

Florence, New Jersey
May 6, 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; Thomas Sahol, Assistant Municipal Administrator, Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; William John Kearns, Jr., Township Solicitor; Joy M. Weiler, Township Clerk

PRESENTATION: JOY M. WEILER, TOWNSHIP CLERK

Council President Baldorossi received a package with a letter included from Edward M. Weiler, the Township Clerk's son, who is the Operations Officer with the Navy Helicopter Squadron based out of Jacksonville, Florida, at this time deployed to Iraq. LCDR Weiler wrote that they were currently flying combat missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He asked Council President Baldorossi, as a favor, to present the enclosed flag to his mother on his behalf for Mother's Day. The flag was flown on a combat mission in which he earned a Strike Air Medal. LCDR Weiler wanted his mom to have this flag in particular.

MINUTES

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

Executive Session	March 11, 2009
Regular Session	April 1, 2009

FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Ryan to receive and file the Township Clerk's report for April. Roll call vote – all ayes. Motion carried.

Sandusky 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.

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APPLICATIONS

Nothing at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Richard Lotter, 3 Walnut Court, thanked Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, for the nice job done on Ninth Street and Walnut Street.

Mr. Lotter stated that he attended a seminar with Council Member Ryan last week. When he returned home he started doing some research on other municipalities. He found where Bordentown has one day trash pick up and they are saving \$318,000 over a three year period. He also found where PSE&G provides services for senior citizens such as loans for heaters. He suggested that information be posted on the township's website.

Bill Bott, 64 Riverbank Drive, thanked Aimee Kuc of the Township Clerk's office and the Public Works Department for their help in having a lot of debris from a resident that moved out picked up. Ms. Kuc was very polite and helpful.

Mr. Bott stated that at the last meeting there was discussion regarding deferring the pension plan and Council decided not to defer the pension. He stated that the wisdom of that decision will not be known until next year. As he understands it, the township has to let the state know why they opted not to use it, and the decision not to defer the pension could jeopardize the township receiving grants because the state will take that into consideration. Council Member Ryan stated that one of the reasons not to defer the pension was that the governing body could not justify the additional \$260,000 in interest that would accumulate over a 15 year period. He feels that is a legitimate reason. Mr. Bott stated that he was not saying that the decision was right or wrong, just that they will not know if it was the right decision until next year. Mr. Bott and Council Member Ryan expressed their differences of opinion. Administrator Brook stated that Mayor and Council did what is expected; they sat down as a group, discussed their various opinions and came to a consensus. He stated that the policy question regarding the deferral could be discussed off and on for a long time but in the end they did what they felt was best as a group. You never know from year to year when a decision is right other than looking at the township's track record. Mr. Bott stated that he is not questioning the decision; he is just concerned that the decision could jeopardize receiving grant money. Council Member Garganio does not believe it is fair of the state to take it under consideration whether a municipality takes the deferral option or not when reviewing grant applications when the municipality is being fiscally conservative. This Council would rather err on the side of being fiscally responsible and not put the township further in debt. Mr. Bott agrees that it is unfair but the state is not always fair. Mayor Berry explained that early on he believed the pension deferral was an opportunity to have a zero tax increase and keep the level of service for the community; but through the cooperation, collaboration and the professionalism of the governing body, Administrator Brook and everyone else involved in the final decision which was very good. They spent four hours at an open meeting going over the budget. He explained that when they first started the budget process, they were at a .07¢ tax increase. They collectively worked very hard to get that amount to zero. The effort everyone involved put in was outstanding and that is how they got to the point tonight of introducing the budget with a zero tax increase.

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-100

**AUTHORIZING A RIGHT OF WAY AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE AND
FIBER TECHNOLOGIES NETWORKS, LLC (FIBERTECH)**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-101

**RESOLUTION TO WITHHOLD FUTURE INSTALLMENTS FOR SPECIAL
ASSESSMENT FROM THE 2009 TAX SALE**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-102

**RESOLUTION TO OMIT PROPERTIES FROM THE 2009 TAX SALE
THAT WERE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT PLANS**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-103

**RESOLUTION TO WITHHOLD FUTURE INSTALLMENTS FOR SPECIAL
ASSESSMENT FROM THE 2009 TAX SALE**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-104

RESOLUTION TO REMOVE PROPERTY FROM TAX SALE

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-105

**A RESOLUTION CANCELING TAXES ON PROPERTY
OWNED BY TOTALLY DISABLED VETERAN**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-106

**RESOLUTION STATING REASONS WHY 2009 BUDGET
IS BEING INTRODUCED BEYOND MARCH 20, 2009**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-107

INTRODUCE 2009 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

RESOLUTION 2009-108

EMERGENCY TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2009

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-109

**ESTABLISH A WATER AND SEWER PAYMENT PLAN AND
REMOVE FROM THE TAX SALE LIST
BLOCK 166.10, LOT 25
135 ROSEWOOD DRIVE**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-110

**AUTHORIZE PURCHASE OF ONE 2009 FORD TRUCK
STATE CONTRACT PURCHASE
NO.A73960**

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-111

**AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENT
FOR RECYCLING PROGRAM
WITH THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON
CONCERNING THE ACQUISITION OF
AUTO CART CONTAINERS**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by O'Hara to approve Resolution No. 2009-100 through 2009-111.

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.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-112

**APPROVE REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF PERFORMANCE BOND
FOR WATER AND SEWER
SHOPPES @ MALLARD CREEK
*Bond No. B98808-16523***

Note: Conditioned upon posting a two year Maintenance Bond and payment of any and all escrow funds due.

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It was on the MOTION of Garganio, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution No. 2009-112.

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.

NOTE: Council Member Ryan previously had a conflict; he no longer has a conflict, which has been reviewed with Solicitor Kearns.

RESOLUTION NO. 2009-113

**AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL SERVICES AGREEMENT
WITH LEGGETTE, BRASHEARS & GRAHAM, INC.
6 ARROW ROAD, SUITE 103, RAMSEY, NJ, 07446
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT SERVICES
FOR THE WATER ALLOCATION APPLICATION**

It was on the MOTION of O'Hara, seconded by Sandusky to approve Resolution No. 2009-113.

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. 2009-09
(2nd Reading)**

**BOND ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS IN AND
BY THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE, IN THE COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, NEW
JERSEY, APPROPRIATING \$865,000 THEREFOR AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE
OF \$570,000 BONDS OR NOTES OF THE TOWNSHIP TO FINANCE PART OF THE
COST THEREOF**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by O'Hara to approve Ordinance No. 2009-09 on second reading for adoption.

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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 Ryan 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. 2009-10
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE PROHIBITING DOGS AND
CATS FROM PUBLIC PROPERTIES SPECIFICALLY DELINEATED FOR USE BY
CHILDREN AND ORGANIZED SPORTS AND OTHER RECREATION OR MUNICIPAL
ACTIVITIES OR SERVICES**

It was on the MOTION of O’Hara, seconded by Sandusky to approve Ordinance No. 2009-10 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 O’Hara, seconded by Ryan 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.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Council President Baldorossi is appointing **Michele Deyo** to the vacant position on the **Economic Development Committee**.
- Council Vice President O'Hara stated that Ms. Deyo attended last evening's **Economic Development Committee meeting** and she seems like she will be a very active member of the committee.

Council Member O'Hara reported that Kristi Howell-Ikeda, President of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce, attended last evening's Economic Development Committee meeting. The Economic Development Committee is anxious to start a local Chamber of Commerce. Unfortunately, a lot of local Chambers of Commerce are at a stress point and losing members. There is an opportunity, which the committee will be discussing, to join the Burlington County Chamber of Commerce as an associate member. The committee will also be discussing starting a Business Association, where businesses in the community would join together to plan events for the community. The next step is to invite local business owners to an Economic Development Committee meeting to see if they are interested in a Chamber of Commerce or Business Association.

Council Member O'Hara would like to congratulate the Economic Development Committee; it is a very strong group and the Mayor has been very active in giving them reports. It is a good group of people that he believes will do good for the community.

- Council Member Sandusky reported that the **Patriotic Celebration Committee** held a meeting earlier this evening. It was discussed that when the 5K run/jog/walk was first started the proceeds were to go to the medical needs of a township resident to help the family. In previous years some of the proceeds have been going to youth activities; in fact this year the proceeds are going to the Florence Township High School Girls Field Hockey Team to help offset the cost of attending a summer camp in Florida; the commitment has already been made. The committee is suggesting that from now on (after this year) all proceeds from the 5K go to a family in need: such as if a family was burned out of their home or someone in need of medical expenses. If there were no such person or family one year, that money would roll over until it is needed.

Council Member Sandusky stated that one of the committee members suggested a dunk tank to raise funds for Mayor Berry's granddaughter. He is willing to sit on the dunk tank. All of the money will go to the Mayor's granddaughter (who has Myasthenia Gravis) to help with medical expenses. The committee members unanimously approved this.

Council Member Sandusky asked for formal approval from Council that the proceeds from all future 5K runs starting in 2010 go to a needy township family.

It was on the **MOTION** of O'Hara, seconded by Garganio that starting in the year 2010 all **proceeds from the 5K Run/Jog/Walk go to a needy family or individual in the township**; if there is no such need one year, the money will roll over until there is a need.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

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Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

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

Unanimous approval.

- Council Vice President O'Hara asked if the township has any type of **food bank** or able to direct a family in need of where they can go for help? Administrator Brook stated that if Council would like to start a food bank the township could collect non-perishable items. Council Vice President O'Hara stated that the churches have food banks and a plea went out a couple weekends ago at the Masses that the food banks are desperate for replenishment, in the form of either monetary or non-perishable food donations. Assistant Administrator Sahol can put the information on Channel 19. Discussion followed regarding having a drop location at the Municipal Complex and the items could be evenly dispersed to the various food banks. Assistant Administrator Sahol will look into. Council Member Garganio suggested a drop off during the Patriotic Celebration Day.

Mayor

- Mayor Berry stated that there will be a prayer service in front of the Municipal Complex tomorrow morning at 10:00AM in honor of **National Day of Prayer**.
- Mayor Berry stated that he has a **Proclamation** to honor **Elks National Youth Week**, May 3rd – May 9th. He will be attending a dinner at the Elks tomorrow night for the Student of the Year dinner.
- Mayor Berry thanked Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, for the tour of the **Community Center** earlier this evening. It looks nice and the community is in for a treat. He thanked everyone that was involved.

Administrator

- Administrator Brook emailed the governing body that there were problems with the Trenton Times and the advertisement for the **trash bids**. Advertising is a mandatory state requirement. He still held the pre-bid meeting today; he will hold a second meeting as soon as he knows the exact date and he confirms that the advertisement is in the paper.

Assistant Municipal Administrator

- Council Vice President O'Hara received Assistant Administrator Sahol's email regarding the **tree planting in Roebling**; it sounds like it was a great day. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that it was a great day. He explained that last Tuesday volunteers from a lot of different organizations planted just under 40 trees on Third, Ninth and Tenth Avenues in Roebling. The residents seemed very happy. They will be continuing the tree-planting project on Broad Street, a few streets in Florence and some park settings.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

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Township Engineer

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, stated that approval was received from DOT to proceed with the **Road Program**. Bids will be received by the end of the month. Council can review and award contract the first meeting in June.
- Mr. Guzzi reminded Council that they need to discuss and make a decision on **grant applications** next week. There are several the township can apply for: Safe Streets to Transit, roads and bikeways. The grant applications are due the first week in June.
- Council Member Garganio stated that he went out to the **soccer fields** last week with representatives of the Soccer Association and the field is great. The Soccer Association is looking forward to using the fields this fall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Nothing at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Vice President O'Hara noticed that there is a new tenant for the **Brandow Chevrolet building**. The tenant did go before the Zoning Board. He stated that the governing body and the Planning Board have certain criteria for **landscaping** along the Route 130 corridor. He is unsure whether landscaping was discussed at the Zoning Board. Mr. Guzzi stated that landscaping was discussed at the Zoning Board. Limited plantings were agreed upon at the board level along the front in the small grass strip and at the storefront. Large planters will also be onsite. Mr. Guzzi stated that there are almost no site improvements; they are using the existing building as it is. They needed a variance because the site is made up of multiple lots. There will be fencing. Mr. Guzzi explained that the tenant is a party store and equipment rental facility, similar to an a-z rental. There will be fence installed in the rear to buffer the residents.

Council Vice President O'Hara suggested a letter be sent to the Zoning Board advising them that the Mayor, Council and Planning Board would like to see landscaping improvements along the Route 130 corridor so they can take that into consideration when hearing an application. Mr. Guzzi is also the engineer for the Zoning Board so he can guide the members.

Council Member Garganio asked if there were any grant programs for **sidewalks on Route 130**, especially with the train station? Mr. Guzzi stated that sidewalks on Route 130 South from Cedar Lane to John Galt Way would have a Safe Streets to Transit grant application potential.

Council Member Garganio asked if sidewalks were installed on Route 130 and then a business were to move into a vacant property, could the township charge a fee for the sidewalk that is there? Solicitor Kearns explained that you cannot charge for what is already there.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council Member Sandusky stated that some **trucks coming off Route 130 to Ready Pac** go left instead of right and have to back up. There is a small sign with an arrow directing them to the right but he suggested a larger sign on the old Acme building. Assistant Administrator Sahol stated that within the next two weeks there will be a 3'x5' sign installed just as the trucks are approaching the

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fork showing them that to the left is local delivery only and right is the designation for truck route. This will take the truck traffic burden off Broad Street, Wilbur Henry Drive and Cedar Lane.

Council Member Ryan discussed the letter from the Assistant Commissioner of **DOT** as a result of their meeting. They indicate that they are moving forward with a study for **geometric improvements at the intersections on Route 130** that were discussed. They also referred the township to the MPO to look for funding for some of the additional projects that were discussed with DOT. He requested that be pursued and let them know that the three (3) intersections on Route 130 are still a priority for the township. He believes the presentation that Mr. Guzzi, Administrator Brook and Assistant Administrator Sahol worked on with the map showing the approvals that are coming into the township certainly make the case that those three (3) intersections are in need of improvement. Administrator Brook will contact DVRPC to come to discuss MPO.

Council Member Ryan discussed the letter from the **Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders** regarding the ability to request a **CD** that had a more **finalized plan for their preservation efforts**. He asked if he could obtain a copy? Assistant Administrator Sahol will get a copy.

Council Member Ryan thanked everyone for their work on the **budget**. Administration put a lot of work into the budget behind the scenes. He also thanked Council for their time in reviewing the budget. He believes they achieved their common goal, which was not to have a tax increase this year. It is a difficult time with the state of the economy. They also achieved their secondary goal of minimizing the usage of the surplus through a series of cuts.

9:00 PM MOTION by O'Hara, seconded by Ryan to adjourn to Closed Session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:00 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER, RMC/MMC
Township Clerk

/mab