

Florence, New Jersey
February 18, 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 8:00 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; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

PRESENTATIONS

Alexander R. Glebocki

Mayor Berry presented a Proclamation to Alexander R. Glebocki in honor of his years of service (1988 – 1997 and 2003 – 2008) to Florence Township on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. On behalf of Mayor and Council, Council President Baldorossi presented a clock/plague to Mr. Glebocki and Council Vice President O'Hara presented flowers to his wife, Mary Glebocki.

Mr. Glebocki thanked Mayor and Council and stated that it has been an honor to serve the community.

Amanda Glebocki stated that she is very proud of her father and thanked Mayor and Council for acknowledging him this evening.

Jessica Glebocki thanked her parents for all they have done.

John T. Smith

Mayor Berry presented a Proclamation to John T. Smith in honor of his years of service to Florence Township as a Member of Township Council from 1982 through 1989 and for his service time on the Planning Board (1981–1989 & 1994–2008). On behalf of Mayor and Council, Council President Baldorossi presented a clock/plague to Mr. Smith and Council Vice President O'Hara presented flowers to his wife, Ann Smith.

Mr. Smith thanked Mayor, Council and his family.

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Council Member Ryan thanked Mr. Glebocki and Mr. Smith for their years of service and dedication to the community. It has been an honor to work with these gentlemen.

Council Vice President O'Hara expressed appreciation to Mr. Glebocki, Mr. Smith and their families for their dedication to the community.

RECESS: 8:10PM

MEETING RESUMED: 8:15PM

MINUTES

Garganio made a MOTION; seconded by Ryan to approve the following minutes. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Executive Sessions	November 12, 2008, December 10, 2008
Regular Session	December 3, 2008
Closed Sessions	January 14, 2009, January 21, 2009

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of O'Hara; seconded by Ryan to receive and file the Chief of Police's report, Township Clerk's report and the Court Administrator's report for January. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

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

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing at this time.

APPLICATIONS

A. RAFFLE: Night at the Races, Florence Township Civic Association, March 28, 2009, 6:00PM – 2:00AM, St. Stephen's Church

It was on the MOTION of Ryan, seconded by O'Hara to approve the above application.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: O'Hara, Ryan, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Garganio, Sandusky

Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Don Kaminski, 10 McCay Drive, stated that there is a streetlight that is almost out at the corner of E. Third Street and Burcliff Street. Administrator Brook will notify PSE&G. Mr. Kaminski provided the pole number.

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Gonzalo Sagrado, 123 Ridgway Drive, received a letter from Administrator Brook regarding extending his deck. Administrator Brook explained that when the Greenbriar development was established, it was established with lot coverage not to exceed 45% on any individual lot and shall not exceed an average of 35% for the entire development. "Any lot which is initially developed with coverage that exceeds 35% shall be prohibited from additional development that increases the lot coverage." Administrator Brook read that from a letter he sent to a gentleman that was in charge of the Greenbriar Homeowners Association in 2006. The only way, because of the way the development was approved, to increase the lot coverage is for the Greenbriar Homeowners Association to get together and submit a petition to alter the approval that was granted by the Planning Board. He noted that the lot coverage in Greenbriar is greater than any other single-family dwelling in the community. Administrator Brook has submitted, in the past, copies of the prior Planning Board attorney's interpretation. He offered for the residents to meet with the Planning Board attorney.

Mr. Sagrado made argument as to why he feels he should be allowed to extend his deck. Administrator Brook understands his points, but as Zoning Officer of the township he is bound to follow the Planning Board's approval for that development. The only way to alter this is to change the approval that was granted at the Planning Board level. Administrator Brook reiterated that the request to alter the Planning Board's approval has to come from the Greenbriar Homeowners Association on behalf of the residents that live there. Mr. Sagrado asked if Administrator Brook would send a letter to the Greenbriar Homeowners Association. Administrator Brook will write a new letter and provide Mr. Sagrado with letters that were previously sent.

Ralph Cicchini, 54 Trainor Circle, stated that his taxes this year are \$10,000. They are two senior citizens; they do not use the school system or the library and have two trash pick ups a week, which he does not believe that two pick ups a week are necessary. He stated that they are funding a "ton of taxes in the development." He has heard that the reassessment has been extended and asked why? He stated the amount of taxes the residents in Greenbriar pay versus the remainder of the township is very inequitable. He asked for an explanation of what is being done moving forward to relieve the residents of Greenbriar?

Administrator Brook stated that when you live in New Jersey there are school taxes, which are a significant amount of the tax dollar. In Florence Township, school taxes are approximately 60%; the municipal taxes are approximately 16%. When there was talk in Greenbriar that there should be no school taxes, the municipality in the State of New Jersey has no say over that. The only recourse is to move to another state where senior citizens are given a break on school taxes.

Mr. Cicchini feels that Greenbriar's taxes are so much higher then anyone else in the township and asked why? Administrator Brook stated that the best way to get an answer is to make an appointment with the Tax Assessor, Dennis Bianchini, and review the property record cards, which are public records. They can then see the square footage of other properties compared to Greenbriar's. He noted that any resident can come in and look at the property records.

Administrator Brook explained that reassessments in municipalities are not done every few years, they are usually done in a 15-year span. Florence Township voluntarily went to the County and requested to do a reassessment. A reassessment is a massive undertaking and the township decided to use the existing Tax Assessor opposed to bringing in someone from the outside that does not know the community. They were hopeful to have the reassessment implemented in 2009, it did not work out that way primarily because they were unable to get all of the commercial properties done.

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When a reassessment is done it does not just impact Greenbriar; it impacts every single homeowner in the community. One of the tough things with the commercials is that Griffin Pipe shut down, as did Brandow Chevrolet and 84 Lumber.

Administrator Brook stated that some of the residents of Greenbriar may see a reduction in their taxes but in a reassessment it is a balancing out of the values and the taxes. Mr. Cicchini asked where they are at in the process? Administrator Brook stated that all of the residential properties have been completed; the second and intricate part of the equation is to complete all of the commercial and industrial properties. The commercial and industrial properties are very time consuming. In those properties there are a lot of exemptions as to what is taxed under the Business Property Exemption Act. Administrator Brook believes that everything will be balanced out and the township will be prepared to be mail out the home values to the homeowners between November 10th and December 10th of 2009, to be implemented in 2010.

Mr. Cicchini does not understand why Greenbriar's tax assessment rate is so high when they do not use the resources of the township; he feels it is inequitable. Administrator Brook offered for Mr. Cicchini to make an appointment with Mr. Bianchini.

Karen D'Acquisto, 7 Yockus Lane, expressed her displeasure that the reassessment has been delayed a year. She asked why and when the decision was made to delay the reassessment? She agrees that it is a massive undertaking but it started in 2007. Administrator Brook reminded the public that Florence Township is not under an order to do a reassessment as some other towns are. The township voluntarily took it on and was moving forward in good faith, it is in a significant undertaking and the reason Mr. Bianchini inputs everything himself is so he has a working knowledge and understanding of it. If you were to look at the data and information you could not have five or six different hands inputting this type of information into a computer software program. It would not work. It is not simplistic. The only way to understand is to come in and meet with Mr. Bianchini. Administrator Brook offered to provide copies of the correspondence between Florence Township and the County. The correspondence includes Florence Township's request that the reassessment be extended, the County's initial response to deny the request and then the County's reconsideration to approve the request. The correspondence took place within the last 60 – 90 days. Administrator Brook explained that the question the township was faced with at the end of last year was whether to put the reassessment on the books when it was not completely ready or wait until it is ready and a much better product. In Administrator Brook's opinion, and he accepts responsibility for coming back to Council, is that it be put on the books when the product is completely ready. If that means that there are some individuals that are not happy, he is very sorry about that, but the reassessment has to be looked at community wide.

Administrator Brook explained that after a reassessment it is quite common that there are a significant number of appeals, including commercial appeals. There are attorneys that pick out commercial properties, send them letters, get hired and work on a commission basis solely to lower their assessment, irrelevant of whether or not it is a correct assessment. When an assessment is lowered for a commercial property, it has to be made up. Administrator Brook stated the municipality is better off to do everything within its power to make sure that the numbers work and that the numbers are as defensible as possible when a reassessment goes on the books. He stated that when reassessments are done they cause a lot of tension all through the community; there are residents that do not want a reassessment.

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As a result of what is happening in the housing market, Administrator Brook explained that Mr. Bianchini has had to work on the numbers a couple of times; he will have to do that again before all of the numbers are finalized, certified and sent to the County.

Administrator Brook explained that when an assessment is done they look at a coefficient, which is determined to be the measure of uniformity: 15% either way is in acceptable parameters with the County Tax Board. The coefficient at the present time is approximately 11.6%, which is not bad. He does not doubt that a noticeable number of the homes in Greenbriar will see a reduction in their taxes.

Mrs. D'Acquisto asked if the residents were going to be notified that the reassessment had been delayed? Council Vice President O'Hara stated that in the December 3, 2008 Council Meeting minutes Administrator Brook discussed the current housing market, economic situation and the difficulties in preparing the revaluation for tax assessment. He recommended that a request be sent to the County to delay the reassessment. The governing body agreed to request a delay in the reassessment. This was done in an Open Public Meeting. Mrs. D'Acquisto expressed displeasure that the minutes have not been posted on the township's website yet. Council Member Ryan explained that there is a lag time for the minutes from the meetings to be transcribed, approved by council and posted on the website. Mrs. D'Acquisto feels that the township did not want the residents to know that the reassessment was being delayed a year. Council Member Sandusky stated that this was not kept from anybody; it was all discussed in an Open Public Meeting, which anyone can attend. A majority of the time only a few residents attend the Township Council Meetings, unless there is an issue like this evening; now there are people here. In response to Mrs. D'Acquisto, Council Member Garganio explained that discussions take place at every Council meeting and not every thing is announced or advertised in the newspaper. If a reporter is at a meeting, they can write a story but Council does not control the newspapers or bring the reporters to the meetings. Mrs. D'Acquisto stated that the reassessment topic is important. Council Member Garganio stated that a lot of important business takes place at the meetings and it is not all announced. He stated that if the reassessment could have been done, it would have been done. Mrs. D'Acquisto expressed her displeasure that the reassessment is being delayed. She stated that it is very important that the reassessment be done. Council Member Garganio stated that the governing body and administration are not disagreeing that it has to be done but they are trying to say that it has to be done right. At this point it could not be done properly; it is not being canceled; it is being delayed for one year.

Mrs. D'Acquisto stated that the township is saying that the reassessment is being delayed due to commercials but she believes that most of the commercial properties are in the Tax Abatement program. Administrator Brook stated that is untrue.

Administrator Brook explained that in a reassessment not all homes' assessments come down. A reassessment is a balancing out of the values; in respect to taxes, some will come down, some will stay about the same and some will go up. A reassessment cannot be used to generate revenue, which is overseen by the State and the County. It is revenue neutral. For the homes that come down there is a rising. There will be a fallout that takes place between a 12-18 month time period on appeals. As a result of the appeals there will be a balancing out because the revenue has to be made up. Administrator Brook feels that Florence Township was ahead of the curve by doing the reassessment voluntarily. It could have been put on the books but it would not have been a good product for the entire community. The reassessment was not ready.

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Administrator Brook explained that the commercial properties are very important and it is unfair and untrue to say that most of the commercial properties are on the Tax Abatement program. He can provide a breakdown of the commercial properties that are on the Tax Abatement program. He explained that the Tax Abatement program is used to lure companies into a municipality that are sizable in nature. The competition for these companies is from Florence Township to Maryland; to New York to Pennsylvania. Not every company receives the Tax Abatement; the Tax Abatements are given primarily to the larger developments.

Gonzalo Sagrado, 123 Ridgway Drive, stated that he used to live in Birch Hollow with more square footage than his current house and paid less in taxes. Council Member Garganio stated when the reassessment is complete there will be adjustments.

Jorge Semidey, 21 Challander Way, asked how the assessment was done, lot by lot, home by home or by street? He does not believe it was done home by home. Administrator Brook believes that it is done home by home but offered for Mr. Semidey to come in and meet with Mr. Bianchini personally to answer that question. Mr. Semidey stated that he is paying \$200 more in taxes than other homeowners with the same model in his development. He will be appealing his property taxes. Mr. Semidey does not feel the homes were assessed correctly. Administrator Brook stated that the only way to find out for sure is if his appeal is successful and if he were to come in and compare the property card records.

Jack Newman, 71 Ridgway Drive, asked if he understood correctly that a house is assessed purely on its square footage and not on the size of the lot? Administrator Brook explained first that he is not an expert on assessing. He explained that it is not just square footage; it also includes structural issues in a home such as: the number of bathrooms, if there is a fireplace, an in ground pool, garage or any other structural thing in the house. There is the building value and the value of the lot; combined they become the value of the property. In a reassessment, in the ultimate numbers that the assessor strikes for each home, the assessor has to give comparables of other properties of a similar size and nature.

Mr. Newman asked, considering the relatively small population base in the community, has Florence Township reached out to other municipalities or have other municipalities reached out to Florence Township for the purpose of either looking at municipal consolidation or shared services, which would almost certainly reduce the property tax burden? Administrator Brook does not believe that consolidation, unless larger municipalities absorb smaller municipalities, will automatically result in a tax reduction. He noted that Florence Township's impact on the resident's tax rate is 16%. Anything that Florence Township does will only impact the local purpose tax. He is not convinced that consolidation of municipal services would automatically result in a decrease or savings. Administrator Brook gave many examples of the ways the township saves money.

Council Vice President O'Hara stated that there was an article in the Burlington County Times recently regarding consolidating Pemberton Borough and Pemberton Township. Pemberton Borough does not want to consolidate because it will cost them more money. Council Vice President O'Hara commended Administrator Brook and the staff for how Florence Township is run and the fact that the township is not in jeopardy. He stated that the township is doing the best they can with the resources that they have. Council Vice President O'Hara appreciates the concerns of the Greenbriar residents along with other residents of the community. He believes by postponing the reassessment, it will be done the fairest way for the whole community. He hopes to see improvement in the economy next year.

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Mr. Cicchini accepts the fact that there is a delay in the reassessment. He asked if there is a plan in place to accelerate the process? Administrator Brook explained that the plan is to have the commercial inspections completed by early summer. Mr. Bianchini will then have to work the numbers on the commercial properties and rework the numbers on the residential properties. Notices should be ready to be mailed out to every homeowner in the community between November 10, 2009 and December 10, 2009. The notice may include an estimated tax rate. Administrator Brook does not see any issues that would prevent the notices going out by the end of the year. He explained that Mr. Bianchini would like to leave several months available to meet with any resident that would like to discuss their reassessment. If the homeowner is not happy with the response, they have every right to appeal and justify why they believe the reassessment number does not work. The County Tax Board makes the decision on appeals.

John D'Acquisto, 7 Yockus Lane, expressed his displeasure that the reassessment is being delayed and that Florence Township's Tax Assessor, Mr. Bianchini, works for two (2) other municipalities and that Mr. Bianchini is inputting the information by himself. Mr. D'Acquisto asked how many commercial properties are in the township? He believes there are two (2) reasons that the reassessment is being delayed. One being that the market rates are down and it would not be in the best interest of the township to do the reassessment; the other reason could be that three (3) Council Members are up for re-election.

Administrator Brook addressed Mr. D'Acquisto's concerns:

- There are 150 commercial properties in the community.
- Mr. Bianchini is a fine gentleman, a professional who has worked hard.
- Mr. Bianchini's work at the other two (2) municipalities after hours has no impact on the reassessment in Florence Township.
- Mr. Bianchini does not get paid overtime, when he works six or seven days a week that is part of his salary.
- Mr. Bianchini had inspectors in the field that helped him gather the data.
- As for the reason the reassessment has been delayed, Administrator Brook has given the truth.
- Last week Mr. D'Acquisto stated that Dean Foods only pays \$9,200 in taxes; Administrator Brook stated that Dean Foods pays over \$104,000 in taxes. Mr. D'Acquisto disagreed. Administrator Brook offered for Mr. D'Acquisto to come in and review the records.
- The upcoming election played no part in the decision to delay the reassessment.
- The reason the reassessment was delayed is because it was not completely ready, which is the truth.

Mr. D'Acquisto believes Mr. Bianchini should not have been kept from working overtime. Administrator Brook stated that Mr. Bianchini does work overtime.

Mr. D'Acquisto reiterated his dissatisfaction. Administrator Brook offered for Mr. D'Acquisto to come in and meet with Mr. Bianchini. Mr. D'Acquisto declined the offer to meet with Mr. Bianchini. Administrator Brook stated the only way for Mr. D'Acquisto to find out what is correct and where he is incorrect is to come in to the office. Administrator Brook offered to hold a meeting for the residents of Greenbriar with Mr. Bianchini and himself. Administrator Brook is more than happy to answer any questions truthfully.

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Mr. Semidey asked if taxes are paid on the lot size? Administrator Brook stated that taxes are paid on building value and the value of the lot. The overwhelming amount of taxes is almost always related to the building value.

Mrs. D'Acquisto stated that the residents of Greenbriar are governed by the Homeowner's Association on what they can and cannot do. She asked, when being reassessed, if the value of the land was viewed the same as a single family residential without restrictions by an association? Administrator Brook stated that is a very good question that he honestly does not have an answer for. That is a very fair question for Mr. Bianchini and offered for the residents to come in to the office and ask him.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-62

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LIENS AGAINST REAL PROPERTY FOR THE ABATEMENT OF CERTAIN CONDITIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEW JERSEY STATE UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE AND WITH THE PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-63

**APPROVE RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND
READY PAC PRODUCE, INC.
BLOCK 147.01, LOTS 3.01 & 3.11
CONDITIONED UPON POSTING A MAINTENANCE BOND
NOTE: Also conditioned upon payment of any escrow funds due.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-64

**APPROVE RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND
WHITESELL CONSTRUCTION, HAINES CENTER
1500 JOHN GALT WAY, BLOCK 158, LOT 1, PHASE 1
CONDITIONED UPON POSTING A MAINTENANCE BOND
NOTE: Also conditioned upon payment of any escrow funds due.**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-65

**APPROVE CURRENT ESTIMATE NO. 6
COMMUNITY CENTER
EAGLE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
1624 JACKSONVILLE ROAD
BURLINGTON, NJ 08016**

RESOLUTION 2009-66

TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS INCREASE FOR 2009

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by O'Hara that Resolutions 2009-62 through 2009-66 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. 2009-03

(2nd Reading)

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

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by O'Hara to approve Ordinance No. 2009-03 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.

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. 2009-04
(1st Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 12 ENTITLED
“ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION” OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF FLORENCE, NEW JERSEY, SO AS TO ESTABLISH AN
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION CONSISTENT WITH THE
PROVISIONS OF NJSA 40:56A-1 ET SEQ.**

Solicitor Kearns stated that there are some questions that need to be addressed. On the Environmental Commission he put in the provision that there has to be at least one person from each ward, the appointments are made by the Mayor. The statute states that the Mayor appoints the commission and the Council shall provide for the manner of appointment of the alternates. He does not believe that makes sense. He listed it as the Mayor making the alternate appointments as well. Solicitor Kearns explained that he put in the Ordinance that one member of the Environmental Commission shall be a member of the Township Council that is a Mayor’s appointment for a three year term. He stated that if they want a council liaison, appointed by Council, that would be a member that would be a liaison with no vote. Council Member Ryan would like consistency where they are Mayor appointments. The Planning Board would not appoint a member of their board; the Mayor would pick a member of the Planning Board. Alternates cannot vote except in the absence of a regular member. All appointments would be three-year terms. Council in agreement to approve Ordinance as is.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Garganio to approve Ordinance 2009-04 on first reading and set adoption for March 4, 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.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2009-05
(1st Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 91 ENTITLED “LAND DEVELOPMENT”
OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, NEW JERSEY, SO AS TO
CREATE A NEW SECTION XXXA ENTITLED “RD-1 HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL –
AGE RESTRICTED AFFORDABLE HOUSING ZONE”.**

Solicitor Kearns explained that this Ordinance creates a RD-1 high density residential – age restricted affordable housing zone dealing with the Duffy School redevelopment.

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by O’Hara to approve Ordinance 2009-05 on first reading and set adoption for March 4, 2009.

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On the Question

Council Vice President O'Hara questioned area and bulk requirements. He asked if it was strictly for the Duffy property? Solicitor Kearns stated that it is strictly for the Duffy property.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows

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

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE 2009-06
(1st Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AMENDING CHAPTER 91
(ZONING) OF THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE TO ADOPT AN
UPDATED AND AMENDED OFFICIAL MAP AND AN UPDATED AND
AMENDED ZONING MAP**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by O'Hara to approve Ordinance 2009-06 on first reading and set adoption for March 4, 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

- Nothing at this time.

Mayor

- Nothing at this time.

Administrator

- Nothing at this time.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, provided a list for the **Road Program** for this year breaking down Fifth Avenue, the sidewalk area for the Safe Street to Transit grant and the unselected alternates from last year's Road Program. This gives the governing body time to think about it. Mr. Guzzi stated that they do not have to commit to everything on the list but they do need to get an idea of what the numbers will be so the Bond Ordinance can be prepared. The

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earlier they get out to bid, the better the numbers will be. It would be best to introduce the Bond Ordinance in March at the latest and the Bond Ordinance has to be in place before the contract is awarded. To move forward with the Bond Ordinance they will need to have a general idea of which projects off of the list the governing body wants to do. Some can be included as alternates and if not done, the balance of the Bond ordinance that isn't used can be canceled. Will discuss the first meeting in March and introduce the Bond Ordinance the second meeting in March.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Vice President O'Hara stated that he and Mayor Berry were contacted regarding a situation with the **Florence Township Firehouse #1**. A resident, accompanied by a fireman's daughter, went to the firehouse and requested the use of one of the rooms for a bridal shower. They booked the room, put down the security deposit and sent out invitations. It then came about the actual person using the room was not a family member and they received a letter rescinding the request. Mayor Berry explained that there was a vote with an affirmative approval to allow the use of the room based on the fact that there was a life member of the fire department's daughter in the bridal party. When the bridal party and the bride's mother went to visit the firehouse and it was found out that the bride was not the life member's daughter a letter went out rescinding the approval and they were told they would not be able to use the room. Council Vice President O'Hara stated that he talked to a firehouse member who stated that the applicant only needed to get a member to sponsor her but the firehouse was not created to be a banquet facility or rental hall. Council Vice President O'Hara noted that taxpayers are paying for that facility and asked if the township needs to get involved with the Fire Commissioners to establish exactly how that facility could be used? After further discussion it was decided that, since the Florence Fire District is its own public entity, this situation does not fall under the township's jurisdiction. The parties involved have to go to the Fire Commissioners.

BOARD OF HEALTH: Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council Member Sandusky thanked Council President Baldorossi for taking Mr. Kaminski first during public comments. He attends the Council Meetings on a regular basis. When the Public Comment portion of the meeting is opened, people who attend regularly should be heard first; especially when a large group attends the meetings to discuss a particular topic that may take a long time to discuss.

10:20 PM MOTION by Garganio, seconded by O'Hara to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT: 10:20 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/mab