

Florence, New Jersey
April 18, 2007

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 7, 2007; 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:

Frank Baldorossi, President
John Fratinardo
Bruce Garganio
Elizabeth Ryan
Jerry Sandusky

Also present:

Mayor Michael Muchowski; 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

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

Regular Session	March 21, 2007 & April 4, 2007
Closed Session	April 4, 2007

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Ryan; seconded by Sandusky to receive and file the Chief of Police's report for March, the Court Administrator's report for March and the Tax Collector's Report on Uncollectible Taxes. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

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

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing at this time.

APPLICATIONS

- A. Social Affair Permit: St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic Church, Night at the Races, May 12, 2007, 2:00PM – 10:00PM

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It was on the MOTION of Fratinaro, seconded by Ryan to approve the above application.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Fratinaro, Ryan, Baldorossi

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Garganio, Sandusky

Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, showed pictures from two storms ago. He has had the Township Engineer and Assistant Administrator to the house and nothing has been done. The last storm it was horrific trying to get in and out of the house. He asked when he could expect something to be done to alleviate the problem? He also stated that the trash trucks are still driving over the corner. Council Member Sandusky asked if the trash truck was driving over the corner to make it easier for them or is there something in the way? Since no parking has been posted nothing should be blocking their way; it appears they are doing it on purpose. Assistant Administrator Sahol will speak with the trash company.

Mr. Lotter stated that there is no barrier between Walnut Court and Florence Tollgate. There is a curb and a Private Property sign but he would like Florence Tollgate to put a fence up.

Mr. Lotter stated that another problem is the residents walking their dogs along Walnut Court and not picking up after them. There are signs posted regarding curbing your dog.

Mr. Lotter also expressed dissatisfaction over the view of Florence Tollgate's trash dumpster. Mr. Lotter stated that Assistant Administrator Sahol requested that Florence Tollgate enclose the dumpster but does not know their response.

In regards to having a fence installed to separate Florence Tollgate from Walnut Court, Mayor Muchowski explained that the township cannot require that Florence Tollgate install a fence. Council Member Garganio requested that the site plan be pulled to see if a buffer was part of Florence Tollgate's approval.

Assistant Administrator Sahol will meet with the trash collection company on site to show what is happening when they drive over the property. He requested that when Mr. Lotter witnesses the trash truck doing this, he contact him that day so he knows better what the conditions were and if something was blocking the truck.

Mr. Lotter stated that Administrator Brook and Assistant Administrator Sahol do bend over backwards to make things better in the community. They take the time to go and look but the problems have not been fixed.

Administrator Brook will address all of Mr. Lotter's concerns and report back.

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In response to the concern of ponding water, Assistant Administrator Sahol will have the Township Engineer look at the grading in the area to see if it can be rolled into a Road Program and report back to the governing body.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-76

RESOLUTION TO OMIT PROPERTIES FROM THE 2007 TAX SALE THAT WERE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-77

EMERGENCY TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2007

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-78

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES & ONE UTILITY TRUCK
STATE CONTRACT PURCHASE**

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-79

**AUTHORIZE REDUCTION IN PERFORMANCE BOND
HAPCO PETROLEUM CORPORATION/AMOCO GAS STATION**

NOTE: Conditioned upon payment of any escrow funds due.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-80

**AUTHORIZE THE TOWNSHIP ENGINEER TO PREPARE
PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS AND SOLICIT BIDS FOR
2007 ROAD PROGRAM**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinardo that Resolutions 2007-76 through 2007-80 be approved.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Fratinardo, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi

NOES: Ryan (Resolution No. 80 Only)

ABSENT: None

Motion carries.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-05
(2nd Reading)**

ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$106,244.19 FROM THE CAPITAL SURPLUS FUND TO PROVIDE FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE WATER PLANT AND AERATOR IN AND BY THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW JERSEY

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinardo to approve Ordinance No. 2007-05 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

No public comment.

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

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Fratinardo, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2007-06
(1st Reading)**

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE COMPENSATION OF CERTAIN OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to approve Ordinance No. 2007-06 on first reading and set adoption for May 2, 2007.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Fratinardo, Garganio, Ryan, Sandusky, Baldorossi
NOES: None
ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

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Council President Baldorossi noted that a Resolution setting salaries will be advertised prior to second reading.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Council Member Fratinardo stated that a question came up at the Planning Board whether or not the application for **K. Hovnanian's sign** should go to the Zoning Board or remain with the Planning Board. Normally a sign request for a variance is a principal use and since that is the only use that would go to the Zoning Board. Once it goes to the Zoning Board it would remain there and not come back to the Planning Board. The Planning Board feels that it should remain with the Planning Board because it is zoned OP (Office Park). Council Member Fratinardo asked Solicitor Kearns to review. Solicitor Kearns believes there is a way to accomplish but will research further with Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer and report back.

Mayor Muchowski

- In appreciation of all the things **Paul Varga** has unselfishly done for the township, Mayor Muchowski asked Mr. Varga, who was in the audience, if he would give the township the honor of being the **Grand Marshal of this year's Patriotic Celebration?** Mr. Varga graciously accepted.
- Mayor Muchowski announced that this year the **Annual Day of Prayer** will be held on May 3, 2007 at 10:00AM at the Alterra Sterling House. He explained that every year a Proclamation is done, all of the churches are notified and the employees and residents of the community are invited but unfortunately there is a low turn out. Clerk Weiler thought that perhaps holding the event at Alterra Sterling House would spur more interest. Alterra Sterling House accepted and would like to do a press release to hopefully have more people attend. Council Member Sandusky feels that is a very good idea.

Administrator

- Administrator Brook expressed his **appreciation** to the **Fire Department, Water and Sewer Department, Public Works Department and Police Department** in helping the residents pump out and remove material from their basements after the very heavy rain this past weekend.
- Administrator Brook stated that he will send a letter to the school advising them of what has occurred in regards to the **Roebing Steel Plant**.
- Administrator Brook stated that the **School Budget** was defeated at the polls even though there was no increase. He asked if Council would like to wait until they receive a submission from the school or would they like to create a subcommittee now? Mayor Muchowski believes that a subcommittee works well and if Council is in agreement he asked that one or two members join him on a subcommittee. Council Member Fratinardo and Council Member Sandusky will serve on the subcommittee, which will tentatively meet on Wednesday, April 25, 2007.
- In regards to the question of **HMFA and affordability controls**, Administrator Brook was able to do some research and found that there are significant controls. He will prepare a report for the first meeting in May, along with a contract for consideration.

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Assistant Administrator

- Assistant Administrator Sahol showed a picture of the finished **bronze statue** of **Mr. Roebing** that Mr. & Mrs. Varga gave him. The next step at his point is moving the electric power off of the island. The concrete foundation and marble slab will then have to be done. At this time a dedication date has not been set.
- Assistant Administrator Sahol met with Adrienne Mazar, Florence Township High School Band Director. She is thrilled that the **Florence Township High School Band** will be the recipient of the 5k proceeds. She has some nice ideas about promoting the band. They are also having a fund drive for the purchase of a new piano for the high school. Ms. Mazar would love to do one of the summer concerts in the park. Ms. Mazar will speak to the TV team at the school to see if it could be taped and aired on Channel 19. Council Member Garganio asked if the township would pay the band? Assistant Administrator Sahol replied that the township would be making the same contribution that they would make to any other band that they would have to engage, which runs from \$700 to \$1,200. Council Member Garganio requested a definite dollar figure. He thinks it's a great idea to have the high school band play but does not believe that the township should pay a band that is supported by the taxpayers. Administrator Brook will check with them.
- Council Member Fratinardo requested that Assistant Administrator Sahol check with Dave Lebak, Water and Sewer Superintendent, on how much it would cost to install a **sewer line**, in house, on 1000' of **Potts Mill Road**. This was looked at before; the residents were given a dollar figure from the Township Water and Sewer Engineer that would be divided up among them and they decided it was too expensive. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that Mr. Lebak believes it would cost approximately \$60,000 to do the work in house. Mayor Muchowski pointed out that this is a sewer line, which must be precise. He wants to be sure that the capability is there to do the work in house. It would still be an assessment process. The residents would have to be polled to see if they are willing to be assessed. Council Member Fratinardo believes that the resident that was against it the last time is now in favor of it. Administrator Brook will prepare a report on the costs, feasibility, what is involved and what an assessment would be.
- Mayor Muchowski discussed this past weekend's heavy rainstorm and its affect on some residents due to run off from the old high school field that the silt fences did not capture. There was also an incident where a private property owner was affected by a neighboring private property owner who was having work done; the work received municipal approval. Mayor Muchowski asked who has jurisdiction and who is responsible for this? Administrator Brook believes Soil Conservation and possibly the Township Engineer would have jurisdiction. Regarding the runoff from the school's property, Administrator Brook has been in contact with the school's contractor and engineer and they have begun cleaning up all the mud that was left at the intersection of Fifth Street and Pine Street. They still have to clean out each inlet that was impacted from Fifth Street to Spruce Street and clean out the drainage lines. It is a massive amount of work. Mayor Muchowski agrees that the right process was followed for the problems from the school property. He is more concerned for the private property owners. Mr. Guzzi will look into. Administrator Brook believes the affected property owner has resolution through both Soil Conservation and the township.

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Council Member Garganio stated that the **basin** for the new **development on Olive Street** is holding a lot of water and asked if it was connected? Mr. Guzzi stated that it is not connected yet. The outpost structure has to be piped down Olive Street but there is a conflict with the water main. Council Member Garganio stated that a lot of trees have been planted and asked if it will still hold water after it's connected? Mr. Guzzi stated that after it's connected it would hold a two-year storm. Trees in and around the basin helps to stabilize the water.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, stated that two (2) new **DOT Grants** have been announced and requested to discuss at next month's Worksession.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Garganio asked for a breakdown of how many dumpsters the township is emptying for the schools? The township is paying for the schools tonnage that is being dumped and he wonders if the township should continue to do that? Administrator Brook will report back.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing at this time.

9:07 PM MOTION by Fratinardo, seconded by Ryan to adjourn to Closed Session. No formal action will be taken following Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:07 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab