

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/14/19

Florence, New Jersey
August 14, 2019

The Florence Township Council held a regular meeting on the above date at 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, Paul Ostrander, Jerry Sandusky, Dave Woolston

Absent: Ted Lovenduski

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 Woolston to approve the following minutes. Voice vote – all ayes. Unanimous approval. Motion carried.

- Township Council Closed Session of August 7, 2019

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Township Clerk's Monthly Report for July 2019
- Police Chief's Monthly Report for June 2019

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

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston

NOES: None

ABSENT: Lovenduski

Unanimous vote – Motion carried

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing at this time

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/14/19

APPLICATIONS

Nothing at this time

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Don Kaminsky, 10 McCay Drive, asked Administrator Richard Brook about the status of finding a new animal control company. Administrator Brook explained that the township is working on it. We are currently gathering information for a private company that provides service for Evesham, Shamong, Burlington Township and Delran. The township's service history for the past 12 months has been provided and we are awaiting a proposal from them.

Matthew Swart, 19 4th Avenue, voiced his concern about the yield signs at the intersections on Main Street and the Avenues. He stated that he and his girlfriend were driving on Main Street about a year ago and they were almost hit by a driver who went right through the yield coming out of 7th Avenue. He witnesses people go through the yield signs every day. He views this as a public safety hazard and asked about changing the signs to full stop signs.

Assistant Administrator Tom Sahol said that they have addressed this issue numerous times and the statutes read that a yield intersection is always a stop intersection until it is safe to proceed. What he has been told over the years is that the speeds that are typically driven on the avenues are not sufficient for people to enter those intersections at such a rate that it would cause any difficulty for someone to react when entering the through street, which would be Main Street, with simply a yield. Over the years, every chief of police that he has spoken to has said the same thing. There is no need for a full stop sign movement because a yield is a stop.

Council President Jerry Sandusky suggested that maybe an officer can patrol to see if cars are stopping at the yield signs or just driving straight through onto Main Street.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2019-150

Approve Payment No. 1 for 2019 Road Program to Richard T. Barrett Paving

RESOLUTION 2019-151

Approve Release of Performance Bond MEND – Duffy Apartments

RESOLUTION 2019-152

Authorize Membership in Burlington County Coastal Communities Coalition

RESOLUTION 2019-153

Approving Dedication of Recreation Football Field

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolutions 2019-150 through 2019-153.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/14/19

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston

NOES: None

ABSENT: Lovenduski

Unanimous approval – Motion

carried

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

Nothing at this time.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie explained that there are three applications for Eagle Scout. If approved, the scouts are hoping to complete the projects this fall. If Council agrees to the concept for the projects, then we can go ahead and move them forward. Council agreed.

The Mayor said that the Recreation Director Marty Eckert shared that the summer camp is going really well.

The next Council meeting is September 4, 2019. Thursday, August 15 is the concert in the park at Wilkie Park. The food trucks will be there as well and next Thursday, August 22 the food trucks will return to Nyikita Field for Food Truck Thursdays, which will be every Thursday through the fall.

The Mayor spoke about the Energy Aggregation program. If a community agrees to join the Energy Aggregation program, the residents are automatically opted in and would have to choose to opt out. We did this in 2016 and, because of the way the program worked, you would receive your bill and it would appear that you paid more through the program. However, the following month there was a credit in order to get the money back. The company, that was providing the 3% annual savings, told the county that they could no longer compete. Mayor Wilkie stated last week he and Assistant Administrator Sahol went to a session sponsored by Senator Singleton about bringing the program back. A number of municipalities attended the session and the county is ready to go back out to bid. They think they can continue the savings to the community and would need a letter to confirm if we are interested in participating. The Mayor asked Council if they would like the township to participate again.

Council stated that there would need to be a better explanation to the public due to some confusion in the past. Tom Sahol explained that there were 7 towns in the program last year and that there was a little over a million dollar savings for the combined residents that were a part of the program. He said that with Council's approval, he would advise the county that Florence Township would participate again. Council agreed that Florence Township should participate in the program.

The Mayor explained that at Wilkie Park they are planning to construct rolling hills with a split rail fence where the chain link fence used to be. The hills will be easy to maintain. There will also be a pathway that will go through the park that will be connected to the Delaware River Heritage Trail. Council approved the concept and agreed with the proposal.

Mayor Wilkie stated that the county reached out regarding Cedar Lane. He said that they are not able to complete the paving in front of the high school and Tall Pines because Public Service is out there installing poles. The delay will take the project into September and the county asked if that was agreeable. The project would start back up after September 15, 2019 and will have to be coordinated with the school. The

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/14/19

hours for work would be from 8am – 2pm so the road would be open for school traffic. The county prefers not to work at night for inconvenience to the residents who live along Cedar Lane and in the Tall Pines development. It will be much better to compress it into daytime hours within a 5-day period, weather permitting.

Administrator

Administrator Brook said that they discussed the bond ordinances with the Water and Sewer Department and the Township's Water & Sewer Engineer, Alaimo Associates. He said that he thinks we are at a point where we can come back with a bond ordinance for Phase 2 of the water plant upgrades. We will probably bring the engineer for Alaimo and David Lebak, Director of Water & Sewer before Council in September or October and discuss where that stands.

The other big item we were looking at is to do a screw press at the sewer plant, this modern technology will help the township operate much more efficiently. The second phase, which will probably come along in a few years, is to upgrade the head works (everything in the front of the plant) of the waste water treatment plant. The plan is to change out the presses, change the entire structure and totally modernize the process and to utilize the old Kennedy Trucking property that is being donated to the Township.

In addition to that, we will probably do an ordinance which will cover some of the engineering expenses from the Rails to Trails project. That is a federal grant so the township has a great deal of engineering to do which Tom Sahol and Jim Biegen can discuss in the coming months. It is much more than a normal Community Development Block Grant application but if we want to move forward, we will have to utilize Maser Engineering to get a lot of the work started ahead of time.

Lastly, the other bond ordinance we will do is for the Police Department. We try and rotate two new vehicles or SUVs into the fleet each year. You may recall that we mentioned how long it takes; we did a bond ordinance in 2018 and we just received one SUV within the past two weeks and we have not yet received the second. It takes that long to get them so you have to plan far in advance. We would do the bond ordinance in the early fall of 2019 and by the time we get them and they are operational, it will be the summer of 2020. If we are lucky, we will be able to purchase a 2019 vehicle. We cannot control how long it takes to get it from the manufacturer, nor how long it takes to do the upfitting.

Administrator Brook said that there was discussion about improving the locker situations for the officers when Chief Boldizar was here. He stated that he would be talking to Solicitor Grant, regarding the upgrades. There had previously been RFPs for design of potential improvements to the municipal building but we delayed that project. The time has come to work with Solicitor Grant on a resolution so Chief Boldizar can consult with Garrison Architects on the work that would have to be done to upgrade the police locker room. We will delay the design on the municipal building until we have a better understanding of what the debt service would be over the next 10-15 years.

Assistant Administrator

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that PSE&G had contacted him because someone has spoofed the PSE&G telephone number (1-800-436-PSEG). People are getting calls from what they think is PSE&G regarding their electric or gas service and it certainly isn't the case. These people are demanding money and payments. He advised Council that he would be posting this on the township's social media platforms. Hopefully, none of the residents of Florence Township will be taken in by this scam.

The road program began construction of concrete details along 5th Avenue and marking out of work project areas on 6th Avenue. They will be working into the Village in the 10 and 100 blocks of the avenues this

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/14/19

week and next and by the end of next week we should have a milling and paving schedule. He will share that with Council and members of the public on social media. The program is on schedule despite the recent weather and hopefully we are completed well before the deadline.

Council Member Paul Ostrander asked Assistant Administrator Sahol for an update on the air conditioning at the Community Center. Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that PSE&G did a voltage survey and determined that the building was getting very low voltage. PSE&G will upgrade the voltage on the transformer and once this is done, they believe that they will have corrected all of the low voltage issues. We possibly lost a refrigeration compressor on one of the freezers because of the low voltage and if that is the case then we will submit a claim to PSE&G.

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

Council President Sandusky mentioned that on Ninth Street where Tollgate is located, he noticed that there is a tennis court there that has not been in use for quite some time now. He thought it may be an ideal location for our younger tennis group. He is not sure if we can work something out with Tollgate, maybe get an overlay of the asphalt and new nets.

The Mayor said that the problem is that it is private property and the township has had conversations with Tollgate's management about taking that whole court out and cleaning up that area. We had offered our services to help with the clean up and removal of the fencing. He mentioned that we have the tennis courts at the high school and last July he had the department heads together and talked about improvements at different locations where we could put tennis courts for pickle ball and cricket, which is being playing at Nyikita field. These are all good ideas and we will continue to evaluate the needs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Patti DiMassa, 1039 Cedar Lane, lives right next to the substation PSE&G is putting on Cedar Lane. She doesn't understand why that would be approved next to a residence as opposed to across the street in the empty property. She said she met with Assistant Administrator Sahol, along with Joe Barton from PSE&G and they had come to a tentative agreement. However, the information was a little over her head and after digesting, she doesn't think that it is the best location and the compensation offered, to put in a buffer and landscape, is not enough. She's concerned about the timeframe as well, they say it could be two years or it could be many more. She said she wanted to express her disappointment that it was approved right next to a resident's home.

Florence Township Council Regular Session 8/14/19

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that these questions were addressed by Joe Barton of PSE&G. He also explained why the location was chosen. PSE&G didn't want to put the substation on a corner, where they were in a sight triangle or out in the open with it. It will be servicing 12,000 people in the community and PSE&G needed to place it somewhere close enough to the grid that comes off of Route 130 and goes in that direction.

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made by Ostrander seconded by Woolston to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. Voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/jns