transportation and traffic flows have to change.

On August 8<sup>th</sup>, the Mayor and Assistant Administrator Tom Sahol will be going to the Energy Aggregation meeting. Last year we participated in the program where residents were guaranteed savings on the electric portion of their bill. There were about five communities that participated and there were few people that were upset about being automatically enrolled. He explained that there are no long-term commitments. They're hoping to find out how it works and the understanding is that county is looking to include everyone in the program.

#### Administrator

Administrator Richard Brook noted that on August 8<sup>th</sup> he will be meeting with Alaimo Associates, the Water and Sewer Engineer for the township. They will be discussing two or three significant projects to be undertaken next year. One is phase 2 of the expansion of the water plant, located on Summer and Sixth Streets. Phase 1 was completed last year. The goal was to stay ahead of the entire treatment process to make sure the township is in good shape for at least the next 10 years, possibly 20 years.

The other project of focus is dealing with significant improvements at the wastewater treatment plant. That will probably be done in 3-5 phases, taking the most important one first. He anticipates coming back in early September with bond ordinances to undertake that work.

## **Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/7/19**

Administrator Brook explained that Council had just approved by resolution the 2018 Audit. It should be noted that there were no findings in the audit, which is a very good representation for the way the staff and employees operate. He expressed his gratitude to the department heads and the staff, especially to the departments that are impacted by the review in the audit (i.e. Finance Department, Tax Department, Township Clerk's Office and the Municipal Court). It really is a credit to them that there have been no findings in the past two years, and the Township continues to be in reasonably solid financial condition.

### **Assistant Administrator**

Assistant Administrator Tom Sahol gave an update on the road program. He stated that this year so far Cherry Street, Sixth Street, Alden Avenue, James Street, Olive Street (to include the two raised speed tables) Walnut Street and Third Street have been completed.

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained the progress being made at Marter Field with the expanded parking. The base is down and they will be working within the next few weeks to complete the project. That portion was paid by the County grant that we received a few years ago. The contractor will be moving on into the village of Roebling where they will be working on concrete sidewalks and curbs pretty soon; primarily in the 4<sup>th</sup> through 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue area, since South Street and 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the 200 block are already complete.

Assistant Administrator Sahol mentioned that he received an email from a resident about the frequency and speed of traffic on Grove Street. It seems the road is being used as a cut through to avoid some areas of Delaware Avenue. He observed a lot of traffic coming from Delaware Avenue onto Grove Street going to Fifth Street. He said he can imagine that there is even more traffic when school starts with people trying to avoid bus routes and speed limit restrictions in front of the school. He thinks the request is warranted from the residents on Grove Street and there is a need for a raised crosswalk. There is a good location for it where it can be used for traffic calming as well as pedestrian safety. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that the speed tables on Hornberger Avenue and Olive Street have been successful in slowing traffic on those streets. He said that with Council's approval he will contact Barrett Paving and have the speed table completed when Grove Street is milled and paved in the next week or so. Council agreed to have the speed table added to Grove Street.

Council Member Dave Woolston mentioned that he noticed on Olive Street the speed tables have created a slight issue with puddling. Tom said that he will be speaking with the township engineer about taking some of the angle further from the curb line to eliminate some of that problem.

### **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.

## Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/7/19

### MISCELLANEOUS

There was no Miscellaneous at this time.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Motion by Baldorossi, seconded by Woolston to open the meeting to the public.

Mark Hollern, 324 E. Front Street, spoke on behalf of himself and his neighbors regarding his presentation from June 5, 2019. He read a brief statement: "Ladies and gentleman and members of the audience, thank you for reviewing the materials I shared with you and attendees at the Council meeting on June 5 regarding ridding Delaware Avenue and Front Street of invasive tractor trailer traffic which should be using Route 130, Cedar Lane and Dulty's Lane to reach warehouses and factories in those locations. Over 100 tractor trailers cross Route 130 and enter Delaware Avenue each day. Some use Railroad Avenue to access Cedar Lane and about 70 others travel through the town to reach warehouses on River Road in Burlington Township and return to Route 130 along that same route. Subject matter experts at the Burlington County Highway Department, the New Jersey State Police Traffic Safety Unit have recognized that the current state here is undesirable, illegal and easily corrected. They have suggested establishing a 4-ton weight limit on Delaware Avenue and Front Street, and an unofficial Florence Township truck route using Dulty's Lane and Route 130, along with enforcing New Jersey's Administrative Code Title 16 Chapter 32, the law which mandates the routes system on which tractor trailers must travel in New Jersey in which forbids them from passing through residential areas. Together these simple low-cost actions will eliminate tractor trailer traffic on Delaware Avenue and Front Street except those making legal local deliveries to our small business here. For example, Bob's, Roebing Town Market, Quick Stop, Rocco's, etc. On behalf of the residents of Delaware Avenue and Front Street I'm asking you to report to us your findings regarding the information you were given on June 5<sup>th</sup>, the subject matter experts you met with and your chosen course of action please."

The Mayor explained that regarding 16:32, the Chief of Police has reached out to those individuals and unfortunately, they have not had a chance to meet. They have been in conversations but no meeting has been set yet but will be scheduled soon.

Mr. Hollern stated that 60 days is a long time and that he is hopeful that this can happen before Labor Day. He is going to give another couple of weeks and revisit then.

The Mayor then explained, as he had mentioned earlier, they had a meeting with the Department of Transportation at the end of July, which he said Mr. Hollern was aware of, and the issue was discussed with the request of the weight restriction and we got a favorable response but we didn't get the permission to move forward.

The Mayor stated that the Chief of Police has been dealing with the State Police. The NJDOT stated that we need the support of Burlington Township in order for this to move forward and Burlington Township said that they will not support the weight restriction without the bypass road going in because Dulty's Lane will fail due to volume. We are working with Burlington Township and Burlington City to get the bypass road through. Griffin Pipe Redevelopment Agreement requires that they direct all traffic to come through Burlington Township. Burlington Township agreed to this.

Kristan Marter, 220 E. Front Street, stated that her understanding of weight restricting is that it has to go from an intersection to an intersection in order to not trap trucks. That was the whole reason we couldn't stop trucks from coming past Griffin. Her question has to do with local deliveries. If we weight restrict from Route 130 all the way around to Dulty's Lane and trucks have to stay within the township because

## Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/7/19

they have a bill of lading, if someone is trying to get to Griffin by way of River Road, which is weight restricted in Burlington Township, can they be stopped on River Road and be fined just as a truck coming to a Burlington Township facility crossing over Route 130 cutting through our township on a weight restricted road with a bill of lading for Burlington Township? Aren't they in violation? She does not understand how this is going to solve the problem because everyone is just going to continue to come down Delaware/Front Street to Griffin because they have to stay in Florence Township to get there. We're working really hard to get all of these trucks to head toward Burlington Township and now we are telling them they cannot go that way because of the weight restriction. She would like clarification. Without a bypass, in order to be able to have these trucks stay within their jurisdiction, how can we weight restrict that road from one intersection to another?

Tom Sahol stated that weight restricting the road now is premature. There is no bypass. Trucks are required to take the shortest, most direct route that is least impactful on the adjoining communities, so if they are going to Griffin, they have to come through our town. By design of the driveways, we will be leading the trucks out of town through Burlington Township, which should eliminate truck traffic from coming through the township. Once the bypass is there, it lets them off at a certain point that actually puts them much closer which negates that proximity question from Delaware Avenue at Route 130 to Griffin.

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

### ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made by Lovenduski seconded by Woolston to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC  
Township Clerk  
/jns