

Florence Township Council Regular Session 10/2/19

Florence, New Jersey
October 2, 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 led by Girl Scout Veronica Cioch. A moment of silence was held in memory of former Councilman Edward Gyenge.

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

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

Absent: Richard A. Brook, Administrator

Mayor Wilkie introduced Girl Scout Veronica Cioch, who spoke about her Silver Award Project "Color for Miles." Due to the high numbers of obesity, and her interest in physical fitness, she is proposing to measure and paint mile markers on the walking path of the lower level of the Roebling Park and work with the township on the creation of a bulletin board where a map of the park can be posted along with the mileage of the walking path. She would also like to host a Color Run and health fair in Spring 2020. In order to complete her project, she is looking to fundraise for supplies by asking local businesses for monetary donations, to host a table at the health fair or to sponsor a station at the Color Run. She would like to charge \$5 per person to raise money to benefit Florence Township to purchase a piece of outdoor exercise equipment. She is here for approval of her project and to request support from the township. She will need resources like EMTs, police, maintenance, a stage and access to electricity to complete her project. She will also need a lot of help and direction from the Recreation Director, Marty Eckert. She is asking for approval no later than October 31, 2019 so she can get started right away. She would like to host the Color Run and Health Fair in Spring 2020.

The Mayor mentioned that this will fit into what was discussed at earlier meetings regarding the County Grant Fund and the health initiatives. He wished Veronica well and asked Council for approval of the project. Council agreed.

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Baldorossi to approve the Color For Miles project. Voice vote – all ayes. Unanimous approval. Motion carried.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Closed Session of September 18, 2019
- Regular Session of September 11, 2019 and September 18, 2019

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

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Police Chief's Monthly Report for July 2019
- Police Chief's Monthly Report for August 2019

Motion of Woolston 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

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing at this time.

APPLICATIONS

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

Al Jacoby, 911 Wallace Avenue, asked if the township could contact Burlington County and request that signs be installed on Delaware Avenue between Hamilton Avenue and Wallace Avenue, advising drivers to stay in their lanes. When the traffic is backed up from the traffic light to Hamilton Avenue, sometimes people will swing out into the oncoming lane of traffic to drive up to the left turn lane at the traffic light. Mr Jacoby said that on more than one occasion he had turned right out of Wallace Avenue and encountered a car coming toward him in his lane.

Mr. Jacoby also mentioned that the intersection at Wallace Avenue a big X is painted on the street. A sign indicating "Do Not Block Intersection" should be added.

Assistant Administrator Sahol said he will reach out to the county to see what they can do with signage.

Joe Csik, 45 East Fifth Street, brought up the extra turning lane at the intersection of Route 130 and Delaware Avenue. He said that the turning lane that was added a few years ago makes it difficult for people turning because the people try to cut you off.

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The Mayor explained that the lane was added due to the traffic build up at the light, just as Mr. Jacoby was talking about. The township unofficially asked that the two left lanes be kept to avoid the congestion at the light.

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.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2019-171

Authorize Placement of Liens for Failing to Address Property Maintenance Violations

RESOLUTION 2019-172

Release Phase 1 & 2 Water and Sewer Maintenance Bonds, Manors at Crossroads

RESOLUTION 2019-173

Authorize Membership and Participation in the Buy Board National Purchasing Cooperative

RESOLUTION 2019-174

Approve Current Estimate No. 2, Mallard Creek Pump Station Electrical Upgrade

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve Resolutions 2019-171 through 2019-174.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Lovenduski, Ostrander, Sandusky, Woolston

NOES: None

ABSENT: None Unanimous approval – Motion carried

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE 2019-22

Authorizing Acquisition of Block 15, Lot 4.01 for Affordable Housing Purposes (Intro & 1st Read) (2nd Read, Public Hearing & Adoption on October 16, 2019)

Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that this property was vacant and abandoned and the bank took it back. It is located in an area where the town has already been working on acquiring other parcels in anticipation of being able to provide affordable housing units to meet the court mandated affordable housing obligations. When you come across the property like this and you're not displacing anyone and you're taking down a run-down property to make way for something good in the future, it's a win-win for everyone.

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Baldorossi to approve Ordinance No. 2019-22.

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

Nothing at this time.

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REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie stated that on Saturday, October 5, 2019, the recreational football program will be honoring Henry Cleveland and Joe Pasqueline and they will be dedicating the football field in honor of those gentlemen, as well as Mrs. Cleveland who dedicated her life to the cheerleading program. That starts at 9:30 a.m. at Veteran's Park. At 12:00 p.m. Post 194 is hosting an outdoor music festival and food truck event. There is also a field hockey tournament on Saturday.

Sunday, October 6, 2019 is the National Firefighter Memorial Day. The President of the United States has declared Sunday as a half-staff day. The flags will go down sometime on Friday and will be at half-staff until Monday morning when Florence Township Public Works employees can raise them back up.

On Friday October 11th there will be a fire prevention show at the firehouse from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. All are encouraged to attend.

Mayor Wilkie spoke about the passing of Councilman Edward Gyenge. Mr. Gyenge served as Councilman for four years in the early '90's. He had the privilege of working with Mr. Gyenge when he was involved with the Recreation Committee. He was a kind-hearted individual and was always looking to do good for the community.

On the Township website, there is a chart that was on the Department of Community Affairs website showing the 2018 Property Tax Ranking. In Florence Township our taxes are just over \$5,000 for the average assessed home and in Burlington County the average assessed home is just under \$7,000 so we are almost at a \$2,000 savings. The state average is just below \$9,000. Florence Township residents are getting a good return on their tax dollars and that is a comparison of not just local taxes, that is including the school tax where we are paying less than what most people are in the county and definitely in the state.

Mayor Wilkie stated that the township's current Master Plan document is dated 1976. The Planning Board has conducted the periodic Re-examination reports as required under the land use law, however it was determined that the time has come to undertake a complete review of the Master Plan and update it to better reflect the direction that the township is moving in. The Planning Board has started the review and is hoping to have the new Master Plan document completed by December 2020.

Assistant Administrator

Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that Council had received the Burlington County Farmland Preservation Program Target List. The list shows the farms that were previously identified and approved for preservation. No new farm properties have been targeted at this time. If Council is in agreement to keep the existing list, he would notify the county.

Motion of Lovenduski, seconded by Ostrander to approve the target list as received. Voice vote, all ayes. Assistant Administrator Sahol said he would respond to the county prior to the October 25th deadline.

Assistant Administrator Sahol advised Council that the reconstruction of the railroad crossing gates on John Galt Way is taking place this month. The crossing will be closed during the reconstruction. As part of the reconstruction a curb island will be put in to prevent tractor trailers from driving around the gates when a train is at the station.

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He stated that the Police Department has received numerous complaints from residents regarding door to door solicitors. Chief Boldizar has designed a door sticker advising solicitors that the homeowner does not want solicitation and listing the fine associated with unwanted solicitation. Residents can pick up the stickers at the Police Department or the Clerk's office during regular business hours.

The Assistant Administrator advised Mayor and Council of an incident regarding the PSE&G emergency transformer on Cedar Lane. The understanding between the township and PSE&G was that the transformer would not be turned on unless required. The crew that provisioned the transformer followed the standard procedure for emergency transformers. Once the job was completed, they switched the transformer on. The transformer ran for four days before the township was made aware of the situation through social media posts. Once the township was made aware of the situation, PSE&G was immediately notified and the transformer was turned off.

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

There was no Miscellaneous at this time.

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

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business a motion was made by Woolston seconded by Ostrander to adjourn at 8:29 p.m. Voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/jns