

Florence Township Council Regular Session 11/13/19

Florence, New Jersey
November 13, 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 p.m. 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: Bruce Garganio, Paul Ostrander, Dave Woolston, Jerry Sandusky

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

Absent: Frank Baldorossi

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Closed Session of November 6, 2019

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Woolston to approve the minutes as submitted. Voice vote – all ayes.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

- Police Chief's Monthly Report for September 2019

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

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous vote – Motion carried

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APPLICATIONS

None

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 Woolston to close Public Comment. Voice vote – all ayes.

RESOLUTIONS

**RESOLUTION 2019-195
Adopting Technology Risk Management Standards**

**RESOLUTION 2019-196
Calling for Study Commission to Review the Open Public Records Act**

**RESOLUTION 2019-197
Amend Capital Budget**

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Garganio to approve Resolutions 2019-195 through 2019-197.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky
NOES: None
ABSENT: Baldorossi Unanimous approval – Motion carried

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE 2019-26
Bond Ordinance, Property Purchase, Block 130, Lot 35
(Intro. & 1st Read) (Public Hearing & Adoption 12/4/19)**

Assistant Administrator Tom Sahol explained that this ordinance authorizes the municipality to set aside funding for the purpose of purchasing the former bank building at 5th Avenue and Main Street in Roebing for preservation and protection since it is in a deteriorating state. The municipality was able to successfully negotiate a very good deal for the property for a structure that is nearly 100 years old. The purchase price is \$100,000 and the bond ordinance authorizes enough money so as to protect the building from further decline and possibly make some repairs on the building until an end use is determined.

Motion of Garganio, seconded by Woolston to approve Ordinance No. 2019-26.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky
NOES: None
ABSENT: Baldorossi Unanimous approval – Motion carried

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**ORDINANCE 2019-27
Authorizing Acquisition of Block 130, Lot 35
(Intro. & 1st Read) (Public Hearing & Adoption 12/4/19)**

Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Garganio to approve Ordinance No. 2019-27.

Upon roll call, Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ostrander, Woolston, Sandusky

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval – Motion carried

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND OFFICERS

Nothing at this time.

REPORTS: ADMINISTRATION

Mayor

Mayor Wilkie stated that the tree lighting ceremony will take place on Friday, December 6, 2019 and that the next Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 4, 2019. He also mentioned that there will be a comedy night at the Community Center on November 23, 2019.

Mayor Wilkie said that on Veteran's Day the township honored George Sampson, during the introduction he failed to mention how much George enjoyed organizing the Veteran's Day ceremonies each year. The weather was beautiful and the attendance was good.

Administrator

Administrator Brook stated that an email was received from the owner of the Central New Jersey Ballet Studio on Broad Street asking for the township to consider making a loading zone/drop off location. It will be given to the Chief for his consideration. We also have some different opinions from some other residents that are a little concerned about the amount of traffic. We are going to give it a very fair, objective review so we can get back to the owner.

Richard stated that Council has the results of the bond sale that took place. The township sold \$1,425,000 in open space bonds, \$6,460,000 in water and sewer bonds and the rate schedules will be plugged in to the municipal budget. Overall, it was an incredible rate. The interest rate is 2.282% and, when thinking about borrowing money over 15-17 years, it really is a testament to working together with Mayor and Council and the financial philosophy, the work of the CFO Sandy Blacker and her assistant Teresa Wilson and just the overall operation of the town. There is a town in the middle of the state that went out for approximately \$40,000,000 in bonds and their rate was 2.26%. It's a very positive sign for the town. He thanked the finance office and Phoenix Advisors, as well as Tom Hastie from Kelly Grant's office. You cannot get a much better rate than that over 17 years.

Administrator Brook stated that the bond sale award certificate prepared by our bond counsel Tom Hastie will be reviewed at the December 4, 2019 meeting..

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business at this time.

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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 up to the public at this time.

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

Motion of Garganio, seconded by Woolston to adjourn to Closed Session at 8:08 p.m. where no action will be taken. Voice vote – all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

Council returned to the Regular meeting at 9:02 p.m. No action was taken. Motion of Ostrander, seconded by Garganio to adjourn. Voice vote – all ayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy L. Erlston, RMC
Township Clerk
/jns