

Florence, New Jersey
May 7, 2003

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 President Hofflinger at 8:00 PM. President Hofflinger led the Salute to the Flag.

The Township Clerk read the following statement: "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 5, 2003 and 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:

John Hofflinger, President
Frank Baldorossi
John Fratinardo
Bruce Garganio
Jerry Sandusky

Also present:

Michael Muchowski, Mayor; Richard Brook, Township Administrator; Dante Guzzi, Township Engineer; Brian Guest, Township Solicitor; Joy Weiler, Township Clerk

OATH OF OFFICE

Joy Weiler, Township Clerk, administered the Oath of Office to the following new Florence Township Police Officers while their families looked on:

David Filippine
Brian Panaro
Timothy Sadar
Brian Young

Mayor Muchowski congratulated the new patrolmen and wished them luck.

NOTE: Council Member Baldorossi left the meeting at this time.

MINUTES

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

Budget Session	March 26, 2003, April 2, 2003 and April 9, 2003
Closed Session	March 5, 2003, April 2, 2003, April 9, 2003 and April 16, 2003
Special Session	April 23, 2003
Regular Session	March 19, 2003
Executive Session	March 12, 2003

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FINANCIAL CORRESPONDENCE

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

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

REGULAR CORRESPONDENCE

None at this time.

APPLICATIONS

A. Social Affair Permit: Holy Assumption Church, May 17, 2003

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinardo to approve the Social Affair Permit.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Fratinardo, Garganio, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

ABSENT: Baldorossi

Unanimous approval.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nick DiLullo, 416 E. Fourth Street, asked if Mayor and Council met to discuss the defeated school board budget, and if so, he asked if the public was involved? Mayor Muchowski stated that an advertised public meeting was held on April 23, 2003. Administrator Brook gave an overview of the school budget. He explained that the governing body has until May 19th to make a decision regarding the defeated school budget and the three ballot questions. The school board had given their recommendations regarding some cuts. There was also a contractual issue that arose in the school contract, which freed up some additional funds. The vote this evening is for a reduction of \$156,595 off of the budget (approximately 1½ cents off of the rate), and not to reinstate the questions that were voted down by the public.

Mr. DiLullo discussed the current recession and the burden that taxes put on homeowners.

Rhonda Ryder, 20 Brookside Drive, stated that she is a teacher and is here this evening to represent the children. She does not feel that the taxes she pays in Florence Township goes towards her children's education. She understands that the school budget is hard to pass but stated that the children are the most important and she will do what she has to do to get the voters out to support the school budget.

Bill Bott, 64 Riverbank Drive, gave Council a lot of credit for reviewing the school board budget and feels that they did the right thing by not reinstating the three ballot questions. Mr. Bott discussed the lack of residents that voted in the school board election.

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Terri Cranmer, Route 130, agrees that the questions that were defeated should not be reinstated. She feels that if test scores are low there is something wrong with the teachers and the school system; increasing the budget will not fix it. If the money could be found in the budget, she would like to see the security personnel reinstated.

Ms. Cranmer verified that the rezoning for the highway commercial did not increase the buffer. Council President Hofflinger stated that this Ordinance corrects the buffer.

Nick DiLullo, 416 E. Fourth Street, discussed the School Board and the salary of various administrative personnel. Council President Hofflinger suggested that Mr. DiLullo state his concerns to the School Board at a School Board meeting.

Gloria Mognancki, 904 Walnut Street, feels that the school should be funded in another way other than property taxes. It is difficult for senior citizens and families on a fixed income. She feels that it should be based on income

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

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-80

EMERGENCY TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2003

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky; seconded by Fratinardo that Resolution 2003-80 be adopted.

On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinardo, Garganio, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

RESOLUTION NO. 2003-81

APPROVING 2003-2004 FLORENCE TOWNSHIP SCHOOL BUDGET

Administrator Brook explained that this Resolution accepts the recommended cuts made by the School Board in the amount of \$156, 595.00 and also not to reinstate the three ballot questions that were defeated by the public.

It was on the MOTION of Fratinardo, seconded by Hofflinger that Resolution 2003-81 be adopted.

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On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinardo, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: Garganio

Unanimous approval.

ORDINANCES

**ORDINANCE NO. 2003-09
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING CHAPTER 134 OF THE FLORENCE
TOWNSHIP CODE TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC PARKING
IN MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Garganio to approve Ordinance No. 2003-09 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

Nothing at this time.

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

On the Question

Mayor Muchowski verified that the vehicle owners would be notified in writing of the effective date of the Ordinance. Administrator Brook stated that they would be notified.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinardo, Garganio, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2003-10
(2nd Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AUTHORIZING THE CONDUCT OF RAFFLES AND BINGO
ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK, KNOWN AS SUNDAY,
IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REGULATIONS OF THE
LEGALIZED GAMES OF CHANCE COMMISSION, TO
ESTABLISH A MUNICIPAL LICENSING FEE AND TO
PROVIDE AN EXEMPTION FROM THE MUNICIPAL
LICENSING FEE FOR FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
ORGANIZATIONS**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Fratinardo to approve Ordinance No. 2003-10 on second reading for adoption.

Public Comment

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

Nothing at this time.

It was on the MOTION of Fratinardo, 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: Baldorossi, Fratinardo, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

“NOT VOTING” Bruce Garganio

Unanimous approval.

**ORDINANCE 2003-11
(1st Reading)**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FLORENCE
AMENDING ORDINANCE 2003-06 AND CHAPTER 91 –
LAND DEVELOPMENT OF THE FLORENCE TOWNSHIP
CODE TO PROVIDE THAT THE 100’ BUFFER IN THE HC –
HIGHWAY COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT SHALL BE
MEASURED FROM ANY ABUTTING RESIDENTIAL
DISTRICT AND NOT FROM A RESIDENTIAL USE**

It was on the MOTION of Sandusky, seconded by Baldorossi to approve Ordinance No. 2003-11 on first reading and set adoption for May 21, 2003.

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On the Question

Nothing at this time.

Upon roll call Council voted as follows:

YEAS: Baldorossi, Fratinardo, Garganio, Sandusky, Hofflinger

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Unanimous approval.

REPORTS

Committees, Boards and Officers

- Nothing at this time.

Mayor Muchowski

- Mayor Muchowski stated that Governor McGreevey was in Burlington City earlier today to sign a law reinstating some Brownfield's money and had invited many of the riverfront Mayors to voice their concerns. Mayor Muchowski was able to have an in-depth conversation with Governor McGreevey and Bradley Campbell, Commissioner of DEP regarding many issues facing the Township such as water allocation, the physical constraints on the Roebing Steel Mill due to the eagle, the need for further EPA funding and the strategies for redevelopment of the site. He also discussed the dissatisfaction of the Township's first applicant on the Route 130 corridor with the DEP and fish and wildlife ramifications and the speed of the NJ Transit Light Rail. The Governor indicated that he would meet with the Director of Transportation personally to discuss the speed of the Light Rail and get back to the Mayor within two weeks. He would not make any guarantees concerning the outcome. Mayor Muchowski will provide the Governor with correspondence between the Township and NJ Transit.

Administrator

- Nothing at this time.

Township Solicitor

- Nothing at this time.

Township Engineer

- Dan Guzzi, Township Engineer, updated Mayor and Council on the Main Street construction. He stated that the contractor is working on the concrete and below grade work this week. Next week Main Street will be milled and paving will begin. The excess millings will be taken to the lot off of South Street. Assistant Administrator Sahol has notified the owners of the vehicles parked in that lot.
- Mr. Guzzi suggested that the Transportation Trust Fund Grant application be on next week's Agenda since a final decision will need to be made.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Roebling Steel Plant Site

Council Member Garganio questioned the status of the survey. Mr. Guzzi stated that some of the preliminary work has been completed and now that the weather has broken it should be done in 2-3 weeks.

Council Member Garganio asked if there have been any updates from EPA? Administrator Brook stated just the standard updates. Mayor Muchowski asked Administrator Brook to set up a meeting with EPA.

Council Member Sandusky thanked Steve Mognancki for the good job he has done working at the Recycling Center and stated that he would be hard to replace.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Member Garganio questioned the list of grants received by the grantwriter. He asked if it was a general list of available grants or grants that the grantwriter is recommending that the Township apply for? Mayor Muchowski explained that it is a general list for Council to review and decide what they would like to apply for. There may be some on the list that could be handled in house. Mayor Muchowski stated that the grantwriter needs direction from the governing body.

Council Member Garganio stated that he is not comfortable with the job this firm has done for the Township. He does not feel that the Township is benefiting. Mayor Muchowski explained that the Township is guaranteed to break even with the cost of the contract. Council Member Garganio is concerned about the time that is being lost. Council Member Garganio would like to speak with other grantwriters that may do a better job for the Township.

BOARD OF HEALTH

Nothing at this time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Nothing at this time.

9:20 PM MOTION by Sandusky, seconded by Fratinardo to adjourn to closed session. Roll call vote - all ayes.

ADJOURNMENT

9:20 PM: Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

JOY M. WEILER
Township Clerk

/mab