

Florence, New Jersey
February 4, 2009

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 Baldorossi at 8:10 PM. President Baldorossi led the Salute to the Flag.

The following statement was read by the Township Clerk: "Notice of this meeting has been given in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice was published in the Burlington County Times on January 11, 2009; given to the Register News for information. Notice was posted on the Municipal Bulletin Board."

Upon roll call the following were found to be present:

Bruce Garganio
Dennis O'Hara
Sean Ryan
Jerry Sandusky
Frank Baldorossi

Also present:

Mayor William Berry; Richard Brook, Township Administrator; Thomas Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

MINUTES

Nothing at this time.

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

Sandusky made a MOTION; seconded by Garganio to approve the Treasurer's Bill List. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing at this time.

APPLICATIONS

A. SOCIAL AFFAIR: Knights of Columbus, Holy Assumption, March 21, 2009, 5:00PM – 11:30PM

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Garganio to approve the above application.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi
NOES: None
ABSENT: None
ABSTAIN: O'Hara

Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nothing at this time.

All residents having an opportunity to be heard, MOTION by Ryan; seconded by Sandusky to close the public portion of the meeting. All ayes - motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION 2009-52

**REAPPOINTMENT OF COORDINATOR
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
PHILIP DRANGULA**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-53

**APPOINTING ASSISTANT COORDINATOR OFFICE OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
JAMES R. KARWACKI**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-54

**AUTHORIZE REDUCTION IN PERFORMANCE BOND
LEGACY AT MEADOWCROFT**

NOTE: Conditioned upon payment of any escrow funds due.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-55

**APPROVE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN DEVELCOM AND
THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
FOR THE
FORMER ROEBLING STEEL PLANT SITE**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-56

**DENY REQUEST TO RELEASE PERFORMANCE BONDS
GREENBRIAR HORIZON, SECTIONS 2, 3, 4 & 5**

Section 2: Bond No. SW0156

Section 3: Bond No. SW0151

Section 4: Bond No. 0871 9337

Section 5: Bond No. 0871 9339

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-57

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND CONSOLIDATED RAIL CORPORATION (“CONRAIL”)

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-58

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE BURLINGTON COUNTY SHARED SERVICES FORUM

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-59

AUTHORIZING THE BURLINGTON COUNTY MOSQUITO EXTERMINATION COMMISSION TO CONDUCT AN AERIAL MOSQUITO CONTROL ACTIVITY

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by Sandusky that Resolutions 2009-52 through 2009-59 be approved.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, O’Hara, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

ORDINANCE NO. 2009-01

(2nd Reading)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE PROHIBITING NON-RESIDENT STUDENT ENROLLMENT WHERE THE PERSON IS NOT ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS AND PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES AND FOR RESTITUTION TO THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

It was on the MOTION of O’Hara, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2009-01 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

Council President Baldorossi opened the meeting to the public for comments at this time.

Nothing at this time.

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 02/04/09

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by O'Hara to close the public hearing. All ayes – motion carried.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, O'Hara, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2009-02
(2nd Reading)**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP CODE BY AMENDING SECTION 134-42. - SCHEDULE X.: THROUGH STREETS BY ADDING FIREHOUSE LANE AS A THROUGH STREET

It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by O'Hara to approve Ordinance No. 2009-02 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

Council President Baldorossi opened the meeting to the public for comments at this time.

Bill Bott, 64 Riverbank Drive, stated that Firehouse Lane is a dead end street and questioned amending the Ordinance to make it a through street? Solicitor Kearns explained that by law through street means that all streets intersecting have to have stop signs. This stops the streets coming out to Firehouse Lane.

It was on the MOTION of O'Hara, seconded by Sandusky to close the public hearing. All ayes – motion carried.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Garganio, O'Hara, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2009-03
(1st Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)**

Florence Township Council Regular Session: 02/04/09

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by O'Hara to approve Ordinance 2009-03 on first reading and set adoption for February 18, 2009.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

YEAS: Garganio, O'Hara, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Council Vice President O'Hara stated that the **Economic Development Committee Meeting** was held last night. There are some new members and he believes it is a good group. Regina Dunphy is the Chairperson; Tom McCue is the Vice-Chairperson. The committee has broken up into subcommittees: Chamber of Commerce, Public Relations, Ordinance Review and Website. Mayor Berry gave a very thorough report on development activity in the community.

Council Vice President O'Hara stated that concerns were brought up from one of the members, Vince Moore, last night that may fall under the Recreation Committee. Mr. Moore's concern is how the youth from downtown Florence would get to the Community Center in Roebbling once it is completed. The Mayor mentioned that perhaps the Recreation Director would be housed at the Community Center to help monitor the building during the day. Council Vice President O'Hara suggested that Council Member Garganio discuss some ideas, other than athletic events, and transportation for the youth of the community at the next Recreation Meeting. He is hoping the Community Center will be used, not only for senior citizen meetings, but also for some strong recreation activities for the youth of the community. Council Member Garganio agrees and will discuss at the next Recreation Meeting. Mayor Berry explained that one of last years graduating seniors wrote an essay and received a \$20,000 scholarship for a community game night. Beneficial Bank provided the funds for her to hold the game night at the firehouse last year, which was well attended. She would like to donate the game to the township. Council Member Garganio stated that one of the goals of the Recreation Committee is to expand recreation beyond athletics.

Council Vice President O'Hara stated that one of the Economic Development Committee members last night mentioned to Mr. Moore that a lot of churches buy older school buses and vans. Council Vice President O'Hara appreciates Council Member Garganio discussing the suggestions with the Recreation Committee.

- Council Member Garganio reported that that the **Recreation Committee** had a really good meeting. Attendance has improved with some of the new members. The committee is discussing reworking the code and reporting their recommendations to the governing body. Council Member Garganio suggested that perhaps when the Community Center is completed having an agreement with the school for transportation.

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Discussion followed regarding background checks for volunteers that would be at the Community Center; they would have to have background checks just like the other recreation volunteers.

Mayor

- Mayor Berry stated that over the past few weeks he has read in the newspaper how Burlington City has reached out to homeowners that are in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure by providing information on available assistance. He asked if the township would be interested in doing something similar? Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that at the Community Development meeting he attended last week it was discussed that the State has asked that the County and local coordinators be responsible for a **program to disseminate information to homeowners that are in emanate danger of losing their home**. The State has a list of these homeowners. He explained that Karen Trommelen is currently working on how to get the program started. Bulk mailing was discussed but the concern is the resident would not open the envelope fearing it is more bad news. Door knocks with a person stating to the resident that here is some information to help you save your home is more effective. Mayor Berry requested that Assistant Administrator Sahol reach out to Burlington City to get information on their program. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that this topic would be addressed at the next Community Development meeting to start the program locally. Council Member Ryan suggested posting the information on Channel 19 and the website. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that as soon as the information becomes available, he will start to disseminate it. Council Vice President O'Hara stated that the township would want to be discrete with who is receiving this information. Assistant Administrator Sahol explained that the State has a list of pending foreclosures before it even gets to the County Sheriff's Office.

Administrator Brook stated there is the possibility that if someone is losing their home and they fall within the COAH guidelines, the township can reach out and see if there is a way to secure a COAH unit. It is a way to obtain COAH units and help people to stay in their home, as long as the deed restriction that COAH wants is in place. He will investigate the possibility.

Administrator

- Administrator Brook stated that the township received the following **grants**: \$150,000 for Fifth Avenue reconstruction, \$115,000 grant for sidewalk construction and \$300,000 for the bike path. **Discussion of the projects will be held at next week's Worksession.**

Mr. Guzzi stated that the goal of the bike path is to begin at Brookside Drive and end at Marter Park. He will have to meet with the County to work with some of the obstacles.

Council Member Garganio asked that Mr. Guzzi look into constructing a path from the tail end of Marter Park straight through to the high school. Mr. Guzzi can look at the aerials to see if it is feasible.

Council Vice President O'Hara thanked Mr. Guzzi and Assistant Administrator Sahol for their efforts in obtaining these grants. It's nice that the township was able to secure the funding to help improve the community.

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Assistant Municipal Administrator

- Assistant Administrator Sahol reported that, as part of the **major tree planting project** this year, the trees were removed on Third Avenue, Ninth Avenue and Tenth Avenue. At this point we are in the holding phase until springtime when the installation of the new trees will begin.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Nothing at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Council Member Sandusky stated that, in regards to **transportation to the Community Center**, senior citizens would also benefit from that service. He also suggested transportation every so often for senior citizens to go to the mall. Assistant Administrator Sahol will look into whether BurlLink would be interested in a contract with Florence Township.

In regards to the discussion held last week on exploring the potential opportunity of **renewable energy sources**, Council Member Ryan reported that he read that there was a bill signed into legislation on January 21, 2009. He believes there may be some energy efficiency incentives or possibly something that may fit into the exploratory phase of what the township is looking into. Council Member Ryan has not read the entire bill yet but it was of the nature of assisting public entities with energy efficient endeavors.

NEW BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing at this time.

8:35 PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Ryan to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

8:35 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/mab